



**Luzerne County Council
Voting Session
April 12, 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 April 12, 2022 at 6:08 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
Gregory S. Wolovich, Jr.

Also Present

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

Recognitions and Ceremonial Proclamations

Chair Radle read a proclamation recognizing the month of April 2022 as Autism Awareness Month in Luzerne County. The proclamation was presented at the Autism Awareness NEPA Kickoff on April 1, 2022.

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

Deletions from Voting Session Agenda

NONE

Adoption of Voting Session Agenda

Motion to Adopt Voting Session Agenda by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. Wolovich

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.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding the Hazleton Land Bank and property transfer.

Tom Dombroski (Dallas) commented Verbally regarding the County Manager.

Greg Griffin (Swoyersville) commented Verbally regarding the Hazleton Land Bank.

Andy Gegaris (Dennison Twp) commented Verbally regarding the Hazleton Land Bank.

David Chaump (West Pittston) commented Verbally regarding the County Manager.

John Newman (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding the County Manager.

Ron Knapp (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding the Acting County Manager.

Agenda Items

Motion to adopt minutes of the March 14, 2022 Special Meeting

Motion by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Lombardo

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 14, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes are Adopted

Motion to adopt minutes of the March 22, 2022 Voting Session

Motion by: Mr. Wolovich

Second: Mr. Bienias

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 22, 2022 Voting Session Minutes are Adopted

Motion to adopt minutes of the March 29, 2022 Special Meeting

Motion by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. Lombardo

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 29, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes are Adopted

1. Motion to adopt Resolution Regarding a Financing by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Hospital and Education Authority for Wyoming Seminary of the Susquehanna Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church in Forty-Fort Borough and Kingston Borough, Pennsylvania

Motion by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. Lescavage

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

2. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the Use of American Rescue Plan Act Funds by the Hazleton City Land Bank

Motion by: Mr. Schnee

Second: Mr. Lombardo

Motion to Table by: Mr. SJ Urban

Second: Mr. Lescavage

Roll Call Vote to Table:

Six (6) Yes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Ms. McDermott, Mr. Thornton, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Wolovich

Five (5) No by Mr. Lombardo, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle and Mr. Schnee

Motion Passed (6-5)

Resolution is Tabled

3. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the County Manager to Execute a Lease Addendum between Luzerne County and Luzerne County Community College for premises currently leased in the Broad Street Business Exchange Building

Motion by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Schnee

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

4. Motion to adopt resolution Approving the Sales of Certain Parcels of Property Held In Repository by Elite Revenue Solutions, LLC acting as the Luzerne County Tax Claim Bureau

Motion by: Mr. Lombardo

Second: Mr. Schnee

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

5. Motion to adopt resolution Approving Demolition of Building 16 (Franklin Dormitory) of the Keystone Job Corps Center

Motion by: Mr. Wolovich

Second: Mr. Thornton

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

6. Motion to approve Agreement with PennDOT regarding Water Street Bridge authorizing the County Manager to Execute Documents

Motion by: Mr. Lombardo

Second: Mr. Thornton

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

7. Motion to adopt resolution declaring a vacancy on the Board of Elections and Registration

Motion by: Mr. SJ Urban

Second: Ms. McDermott

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

8. Motion to adopt resolution Initiating an Inquiry into the Luzerne County 911 P25 County-Wide Next Generation Public Safety Radio System

Motion by: Mr. Lescavage

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Motion to Table by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. Schnee

Roll Call Vote to Table:

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 Tabled

9. Motion to adopt resolution Appointing a County Manager

Motion to Open Nominations by: Mr. Wolovich

Second: Mr. Bienias

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Nominations Open

Ms. McDermott nominated: Randy Robertson at a salary of \$181,500

Second: Mr. Wolovich

Mr. Schnee nominated: David Johnston at a salary of \$170,000

Second: NONE

Motion fails for lack of a second.

Motion to Close Nominations: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. Lombardo

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Nominations Closed

Ms. Lawrence noted the resolution requires an effective date.

Ms. Radle stated it should be effective June 01, 2022 or at an otherwise agreed upon date.

Motion to adopt resolution appointing Randy Robertson as County Manager at a salary of \$181,500 effective June 01, 2022 or at an otherwise agreed upon date.

by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Thornton

Roll Call Vote:

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

One (1) No by Mr. Perry

Two (2) Abstentions by Mr. McGinley and Mr. Schnee

~~Motion Passed (8-1) with (2) Abstentions~~

Mr. Schnee changed his vote to a YES:

Nine (9) Yes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Ms. Radle, Mr. Schnee, Mr. Thornton, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Wolovich

One (1) No by Mr. Perry

One (1) Abstention by Mr. McGinley

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

Resolution is Adopted

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

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Andy Gegaris (Dennison Township) commented Verbally regarding Mr. Schnee's appointment.

John Newman (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding solutions for Children & Youth.

Joe McCabe (Exeter) commented Verbally regarding Mr. Robertson, the Election Bureau and Ballots.

Greg Brannan (Mountaintop) commented Verbally regarding ARP funds, losses and answers to his questions.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding the new County Manager, the Acting County Manager and the Hazleton Land Bank.

David Chaump (West Pittston) commented Verbally regarding addressing individual Council Members.

Walter Griffith (Trucksville) commented Verbally regarding power outages, Penn Place, ARP funds, emergency generators, the Wyoming Valley Airport Advisory Board, the Election Board vacancy and the Hazzouri property.

Maryann Velez (Duryea) commented Verbally regarding ARP funds for Children & Youth and the Luzerne County 911 P25 County-Wide Next Generation Public Safety Radio System funds and proposals.

Beth Hartman (Hanover Township) commented Verbally regarding Children and Youth and Troutman Pepper.

Motion to adjourn: Mr. Wolovich

Second: Mr. Bienias

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 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