



**Luzerne County Council  
Voting Session  
April 26, 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 26, 2022 at 6:01 PM. The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair John Lombardo.

**Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence**

**Roll Call**

**Present**

Carl Bienias  
Kevin Lescavage  
John Lombardo  
Lee Ann McDermott  
Tim McGinley (virtually)  
Chris Perry  
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

**Absent**

Kendra M. Radle

### **Recognitions and Ceremonial Proclamations**

NONE

### **Deletions from Voting Session Agenda**

NONE

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

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

**Second:** Mr. Thornton

**Vote:**

Nine (9) Ayes - Unanimous

**Motion Passed (9-0)**

**The Voting Session Agenda is Adopted**

**Attorney Skene commented on (3) Executive Sessions. He stated on Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, at 5:04PM until 7:00PM, Council met in Executive Session that concerned employment matters and union contracts. On Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, from 5:02PM until 6:05PM, Council met in Executive Session to discuss the Children & Youth Investigation and receive updates. Today, Council met in Executive Session from 5:00PM until 5:40PM to discuss litigation.**

### **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 ARP funds and the Hazleton City Land Bank.

**John Newman (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding** the Council vacancy and whether it should be Democrat or Republican.

**Kathy Bozinski (Hanover Township) commented Verbally regarding** the Council vacancy and whether it should be Democrat or Republican.

**Vice Chair Mr. Lombardo read Public Comment Email from:**

- **Robert Stevens (Hazleton)**

**Agenda Items**

**Motion to adopt minutes of the April 12, 2022 Voting Session**

**Motion by:** Ms. McDermott

**Second:** Mr. Thornton

**Vote:**

Eight (8) Ayes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Mr. Thornton and Mr. Wolovich

One (1) Nay by Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (8-1)**

**The April 12, 2022 Voting Session Minutes are Adopted**

**1. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the Use of American Rescue Plan Act Funds to Enter into a Contract with Booth Management Consulting, LLC**

**Motion by:** Mr. McGinley

**Second:** Mr. Perry

**Roll Call Vote:**

Three (3) Yes by Mr. Lombardo, Mr. McGinley and Mr. Perry

Six (6) No by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Ms. McDermott, Mr. Thornton, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Wolovich

**Motion Failed (3-6)**

**Resolution Failed**

**2. Motion to adopt resolution Designating an Agent to Execute All Required Forms And Documents for The Purpose of Obtaining Financial Assistance Under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act**

**Motion by:** Mr. Lescavage

**Second:** Mr. Thornton

**Roll Call Vote:**

Nine (9) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (9-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**3. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing a Contract with PFM Group Consulting (“PFM”) For the Preparation of a Ten-Year Financial Plan**

**Motion by:** Mr. Perry

**Second:** Mr. McGinley

**Roll Call Vote:**

Two (2) Yes by Mr. McGinley and Mr. Perry

Seven (7) No by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. Thornton, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Wolovich

**Motion Failed (2-7)**

**Resolution Failed**

**4. Motions regarding resolution Authorizing the Use of American Rescue Plan Act Funds by the Hazleton City Land Bank**

**4a. Motion to remove from Table**

**Motion by:** Mr. Thornton

**Second:** Mr. Perry

**Roll Call Vote:**

Seven (7) Yes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry and Mr. Thornton

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

**Motion Passed (7-2)**

**Resolution is Removed from Table**

**4b. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the Use of American Rescue Plan Act Funds by the Hazleton City Land Bank**

**Motion by:** Mr. Thornton

**Second:** Mr. Perry

**Roll Call Vote:**

Six (6) Yes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, and Mr. Thornton

Three (3) No by Mr. Lescavage, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Wolovich

**Motion Passed (6-3)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**5. Motion to adopt resolution Approving the Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Shelby Watchilla v. Luzerne County and Walter L. Griffith, Jr.**

**Motion by:** Mr. Lescavage

**Second:** Mr. Bienias

**Roll Call Vote:**

Nine (9) No – Unanimous

**Motion Failed (0-9)**

**Resolution Failed**

**6. Motion to adopt resolution to Disband the Manager Search Committee**

**Motion by:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Second:** Mr. Thornton

**Roll Call Vote:**

Nine (9) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (9-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**7. Motion to adopt resolution Declaring the Elected Position of Luzerne County Council Member Robert Schnee Vacant due to his Election to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives**

**Motion by:** Mr. Thornton

**Second:** Mr. Wolovich

**Roll Call Vote:**

Nine (9) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (9-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**8. Motions regarding resolution Initiating an Inquiry into the Luzerne County 911 P25 County-Wide Next Generation Public Safety Radio System**

**8a. Motion to remove from Table**

**Motion by:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Second:** Mr. Lescavage

**Roll Call Vote:**

Seven (7) Yes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Ms. McDermott, Mr. Perry, Mr. Thornton, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Wolovich

Two (2) No by Mr. Lombardo and Mr. McGinley

**Motion Passed (7-2)**

**Resolution is Removed from Table**

**8b. 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

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

Three (3) No by Mr. Lombardo, Mr. McGinley and Mr. Perry

**Motion Failed (6-3)**

**Resolution Failed**

**(Needed Majority +1 to Pass)**

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

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**Tom Dombroski (Dallas) commented Verbally regarding the Hazzouri property.**

**Greg Griffin (Swoyersville) commented Verbally regarding County problems and solutions.**

**Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding** the Hazleton City Land Bank vote, and LSA funding.

**Donald Leshko (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding** the 911 project.

**Beth Hartman (Hanover Township) commented Verbally regarding** 911, the Troutman Pepper Report and Children & Youth.

**John Newman (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding** the Council vacancy and whether it should be Democrat or Republican.

**David Chaump (West Pittston) commented Verbally regarding** ARP money.

**Motion to adjourn:** Mr. McGinley

**Second:** Mr. Perry

**Vote:**

Eight (8) Ayes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Wolovich

One (1) Nay by Mr. Thornton

**Motion Passed (8-1)**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:14 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)