



Luzerne County Council
April 23, 2019
Luzerne County Court House
Council Meeting Room
200 N. River Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18711

Minutes
April 23, 2019 Voting Session

Call to Order

The Luzerne County Council convened for a Voting Session in the Council Meeting Room of the Luzerne County Courthouse on Tuesday, April 23, 2019, at 6:01 PM. The meeting was called to order by Chair Tim McGinley.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Roll Call

Present

Patrick M. Bilbow
Harry Haas
Linda McClosky Houck
Eugene Kelleher
Tim McGinley
Chris Perry
Robert Schnee
Stephen A. Urban (arrived at 6:03)
Matthew Vough
Jane Walsh Waitkus

Also Present

C. David Pedri, Esq., County Manager
Shannon Crake Lapsansky, Assistant County Solicitor
Sharon Lawrence, Clerk of Council

Absent

Shelia Saidman, Esq.

Mr. Stephen A. Urban arrived at 6:03PM

Recognitions/Ceremonial Proclamations

Mr. McGinley reviewed the following Proclamations from Council:

- Lyme Disease Awareness Month – May 2019
- Autism Awareness Month – April 2019
- Conservation District Week – May 5-11, 2019
- Lions Club International Multiple District 14 – 96th Annual State Convention
- NEPA Manufacturers & Employers Association Award – Cargill Beef
- NEPA Manufacturers & Employers Association Award – InterMetro Industries, Corp.
- NEPA Manufacturers & Employers Association Award – Transcontinental Hazleton

Mr. McGinley read and presented the following 9-1-1 awards:

- National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week – April 14-20, 2019
- PA Chapter of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials International Awards
 - 2018 Information Technologist of the Year - Michael Ankenbrand
 - 2018 Team of the Year - Luzerne County 9-1-1

Mike Ankenbrand accepted the awards, spoke briefly and introduced the 911 team members in attendance. Mr. Pedri congratulated and thanked the 911 Team.

Mr. McGinley announced the following Retirements:

- Carol Bryden, Custodial Worker, Building & Grounds
- Herbert M. Ciechoski, Security
- Mary Diliberto, Care Manager, Area Agency on Aging
- Michael A. John, Corrections Officer, LCCF
- William W. Lisman, Coroner
- Marianne Malinosky, Clerk Typist 2, Area Agency on Aging
- Suzanne Strittmatter, Caseworker Supervisor, MHDS

Mr. McGinley stated letters of thanks and congratulations will be sent out from Council.

Additions to/Deletions from Voting Session Agenda

Ms. Houck would like to remove Item 3, resolution authorizing the County Manager to execute a contract with Maverick Strategies, as it is in violation of the Charter.

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Mr. Stephen A. Urban

Ms. Crake stated the Office of Law reviewed the matter and the process is not clearly defined in the Administrative Code.

Roll Call Vote:

Three (3) Yes by Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck and Mr. Stephen A. Urban

Seven (7) No by Mr. Bilbow, Mr. Kelleher, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Mr. Schnee, Mr. Vough and Ms. Waitkus

Motion Failed (3-7)

Mr. Haas would like to move Item 3, resolution authorizing the County Manager to execute a contract with Maverick Strategies, to the Work Session agenda.

Motion by: Mr. Haas

Second: Ms. Houck

Roll Call Vote:

Four (4) Yes by Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Stephen A. Urban

Six (6) No by Mr. Bilbow, Mr. Kelleher, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Mr. Vough and Ms. Waitkus

Motion Failed (4-6)

Adoption of Voting Session Agenda

Motion to Adopt: Mr. Kelleher

Second: Mr. Schnee

Vote:

Seven (7) Ayes by Mr. Bilbow, Mr. Kelleher, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Mr. Schnee, Mr. Vough and Ms. Waitkus

Three (3) Nays by Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck and Mr. Stephen A. Urban

The Voting Session Agenda is adopted (7-3)

Mr. McGinley announced Mr. Schnee requested time before Public Comment to make a statement.

Mr. Schnee apologized to anyone he may have hurt last week and said he was truly sorry. He commented on his 60 years of service, coaching and representing unions, and people of all diversity. Mr. Schnee stated he has met with an Attorney and is working with her to amend the situation and use it as a teachable moment to combat racism and bigotry. Mr. Schnee concluded with an apology.

Public Comment on Voting Session Agenda Items

Fred Javer (Edwardsville) commented on the Maverick Strategies Contract and RFP. He stated it is the right move and Council should go for it without hesitation.

Brian Shiner (Kingston) spoke about the Maverick Strategies Contract, Charter violations, inconsistencies and the Solicitors Office. He also commented on the grant writer for Luzerne County, the elected people in Harrisburg, lobbying, Luzerne County Resolution 42 of 2017, and Maverick Strategies affiliations.

Sam Troy (Wilkes-Barre) stated he agrees with Mr. Shiner, and commended Ms. Houck, Mr. Haas and Mr. Stephen A. Urban regarding the Maverick Strategies Contract and RFP. He asked Mr. Pedri to explain for the benefit. Mr. Troy asked if the county is responsible the pension and benefits for the Drug Task Force Officer. Mr. McGinley responded and stated the monies from the Attorney General's Office will not cover the pension, the County will be responsible for the pension benefits.

Old Business

None

New Business

Motion to adopt minutes of the April 09, 2019 Voting Meeting

Motion by: Ms. Waitkus

Second: Mr. Vough

Vote:

Nine (9) Ayes by Mr. Bilbow, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Mr. Kelleher, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Mr. Schnee, Mr. Vough and Ms. Waitkus

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

Motion Passed (9-1)

The April 09, 2019 Voting Meeting Minutes are Adopted

1. Motion to adopt ordinance amending the 2019 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County (Drug Task Force Officer)

Motion by: Mr. Bilbow

Second: Mr. Haas

Mr. McGinley suggested the ordinance be amended to delete healthcare.

Motion to Amend by: Mr. Haas

Second: Mr. Stephen A. Urban

Ms. Houck suggested the line items be changed from “deduct” to “add” and to add an additional “Whereas” regarding pension expenses that will not be covered by the funds received from the Attorney General’s Office.

Mr. Hass withdrew his amendment.

Mr. Stephen A. Urban withdrew his second.

Motion to Amend by: Ms. Houck

Second: Mr. Haas

Roll Call Vote on Amendments:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Amendments Passed (10-0)

Roll Call Vote on Ordinance:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Ordinance is Adopted

2. Motion to introduce ordinance amending the 2019 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County (Transportation Planner)

Motion by: Mr. Perry

Second: Ms. Houck

Ms. Crake stated there would need to be amendments to the line items changing “deduct” to “add” and add in the compensation line item “(up to) \$53,000.00”.

Motion to Amend by: Ms. Houck

Second: Mr. Kelleher

Roll Call Vote on Amendments:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Amendments Passed (10-0)

Roll Call Vote on Ordinance:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Ordinance is Adopted

3. Motion to adopt resolution authorizing the County Manager to execute a Contract with Maverick Strategies

Motion to Table by: Mr. Haas

Second: Ms. Houck

Roll Call Vote:

Four (4) Yes by: Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Stephen A. Urban

Six (6) No by Mr. Bilbow, Mr. Kelleher, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Mr. Vough and Ms. Waitkus

Motion to Table Failed (4-6)

Motion to Adopt by: Mr. Kelleher

Second: Mr. Vough

Roll Call Vote:

Seven (7) Yes by Mr. Bilbow, Mr. Kelleher, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Mr. Schnee, Mr. Vough and Ms. Waitkus

Three (3) No by Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck and Mr. Stephen A. Urban

Motion Passed (7-3)

Resolution is Adopted

4. Motion to adopt ordinance amending the Luzerne County Zoning Map to Re-Zone Parcels of Property in the Borough of Pringle from Light Industrial (M-2) Zone to Two Family Residence District (R-2) Zone

Motion by: Mr. Kelleher

Second: Ms. Houck

Mr. McGinley suggested amending the ordinance to include the terms and conditions of the March 15, 2019 letter from the Luzerne County Zoning Office to Charlotte Wojtas.

Motion to Amend Ordinance by: Ms. Houck

Second: Mr. Perry

Roll Call Vote on Amendment:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Amendment Passed (10-0)

Roll Call Vote to Adopt Ordinance:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Ordinance is Adopted

5. Motion to adopt resolution committing a Local Match for State Operating Assistance for the Luzerne County Transportation Authority

Motion by: Mr. Vough

Second: Mr. Stephen A. Urban

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Resolution is Adopted

Public Comment

Joe McCabe (Exeter) followed up on his concerns with the inspection/closure of the Water Street Bridge and provided Council with information he heard about.

Fred Javer (Edwardsville) thanked Council for their vote on the Maverick Strategies Contract.

Brian Shiner (Kingston) commented on lobbying, modifying the rezoning ordinance, the intergovernmental agreement between the Flood Protection Authority and the County, and the comment made by Mr. Schnee 2 weeks ago.

Matt Vough introduced Jessica Budzak and Cammie Anderson from the Children's Service Center and stated they would be sharing some positive stories they have encountered on the prevention side. They spoke about their school based education programs regarding the opioid crisis and universal prevention.

Matt Vough introduced Bob Price, President of the Dupont Crime Watch. Mr. Price spoke about the upcoming Opioid Awareness Forum being held on April 30, 2019 at 7PM at the VFW Post 4909 in Dupont.

Stephen A. Urban asked for the Clerk of Council to follow up with the DA regarding information he requested from her during her annual report about drugs seized by state police and state agencies. He thanked Joe Piazza regarding his work with the Drug Treatment Center.

Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Haas

Second: Mr. Stephen A. Urban

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes - Unanimous

Meeting Adjourned at 7:55 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