



Luzerne County Council
May 12, 2020 Meeting
Video/Teleconference via TEAMS

Minutes

Call to Order

The Luzerne County Council convened for a Voting Session on May 12, 2020 at 6:12 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

None

Additions to/Deletions from Meeting Agenda

None

Adoption of Voting Session Agenda

Motion to Adopt Voting Session Agenda by: Mr. Vough

Second: Ms. Saidman

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. McDermott

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: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Griffith

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Public Comment on Agenda Items

None

Motion to adopt Minutes of the April 28, 2020 Voting Session

Motion by: Ms. Saidman

Second: Ms. Radle

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 28, 2020 Voting Session Minutes are Adopted

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Griffith asked about the Crisis Management Team reports. Mr. McGinley responded they would be posted to the website on Wednesday. Mr. Griffith reviewed and clarified the Tax Ordinance passed last meeting and that it needs to be sent to the Tax Collectors. Mr. McGinley stated it will be discussed further in the Work Session.

1. Motion to adopt Ordinance Entering into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Butler Township for the Repair and Dedication of Roads in Accordance with the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Law, Act 177 of 1996, previously adopted as Act 180 of 1972

Motion by: Mr. Schnee

Second: Ms. Radle

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

2. Motion to adopt Ordinance Entering into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Conyngham Borough for the Repair and Dedication of Roads in Accordance with the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Law, Act 177 of 1996, previously adopted as Act 180 of 1972

Motion by: Mr. Schnee

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

3. Motion to adopt change to Luzerne County Council Bylaws Rule 1D

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Ms. McDermott

Roll Call Vote:

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

Two (2) No by Mr. Perry and Mr. Schnee

Motion Passed (9-2)

4. Motion to adopt change to Luzerne County Council Bylaws Rule 8F

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Mr. Griffith

Roll Call Vote:

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

Two (2) No by Mr. Perry and Mr. Schnee

Motion Passed (9-2)

5. Motion to adopt change to Luzerne County Council Bylaws Rule 5B

Motion by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Mr. Schnee

Roll Call Vote:

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

Five (5) No by Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Motion Passed (6-5)

6. Motion to adopt change to Luzerne County Council Bylaws Rule 5D

Motion by: Mr. Vough

Second: Ms. Saidman

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

7. Motion to adopt change to Luzerne County Council Bylaws Section 8D

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Mr. Griffith

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

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.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding COVID-19 crisis management, reopening Luzerne County, out of state resident in Hazleton and the election.

Brian Shiner (Kingston) commented Verbally regarding the TEAMS call in number, audio, and Crisis Management Team reports.

Richard Manta (Back Mountain) commented Verbally regarding the election, voting registration changes and voting locations. Mr. Butera responded.

Ron Knapp (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding the Coroner, overdose deaths, and the impact of COVID-19 on the statistics.

Jason Carr (Saylorsburg) commented Verbally regarding illegal aliens and the Census.

Dan Y commented via TEAMS regarding COVID-19 testing, opening Luzerne County and election ballots.

Stephen J. Urban responded to Mr. Carr's Census concern.

Walter Griffith responded to Mr. Manta's questions on voting.

Romilda Crocamo announced Assistant County Solicitor David Schwager was recently sworn in as the President of the Pennsylvania Bar Association. Ms. Crocamo spoke about Mr. Schwager and congratulated him.

D. Schwager thanked Ms. Crocamo for her comments as well as County Council and the County Manager. He is looking forward to working with everyone.

Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Griffith

Second: Mr. Perry

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Meeting Adjourned at 6:59 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