



**Luzerne County Council
Voting Session
June 13, 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 June 13, 2023 at 6:36 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
John Lombardo
Lee Ann McDermott
Tim McGinley
Matt Mitchell
Chris Perry
Kendra Vough
Brian Thornton
Stephen J. Urban
Gregory S. Wolovich, Jr.

Also Present

Sharon Lawrence, Clerk of Council
Romilda Crocamo, Esq., County Manager
Harry Skene, Chief County Solicitor
Shannon Crake Lapsansky, Assistant Solicitor (virtually)

Attorney Skene commented on the Executive Session. He stated that prior to the meeting there was an Executive Session where Council and the Board of Elections met with the District Attorney to discuss the report he prepared. There was also a discussion about a litigation matter concerning a possible resolution of a case and also a discussion of an IT matter that has was resolved.

Recognitions and Ceremonial Proclamations

None

Deletions from Voting Session Agenda

None

Adoption of Voting Session Agenda

Motion by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Bienias

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

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.

Elizabeth Hartman (Hanover Township) commented Verbally regarding the three resolutions on the agenda regarding litigation matters and a pipeline report of lawsuits.

Joanna Bryn Smith (Wyoming) commented Verbally regarding the ballot question ordinance regarding elections.

Alyssa Fusaro (Luzerne Boro) commented Verbally regarding the ballot question ordinance regarding elections.

Walter Griffith (Trucksville) commented Verbally regarding the resolution for the Cave settlement and the ballot question ordinance regarding elections.

Lisa Napersky (Fairview Township) read an email from Action Together NEPA regarding the ballot question ordinance regarding elections.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding the settlements, the ballot question ordinance regarding elections and Hazleton Public Transit.

Motion to approve minutes of the May 23, 2023 Voting Session

Motion by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Lombardo

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Perry, Ms. Vough, Mr. Thornton and Mr. Wolovich

One (1) Nay by Mr. SJ Urban

Motion Passed (10-1)

The May 23, 2023 Voting Session Minutes are Approved

Old Business

None

1. Introduction of ordinance adopting the 2024 Long-Range Operational, Fiscal and Capital Plan for Luzerne County

Automatically introduced (no vote required) by County Manager Romilda Crocamo.

2. Motion to adopt resolution Approving the Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Tamra Roper v. Luzerne County, Mark Rockovich and Samuel Hyder

Motion by: Mr. Lescavage

Second: Mr. Lombardo

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

3. Motion to adopt resolution Approving the Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Kimberly Osterhout, Individually and as Parent and Legal Guardian of Thomas Powell v. Luzerne County and Luzerne-Wyoming Counties Mental Health & Developmental Services, et. al

Motion by: Mr. Wolovich

Second: Mr. Lescavage

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Perry, Ms. Vough, Mr. Thornton and Mr. Wolovich

One (1) Abstention by Mr. SJ Urban

Motion Passed (10-0) with (1) Abstention

Resolution is Adopted

4. Motion to adopt resolution Approving the Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Allison Cave v. JoAnne Van Saun

Motion by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Perry

Roll Call Vote:

Nine (9) Yes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Perry, Ms. Vough and Mr. Wolovich

One (1) No by Mr. Thornton

One (1) Abstention by Mr. SJ Urban

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

Resolution is Adopted

5. Motion to adopt ordinance Amending the 2023 Fiscal Budget for Luzerne County (911)

Motion by: Mr. Lombardo

Second: Mr. Thornton

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Ordinance is Adopted

6. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the County Manager to Execute a Contract Extension with WellPath for Inmate Medical Services

Motion by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. Lombardo

After discussion, Mr. Thornton amended his motion to add “a period of 6 months”.

Mr. Lombardo confirmed his second.

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

7. Motion to adopt resolution Approving the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between Luzerne County and the Luzerne County Court Appointed Professional Employees Association

Motion by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Wolovich

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

8. Motions regarding Booth Contract

8a. Motion to remove from Table

Motion by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Lombardo

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Removed from Table

8b. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the Use of American Rescue Plan Act Funds to Enter into a Subsequent Contract with Booth Management Consulting, LLC for ARPA Grant Management Services

Motion by: Mr. Lombardo

Second: Mr. Bienias

After discussion, Mr. Lombardo made a motion to amend the resolution adding “a 3 year contract...not to exceed the amount of \$783,391.00”

Second: Mr. Wolovich

Roll Call Vote on Amendment:

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Amended

Roll Call Vote to Adopt:

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

9. Motion to adopt resolution Approving the Sales of Certain Parcels of Property Held in Repository by Elite Revenue Solutions, LLC Acting as the Luzerne County Tax Claim Bureau

Motion by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Bienias

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

10. Motion to adopt resolution Transferring \$1,551,51 from the Election Integrity Grant Fund to the General Fund for Reimbursement of Wages for Controller’s Office

Motion by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. Bienias

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

11. Motion to adopt 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. Wolovich

Second: Mr. Lombardo

Roll Call Vote:

Seven (7) Yes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Perry, Mr. Thornton and Mr. Wolovich

Four (4) No by Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Ms. Vough and Ms. SJ Urban

Motion Passed (7-4)

Ordinance is Adopted

Chair Vough noted that there was a blank in the 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 that needed to be filled in.

Attorney Lapsansky stated the date should be 8-8-23.

12. Motion to adopt resolution Approving Luzerne County Tax Homestead Exclusion Requests for All Properties Approved for the Exclusion Roll established under PA Act 50 of 1998

Motion by: Mr. SJ Urban

Second: Mr. Bienias

Roll Call Vote:

One (1) Yes by Mr. SJ Urban

Ten (10) No by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Perry, Ms. Vough, Mr. Thornton and Mr. Wolovich

Motion Failed (1-10)

13. Motion to adopt resolution Committing a Local Match for State Operating Assistance for the Hazleton Public Transit

Motion by: Mr. Lombardo

Second: Mr. Wolovich

Motion to amend resolution and change amount to \$180,415.00 by: Mr. Lescavage

Second: Mr. Thornton

Roll Call Vote to Amend:

Four (4) Yes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Thornton and Mr. SJ Urban

Seven (7) No by Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Perry, Ms. Vough and Mr. Wolovich

Motion to Amend Failed (4-7)

Motion to amend resolution to add verbiage a letter will be sent to Schuylkill and Carbon Counties regarding their share of the Match by: Mr. Wolovich

Second: Mr. Lombardo

Roll Call Vote to Amend:

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Amended

Motion to amend resolution to add verbiage requiring a resolution from bodies requesting funding by: Mr. SJ Urban

Second: Mr. Bienias

After discussion, Mr. SJ Urban withdrew his Motion.

Mr. Bienias withdrew his second.

Roll Call Vote to Adopt:

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

14. Motion to adopt resolution Awarding American Rescue Plan Act Grant Monies to Dallas Area Municipal Authority

Motion by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Ms. McDermott

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

Public Comment on Non-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, in their entirety, can be heard by accessing the public comment portion of the meeting recording posted next to the meeting agenda.

Elizabeth Hartman (Hanover Township) commented Verbally regarding lawsuits, Homestead, the ballot question regarding elections, train station rides and other income for Luzerne County.

Alyssa Fusaro (Luzerne Boro) commented Verbally regarding the election process, trust, the ballot question ordinance, adjudication, drop boxes and Board of Elections meetings.

Walter Griffith (Trucksville) commented Verbally regarding repository properties, the election ballot question and charter fixes.

Jamie Walsh (Ross Township) commented Verbally regarding the election ballot question, government study commission, Hazleton Transit, and Main Road in Sweet Valley paving.

Karen Baranoski (Wilkes-Barre) commented Verbally regarding the election ballot question.

Joe Granteed (Plains) commented Verbally regarding ARPA money for low income and the Chambers.

Joanna Bryn Smith (Wyoming) commented Verbally regarding the election ballot question.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding Hazleton Public Transit, CANDO Corp., CEO/Redevelopment issues and the Blighted Property Review Committee.

Joseph McCabe (Laflin) commented Verbally regarding short term rentals and the zoning board.

Motion to adjourn: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Lombardo

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 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