



**Luzerne County Council
May 11, 2021 Voting Session
Video/Teleconference via TEAMS
Minutes**

Call to Order

The Luzerne County Council convened for a Voting Session on May 11, 2021, at 6:03PM 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 proclamation and congratulated Jareth Jungermann, who attained the rank of Eagle Scout. Mr. Herbert King, Scoutmaster, Troop 25 and Jareth Jungermann were on the call and spoke briefly.

Additions to/Deletions from Voting Session Agenda

Ms. Radle requested her resolution regarding hiring outside counsel to get an opinion from the courts on a vote made by the Election Board for the District Attorney election. Hearing no objections, Mr. McGinley stated it would be added to the Voting Session Agenda as Item 8.

Adoption of Voting Session Agenda

Motion to Adopt Voting Session Agenda by: Ms. Houck

Second: Ms. McDermott

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: Ms. Radle

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: Mr. Perry

Second: Ms. McDermott

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 LCC Broad Street Lease and parking, electronic telecommunications, the ACE Code and the District Attorney resolution.

Motion to adopt minutes of the April 27, 2021 Voting Session

Motion by: Ms. Saidman

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 27, 2021 Voting Session Minutes are Adopted

Old Business

None

Agenda Items

1. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the County Manager to Execute a Contract with Penn Ave Realty for Penn Place Employee Parking

Motion by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Ms. Saidman

Mr. SJ Urban noted that the insurance certificate was expired and suggested the motion to approve the resolution be contingent upon receipt of a current insurance certificate.

Mr. McGinley confirmed Mr. Griffith's first and Ms. Saidman's second with the contingency.

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

2. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the County Manager to Execute a Lease Addendum between Luzerne County and Luzerne County Community College for premises currently leased in the Broad Street Business Exchange Building

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Mr. Schnee

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

3. Motion to introduce ordinance amending the 2021 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County (ERA)

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Ms. McDermott

Roll Call Vote:

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

One (1) Abstention by Mr. Haas

Motion Passed (10-0) with (1) Abstention

Ordinance is Introduced

4. Motion to introduce ordinance amending the 2021 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County (General Fund)

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Ms. Saidman

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Ordinance is Introduced

5. Motion to introduce ordinance amending the 2021 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County (D&A)

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Ms. Saidman

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Ordinance is Introduced

6. Motion to adopt resolution requiring the use of Electronic and Telecommunications for all meetings of Luzerne County Council and Authorities, Boards, and Commissions of Luzerne County

Motion by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Motion to amend resolution and remove Authorities, Boards and Commissions from the resolution by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Schnee

Roll Call Vote on Amendment:

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

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

Motion Passed (9-2)

Resolution is Amended

Roll Call Vote to Adopt:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

7. Motion to introduce ordinance to amend the Luzerne County Accountability, Conduct, and Ethics Code in accordance with the Home Rule Charter of Luzerne County

Motion by: Ms. Radle

Second: Ms. McDermott

Roll Call Vote:

Three (3) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas and Mr. SJ Urban

Eight (8) No by Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle,

Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Motion Failed (3-8)

8. Motion to approve resolution to authorize the formation of ad hoc committee appointed by the Chairman to select outside counsel to represent Luzerne County Council to present the issue to the courts to allow the court to make an unbiased decision regarding the decision made by the Luzerne County Election Board on April 21, 2021 to hold a special election for the office of District Attorney in November of 2021

Motion by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Ms. Radle

Roll Call Vote:

Six (6) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. McDermott, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle and Mr. SJ Urban

Five (5) No by Ms. Houck, Mr. McGinley, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Motion Passed (6-5)

Resolution is Adopted

Public Comment on Non-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.

George Butwin (Shavertown) commented Verbally regarding the Second Amendment resolution.

Melissa Janoski commented Verbally regarding the Second Amendment resolution.

Mr. McGinley noted her email will not be read since she spoke about her topic.

Eric Timlin (Shavertown) commented Verbally regarding the Second Amendment resolution.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding the Second Amendment resolution.

Richard Manta (Back Mountain) commented Verbally regarding the Second Amendment resolution and the District Attorney resolution.

Mr. McGinley read Public Comment Email from:

Claudia Glennan (Salem Township)

Cindy Brannan

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Ms. Saidman

Second: Ms. McDermott

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 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