



**Luzerne County Council**  
April 21, 2020 Meeting  
Video/Teleconference via TEAMS  
1:00PM

**Minutes**

**Call to Order**

The Luzerne County Council convened for a Voting Session on April 21, 2020 at 1:05 PM via TEAMS Video/Teleconference. The meeting was called to order by Council Chair Tim McGinley.

**Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence**

**Roll Call**

**Present**

Walter L. Griffith, Jr.  
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

**Recognitions/Ceremonial Proclamations**

None

**Mr. McGinley announced there is a public call in number that is posted on the website. The number is 570-825-1776, extension 2910, password 2020.**

**Additions to/Deletions from Meeting Agenda**

**Motion to add Ordinance Allowing for the Reduction of the Penalty Period Fees for the 2020 Luzerne County Real Estate Taxes to the Voting Session Agenda by: Mr. Haas**

**Second: Mr. Griffith**

**Vote:**

Eight (8) Ayes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Ms. Radle, Mr. Schnee, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Vough

Three (3) Nays by Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry and Ms. Saidman

**Motion Passed (8-3)**

**Mr. McGinley stated it would be added to the Voting Session Agenda as Item #9.**

**Adoption of Voting Session Agenda**

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

**Second: Ms. Saidman**

**Vote:**

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**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. Griffith**

**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 Manager's Emergency Declaration**

**by: Mr. Schnee**

**Second: Ms. Radle**

**Vote:**

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Mr. McGinley repeated his announcement there is a public call in number that is posted on the website. The number is 570-825-1776, extension 2910, password 2020.**

**Public Comment on Voting Session 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.**

**Ronald Knapp (Nanticoke) Commented via EMAIL** regarding the Tax Ordinance and snow removal.

**Anonymous Commented via TEAMS** regarding Wexford.

**Brian (Kingston) Commented via TEAMS** regarding Bylaws, the Northeast/Elite Revenue contract and the Tax Ordinance.

**Richard Manta (Back Mountain) Commented Verbally** regarding the Tax Ordinance.

**1. Motion to adopt Minutes of the March 31, 2020 Meeting**

**Motion by:** Ms. McDermott

**Second:** Mr. Griffith

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

One (1) Nay by Mr. Stephen J. Urban

**Motion Passed (10-1)**

**The March 31, 2020 Meeting Minutes are Adopted**

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Griffith posed questions and concerns regarding Resolution 2020-47 and his email regarding a temporary employee in the Election Bureau Office. Discussion and Q&A followed.

**2. Motion to remove from tabled resolution Authorizing the County Manager to Execute a Contract with Wellpath LLC for Inmate Health Care Services**

**Motion 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)**

**The Resolution is Removed from Tabled**

**3. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the County Manager to Execute a Contract with Wellpath LLC for Inmate Health Care Services**

**Motion by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Ms. Radle

**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)**

**The Resolution is Adopted**

**4. Motion to adopt resolution Approving a Contract with Elite Revenue Solutions, LLC for the Collection of Delinquent Real Estate Tax Services**

**Motion by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Mr. Perry

**Roll Call Vote:**

Six (6) Yes by Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman and Mr. Schnee

Four (4) No by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck and Mr. Vough

One (1) Abstention by Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (6-4) with (1) Abstention**

**The Resolution is Adopted**

**5. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the County Manager to Execute a Lease Agreement Between Luzerne County and Elite Revenue Services, LLC**

**Motion by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

One (1) No by Mr. Vough

One (1) Abstention by Mr. SJ Urban

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

**The Resolution is Adopted**

**6. Motion to adopt resolution Declaring a Vacancy on the Luzerne County Children & Youth Advisory Board**

**Motion by:** Ms. Saidman

**Second:** Mr. Griffith

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eleven (11) Yes - Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**The Resolution is Adopted**

**7. Motion to amend Luzerne County Council Bylaws Rule 1D**

**Motion by:** Ms. Houck

**Second:** Mr. Griffith

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

**Second:** Mr. McGinley

**Roll Call Vote to Table:**

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

Four (4) No by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck and Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (7-4)**

**The Motion is Tabled**

**8. Motion to amend Luzerne County Council Bylaws Rule 8F**

**Motion by:** Mr. Griffith

**Second:** Ms. Houck

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

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

**Roll Call Vote to Table:**

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

Four (4) No by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck and Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (7-4)**

**The Motion is Tabled**

**ADDED ITEM**

**9. Motion to adopt ordinance allowing for the reduction of the penalty period fees for the 2020 Luzerne County Real Estate Taxes**

**Motion by:** Mr. Griffith

**Second:** Mr. Haas

**Motion to amend deadline date from December 31, 2020 to August 18, 2020 by:** Mr. Vough

**Second:** Ms. Radle

**Roll Call Vote on Amendment:**

Six (6) Yes by Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Five (5) No by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott and Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (6-5)**

**Ordinance is Amended**

**Motion to amend to add “Thirty (30) days prior to August 18, 2020, Council will revisit the ordinance and re-evaluate the August 18, 2020 date” by:** Mr. Griffith

**Second:** Mr. Schnee

**Roll Call Vote on Amendment:**

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Ordinance is Amended**

**Roll Call Vote to Adopt Ordinance:**

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Ordinance is Adopted**

**Public Comment:**

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**Richard Manta (Back Mountain) Commented Verbally** regarding contract escape clauses and the Tax Ordinance.

**Mark Rabo (Hazleton) Commented via Email** regarding Northeast Revenue/Elite Solutions, Hazleton and COVID19.

**Harry Haas** commented on mail in ballots.

**Walter Griffith** commented on the TRAN and the voting machine reimbursement from the State.

**Lee Ann McDermott** commented on mail in ballots and Repository Sales.

**Mr. Pedri** commented on the election, voting machines, mail in ballots and COVID19.

**Sheila Saidman** had questions on the mail in ballot.

**Walter Griffith** had questions on County Furloughs.

**Stephen J. Urban** commented on ballots and candidate information.

**Walter Griffith** had questions regarding the Election Board and ballots.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

**Vote:**

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

**Meeting Adjourned at 3:59 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)