



**Luzerne County Council  
June 22, 2021 Voting Session  
Video/Teleconference via TEAMS  
Minutes**

**Call to Order**

The Luzerne County Council convened for a Voting Session on June 22, 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  
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:

- Terry L. Joyce, Aging Care Manager 2, Area Agency on Aging
- Gloria A. Wolfer, Clerk 2, Prothonotary

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

**Attorney DeLuca stated Council met in Executive Session from 5:00PM until approximately 5:30PM and received a report from the Chief Solicitor regarding 2 litigation matters, Musko vs. Luzerne County and Javitz vs. Luzerne County case number 3:15 CV 2443 and also discussed potential litigation.**

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

**Mr. Griffith would like to delete Item 2 (Clean Energy Resolution) from the Voting Session Agenda. He feels there is a large amount of information needed before Council takes action. Mr. Urban concurred with Mr. Griffith.**

**Mr. McGinley asked if any Council Member objected. No objections.**

**Mr. McGinley stated Item 6 (Musko Settlement Resolution) is also removed as further information is needed.**

**Mr. McGinley stated Items 2 & 6 are removed from the Voting Session Agenda.**

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

**Motion to Adopt Voting Session Agenda by: Mr. Griffith**

**Second: Mr.SJ Urban**

**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: Ms. Houck**

**Second: Ms. McDermott**

**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 State's Emergency Declaration**

**by:** Mr. Perry

**Second:** Ms. McDermott

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes by Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, 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 (10-1)**

### **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 Domestic Relations Lease (Item 4), the (Falvello) LERTA (Item 8) and the Acting County Manager Resolution (Item 11).

**Lisa Racosky (Hazleton) commented Verbally** regarding the (Falvello) LERTA (Item 8).

**Richard Manta (Back Mountain) commented Verbally** regarding the Acting County Manager Resolution (Item 11).

### **Motion to adopt minutes of the June 08, 2021 Voting Session**

**Motion by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Mr. Perry

**Vote:**

Nine (9) Ayes by Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, 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 (9-2)**

**The June 08, 2021 Voting Session Minutes are Adopted**

### **Old Business**

**Mr. Griffith asked for a response to his email regarding the Kronos Time Clock System.**

**Mr. Pedri responded.**

**Agenda Items**

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

**Motion by:** Ms. Saidman

**Second:** Ms. Houck

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Ordinance is Adopted**

**2. ~~Motion to adopt resolution Establishing a Property Assessed Clean Energy Program in the County of Luzerne and Taking and Authorizing Other Action in Connection Therewith~~**

REMOVED

**3. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the County Manager to Execute a Software Acquisition and Licensing Contract with Microsoft Corporation for Microsoft Contract**

**Motion by:** Ms. Houck

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**4. Motion to adopt resolution Approving the Agreement to Renew a Lease Agreement with Dom Forte Enterprises, Inc. for the Domestic Relations Office located at 701 North Church Street, Hazleton, Pa. 18201**

**Motion by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Ms. Houck

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**5. Motion to adopt resolution Approving a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (“PILOT”) Agreement with Hazleton Creek Commerce Center Holdings, LLC Hazleton Creek Development Pilot**

**Motion by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Mr. Perry

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**6. Motion to adopt resolution Approving the Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Richard Musko v. Wilkes-Barre/Wyoming Valley Airport, Valley Aviation and Luzerne County**

REMOVED

**7. Motion to adopt ordinance Amending the Luzerne County Zoning Map to Re-Zone Three Parcels of Property totaling 6.51 acres in Union Township from HB, Highway Business District, AG, Agriculture District, & R-1, Single Family Residence District Zones to HB, Highway Business District & AG, Agriculture District Zones**

**Motion by:** Mr. Griffith

**Second:** Ms. Radle

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Ordinance is Adopted**

**8. LERTA (Falvello)**

**a. Motion to remove from Table**

**Motion by:** Mr. Perry

**Second:** Mr. Schnee

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes by Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Vough

One (1) No by Mr. Griffith

**Motion Passed (10-1)**

**Resolution is Removed from Table**

**b. Motion to adopt resolution Establishing Tax Exemptions from Property Tax for Certain Deteriorated Industrial, Commercial, or Other Business Property; Defining Eligible Deteriorated Areas, Setting a Maximum Exemption Amount, and an Exemption Schedule; and Providing a Procedure for Obtaining an Exemption**

**Motion by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Ms. Radle

**Mr. Haas would like to amend the abatement schedule to match Hazleton City's abatement schedule as follows:**

- a) For the first year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable through the 5<sup>th</sup> year, ninety percent (90%) of the assessed value of the eligible improvement shall be exempt.
- b) For the sixth year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, eighty percent (80%) of the assessed value of the eligible improvements shall be exempt.
- c) For the seventh year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, sixty percent (60%) of the assessed value of the eligible improvement shall be exempt.

- d) For the eighth year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, forty percent (40%) of the assessed value of the eligible improvement shall be exempt.
- e) For the ninth year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, twenty percent (20%) of the assessed value of the eligible improvement shall be exempt.
- f) After the tenth year, the exemption shall terminate.

**Motion by:** Mr. Haas

**Second:** Ms. Houck

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

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

**Motion Passed (7-4)**

**Resolution is Amended**

**Mr. McGinley verified the motions made by Mr. Schnee and Ms. Radle.**

**Mr. Schnee withdrew his first.**

**Motion to Approve by:** Ms. Houck

**Second:** Ms. Radle

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

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

**Motion Passed (7-4)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

## **9. Motions regarding CCAP Summer Conference**

**Motion for Mr. Haas to attend.**

**Motion by:** Mr. Griffith

**Second:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**After discussion, motions were made to send additional Council Members.**

**Motion for Ms. Saidman to attend.**

**Motion by:** Mr. McGinley

**Second:** Mr. Schnee

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Motion for Mr. Griffith to attend plus a fourth “free” member.**

**Motion by:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Second:** Ms. McDermott

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Mr. McGinley stated anyone interested in attending as the fourth “free” member will be ratified at the next meeting.**

#### **10. Motions regarding County Council Emails**

**Motion to temporarily suspend all County Council emails from being posted to the website and any emails that are currently posted be removed from the website until a policy and procedure is in place by:** Mr. Griffith

**Second:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Mr. McGinley would like to amend the motion to temporarily suspend further Luzerne County emails from being posted to the website until a policy and procedure is in place. (Leaving those already posted in place.)**

**Motion by:** Mr. McGinley

**Second:** Mr. Schnee

**Roll Call Vote on Amendment:**

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Mr. McGinley stated member selection for an ad hoc committee regarding Council Emails will be at the next meeting.**

#### **11. Motion to adopt resolution Designating an Acting County Manager**

**Motion to adopt resolution designating Romilda P. Crocamo, Esq. as Acting County**

**Manager by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Mr. Perry

**Mr. Griffith would like to go into Executive Session to discuss the Charter and the selection of an Acting County Manager.**

**Attorney DeLuca stated it would not be an issue for Executive Session.**

**Mr. Griffith would like to amend and add “the Acting County Manager be paid 55% of the salary of the District Attorney”.**

**Motion by:** Mr. Griffith

**Second:** Mr. Haas

**Roll Call Vote on Amendment:**

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Resolution is Amended**

**Roll Call Vote to adopt Resolution:**

Six (6) Yes by Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough  
Five (5) No by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott and Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (6-5)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**12. Motion to hire Law Firm for DA election decision**

**Ms. Radle reviewed the 2 law firms with Council and stated the Committee recommended Stevens & Lee.**

**Motion to use Stevens & Lee by: Ms. Radle**

**Second: Ms. McDermott**

**Roll Call Vote:**

Seven (7) Yes by Mr. Haas, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman  
And Mr. Vough

Four (4) No by Mr. Griffith, Ms. Houck, Mr. Schnee and Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (7-4)**

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

**Due to COVID-19 all meetings are currently held via Video/Teleconference.**

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**Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding the Charter, the (Falvello) LERTA and the Acting County Manager.**

**Richard Manta (Back Mountain) commented Verbally and echoed Mr. Rabo.**

**Attorney Crocamo spoke about Mr. Pedri and her new appointment.**

**Adjournment**

**Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Haas**

**Second: Mr. Perry**

**Vote:**

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:14 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)