



**Luzerne County Council  
April 13, 2021 Voting Session  
Video/Teleconference via TEAMS  
Minutes**

**Call to Order**

The Luzerne County Council convened for a Voting Session on March 13, 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. (connected at 6:05PM)  
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

**Mr. Perry announced Mr. McGinley will not chair the meeting but will participate in the Voting Session.**

### **Recognitions/Ceremonial Proclamations**

Mr. Perry asked Mr. Schnee to read a proclamation for Jaxson Dempsey. Mr. Schnee and Mr. Perry provided additional commentary after the reading.

Mr. Perry read a proclamation for 911 National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

Mr Perry announced the retirements of:

- Rhonda M. Adams, Administrative Assistant 1, Area Agency on Aging
- Jonathan Blum, Asst. Public Defender PT, Public Defender's Office
- James F. Elmy, Correctional Officer 2, Minimal Offender's Unit
- Mary A. Grebeck, Clerical Supervisor 2, Children & Youth Services
- Monica Green, Caseworker 1, Children & Youth Services
- Pamela Guarneri, Clerk 2, Purchasing
- Kevin Kane, Director, Domestic Relations
- Linda Mishko, Clerk Typist 3, Children & Youth Services
- Diane M. Nardone, Caseworker 2, Children & Youth Services
- Warren Pollock, Corrections Officer, LCCF
- Eileen Sgarlat, Paces Coordinator, Domestic Relations

Letters of thanks and congratulations will be sent out to them from Council.

**Attorney DeLuca stated Council met in Executive Session for legal matters. No deliberations took place and no decisions were made in the matters of Omolecki vs. Luzerne County and Watchilla vs. Griffith and Luzerne County. It was held 5PM until approximately 5:25PM via TEAMS.**

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

Mr. Griffith requested Item 3 be removed from the Agenda.

**Motion by:** Mr. Griffith

**Second:** Mr. SJ Urban

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)**

### **Adoption of Voting Session Agenda**

**Motion to Adopt Voting Session Agenda by:** Mr. McGinley

**Second:** Ms. Houck

**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)**

**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. Saidman

**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. Saidman

**Second:** Mr. McGinley

**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 Comprehensive Plan, Cranberry Creek, Market Street Square, the White Haven Center and the reduction of the 10% penalty to 1%.

**Richard Manta (Back Mountain) commented Verbally** regarding the Comprehensive Plan, Cranberry Creek, Market Street Square, the White Haven Center and the reduction of the 10% penalty to 1%.

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

**Motion by:** Ms. McDermott

**Second:** Mr. Vough

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

### **Old Business**

Mr. Griffith spoke about notating Council votes on failed ordinances and codification.

Atty. Crocamo responded regarding codification.

## **Agenda Items**

### **1. Motion to adopt resolution adopting the 2021 Lackawanna-Luzerne Counties Comprehensive Plan**

**Motion to adopt the final plan with edits by:** Mr. Haas

**Second:** Ms. McDermott

**Mr. Schnee would like to amend plan with Mr. Rabo's comments regarding Water Use and COVID-19.**

**Motion by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Mr. Haas

**After discussion, Mr. Haas suggested approving the final plan with edits as presented and then vote on the amendments for Water Use and COVID-19 at the next meeting when the exact wording for the amendments is finalized.**

**Ms. Saidman pointed out the plan only refers to Commissioners and not Council Members.**

**Motion to amend the resolution by replacing Commissioners with Commissioners/Council Members by:** Mr. McGinley

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

**After further discussion:**

**Motion to Table by:** Mr. McGinley

**Second:** Ms. Houck

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes by Mr. Griffith, 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. Haas

**Motion Passed (10-1)**

**Resolution is Tabled**

### **2. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the County Manager to Extend the Lease Agreement Between Luzerne County and U.S. Representative Matthew Cartwright in the Penn Place Building**

**Motion by:** Ms. Saidman

**Second:** Mr. McGinley

**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) No by Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (10-1)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

### **3. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the County Manager to Execute a Lease Agreement between Luzerne County and Market Square Properties Development, LLC for premises located at 33 Wilkes-Barre Boulevard, Wilkes-Barre Pennsylvania, 18702**

**Motion by:** Mr. Haas

**Second:** Ms. Houck

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

**Second:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Roll Call Vote to Postpone:**

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

Nine (9) No by Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

**Motion to Postpone Failed (2-9)**

**Roll Call Vote to Adopt:**

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

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

**Motion to Adopt Passed (9-2)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**4. Motion to adopt resolution appointing a member to the Luzerne County Flood**

**Protection Authority**

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

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

**Vote:**

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Nominations Open**

**Ms. Saidman nominated:** John Maday

**Second:** Ms. McDermott

**Mr. SJ Urban nominated:** Kevin O'Brien

**Second:** Ms. Houck

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

**Second:** Mr. McGinley

**Vote:**

Eleven (11) Ayes - Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Nominations Closed**

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

**Mr. Griffith:** O'Brien

**Mr. Haas:** O'Brien

**Ms. Houck:** O'Brien

**Ms. McDermott:** Maday

**Mr. McGinley:** Maday

**Mr. Perry:** Maday

**Ms. Radle:** Maday

**Ms. Saidman:** Maday

**Mr. Schnee:** Maday

**Mr. SJ Urban:** O'Brien

**Mr. Vough:** Maday

**Results:**

O'Brien 4

Maday 7

**Motion to adopt resolution appointing John Maday to the Luzerne County Flood**

**Protection Authority by:** Ms. Radle

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

**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

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

**Motion Passed (9-2)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**5. Motion to adopt resolution to reduce the 10 % penalty fee for Luzerne County 2021 real estate property taxes**

**Motion by:** Mr. Griffith

**Second:** Ms. Houck

**Roll Call Vote:**

Four (4) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck and Mr. SJ Urban

Seven (7) No by Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

**Motion Failed (4-7)**

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

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**Mr. Perry read Public Comment Email from:**

**Mindy Stevens** regarding County owned property for sale.

**Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally** regarding the Comprehensive Plan.

**Richard Manta (Back Mountain) commented Verbally** regarding the vote on the reduction of the 10% penalty fee.

**Mr. McGinley, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Vough and Mr. SJ Urban responded to Mr. Manta's comments.**

**Adjournment**

**Motion to Adjourn:** Ms. Saidman

**Second:** Ms. Radle

**Vote:**

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:04 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)