



**Luzerne County Council
Voting Session
March 28, 2023
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 28, 2023 at 6:01 PM. The meeting was called to order by Chair Kendra Radle.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Roll Call

Present

Carl Bienias
Kevin Lescavage
John Lombardo
Lee Ann McDermott
Tim McGinley
Matt Mitchell
Chris Perry
Kendra Radle
Brian Thornton (virtually)
Stephen J. Urban
Gregory S. Wolovich, Jr.

Also Present

Brian Swetz, Acting County Manager
Harry Skene, Chief County Solicitor
Sharon Lawrence, Clerk of Council

Recognitions and Ceremonial Proclamations

NONE

Deletions from Voting Session Agenda

Mr. SJ Urban would like to remove Items 1 & 2 from the Voting Agenda due to errors in the documents.

Motion by: Mr. SJ Urban

Second: Mr. Lescavage

Roll Call Vote:

Eight (8) Yes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Perry, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Wolovich

Three (3) No by Ms. McDermott, Ms. Radle and Mr. Thornton

Motion Passed (8-3)

Items 1 & 2 are Removed from the Voting Session Agenda

Adoption of Voting Session Agenda

Motion by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Lombardo

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 Suchoski (Wilkes-Barre) commented Verbally regarding ARP money and the Sterling lot.

Elizabeth Hartman (Hanover Township) commented Verbally regarding the jail settlement, the jail, ARP money and Booth Management, and the smoking areas were for county buildings.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding ARP money.

AGENDA ITEMS – CLERK OF COUNCIL

Motion to approve minutes of the March 14, 2023 Voting Session

Motion by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Wolovich

Vote:

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

One (1) Nay by Mr. SJ Urban

Motion Passed (10-1)

The March 14, 2023 Voting Session Minutes are Approved

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Motion to introduce Ordinance Imposing Restrictions as to the Weight of Vehicles Operated Upon County Roads; Providing for the Issuance of Permits and the Posting of Security for the Movement of Vehicles of a Weight in Excess of Restrictions; and Prescribing Penalties for Violations

REMOVED

2. Motion to introduce ordinance Adopting a Parking Ordinance in Hanover Township

REMOVED

1. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the County Manager to Execute a Lease Agreement between Luzerne County and Edwardsville Borough for the Premises Located at 59 Russell Street, Edwardsville Borough, Pennsylvania

Motion by: Mr. Mitchell

Second: Mr. Lombardo

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

2. Motion to adopt resolution for NPC Ballot Printing & Mail House Services

Motion by: Mr. Lombardo

Second: Ms. McDermott

Roll Call Vote:

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

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

Motion Passed (9-2)

Resolution is Adopted

3. Motion to adopt resolution Approving the Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Sarah Schiavone and Mickayla Meredith, as Administrators of the Estate of Hailey Povisil v. Luzerne County, Wellpath, LLC, Correct Care Solutions, LLC, and Melissa Yankovich

Motion by: Mr. Lombardo

Second: Mr. Mitchell

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

4. Motion to introduce ordinance Amending the 2023 Fiscal Year Budget In Order To Deposit \$109,601.98 into the Reserve Fund

Motion by: Mr. Bienias

Second: Mr. Wolovich

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Ordinance is Introduced

5. Motion(s) to Amend the Policies and Procedures for the Assessment and Evaluation of ARPA Fund Distribution (Caps, Scoring, Multiple Applications)

Motion to remove scores and add in caps (from Mr. Mitchell) by: Mr. Lombardo

Second: Mr. Mitchell

Roll Call Vote:

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

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

Motion Passed (9-2)

6. Motion to adopt resolution(s) Awarding American Rescue Plan Act Grant Monies

Motion to adopt resolution with “Exhibit A” being pages 5-8 of the revised

handout by: Mr. Mitchell

Second: Ms. McDermott

Motion to amend “Exhibit A” and exclude all Small Businesses by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Roll Call Vote:

Three (3) Yes by Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Thornton and Mr. SJ Urban

Eight (8) No by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, and Mr. Wolovich

Motion Failed (3-8)

Amendment Failed

Roll Call Vote on Original Motion:

Eight (8) Yes by:

- Mr. Bienias.....(abstained from Kings College)
- Mr. Lombardo.....(abstained from the Greater Pittston Regional Ambulance and the Greater Pittston Chamber of Commerce)
- Ms. McDermott(no abstentions)
- Mr. McGinley.....(abstained from Junior Achievement)
- Mr. Mitchell.....(abstained from the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority and Valley Crest)
- Mr. Perry.....(no abstentions)
- Ms. Radle.....(abstained from Greater Wyoming Valley Area YMCA, Maternal and Family Health Services, United Way of Wyoming Valley, Volunteers of Medicine, Volunteers of America and the Wyoming Area Regional Police Department)
- Mr. Wolovich.....(abstained from Kings College and the Irem Temple Restoration Project)

Three (3) No by:

- Mr. Lescavage
- Mr. Thornton
- Mr. SJ Urban

Motion Passed (8-3)

Resolution is Adopted

Public Comment on Non-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, in their entirety, can be heard by accessing the public comment portion of the meeting recording posted next to the meeting agenda.

Walter Griffith (Trucksville) commented Verbally regarding paper ballots and machines, Sherman Hills Apartments and tax exemption, and the jail settlement.

Dale Frederick (Sugarloaf) commented Verbally regarding Haz-Wald Farms LLC and distributed a handout to Council.

Elizabeth Hartman (Hanover) commented Verbally regarding the C&Y Protest, questioned the serving PFA's by the Sheriff and State Police, County Buildings smoking areas, garbage clean-up, Human Service Agencies and the jail.

Richard Miller (Salem Township) commented Verbally regarding the 10 area libraries and read and distributed post cards from a survey.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding ARP money and the Attorney General.

John Suchoski (Wilkes-Barre) commented Verbally regarding completion of ARP projects and the size of the Meeting Room.

Tom Dombroski (Dallas) commented Verbally regarding ARP money, the vote on the grants and asked for a written opinion from Atty. Skene.

Matt Krone (Freeland Borough) commented Verbally regarding ARP money and conflicts.

**Chair Radle read Public Comment Email from:
Walter & Robyn Kochan (Dallas Township)**

Motion to adjourn: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Lombardo

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 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