



**Luzerne County Council
Voting Session
March 22, 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 March 22, 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

Carl Bienias
Kevin Lescavage
John Lombardo
Lee Ann McDermott
Tim McGinley (virtually)
Chris Perry
Kendra M. Radle
Robert Schnee
Brian Thornton
Stephen J. Urban (virtual from 6:01 PM to 6:04 PM)
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

Chair Radle read a proclamation for the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute and its colon cancer awareness efforts, designated the month of March as Colon Cancer Awareness Month and March 31, 2022 as C.A.S.U.A.L. Day in Luzerne County.

Deletions from Voting Session Agenda

Motion to remove Item 7 from the Voting Agenda by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. Lescavage

Roll Call Vote:

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

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

Motion Passed (8-3)

Item 7 is Removed from the Voting Agenda

Motion to remove Item 8 from the Voting Agenda by: Mr. Lombardo

Second: Mr. Wolovich

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Item 8 is Removed from the Voting Agenda

Adoption of Voting Session Agenda

Motion to Adopt Voting Session Agenda by: Mr. Lombardo

Second: Ms. McDermott

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes - Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

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.

John Newman (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding the LERTA.

Walter Griffith (Trucksville) commented Verbally regarding the LERTA, taxes and amending the Bylaws for new Committees.

Theodore J. Fitzgerald (Wilkes-Barre) commented Verbally regarding the LERTA and spending.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding the Process for the Sale of County Owned Properties.

Jim Reino (UGI) commented Verbally regarding the Gas Utility Supply Contract.

Agenda Items

Motion to adopt minutes of the March 08, 2022 Voting Session

Motion by: Mr. Lombardo

Second: Ms. McDermott

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes by Mr. Bienias, 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 (10-1)

The March 08, 2022 Voting Session Minutes are Adopted

1. Motions regarding resolution Providing Prior Approval for the Execution of Utility Supply Contracts

Motion to Remove from Table

Motion by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Lombardo

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Mr. Schnee, Mr. Thornton and Mr. Wolovich

One (1) No by Mr. SJ Urban

Motion Passed (10-1)

Resolution is Removed from Table

Motion to Adopt Resolution Providing Prior Approval for the Execution of Utility Supply Contracts

Motion by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Perry

Motion to Amend Section 3 wording from “thirty-six” to “forty-eight” by: Mr. Wolovich

Second: Mr. Bienias

Roll Call Vote to Amend:

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

Four (4) No by Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Thornton, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Wolovich

Motion Passed (7-4)

Resolution is Amended

Motion to Table by: Mr. SJ Urban

Second: Mr. Lescavage

Roll Call Vote to Table:

Five (5) Yes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Thornton, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Wolovich
Six (6) No by Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle and Mr. Schnee

Motion Failed (5-6)

Motion to Amend Section 3; delete and replace paragraph with “The County shall purchase the transportation portion of the natural gas contract for a forty-eight (48) month term with the understanding that UGI Energy Services and the County shall revisit the commodity portion each month to lock in the lowest possible rates for the County.”

by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Schnee

Roll Call Vote to Amend:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Amended

Roll Call Vote to Adopt Resolution:

Ten (10) Yes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Mr. Schnee, Mr. Thornton and Mr. Wolovich

One (1) No by Mr. SJ Urban

Motion Passed (10-1)

Resolution is Adopted

2. Motion to adopt resolution Approving a Budget Transfer to Provide Funds Related to Services Performed for Webster Bank Rate Reduction on General Obligation Note – Series 2019

Motion by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. Bienias

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

3. Motion to adopt resolution Providing Tax Exemption for New Construction in Deteriorated Areas under the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act

Motion by: Mr. Lombardo

Second: Mr. Wolovich

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

4. Motion to approve Process for Sale of County Owned Properties

Motion by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Bienias

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Process is Approved

5. Motion to amend Bylaws (add Infrastructure Committee)

Motion to amend Council by-laws at Rule 10 to add a standing Infrastructure Committee

by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. Lombardo

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Bylaws are Amended

6. Motion to amend Bylaws (add Review Committee)

Motion to amend Council by-laws at Rule 10 to add a standing Review Committee with the understanding that this committee's meetings will not be open to the public and do not need to be publicly advertised as the purpose of the review committee is to discuss pending litigation, negotiations and matters that may properly be discussed in executive session by: Mr. Lombardo

Second: Mr. Thornton

Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Bylaws are Amended

7. Motion to adopt resolution Appointing a County Manager

REMOVED

8. Motion to adopt resolution to Disband the Manager Search Committee

REMOVED

Attorney DeLuca commented on the Executive Session. He stated Council met in Executive Session from 5PM until approximately 6PM yesterday and discussed personnel matters. No decisions were made, no deliberation took place.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

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Scott Bussinger (Mountaintop) commented Verbally regarding Kirby Avenue.

Joe McCabe (Exeter) commented Verbally regarding the Water Street Bridge, the County Manager salary, Rain Tax and Mocanaqua.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding the Rain Tax and the Hazleton Land Bank.

Greg Brannan (Mountaintop) commented Verbally regarding roads and the County Manager.

John Newman (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding the Wyoming Seminary TEFRA.

Walter Griffith (Trucksville) commented Verbally regarding the Review Committee and Executive Sessions, legislation “on-the-fly”, signature dates on resolutions and the sound system.

Jess Morgan (Dallas) commented Verbally regarding County Manager candidate interviews in regard to Election Bureau and lock boxes.

Maryann Velez (Duryea) commented Verbally regarding the County Manager selection and private meetings.

Emily Foreman (Avoca) commented Verbally regarding roads, out of state landlords, building repairs and drugs.

Andy Gegaris (Dennison Township) commented Verbally regarding small business ARP money, Kirby Avenue repairs, Council Committees, County Members running for Office and the 3 minutes time period allotted for public comment.

Denise Acosta (Wilkes-Barre) commented Verbally regarding Children & Youth and Council interaction with families.

Bret Yarczower (Mountaintop) commented Verbally regarding roads and repair timeframe.

Beth Hartman (Hanover Township) commented Verbally regarding Review Committee Meetings and the County Manager.

Vivian Kreidler Lucina (Nescopeck) commented Verbally regarding bridge and Homestead.

Jason Carr (Saylorsburg) commented Verbally regarding Senator Yudichak and Council Members, and the County Manager.

Julius Zucor (Avoca) commented Verbally regarding drugs and Wilkes-Barre Police.

Brian Shiner (Kingston) commented Verbally regarding Public Comment audio and warning/removing a person from the Meeting.

Motion to adjourn: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Bienias

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 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