



Luzerne County Council
May 26, 2020 Meeting
Video/Teleconference via TEAMS

Minutes

Call to Order

The Luzerne County Council convened for a Voting Session on May 26, 2020 at 6:08 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

Mr. McGinley announced the retirements of:
Annette Grella, Care Manager Sprv 3, Area Agency on Aging
Courtney P Staley, Deputy Sheriff I, Sheriff
Kathleen Elizabeth Washko, Classification Specialist, LCCF
Letters of thanks and congratulations will be sent out to them from Council.

Additions to/Deletions from Meeting Agenda

None

Adoption of Voting Session Agenda

Motion to Adopt Voting Session Agenda by: Ms. Houck

Second: Mr. Griffith

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. SJ Urban

Second: Ms. Houck

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. Saidman

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding the Capital Plan, UDAG funds, and the Letter to Governor Wolf.

Brian Shiner (Kingston) commented Verbally regarding the Letter to Governor Wolf and the call in access code.

Motion to adopt Minutes of the May 12, 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 May 12, 2020 Voting Session Minutes are Adopted

OLD BUSINESS

Walter Griffith addressed:

- Written memo regarding the Storm Water Fee opinion
- Rental Agreements for polling places
- Cell phones in the Bureau of Elections Office
- Dominion charge for the paper ballots
- Letters to Tax Collectors
- Oath of Office filings

Mr. Pedri and Ms. Crocamo responded.

1. Introduction of Ordinance adopting the 2021 Long-Range Operational, Fiscal and Capital Plan for Luzerne County

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

2. Motion to approve RFP for Audit Services for the years 2020, 2021 and 2022

Motion by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Ms. Radle

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

3. Motion to approve letter to Governor Wolf regarding Luzerne County change of color status on 5/29/20

Motion by: Mr. Schnee

Second: Ms. Saidman

Ms. Houck would like to amend the letter by removing pages 2, 3 and 4 and replacing the last paragraph on page 1 with “Thank you for recognizing the hard work of our residents and moving us into the Yellow Phase.”

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Mr. Perry

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Amendment Passed (11-0)

Mr. McGinley confirmed the initial motions made by Mr. Schnee and Ms. Saidman.

Mr. Haas would like to amend the letter by adding “We fully expect that you will move us expeditiously into the Green Phase with all deliberate speed.”

Motion by: Mr. Haas

Second: Mr. Griffith

Roll Call Vote:

Five (5) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. McDermott, Mr. Perry and Mr. SJ Urban

Six (6) No by Ms. Houck, Mr. McGinley, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Amendment Failed (5-6)

After further discussion, Mr. Schnee withdrew his Motion and Ms. Saidman withdrew her Second. No further action was taken.

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, HB2419 and the Letter to Governor Wolf

Ron Knapp (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding the Letter to governor Wolf and the Lipton Report

Jason Carr (Saylorsburg) commented Verbally regarding the Letter to Governor Wolf, opening of businesses, evictions and financial help

Motion to Adjourn: Ms. Saidman

Second: Mr. Perry

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Meeting Adjourned at 7:29 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