



**Luzerne County Council  
March 09, 2021 Voting Session  
Video/Teleconference via TEAMS  
Minutes**

**Call to Order**

The Luzerne County Council convened for a Voting Session on March 09, 2021, at 6:46PM via TEAMS Video/Teleconference. The meeting was called to order by Council Chair Tim McGinley.

**Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence**

**Roll Call**

**Present**

Walter L. Griffith, Jr.  
Harry Haas  
Linda McClosky Houck  
Lee Ann McDermott  
Tim McGinley  
Chris Perry  
Kendra M. Radle  
Sheila Saidman, Esq.  
Robert Schnee  
Stephen J. Urban  
Matthew Vough

**Also Present**

C. David Pedri, Esq., County Manager  
Romilda P. Crocamo, Chief County Solicitor  
Vito DeLuca, Esq.  
Sharon Lawrence, Clerk of Council

### **Recognitions/Ceremonial Proclamations**

Mr. McGinley announced the retirement of Robin Muth, Admin Officer 3, Area Agency on Aging. A letter of thanks and congratulations will be sent out to her from Council.

Mr. McGinley recognized Lynn Hill for her participation in the CCAP Center for Excellence County Leadership Program Class of 2021.

**Attorney DeLuca commented on the 3/9/21 Executive Session. He stated Council met in Executive Session via TEAMS from 5:30PM to 6:30PM. There was discussion regarding the case of Hampel vs. Luzerne County and also a discussion regarding potential litigation relating to the position of District Attorney.**

### **ADDED FROM WORK SESSION**

#### **Luzerne County District Attorney's Office 2020 Annual Report**

Presented by District Attorney Stephanie Salavantis

**Attorney DeLuca commented on the 3/2/21 Executive Session. He stated Council met in Executive Session following the 3/2/21 Special Meeting via TEAMS. Council discussed potential litigation related to the vacancy in the District Attorney's Office.**

### **Additions to/Deletions from Voting Session Agenda**

**Mr. Haas requested the resolution regarding I-80 Bridge Tolling be moved from the Work Session to the Voting Session.**

**Motion to move resolution by: Mr. Griffith**

**Second: Mr. Haas**

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Vough

One (1) Nay by Mr. McGinley

**Motion Passed (10-1)**

**Mr. McGinley stated it would be moved to the Voting Session Agenda as Item 11.**

**Ms. Houck requested a resolution Declaring the Elected Position of Luzerne County District Attorney Vacant be added to the Voting Session.**

**Motion to add resolution by: Ms. Houck**

**Second: Mr. Griffith**

**Vote:**

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Mr. McGinley stated the resolution would be added to the Voting Session Agenda as Item 12.**

**Adoption of Voting Session Agenda**

**Motion to Adopt Voting Session Agenda by:** Ms. Saidman

**Second:** Ms. Radle

**Vote:**

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**The Voting Session Agenda is Adopted**

**Motions**

**Motion to suspend Bylaws regarding the requirement a majority of those participating in the meeting must be physically present by:** Ms. Houck

**Second:** Ms. McDermott

**Vote:**

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Motion to suspend Bylaws regarding the conduct of public meetings to the extent that the current format is inconsistent with the term of the State’s Emergency Declaration**

**by:** Ms. Radle

**Second:** Ms. McDermott

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes by Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Vough

One (1) Nay by Mr. Griffith

**Motion Passed (10-1)**

**Public Comment on Agenda Items**

**Due to COVID-19 all meetings are currently held via Video/Teleconference.**

**WRITTEN comments are submitted electronically via EMAIL or TEAMS. A copy of the full written comment for each speaker is posted under the corresponding meeting agenda.**

**VERBAL comments, in their entirety, can be heard by accessing the public comment portion of the meeting recording posted next to the meeting agenda.**

**Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally** regarding the District Attorney, the new Election Board appointments and the I-80 Tolling.

**Mr. Griffith requested the resolution regarding the District Attorney that was added to the Voting Session be read for the public and comments. Ms. Houck read the resolution.**

**Ron Knapp (Nanticoke) commented Verbally** regarding the District Attorney and the I80 Bridge Tolling.

**Alyssa Fusaro (Luzerne) commented Verbally** regarding the District Attorney and scammers.

**Richard Manta (Back Mountain) commented Verbally** regarding scammers.

**Brian Dwyer (Larksville) commented Verbally** regarding the I-80 Bridge Tolling and taxes.

**Motion to adopt minutes of the February 23, 2021 Voting Session**

**Motion by:** Ms. McDermott

**Second:** Ms. Radle

**Vote:**

Nine (9) Ayes by Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Two (2) Nays by Mr. Griffith and Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (9-2)**

**The February 23, 2021 Voting Session Minutes are Adopted**

**Motion to adopt minutes of the March 02, 2021 Special Meeting**

**Motion by:** Ms. McDermott

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

**Vote:**

Nine (9) Ayes by Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Two (2) Nays by Mr. Griffith and Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (9-2)**

**The March 02, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes are Adopted**

**Old Business**

Mr. Griffith spoke about the tax collector resolution.

**Agenda Items**

**1. Motion to adopt ordinance Amending the 2020 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County (Debt Service)**

**Motion by:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Second:** Mr. Griffith

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eight (8) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Mr. Schnee and Mr. SJ Urban

Three (3) No by Mr. McGinley, Ms. Saidman and Mr. Vough

**Motion Passed (8-3)**

**Ordinance is Adopted**

**NOTE: Ordinance was reconsidered and voted a second time after Item 8.**

**2. Motion to introduce ordinance Amending the 2021 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County (Hospitality Grant)**

**Motion by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Ms. Radle

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Ordinance is Introduced**

**3. Motion to introduce ordinance Amending the 2021 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County (CTCL)**

**Motion by:** Mr. Griffith

**Second:** Ms. McDermott

**Roll Call Vote:**

Nine (9) Yes by Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

One (1) No by Mr. Griffith

One (1) Abstention by Mr. SJ Urban

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

**Ordinance is Introduced**

**4. Motion to introduce ordinance Amending the 2021 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County (DA)**

**Motion by:** Mr. Griffith

**Second:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Ordinance is Introduced**

**5. Motion to adopt ordinance Adopting the Luzerne County Zoning Ordinance of 2021 and the Luzerne County Zoning Map of 2021**

**Motion by:** Ms. McDermott

**Second:** Ms. Radle

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Ordinance is Adopted**

**6. Motion to adopt resolution Adopting a Schedule of Fees in Accordance with the Luzerne County Zoning Ordinance of 2021**

**Motion by:** Ms. Saidman

**Second:** Mr. Griffith

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**7. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the County Manager to to Amend and Extend the Lease Agreement Between Luzerne County and the United States Government for the Marine Facility located at 1118 Wyoming Avenue, Wyoming, Pennsylvania 18644**

**Motion by:** Ms. Radle

**Second:** Ms. McDermott

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**8. Motion to adopt resolution declaring a vacancy on the Luzerne County Cares Commission**

**Motion by:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Second:** Mr. Griffith

**Roll Call Vote:**

Three (3) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas and Mr. SJ Urban

Eight (8) No by Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle,

Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

**Motion Failed (3-8)**

County Manager Pedri asked for clarification of the dollar amount in the Ordinance that was passed regarding the debt service. (Amount passed vs. amount actually available) After discussion Ms. McDermott stated she would like to change her vote. Ms. Radle and other members indicated they may change their votes and/or amend the amount in the ordinance.

**Motion to reconsider ordinance Amending the 2020 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County (Debt Service) by:** Ms. Radle

**Second:** Ms. McDermott

**After lengthy discussion, Ms. Houck asked to Call the Question.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

Seven (7) Yes by Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Four (4) No by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck and Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (7-4)**

**Ordinance is Reconsidered**

**RECONSIDERED ORDINANCE**

**1. Motion to adopt ordinance Amending the 2020 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County (Debt Service)**

**Motion to amend ordinance and change the dollar amount to \$613,964.69**

**By: Mr. Schnee**

**Second: Ms. McDermott**

**After discussion, Mr. Schnee and Ms. McDermott withdrew their motions.**

**Roll Call Vote on original ordinance:**

Five (5) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Mr. Perry and Mr. SJ Urban

Six (6) No by Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

**Motion Failed (5-6)**

**Ordinance is NOT Adopted**

**REMOVED ITEM**

**9. Motion to adopt resolution Declaring a Vacancy on the Luzerne County Blighted Property Review Committee**

**Motion by: Mr. Schnee**

**Second: Mr. Perry**

**After discussion, it was suggested the item be removed from the agenda pending further clarification.**

**Motion to remove by: Mr. SJ Urban**

**Second: Mr. Schnee**

**Vote:**

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Resolution is Removed from the Agenda**

**10. Nominations and Appointments to Boards and Commissions:**

**10a. Luzerne County Board of Elections and Registration**

**(1) Democrat to complete a term ending 12/31/2021**

**(1) Republican to complete a term ending 12/31/21**

**(1) Republican to complete a term ending 12/31/23**

**Motion to Open (Democrat 2021) Nominations by: Mr. Haas**

**Second: Ms. Radle**

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

One (1) Abstention by Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (10-0) with (1) Abstention**

**Nominations Open**

**Ms. Saidman nominated: Kathryn Roth**

**Second: Mr. Vough**

**Motion to Close Nominations by:** Ms. Radle

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

**Vote:**

Eleven (11) Ayes - Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Nominations Closed**

**Motion to adopt resolution appointing Kathryn Roth, a Democrat, to the Luzerne County Board of Elections and Registration by:** Ms. Houck

**Second:** Mr. Perry

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

One (1) Abstention by Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (10-0) with (1) Abstention**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**Motion to Open (Republican 2021) Nominations by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Mr. Haas

**Vote:**

Eleven (11) Ayes - Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Nominations Open**

**Mr. Schnee nominated:** Richard Nardone

**Second:** Mr. Perry

**Mr. Griffith nominated:** Candice Chilek

**Second:** Mr. Haas

**Mr. Schnee nominated:** Missy Thomas

**Second:** Ms. Radle

**Mr. Haas nominated:** Alyssa Fusaro

**Second:** Mr. Griffith

**Motion to Close Nominations by:** Mr. Griffith

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

One (1) Abstention by Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (10-0) with (1) Abstention**

**Nominations Closed**

**Roll Call Vote (1 name):**

**Mr. Griffith:** Chilek

**Mr. Haas:** Chilek

**Ms. Houck:** Chilek

**Ms. McDermott:** Thomas

**Mr. McGinley:** Nardone

**Mr. Perry:** Nardone

**Ms. Radle:** Nardone



**Ms. Saidman:** Nardone  
**Mr. Schnee:** Nardone  
**Mr. Stephen J. Urban:** Abstained  
**Mr. Vough:** Nardone

**Results:**

Chilek 3  
Nardone 6  
Thomas 1  
Abstained 1

**Motion to adopt resolution appointing Richard Nardone, a Republican, to the Luzerne County Board of Elections and Registration by:** Ms. Saidman

**Second:** Mr. Perry

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

One (1) Abstention by Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (10-0) with (1) Abstention**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**Motion to Open (Republican 2023) Nominations by:** Mr. Griffith

**Second:** Ms. Radle

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

One (1) Abstention by Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (10-0) with (1) Abstention**

**Nominations Open**

**Ms. Radle nominated:** Missy Thomas

**Second:** Mr. Schnee

**Mr. Haas nominated:** Alyssa Fusaro

**Second:** Mr. Griffith

**Motion to Close Nominations by:** Ms. Saidman

**Second:** Ms. Radle

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

One (1) Abstention by Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (10-0) with (1) Abstention**

**Nominations Closed**

**Roll Call Vote (1 name):**

**Mr. Griffith:** Fusaro

**Mr. Haas:** Fusaro

**Ms. Houck:** Fusaro

**Ms. McDermott:** Thomas

**Mr. McGinley:** Thomas

**Mr. Perry:** Thomas

**Ms. Radle:** Thomas  
**Ms. Saidman:** Thomas  
**Mr. Schnee:** Thomas  
**Mr. Stephen J. Urban:** Abstained  
**Mr. Vough:** Thomas

**Results:**

Fusaro 3  
Thomas 7  
Abstained 1

**Motion to adopt resolution appointing Missy Thomas, a Republican, to the Luzerne County Board of Elections and Registration by:** Mr. Perry

**Second:** Ms. McDermott

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

One (1) Abstention by Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (10-0) with (1) Abstention**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**ADDED ITEM**

**11. Motion to adopt resolution to oppose the implementation of Act 88 of 2012 P3 Program regarding tolling of bridge on Pennsylvania Interstates especially Luzerne County**

**Motion by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Ms. Radle

**Motion to amend the resolution and delete the 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph “WHEREAS, stakeholders like The Greater Wyoming Valley...against this proposal; and” by:** Mr. McGinley

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

**Roll Call Vote to Amend Resolution:**

Ten (10) Yes by Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Vough

One (1) No by Mr. Griffith

**Motion Passed (10-1)**

**Resolution is Amended**

**Mr. Haas edited the 7<sup>th</sup> paragraph by removing “and” at the end and placing a period after “proposal” and edit the 8<sup>th</sup> paragraph by adding NOW, THEREFORE, before BE IT RESOLVED.**

**Mr. McGinley suggested including a signature page with all Council signatures.**

**Roll Call Vote to Adopt Resolution:**

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**ADDED ITEM**

**12. Motion to adopt resolution Declaring the Elected Position of Luzerne County District Attorney Vacant**

**Motion by:** Ms. Houck

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

**Mr. Schnee would like to amend the resolution by adding “the Court of Common Pleas Judges of Luzerne County will make the selection through advertising and the interview process.”**

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

**Second:** ~~Ms. Saidman~~

**After discussion, Ms. Saidman withdrew her Second.**

**As there was not another Second, the motion failed due to lack of a Second.**

**Mr. Griffith would like to amend the resolution by adding Section 305 of the Charter and cited the same.**

**Motion to amend by:** Mr. Griffith

**Second:** Ms. Houck

**Motion to Move to an Executive Session by:** Ms. Houck

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

**Vote:**

Nine (9) Ayes by Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Vough

Two (2) Nays by Mr. Haas and Mr. Griffith

**Motion Passed (9-2)**

**Council recessed to an Executive Session at 9:48PM**

**Council returned from the Executive Session and reconvened at 10:14PM**

**Attorney DeLuca commented on the Executive Session. He stated that Council met to discuss the potential litigation related to the District Attorney vacancy.**

**Ms. Houck withdrew her Second.**

**As there was not another Second, the motion failed due to lack of a Second.**

**Mr. McGinley opened the floor up to Public Comment on the resolution.**

**Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented.**

**Mr. McGinley announced that since no amendments were made to the resolution, further public comment was not necessary.**

**Roll Call Vote to adopt resolution:**

Six (6) Yes by Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Ms. Saidman and Mr. Schnee

Three (3) No by Mr. Griffith, Ms. Radle and Mr. SJ Urban

Two (2) Abstentions by Mr. Perry and Mr. Vough

**Motion Passed (6-3) with (2) Abstentions**

**Resolution is Adopted**

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

**Due to COVID-19 all meetings are currently held via Video/Teleconference.**

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**Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally** regarding the District Attorney Vacancy resolution.

**Brian Dwyer (Larksville) commented Verbally** regarding the County Cares Commission, the District Attorney vacancy, election board appointments and his application for the election board.

**Ron Knapp (Nanticoke) commented Verbally** regarding the County Cares Commission.

**Richard Manta (Back Mountain) commented Verbally** regarding WVSA and liens they are filing with the Prothonotary.

**Denise Williams (Kingston Township) commented Verbally** regarding the election board appointments.

**Brian Shiner (Kingston) commented Verbally** regarding Council and Public opinions.

**Mike Calzonich commented Verbally** regarding the District Attorney.

**Mr. McGinley reviewed the remaining items on the Work Session Agenda and stated there was no need to move forward with a Work Session.**

**Mr. Perry gave an update regarding the letters sent to the ABC's regarding compensation.**

**Atty. Crocamo updated Council regarding the Exeter Borough Treasurer position and the County Council position. Council discussed the matter and Ms. Radle gave an update on her position.**

**Adjournment**

**Motion to Adjourn:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

**Vote:**

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

**Meeting Adjourned at 10:56 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)