



**Luzerne County Council**  
May 28, 2019  
Luzerne County Court House  
Council Meeting Room  
200 N. River Street  
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18711

**Minutes**  
**May 28, 2019 Voting Session**

**Call to Order**

The Luzerne County Council convened for a Voting Session in the Council Meeting Room of the Luzerne County Courthouse on Tuesday, May 28, 2019, at 6:01 PM. The meeting was called to order by Chair Tim McGinley.

**Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence**

Mr. Haas asked for a moment of silence for the tornado victims up north where a tornado touched down near Towanda.

**Roll Call**

**Present**

Patrick M. Bilbow  
Harry Haas  
Linda McClosky Houck  
Eugene Kelleher  
Tim McGinley  
Chris Perry  
Sheila Saidman, Esq.  
Robert Schnee  
Stephen A. Urban  
Matthew Vough  
Jane Walsh Waitkus

**Also Present**

C. David Pedri, Esq., County Manager  
Shannon Crake Lapsansky, Assistant County Solicitor  
Sharon Lawrence, Clerk of Council

### **Recognitions/Ceremonial Proclamations**

Mr. McGinley announced the retirement of David J. Chorey, Deputy Sheriff I, Sheriff's Department. A letter of thanks and congratulations will be sent out to him from Council.

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

None

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

**Motion to Adopt:** Ms. Waitkus

**Second:** Mr. Perry

**Vote:**

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

**The Voting Session Agenda is adopted (11-0)**

### **Public Comment on Voting Session Agenda Items**

**Walter Griffith (Trucksville)** commented on the LCCC Broad Street Exchange Lease Agreement, in particular, how the Lessor is listed, Sobeck Property Management, LLC, and the financials for the Broad Street Exchange. Mr. Pedri responded to Mr. Griffith's concerns and provided information regarding the Broad Street Exchange Building..

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

**Motion to adopt minutes of the May 14, 2019 Voting Meeting**

**Motion by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Mr. Bilbow

**Vote:**

Nine (9) Ayes by Mr. Bilbow, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Mr. Kelleher, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Mr. Schnee, Mr. Vough and Ms. Waitkus

One (1) Nay by Mr. Stephen A. Urban

One (1) Abstention by Ms. Saidman

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

**The May 14, 2019 Voting Meeting Minutes are Adopted**

### **1. Motion to adopt resolution to renew the lease with Luzerne County Community College for space located within the Broad Street Business Center, 100 West Broad Street, Hazleton, PA**

**Motion by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Mr. Perry

**Ms. Houck suggested reversing the order of Sobeck Property Management, LLC and Luzerne County in Article 23 and to identify Sobeck Property Management, LLC as the property manager.**

**Motion to Amend Resolution by:** Ms. Houck

**Second:** Mr. Stephen A. Urban

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Resolution is Amended**

**Motion to Adopt Amended Resolution by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Mr. Perry

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eleven (11) Yes - Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**2. Introduction of Ordinance adopting the 2020 Long Range Operational, Fiscal and Capital Plan for Luzerne County**

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

**3. Motion to adopt resolution in support of Restore Pennsylvania, a \$4.5 Billion Infrastructure Improvement Plan**

**Motion by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Mr. Vough

**Mr. Haas stated had proposed amendments to the Resolution. Each amendment was presented and voted on separately.**

**Amendment 1**

**In the second "WHEREAS" of the resolution. Delete "invest" and replace with "encumber taxpayers with a" and add the word "bond" after "\$4.5 billion"**

**Motion by:** Mr. Haas

**Second:** Mr. Stephen A. Urban

**Roll Call Vote:**

Nine (9) Yes by: Mr. Bilbow, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Mr. Perry, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee, Mr. Stephen A. Urban, Mr. Vough and Ms. Waitkus

Two (2) No by: Mr. Kelleher and Mr. McGinley

**Motion Passed (9-2)**

**Resolution is Amended**

**Amendment 2**

**After the second "WHEREAS", insert "WHEREAS, Restore Pennsylvania will increase taxes on the natural gas industry and put current Act 13 allocations in potential jeopardy"**

**Motion by:** Mr. Haas

**Second:** Mr. Stephen A. Urban

**Roll Call Vote:**

Two (2) Yes by: Mr. Haas and Mr. Stephen A. Urban

Nine (9) No by: Mr. Bilbow, Ms. Houck, Mr. Kelleher, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee, Mr. Vough and Ms. Waitkus

**Motion Failed (2-9)**

### **Amendment 3**

**In the “NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED” of the resolution, delete “authorizes” and add “, once it properly allocates the gas tax to Road & Bridges” after “Restore Pennsylvania”**

**Motion by:** Mr. Haas

**Second:** Mr. Stephen A. Urban

#### **Roll Call Vote:**

Three (3) Yes by: Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck and Mr. Stephen A. Urban

Eight (8) No by: Mr. Bilbow, Mr. Kelleher, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee, Mr. Vough and Ms. Waitkus

**Motion Failed (3-8)**

### **Amendment 4**

**In the “NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED” of the resolution, delete “authorizes”**

**Motion by:** Mr. Haas

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

#### **Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes by: Mr. Bilbow, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Mr. Kelleher, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Stephen A. Urban, Mr. Vough and Ms. Waitkus

One (1) No by: Mr. Schnee

**Motion Passed (10-1)**

**Resolution is Amended**

**Motion to Adopt Amended Resolution by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Mr. Vough

#### **Roll Call Vote:**

Six (6) Yes by: Mr. Bilbow, Mr. McGinley, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee, Mr. Vough and Ms. Waitkus

Five (5) No by: Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Mr. Kelleher, Mr. Perry and Mr. Stephen A. Urban

**Motion Passed (6-5)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

### **4. Motion to adopt resolution to abate a portion of delinquent Luzerne County taxes for property located at 61-69 Woodbury Street, Hanover Township**

**Motion by:** Mr. Stephen A. Urban

**Second:** Mr. Perry

#### **Roll Call Vote:**

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

### **Public Comment**

**Walter Griffith (Trucksville)** commented on the tax abatement for 61-69 Woodbury Street, Hanover Township property, voiced his concern regarding the \$5.00 fee and matching PennDOT funds, Luzerne County Budget Reports, and the \$4.5 billion Restore Pennsylvania funds.

**Sheila Saidman** stated she received a phone call from Colin Hinchey who could not attend the meeting but wanted to thank Council for the “I Voted” stickers distributed in Wilkes-Barre on Primary Day.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Ms. Houck

**Second:** Mr. Stephen A. Urban

**Vote:**

Eleven (11) Ayes - Unanimous

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:08 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)