



**Luzerne County Council
April 27, 2021 Voting Session
Video/Teleconference via TEAMS
Minutes**

Call to Order

The Luzerne County Council convened for a Voting Session on March 27, 2021, at 6:01PM 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

Additions to/Deletions from Voting Session Agenda

None

Adoption of Voting Session Agenda

Motion to Adopt Voting Session Agenda by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Schnee

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. Schnee

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. Radle

Second: Mr. Perry

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 RACP grant and the Hazleton area LERTA.

Mr. McGinley read Public Comment Email from:

Warren Faust (Wilkes-Barre Township)

Motion to adopt minutes of the April 13, 2021 Voting Session

Motion by: Ms. Radle

Second: Ms. McDermott

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 April 13, 2021 Voting Session Minutes are Adopted

Old Business

Mr. Griffith requested an update from the County Manager on the Coroner's report and District Attorney's report regarding the prison suicide.

Mr. Griffith asked about the Codification RFP. Mr. McGinley and Atty. Crocamo responded.

Agenda Items

1. Motion to adopt resolution adopting the 2021 Lackawanna-Luzerne Counties

Comprehensive Plan

Motion by: Mr. Haas

Second: Mr. Schnee

Roll Call Vote:

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

One (1) No by Mr. SJ Urban

Ms. Saidman was having trouble with her computer/audio connection and was not able to vote.

Motion Passed (9-1)

Resolution is Adopted

2. Motion to approve resolution Approving the Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Leonard D. Omolecki, Jr. v. Luzerne County

Motion by: Mr. Perry

Second: Ms. Radle

Motion to Table by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Mr. Schnee

Roll Call Vote:

Nine (9) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Mr. Schnee, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Vough

One (1) No by Mr. McGinley

Ms. Saidman was having trouble with her computer/audio connection and was not able to vote.

Motion Passed (9-1)

Resolution is Tabled

3. Motion to approve resolution Authorizing Luzerne County to apply for a Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) Grant on behalf of Embark Behavioral Health (Embark) / Change Academy Lake of the Ozarks (CALO) Programs

Motion by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Schnee

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Mr. Schnee, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Vough

Ms. Saidman was having trouble with her computer and audio connection and was not able to vote.

Motion Passed (10-1)

Resolution is Adopted

4. Motion to approve resolution Providing Tax Exemption for New Construction in Deteriorated Areas under the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act (Bluecup Ventures LLC)

Motion by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Schnee

NOTE: Ms. Saidman reconnected and was able to vote for the rest of the meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

5. Motion to approve resolution Authorizing the County Manager to Execute a Lease Agreement between Luzerne County and Luzerne County Domestic Relations for premises located at 113 West North Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, 18711

Motion by: Mr. Schnee

Second: Ms. Radle

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

6. Motion to approve resolution Authorizing the County Manager to Execute a Contract with Thomson Reuters for Westlaw Legal Research Software

Motion by: Ms. Saidman

Second: Ms. McDermott

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

7. Motion to adopt resolution to Abate Delinquent Luzerne County Taxes for the Property Located at 1206-1208 South Prospect Street, City of Nanticoke (PIN: 42-J7SE4-006-003-000)

Motion by: Ms. Saidman

Second: Ms. McDermott

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

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Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding tax abatement, Hazleton Land Bank, and Broad Street Exchange Building.

Richard Manta (Back Mountain) commented Verbally regarding tax abatement, LERTAS and area businesses, and Luzerne County and WVSA.

Mr. McGinley read Public Comment Email from:

Laura Pinero

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Perry

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Meeting Adjourned at 6:51 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