



**Luzerne County Council**  
April 28, 2020 Meeting  
Video/Teleconference via TEAMS  
6:01PM

**Minutes**

**Call to Order**

The Luzerne County Council convened for a Voting Session on April 28, 2020 at 6:01 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**

Mr. McGinley announced the retirements of:  
Emily J. Intelicato, Program Specialist I, Children & Youth  
Judith M. Kresky, Program Specialist I, MHDS  
Beverly A. Meneeley, Alt Senior Center Oper, Area Agency on Aging  
Donna Million, Clerk Steno, Public Defenders Office  
Rebecca Willis, Caseworker 2, Children & Youth  
Letters of thanks and congratulations will be sent out to them from Council.

**Additions to/Deletions from Meeting Agenda**

**Ms. Houck would like to add two items to the Voting Sessions Agenda.**

**Item 1 – reconsideration of the Ordinance passed last week, O-2020-05 Allowing for the Reduction of the Penalty Period Fees for the 2020 Luzerne County Real Estate Taxes**

**Item 2 – motion to adopt Resolution Extending the Deadline for the Collection of County Property Taxes at the Prescribed Discount Rate no later than August 31 2020, pursuant to Act 15 of 2020.**

**Mr. McGinley stated they would be added to the agenda as Items 2 & 3.**

**Mr. Griffith would like to add the CCAP letter regarding aid for counties to the Voting Session Agenda and discuss including Luzerne County.**

**Mr. McGinley stated it would be added to the agenda as Item 4.**

**Adoption of Voting Session Agenda**

**Motion to Adopt Voting Session Agenda by: Ms. Houck**

**Second: Mr. Griffith**

**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: Mr. Schnee**

**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 Manager’s Emergency Declaration by: Mr. Griffith**

**Second: Ms. McDermott**

**Vote:**

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

### **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.**

**Jason Carr (Saylorburg) commented Verbally regarding taxes, NE Revenue and repository properties.**

**Matt Krone (Freeland) commented Verbally and via TEAMS regarding taxes.**

**Richard Manta (Back Mountain) commented Verbally regarding taxes.**

**Brian Shiner (Kingston) commented Verbally regarding taxes.**

**Ron Knapp (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding the tax ordinance.**

**Anonymous commented via TEAMS regarding taxes.**

**Marianne Hearn (Wright Township) commented via TEAMS regarding taxes.**

### **1. Motion to adopt Minutes of the April 21, 2020 Voting Session**

**Motion by:** Mr. Griffith

**Second:** Mr. Schnee

**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. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (10-1)**

**The April 21, 2020 Voting Session Minutes are Adopted**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **ADDED ITEM**

### **2. Motion to reconsider Ordinance O-2020-05 Allowing for the Reduction of the Penalty Period Fees for the 2020 Luzerne County Real Estate Taxes**

**Motion by:** Ms. Houck

**Second:** Mr. Griffith

**After discussion, Ms. Houck and Mr. Griffith withdrew their Motions**

**ADDED ITEM**

**3. Motion to adopt Resolution Extending the Deadline for the Collection of County Property Taxes at the Prescribed Discount Rate no later than August 31 2020, pursuant to Act 15 of 2020**

**Motion by:** Ms. Houck

**Second:** Mr. Griffith

**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)**

**Resolution is Defeated**

**ADDED ITEM**

**4. Motion to add Luzerne County to the CCAP Letter to President Trump requesting direct Federal Aid for Counties and Local Governments in the COVID-19 relief packages**

**Motion by:** Mr. Griffith

**Second:** Mr. Perry

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

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

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**VERBAL comments, in their entirety, can be heard by accessing the public comment portion of the meeting recording posted next to the meeting agenda.**

**Ron Knapp (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding CCAP Letter.**

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

**Sam Troy (Wilkes-Barre) commented Verbally regarding county layoffs and release of prisoners.**

**Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding COVID-19 and voting.**

**Brian Shiner (Kingston) commented Verbally regarding the virtual Public Comment and the Crisis Teams.**

**Jason Carr (Saylorsburg) commented Verbally regarding the Tax Ordinance, Tax Resolution and foreclosures.**

**Motion to Adjourn:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Vote:**

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:20 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)