



**Luzerne County Council  
Voting Session  
May 23, 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 23, 2023 at 6:01 PM. The meeting was called to order by Chair Kendra Vough.

**Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence**

**Roll Call**

**Present**

Carl Bienias  
Kevin Lescavage  
Tim McGinley  
Matt Mitchell  
Chris Perry  
Kendra Vough  
Brian Thornton  
Stephen J. Urban  
Gregory S. Wolovich, Jr.

**Also Present**

Sharon Lawrence, Clerk of Council  
Harry Skene, Chief County Solicitor

**Absent**

John Lombardo  
Lee Ann McDermott  
Brian Swetz, Acting County Manager

### **Recognitions and Ceremonial Proclamations**

Chair Vough read and presented a proclamation to Harold Green who is retiring from the County after 30 years of employment.

Chair Vough read a proclamation for Teen Mental Health Awareness Day.

Commentary was provided by:

Sarah Pesi, MSPPM, Policy Associate, Jewish Healthcare Foundation

Giavanna Cella

Anna Chong

Katie Weidenboerner

### **Deletions from Voting Session Agenda**

None

### **Adoption of Voting Session Agenda**

**Motion by:** Mr. McGinley

**Second:** Mr. Bienias

**Vote:**

Nine (9) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (9-0)**

**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.

**Walter Griffith (Trucksville) commented Verbally regarding** Items 1 & 2 (magistrate leases), and Item 6 (the ballot question regarding elections).

**David Stettler (Hunlock Township) commented Verbally regarding** election issues, ballots and batteries.

**Elizabeth Hartman (Hanover Township) commented Verbally regarding** tabling items until Romilda Crocamo starts, the ballot question regarding elections, Children & Youth and the Flood Protection Authority item.

**Claudia Glennan (Salem Township) commented Verbally regarding** the ballot question regarding elections.

**Chair Vough read Public Comment Email from:**

**Carole Shearer (Butler Township)**

**Jay Notartomaso (West Wyoming)**

**Lisa Napersky (Fairview Township)**

**Walter & Robyn Kochan (Dallas Township)**

**Attorney Skene commented on the Executive Session. He stated Council held an Executive Session before the meeting and discussed four (4) litigation matters. Discussions were on resolutions for a former employee suing another former employee, an employment matter at the prison, a mental health matter and a union contracts with one of the county groups.**

**Motion to approve minutes of the May 09, 2023 Voting Session**

**Motion by:** Mr. McGinley

**Second:** Mr. Wolovich

**Vote:**

Eight (8) Ayes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Perry, Ms. Vough, Mr. Thornton and Mr. Wolovich

One (1) Nay by Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (8-1)**

**The May 09, 2023 Voting Session Minutes are Approved**

**Old Business**

None

**1. Motion to adopt resolution to Renew Lease with Kingston Township for Magisterial District Court 11-03-09**

**Motion by:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Second:** Mr. Thornton

**Roll Call Vote:**

Nine (9) Yes-Unanimous

**Motion Passed (9-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**2. Motion to adopt resolution to Renew Lease with Wright Township for Magisterial District Court 11-03-06**

**Motion by:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Second:** Mr. Mitchell

**Roll Call Vote:**

Nine (9) Yes-Unanimous

**Motion Passed (9-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**3. Motion to adopt resolution Approving an Amendment to an Agreement with the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority for the Operation, Maintenance, Repair, Replacement and Rehabilitation of the Wyoming Valley Levee System**

**Motion by:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Second:** Mr. Wolovich

**Mr. McGinley would like to amend the resolution and add an annual fee for the land to be determined by an appraisal.**

**Motion to Amend by:** Mr. McGinley

**Second:** Mr. Perry

**Roll Call Vote to Amend:**

Two (2) Yes by Mr. McGinley and Mr. Perry

Seven (7) No by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Mitchell, Ms. Vough, Mr. Thornton, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Wolovich

**Motion Failed (2-7)**

**Roll Call Vote to Adopt:**

Nine (9) Yes-Unanimous

**Motion Passed (9-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**4. Motion to introduce ordinance Amending the 2023 Fiscal Budget for Luzerne County (911)**

**Motion by:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Second:** Mr. Lescavage

**Roll Call Vote:**

Nine (9) Yes-Unanimous

**Motion Passed (9-0)**

**Ordinance is Introduced**

**5. Motion to adopt resolution Committing a Local Match to Federal and State Capital Assistance for the Luzerne County Transportation Authority**

**Motion by:** Mr. McGinley

**Second:** Mr. Lescavage

**Roll Call Vote:**

Nine (9) Yes-Unanimous

**Motion Passed (9-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**6. Motion to introduce ordinance Placing a Question on the November 7, 2023 General Election Ballot to Amend Article VIII Section 8:04 of the Luzerne County Home Rule Charter**

**Motion by:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Second:** Mr. Lescavage

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eight (8) Yes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Perry, Ms. Vough, Mr. Thornton, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Wolovich

One (1) Nay by Mr. McGinley

**Motion Passed (8-1)**

**Ordinance is Introduced**

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

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**Elizabeth Hartman (Hanover Township) commented Verbally regarding** the litigation matters in Executive Session, Pathways, the DA Opioid Settlement and mental health.

**Greg Griffin (Swoyersville) commented Verbally regarding** the Opioid Settlement money, law enforcement and drug houses.

**Walter Griffith (Trucksville) commented Verbally regarding** the structure of the elections ballot question ordinance, budget reports, merit raise transfers, health insurance line items, Flood Protection Authority revenue for the land and a probation/evaluation period for the County Manager.

**Tom Dombroski (Dallas) commented Verbally regarding** the new County Manager, an exclusivity clause in contract and a letter of resignation from current employer.

**Chair Vough read Public Comment Email from:**  
**Michalenes Mission**

**Motion to adjourn:** Mr. McGinley

**Second:** Mr. Thornton

**Vote:**

Nine (9) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (9-0)**

**Meeting adjourned at 6:57 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)