



**Luzerne County Council  
May 25, 2021 Voting Session  
Video/Teleconference via TEAMS  
Minutes**

**Call to Order**

The Luzerne County Council convened for a Voting Session on May 25, 2021, at 6:01PM 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  
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

**Absent**

Linda McClosky Houck

**Attorney DeLuca stated Council met in Executive Session from 5PM until 5:30PM via TEAMS to discuss personnel matters related to the County Manager.**

**Recognitions/Ceremonial Proclamations**

Mr McGinley announced the retirements of:

- Sherry Onder, Clerk 2, Assessors
- Denise Ann Mikulski, Nurse LCCF
- James R. Weber, Planning & Zoning Analyst, Planning & Zoning

Letters of thanks and congratulations will be sent out to them from Council.

**Additions to/Deletions from Voting Session Agenda**

**Mr. SJ Urban requested his resolution to terminate the County Manager be added to the Voting Session.**

**Motion by:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Second:** Mr. Griffith

**Roll Call Vote:**

Three (3) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas 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 (3-7)**

Mr. Griffith requested his resolution to ask for an investigation into the 2021 Primary Election by the District Attorney's Office.

**Motion by:** Mr. Griffith

**Second:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

Four (4) No by Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Saidman and Mr. Schnee

**Motion Passed (6-4)**

**Resolution is added to the Voting Session agenda as Item 10.**

**Adoption of Voting Session Agenda**

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

**Second:** Ms. McDermott

**Vote:**

Eight (8) Ayes by Mr. Haas, 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 (8-2)**

**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. Radle**

**Second:** Ms. McDermott

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**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: Ms. McDermott**

**Second:** Mr. Perry

**Vote:**

Nine (9) Ayes by Mr. Haas, 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 (9-1)**

### **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 second amendment sanctuary, the Administrative Code, and the DA investigation into the Election.

**Richard Manta (Back Mountain) commented Verbally** regarding the investigation of the 2021 Election, election postings, termination of the County Manager and his resignation.

**Mr. McGinley read Public Comment emails from:**

Stan E. Edwards (Salem/District 1)

Dave Walsh and Julie Lloyd-Walsh (Shavertown)

Richard (Rick) Davis (Black Creek Township)

Christopher Bogdon (Luzerne County)

Bradley Lester (Sugar Notch)

Heather Mason

Charles Thomas (West Pittston)

Frank Polidora M.D. (Drums)

## **Motion to adopt minutes of the May 11, 2021 Voting Session**

**Motion by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Ms. McDermott

**Vote:**

Eight (8) Ayes by Mr. Haas, 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 (8-2)**

**The May 11, 2021 Voting Session Minutes are Adopted**

## **Old Business**

Mr. Griffith asked about the report on the investigation of the suicide at the prison from the County Manager, the Coroner's autopsy and a personnel transfer. Mr. Pedri responded.

Mr. Griffith asked about the LCCC Waiver and information from the Solicitor's Office. Atty. Crocamo responded.

Mr. SJ Urban asked about the Election IQ Contract. Mr. Pedri and Atty. Crocamo responded.

## **Agenda Items**

### **1. Introduction of ordinance adopting the 2022 Long-Range Operational, Fiscal and Capital Plan for Luzerne County (must be approved by September 1, 2021)**

Automatically introduced (no vote required) by County Manager C. David Pedri, Esq.

### **2. Motion to adopt ordinance amending the 2021 Fiscal Year Budget For Luzerne County (ERA)**

**Motion by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

**Roll Call Vote:**

Nine (9) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle,

One (1) Abstention by Mr. Haas

**Motion Passed (9-0) with (1) Abstention**

**Ordinance is Adopted**

### **3. Motion to adopt ordinance amending the 2021 Fiscal Year Budget For Luzerne County (General Fund)**

**Motion by:** Ms. Saidman

**Second:** Ms. McDermott

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes - Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Ordinance is Adopted**

**4. Motion to adopt ordinance amending the 2021 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County (D&A 1,423,850.00)**

**Motion by:** Mr. Perry

**Second:** Mr. Vough

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes - Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Ordinance is Adopted**

**5. Motion to introduce ordinance amending the 2021 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County (COVID)**

**Motion by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Ms. Radle

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes - Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Ordinance is Introduced**

**6. Motion to adopt resolution Providing Tax Exemption for New Construction in Deteriorated Areas under the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act (Northpoint)**

**Motion by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Mr. Perry

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes - Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**7. Motion to introduce ordinance Amending the Luzerne County Administrative Code (Article VI: Office and Divisional Responsibilities)**

**Motion by:** Mr. Griffith

**Second:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes - Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Ordinance is Introduced**

**8. Motion to adopt resolution Second Amendment Sanctuary County Declaration**

**Motion by:** Mr. Haas

**Second:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Roll Call Vote:**

Seven (7) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. McDermott, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Mr. Schnee and Mr. SJ Urban

Three (3) No by Mr. McGinley, Ms. Saidman and Mr. Vough

**Motion Passed (7-3)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**9. Motion to allow Alan and Brenda Pugh to advertise their intent to purchase 27 parcels of county owned property in a newspaper of general circulation for a ten (10) day period**

**Motion by:** Ms. McDermott

**Second:** Mr. Vough

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eight (8) Yes by Mr. Haas, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

One (1) No by Mr. SJ Urban

One (1) Abstention by Mr. Griffith

**Motion Passed (8-1) with (1) Abstention**

**10. Motion to adopt resolution to request an investigation of the May 18, 2021 Primary Election by the Luzerne County District Attorney's Office**

**Motion by:** Mr. Griffith

**Second:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**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.**

**Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally** regarding 911 towers, the Election Inquiry Committee, and the PennDOT meeting regarding bridge tolling.

**Cindy Brannan commented Verbally** regarding county roads.

**Richard Manta (Back Mountain) commented Verbally** regarding rain tax and the LERTA, the \$5.00 fee, the Sanctuary Act, and the election investigation.

**Brian Dwyer (Larksville) commented Verbally** regarding the Election Board and the Election.

**Leonard Piazza commented Verbally** regarding the Election Inquiry Committee and the Election Board.

**Rick Nardone commented Verbally** regarding the DA investigation into the Election.

**Mr. Griffith asked about a letter from Mr. Vough to Council. Mr. McGinley and Atty. Crocamo responded.**

**Adjournment**

**Motion to Adjourn:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Mr. Perry

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 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)