



**Luzerne County Council
March 23, 2021 Voting Session
Video/Teleconference via TEAMS
Minutes**

Call to Order

The Luzerne County Council convened for a Voting Session on March 23, 2021, at 6:01PM via TEAMS Video/Teleconference. The meeting was called to order by Council Vice-Chair Chris Perry.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Roll Call

Present

Walter L. Griffith, Jr.
Harry Haas
Linda McClosky Houck
Lee Ann McDermott
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

Absent

Tim McGinley

Mr. Perry announced in Mr. McGinley's absence he would be chairing the meeting.

Recognitions/Ceremonial Proclamations

Mr. Perry read a proclamation for the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute C.A.S.U.A.L. (Colon Cancer Awareness Saves Unlimited Adult Lives). Due to COVID-19, the proclamation will be mailed out to them.

Mr. Perry asked Mr. Vough to read a proclamation for Greg Griffin and his group of volunteers. Mr. Vough stated the County Cares Commission wanted to recognize what he and his volunteers do on a daily/weekly basis. Mr. Vough read the proclamation.

Attorney DeLuca commented on the Executive Session. He stated Council met via TEAMS in Executive Session to discuss the litigation related to the District Attorney, Salavantis vs. Luzerne County. Council met from 5:00Pm to 5:30PM.

Additions to/Deletions from Voting Session Agenda

None

Adoption of Voting Session Agenda

Motion to Adopt Voting Session Agenda by: Ms. Houck

Second: Ms. McDermott

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

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: Mr. SJ Urban

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

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. Saidman

Vote:

Nine (9) Ayes by 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. Griffith

Motion Passed (9-1)

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 Comprehensive Plan, ERA links, the MOU rescinding the resolution and the proclamation for Mr. Griffin.

Motion to adopt minutes of the March 09, 2021 Voting Session

Motion by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Ms. Saidman

Vote:

Eight (8) Ayes by Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

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

Motion Passed (8-2)

The March 09, 2021 Voting Session Minutes are Adopted

Old Business

Mr. Griffith spoke about the C&Y public meetings and information he received and will be sending to the Office of Law and Council.

Agenda Items

1. Motion to adopt ordinance Amending the 2021 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County (Hospitality Grant)

Motion by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Vough

Mr. Swetz reviewed changes to a line item in the ordinance:

Line Item 145.20.4176.440.40 is changed to 145.20.4176.435.30 PACED

Motion to Amend by: Ms. Houck

Second: Ms. Radle

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Ordinance is Amended

Motion to Adopt by: Ms. Saidman

Second: Mr. Haas

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Ordinance is Adopted

2. Motion to adopt ordinance Amending the 2021 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County (CTCL)

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Ms. Radle

Mr. Swetz reviewed changes to a line item in the ordinance.

Line Item 100.30.4120.435.70 needs to have Grant Other added after it.

Line Item 100.30.4120.599.50 needs to have COVID-19 added after it.

Motion to Amend by: Ms. Houck

Second: Mr. Vough

Roll Call Vote:

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

One (1) Abstention by Mr. SJ Urban

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

Ordinance is Amended

Motion to Adopt by: Ms. Houck

Second: Ms. Saidman

Roll Call Vote:

Eight (8) Yes by Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, 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 (8-1) with (1) Abstention

Ordinance is Adopted

3. Motion to adopt ordinance Amending the 2021 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County (DA)

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Ms. Radle

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Ordinance is Adopted

4. Motion to adopt resolution Approving the Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Brian Hampel v. Charles J. Balogh and Debbie Parker

Motion by: Ms. Saidman

Second: Ms. Radle

Roll Call Vote:

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

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

Motion Passed (7-3)

Resolution is Adopted

5. Motion to adopt an Ordinance of Luzerne County Amending Ordinance No. 2021-05 Regarding the Administration of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERA)

Mr. Swetz explained the change is to clearly show it is ERA money and not COVID-19 money.

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Mr. Vough

Roll Call Vote:

Nine (9) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle,

Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Vough

One (1) Abstention by Mr. Haas

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

Ordinance is Amended

6. Motion to adopt resolution declaring a vacancy on the Flood Protection Authority

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Ms. Saidman

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Resolution is Adopted

7. Motion to adopt resolution Approving the Memorandum of Understanding relating to the District Attorney Vacancy and Rescinding Resolution R-2021-58

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Ms. Saidman

Roll Call Vote:

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

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

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

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

Resolution is Adopted

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

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Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding inconsistencies and conflicts in the Charter, the Comprehensive Plan and the Visitors Bureau.

Richard Manta (Back Mountain) commented Verbally regarding DA amendment and the liens being placed on properties for the rain tax.

Mr. Griffith commented on the MOU attachment and dated resolutions.

Ms. Houck commented on the DA resolution.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Vough

Second: Ms. McDermott

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

Meeting Adjourned at 6:56 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