



**Luzerne County Council
Voting Session
May 09, 2023
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 May 09, 2023 at 6:01 PM. The meeting was called to order by Chair Kendra Radle.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Roll Call

Present

Carl Bienias
Kevin Lescavage
John Lombardo
Lee Ann McDermott
Tim McGinley
Matt Mitchell
Chris Perry
Kendra Radle
Brian Thornton
Stephen J. Urban
Gregory S. Wolovich, Jr.

Also Present

Sharon Lawrence, Clerk of Council
Brian Swetz, Acting County Manager
Shannon Crake Lapsansky, Assistant Solicitor

Absent

Harry Skene, Chief County Solicitor

Attorney Crake Lapsansky commented on the Executive Sessions. She stated on Monday, May 8th, Council held an Executive Session for personnel matters from 5:00PM to 5:30PM. Council also held another Executive Session prior to the start of the public hearings this evening from 5:00PM until approximately 5:37PM regarding personnel, collective bargaining agreement and negotiations.

Recognitions and Ceremonial Proclamations

None

Deletions from Voting Session Agenda

None

Adoption of Voting Session Agenda

Motion by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Bienias

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

The Voting Session Agenda is Adopted

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.

Tom Dombroski (Dallas) commented Verbally regarding Romilda Crocamo and Tony Ryba.

Walter Griffith (Trucksville) commented Verbally regarding the subject matters of the Executive Sessions, the County Manager Appointment and Contract, County Manager Interviews, the LCCF roof, and WellPath and Booth RFP's.

Ron Knapp (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding County Manager candidate selection.

Henry Kreisl (West Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding the West Hazleton Bridge and funds.

James Schweitzer (West Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding the West Hazleton Bridge and grants.

Sam Troy (Wilkes-Barre) commented Verbally regarding the 3 minute public comment time limit and the County Manager Search Committee.

Beth Hartman (Hanover Township) commented Verbally regarding the Children & Youth Litigation and the County Manager vote.

TJ Fitzgerald (Newport Township) commented Verbally regarding the County Manager selection, the County Manager Search Committee and Booth Management.

Diane Cowman (Kingston) commented Verbally regarding Booth Management and their contract.

Vivian Kreidler-Lucina (Nescopeck) commented Verbally regarding the County Manager and Booth Management.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding the West Hazleton Bridge, the County Manager Search Committee, Booth Management and the County Manager selection and appointment.

Joe McCabe (Laflin) commented Verbally regarding the County Manager Search Committee and the recommended candidates.

Rich Davis (Black Creek Township) commented Verbally regarding the County Manager appointment.

AGENDA ITEMS – CLERK OF COUNCIL

Motion to approve minutes of the April 25, 2023 Voting Session

Motion by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Lombardo

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Mr. Thornton and Mr. Wolovich

One (1) Nay by Mr. SJ Urban

Motion Passed (10-1)

The April 25, 2023 Voting Session Minutes are Approved

OLD BUSINESSS

NONE

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Motion to adopt ordinance Amending the 2023 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County (DA)

Motion by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Lombardo

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Ordinance is Adopted

2. Motion to adopt ordinance Adopting a Parking Ordinance in Hanover Township

Motion by: Mr. Wolovich

Second: Mr. Bienias

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Ordinance is Adopted

3. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the Additional Use of American Rescue Plan Act Funds to Make Repairs at the Luzerne County Correctional Facility

Motion by: Mr. Lombardo

Second: Ms. McDermott

Motion to Table by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Wolovich

Roll Call Vote to Table:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Tabled

4. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the County Manager to Execute a Month to Month Contract Extension with WellPath for Inmate Medical Services

Motion by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Lombardo

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

5. Motion to adopt resolution Approving the Initiation of Litigation Regarding the Social Media Crisis and Approving a Contingent Fee Agreement

Motion by: Mr. Lombardo

Second: Ms. McDermott

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

6. Motion to adopt resolution Approving the Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of American Alternative Insurance Group v. Luzerne County Children Youth Services

Motion by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. Bienias

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

7. Motion to adopt resolution Approving the Distribution of American Rescue Plan Act Funds to West Hazleton Borough

Motion by: Mr. Wolovich

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Motion to Amend \$850,000.00 to \$750,000.00 by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Thornton

Roll Call Vote to Amend:

One (1) Yes by Mr. McGinley

Ten (10) No by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Mr. SJ Urban, Mr. Thornton and Mr. Wolovich

Motion to Amend Failed (1-10)

Roll Call Vote to Adopt:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

8. Motions regarding Booth Management

8a. Motion to remove from table

Motion by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Thornton

Motion to Table with the direction to contact Booth regarding the three options for the next meeting by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Mitchell

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Tabled

8b. ~~Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the Use of American Rescue Plan Act Funds to Enter into a Subsequent Contract with Booth Management Consulting, LLC for ARPA Grant Management Services~~

9. Motion to approve letter to Copart regarding McAlpine Street

Motion by: Mr. Lombardo

Second: Mr. Bienias

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Letter is Approved

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

Motion by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Mitchell

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

11. Motion to adopt resolution appointing a County Manager

Motion to Appoint Romilda Crocamo, Esq. at \$160,000.00 by: Mr. Lombardo

Second: Mr. Lescavage

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Mr. Thornton and Mr. Wolovich

One (1) No by Mr. SJ Urban

Motion Passed (10-1)

Resolution is Adopted

Mr. SJ Urban noted there is a start date in the resolution that needs to be completed.

Motion to add start date on or about June 1st by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Lombardo

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Mr. Thornton and Mr. Wolovich

One (1) No by Mr. SJ Urban

Motion Passed (10-1)

12. Motion to adopt resolution to disband the Manager Search Committee

Motion by: Mr. Wolovich

Second: Mr. Mitchell

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

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Walter Griffith (Trucksville) commented Verbally regarding the County Manager choice and moving forward, the Meyers family C&Y matter, an investigation and ARP funding.

Ron Knapp (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding an Election incident regarding poll watchers.

Beth Hartman (Hanover Township) commented Verbally regarding Children & Youth and the Meyers family.

TJ Fitzgerald (Newport Township) commented Verbally regarding support for the new County Manager and a welcome party.

Jim Wilbur (Kingston) commented Verbally regarding National Correctional Officers Appreciation Week and staff. TJ Fitzgerald asked for a prayer to keep everyone safe. Chair Radle held a Moment of Silence.

Joe Granteed (Plains) commented Verbally regarding WellPath and the contract.

Bill Sharpie (West Hazleton Borough Council) commented Verbally regarding the new County Manager and the West Hazleton project.

Tom Dombroski (Dallas) commented Verbally regarding SCI Retreat as an option.

Hollie Baldwin (Pittston City) commented Verbally regarding the County Prison and the death of her daughter.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding the new County Manager, the LCCF roof and performance bonds.

Vivian Kreidler-Lucina (Nescopeck) commented Verbally regarding the Election Bureau and paper ballots.

Motion to adjourn: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Bienias

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 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