



**Luzerne County Council  
Voting Session  
February 08, 2022  
Council Meeting Room  
Luzerne County Court House  
200 N. River Street  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701  
AND  
Video/Teleconference via ZOOM**

**Minutes**

**Call to Order**

The Luzerne County Council convened for a Voting Session in the Council Meeting Room of the Luzerne County Courthouse on February 08, 2022 at 6:01 PM. The meeting was called to order by Chair Kendra M. Radle.

**Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence**

**Roll Call**

**Present**

Kevin Lescavage  
John Lombardo  
Lee Ann McDermott  
Tim McGinley (virtually)  
Chris Perry  
Kendra M. Radle  
Robert Schnee  
Brian Thornton  
Stephen J. Urban  
Gregory S. Wolovich, Jr.

**Also Present**

Romilda P. Crocamo, Esq., Acting County Manager  
Shannon Crake-Lapsansky, Acting County Solicitor (virtually)  
Vito DeLuca, Esq., Assistant Solicitor (virtually)  
Sharon Lawrence, Clerk of Council

## **Recognitions and Ceremonial Proclamations**

NONE

## **Deletions from Voting Session Agenda**

NONE

## **Adoption of Voting Session Agenda**

**Motion to Adopt Voting Session Agenda by:** Mr. Wolovich

**Second:** Ms. McDermott

### **Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes - Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**The Voting Session Agenda is Adopted**

## **Public Comment on Agenda Items**

**WRITTEN** comments are submitted electronically via **EMAIL** or **ZOOM**. A copy of the full written comment for each speaker is posted under the corresponding meeting agenda. **VERBAL** comments can be heard in their entirety by accessing the public comment portion of the meeting recording posted next to the meeting agenda.

**Walter Griffith (Trucksville) commented Verbally regarding** the Airport Council Representative, WVSA Agreement and the Ethics fine.

**John Newman (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding** the County Manager Search Committee Request, interviews and the amount requested.

**Rick Morelli (Sugarloaf) commented Verbally regarding** the County Manager Search Committee and County Manager interviews and selection.

**Ron Knapp (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding** the County Manager Search Committee funding request, interviews and the Budget Amendment regarding State Closure funds.

**Theodore John Fitzgerald (Wilkes-Barre) commented Verbally regarding** the County Manager Search Committee. Interviews, candidates, and the Ethics item.

**Martin Dartoe (Wilkes-Barre) commented Verbally regarding** the WVSA Agreement and the bill for Luzerne County.

**Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding** the WVSA Agreement, Penndot, the County Manager Search Committee and the Ethics fine.

**Brian Shiner (Kingston) commented Verbally regarding** the County Manager Search Committee and interviews.

**Agenda Items**

**Motion to adopt minutes of the January 25, 2022 Voting Session**

**Motion by:** Mr. Lombardo

**Second:** Mr. Thornton

**Vote:**

Nine (9) Ayes by Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Mr. Schnee, Mr. Thornton and Mr. Wolovich

One (1) Nay by Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (9-1)**

**The January 25, 2022 Voting Session Minutes are Adopted**

**1. Motion to adopt ordinance Authorizing the Acceptance of a Proposal to Reduce the Interest Rate on the County of Luzerne, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Nonelectoral Indebtedness of a General Obligation Note, Series of 2019, Originally Issued in the Principal Amount of \$33,305,000 for and Toward Financing a Capital Improvement Program, a Current Refunding Program and Paying the Costs of Issuing the Note; Providing for Maximum Interest Rate, Maximum Maturity Amounts and Place of Payment with Respect to the 2019 Note; Making a Covenant for the Payment of the Debt Service on the Amended and Restated Note; Providing for the Filing of any Required Documents; Authorizing the Execution of Documentation Memorializing the Change in Interest Rate and Delivery Thereof Including the Delivery of an Amended and Restated Note and Authorizing Other Necessary Action**

**Motion by:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Second:** Mr. Lombardo

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Ordinance is Adopted**

**2. Motion to introduce ordinance Amending the 2022 Fiscal Year Budgets for Luzerne County (State Facility Closure Ordinance)**

**Motion by:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Second:** Mr. Schnee

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Ordinance is Introduced**

**3. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the County Manager to Execute a Partnership Agreement with Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority**

**Motion by:** Mr. Thornton

**Second:** Mr. Lombardo

**Acting County Manager Romilda Crocamo noted the Agreement needs to be amended.**

**Paragraph “e” should be removed.**

**Motion to Amend by:** Mr. Lombardo

**Second:** Mr. Schnee

**Roll Call Vote to Amend:**

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Resolution is Amended**

**Roll Call Vote to Adopt:**

Eight (8) Yes by Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Thornton

Two (2) No by Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Wolovich

**Motion Passed (8-2)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**4. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the County Manager to Execute the Master Agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation**

**Motion by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Mr. Lescavage

**Roll Call Vote:**

Nine (9) Yes by Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Mr. Schnee, Mr. Thornton and Mr. Wolovich

One (1) Abstention by Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (9-0) with (1) Abstention**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**5. Motion to adopt resolution Approving a Budget Transfer to Allot Funds to the County Manager Search Committee**

**Motion by:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Second:** Mr. Lombardo

**Roll Call Vote:**

Seven (7) Yes by Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Ms. Radle, Mr. Thornton, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Wolovich

Three (3) No by Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry and Mr. Schnee

**Motion Passed (7-3)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**Mr. McGinley disconnected from the Call**

**6. Motion to adopt resolution Censuring and Fining Luzerne County Councilman Stephen J. Urban for Violating the Luzerne County Accountability, Conduct and Ethics Code and Home Rule Charter**

**Motion by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Mr. Perry

**Roll Call Vote:**

Three (3) Yes by Mr. Perry, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Thornton

Five (5) No by Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Ms. Radle and Mr. Wolovich

**Motion Failed (3-5)**

**7. Nominations and Appointments to Authorities**

**7a. Flood Protection Authority (1 term expiring 12/31/2026)**

**Motion to Open Nominations:** Mr. Wolovich

**Second:** Mr. Lombardo

**Vote:**

Nine (9) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (9-0)**

**Nominations Open**

**Mr. Schnee nominated:** Dominic Yanuzzi

**Second:** Mr. Lombardo

**Motion to Close Nominations:** Ms. McDermott

**Second:** Mr. Schnee

**Vote:**

Nine (9) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (9-0)**

**Nominations Closed**

**Motion to adopt resolution Appointing Dominic Yanuzzi to the Flood Protection Authority**

**Board by:** Mr. Thornton

**Second:** Mr. Lombardo

**Roll Call Vote:**

Nine (9) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (9-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**Attorney DeLuca commented on the Executive Session. He states Council met in Executive Session from 5PM until approximately 5:30, received a report from outside Counsel on the matter against Luzerne County et al, case 10120CV708.**

**Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:**

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**Ron Knapp (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding** the FPA Projects and the ARP Funding and the NEPA Landbank and the ARP Funding.

**Walter Griffith (Trucksville) commented Verbally regarding** the Charter Section 217 and censure, the Tax Collector resolution and a solicitor for Council.

**Theodore John Fitzgerald (Wilkes-Barre) commented Verbally regarding** the Ethics fine, the County Manager Search Committee and recent use of the Courthouse Rotunda.

**Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding** the NEPA Landbank ARP Project, the Blighted Property Review Committee and the removal of Public Comment.

**Chair Radle read Public Comment Email from:**  
**Michael Reich**

**Martin Dartoe commented Verbally regarding** illegal immigrant issues.

**Motion to adjourn:** Mr. Lombardo

**Second:** Mr. Thornton

**Vote:**

Nine (9) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (9-0)**

**Meeting adjourned at 6:54 PM**

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Lawrence

Clerk of Council

\* Audio of this meeting can be found in its entirety on the County Council webpage <http://www.luzernecounty.org/county/luzerne-county-council> or by contacting the Office of the Clerk of Council at (570) 825-1634 or via email to [sharon.lawrence@luzernecounty.org](mailto:sharon.lawrence@luzernecounty.org)