



**Luzerne County Council**  
June 23, 2020 Meeting  
Video/Teleconference via TEAMS  
**Minutes**

**Call to Order**

The Luzerne County Council convened for a Voting Session on June 23, 2020 at 6:10 PM via TEAMS Video/Teleconference. The meeting was called to order by Council Chair Tim McGinley.

**Roll Call**

**Present**

Walter L. Griffith, Jr.  
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

**Absent**

Harry Haas

**Recognitions/Ceremonial Proclamations**

Mr. McGinley announced the retirements of:  
Antonia T. Ardo, Office Administrator, District Attorney  
Donna M. Mellner, Security, Sheriff  
Bernard J. Miko, Corrections Officer, LCCF  
Janice M. Teeple, Care Manager 2, Area Agency on Aging  
Daniel G. Yursha, Detective, District Attorney  
Letters of thanks and congratulations will be sent out to them from Council.

### **Additions to/Deletions from Meeting Agenda**

Mr. McGinley noted there was a late email from the Manager's Office regarding a late email they received from the State (DCED) requesting Council approve a resolution for the money available to the County through the Cares Act Program. It was added to the agenda and sent out at approximately 4:00PM. It is Item 10 on the agenda.

Mr. Griffith asked for an explanation, under motion to suspend the Bylaws, what Bylaws were being suspended regarding the conduct of public meetings where the emergency declaration is applicable. Mr. McGinley, Mr. DeLuca and Ms. Crocamo responded.

Mr. Griffith requested Item 7E (County Cares appointments) be removed based on the ordinance following it. Mr. McGinley stated the order of the ordinance and appointments will be reversed on the agenda. The ordinance will be first. Mr. Griffith agreed.

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

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

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**The Voting Session Agenda is Adopted**

**Vito DeLuca announced County Council met in an Executive Session from 5:00PM until 6:05PM to receive a report from the Chief Solicitor regarding the matter of Rasheda Hammonds pending case. No deliberation took place.**

### **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. Saidman

**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. Saidman

**Second:** Mr. Schnee

**Vote:**

Eight (8) Ayes by 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 (8-2)**

**Public Comment on Agenda Items**

**Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally** regarding the suspension of Bylaws and HR 8036, Hazleton Public Transit and LCTA funding, BPRC council member appointment, the COVID Block Grant and UDAG funds.

**Richard Manta (Back Mountain) commented Verbally** regarding LCTA and Hazleton Public Transit systems.

**Ronald Knapp (Nanticoke) commented Verbally** regarding Item 9, ordinance regarding the implementation of a determined Property Tax Assessment for any property which is sold from the Luzerne County Repository.

**Motion to adopt Minutes of the June 09, 2020 Voting Session**

**Motion by:** Ms. Saidman

**Second:** Mr. Perry

**Vote:**

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

**The June 09, 2020 Voting Session Minutes are Adopted**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Walter Griffith addressed:**

- Bureau of Elections bidding for mail in ballots and applications
- Ordinance 2020-05 and wrong tax payments
- What account the HAVA money is in
- Code amendment regarding Manager response

**Stephen J. Urban addressed:**

- Public hearing on the Election Process

**1. Motion to adopt resolution authorizing the County Manager to execute a Lease Agreement between Kingston Borough and Luzerne County for Magisterial District Court 11-01-05**

**Motion by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

**Roll Call Vote:**

Nine (9) Yes by 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 (9-1)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**2. Motion to adopt resolution authorizing the County Manager to execute a Lease Agreement between Luzerne County and Luzerne County Domestic Relations**

**Motion by:** Ms. McDermott

**Second:** Ms. Radle

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**3. Motion to adopt resolution Approving the Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Rasheda Hammonds, as Administratrix of the Estate of Shaheen L. Mackey v. Luzerne County, et al**

**Motion by:** Ms. Saidman

**Second:** Mr. Perry

**Mr. Griffith would like to amend the resolution to include a resolution to terminate the Luzerne County Manager and Division Head Mark Rockovich immediately and that County Council implement Section 405 of the County Charter to remove the Manager and also Section 209 B9 to make it cause to be made any investigation of Luzerne County Correctional Facility and its policies/procedures regarding the care of the inmates of that facility.**

**Motion to amend by:** Mr. Griffith

**Second:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Roll Call Vote on Amendment:**

Two (2) Yes by Mr. Griffith and Mr. SJ Urban

Eight (8) No by Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

**Motion Failed (2-8)**

**Roll Call Vote on Resolution:**

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**4. Motion to adopt Ordinance amending the Luzerne County Zoning Map to Re-Zone Three Parcels of Property totaling 2.83 acres in Ross Township from Mixed Zoning Districts of B-3, S-1, and A-1 Zones to Highway Business District (B-3) Zone**

**Motion by:** Mr. Griffith

**Second:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Ordinance is Adopted**

**5. Motion to adopt resolution committing a Local Match for State Operating Assistance for the Luzerne County Transportation Authority**

**Motion by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Ms. Radle

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**6. Motion to adopt resolution committing a Local Match for State Operating Assistance for Hazleton Public Transit**

**Motion by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Mr. Perry

**Roll Call Vote:**

Nine (9) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

One (1) No by Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (9-1)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**8. Motion to introduce ordinance amending Ordinance O-2020-03 Establishing the County Cares Commission**

**Motion by:** Ms. Saidman

**Second:** Ms. McDermott

**After discussion, Ms. Saidman and Ms. McDermott withdrew their motions.**

**Motion by:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Second:** Mr. Griffith

**Roll Call Vote:**

Three (3) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Ms. Houck 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)**

**7. Boards and Commissions Nominations and Appointments to:**

**7a. Luzerne County Forty Fort Airport Advisory Board (1) term to 12/31/2022**

**Motion to Open Nominations by:** Ms. Saidman

**Second:** Ms. McDermott

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes - Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Nominations Open**

**Mr. Perry nominated:** Michael Berish

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

**Motion to Close Nominations by:** Mr. Vough

**Second:** Ms. Houck

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Nominations Closed**

**Motion to adopt resolution appointing Michael Berish to the Luzern County Forty Fort Airport Advisory Board by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Ms. Houck

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**7b. Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug and Alcohol Executive Commission (1) Criminal Justice term to 12/31/2022 and (1) Elderly term to 12/31/2022**

**Motion to Open Nominations by:** Ms. McDermott

**Second:** Mr. Perry

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes - Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Nominations Open**

**Ms. Houck nominated:** Dr. Charles Blewitt (Elderly) and Nicholas Wilson (Criminal Justice)

**Second:** Mr. Schnee

**Motion to Close Nominations by:** Ms. Houck

**Second:** Mr. Vough

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Nominations Closed**

**Motion to adopt resolution appointing Nicholas Wilson to the Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug and Alcohol Executive Commission (Criminal Justice) by:** Ms. Houck

**Second:** Mr. Perry

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**Motion to adopt resolution appointing Dr. Charles Blewitt to the Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug and Alcohol Executive Commission (Elderly) by:** Ms. Houck

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**7c. Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Mental Health and Developmental Services Program Advisory Board (1) Education term to 12/31/2022**

**Motion to Open Nominations by:** Ms. Houck

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes - Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Nominations Open**

**Ms. Houck nominated:** Raelene Daring

**Second:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion to Close Nominations by:** Ms. Saidman

**Second:** Ms. Houck

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Nominations Closed**

**Motion to adopt resolution appointing Raelene Daring to the Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Mental Health and Developmental Services Program Advisory Board by:** Ms. Houck

**Second:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**7d. Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Area Agency on Aging Advisory Board (2) terms to 12/31/2022**

**Motion to Open Nominations by:** Ms. McDermott

**Second:** Mr. Vough

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Nominations Open**

**Mr. Perry nominated:** Donald Warren

**Second:** Ms. Houck

**Motion to Close Nominations by:** Ms. Houck

**Second:** Ms. McDermott

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Nominations Closed**

**Motion to adopt resolution appointing Donald Warren to the Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Area Agency on Aging Advisory Board by:** Ms. McDermott

**Second:** Ms. Houck

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**7e. Luzerne County Cares Commission (6) terms to 12/31/2022**

**Motion to Open Nominations by:** Ms. Radle

**Second:** Mr. Vough

**Vote:**

Eight (8) Ayes by 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 (8-2)**

**Nominations Open**

**Mr. Schnee nominated:** Joseph Grilli

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

**Mr. Perry nominated:** Carol Fahnestock

**Second:** Mr. Schnee

**Ms. McDermott nominated:** Amanda Blaine

**Second:** Mr. Schnee

**Ms. Radle nominated:** Nicole Ferentino

**Second:** Mr. Schnee

**Mr. Schnee nominated:** Marcella Garvin

**Second:** Mr. Vough

**Mr. Perry nominated:** Justin Behrens

**Second:** Mr. Schnee

**Motion to Close Nominations by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Mr. Perry

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Nominations Closed**

**Motion to adopt resolution appointing Amanda Blaine to the Luzerne County Cares Commission for a four (4) year term by:** Ms. Houck

**Second:** Ms. McDermott

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eight (8) Yes by Ms. Houck, 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**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**Motion to adopt resolution appointing Joseph Grilli to the Luzerne County Cares Commission for a four (4) year term by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eight (8) Yes by Ms. Houck, 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**

**Resolution is Adopted**



**Motion to adopt resolution appointing Nicole Ferentino to the Luzerne County Cares Commission for a three (3) year term by: Ms. Saidman**

**Second:** Mr. Schnee

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eight (8) Yes by Ms. Houck, 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**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**Motion to adopt resolution appointing Marcella Garvin to the Luzerne County Cares Commission for a two (2) year term by: Ms. McDermott**

**Second:** Mr. Schnee

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

One (1) No by Mr. SJ Urban

Two (2) Abstentions by Mr. Griffith and Ms. Houck

**Motion Passed (7-1) with (2) Abstentions**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**Motion to adopt resolution appointing Justin Behrens to the Luzerne County Cares Commission for a two (2) year term by: Mr. Vough**

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

**Roll Call Vote:**

Seven (7) Yes by Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Three (3) Abstentions by Mr. Griffith, Ms. Radle and Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (7-0) with (3) Abstention**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**Motion to adopt resolution appointing Carol Fahnestock to the Luzerne County Cares Commission for a three (3) year term by: Mr. Vough**

**Second:** Mr. Schnee

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eight (8) Yes by Ms. Houck, 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**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**7f. Luzerne County Children & Youth Advisory Board (1) term to 12/31/2022**

**Motion to Open Nominations by:** Ms. McDermott

**Second:** Ms. Houck

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes - Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Nominations Open**

**Mr. Schnee nominated:** Olga Papa

**Second:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion to Close Nominations by:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Nominations Closed**

**Motion to adopt resolution appointing Olga Papa to the Luzerne County Children & Youth**

**Advisory Board by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**7g. Luzerne County Accountability Conduct and Ethics Commission (1) Democrat term to 12/31/2023)**

Due to previous appointments, no candidates remained.

No action taken.

**9. Motion to introduce ordinance regarding the implementation of a determined Property Tax Assessment for any property which is sold from the Luzerne County Repository**

**Motion by:** Ms. Houck

**Second:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Roll Call Vote:**

Three (3) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Ms. Houck 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)**

**10. Motion to adopt resolution requesting COVID-19 County Relief Block Grant funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development**

**Motion by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Ms. Houck

**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 the County Cares Commission.

**Jason Carr (Saylorsburg) commented Verbally** regarding the Mackey case and LCCF.

**Ron Knapp (Nanticoke) commented Verbally** regarding the Mackey case, levee rest room facilities and TEAMS.

**Richard Manta (Back Mountain) commented Verbally** regarding the County Cares Commission and funding, the letter to President Trump, Council Meetings and the “Rain Tax”.

**Ron Knapp (Nanticoke) commented via TEAMS** regarding Council Meetings.

**Mr. Griffith made a motion to hold the next Council Meeting at the Courthouse in the Council Meeting Room.**

**Second:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Discussion followed regarding COVID-19 social distancing and Council Meeting Room ventilation.**

**Mr. DeLuca stated since this matter was not on the agenda public comment is required.**

**Public Comment:**

**Richard Manta (Back Mountain)** suggested holding the next meeting on the Courthouse lawn or at the Kingston Armory.

**Mark Rabo (Hazleton)** spoke about the emergency declaration and HR 638 with regard to holding meetings and suggested holding Council Meetings in the Hazleton area.

**Ron Knapp (Nanticoke)** spoke about virtual technology (TEAMS) and supported having the next meeting in person on the Courthouse lawn or on the courthouse steps.

**Jason Carr (Saylorsburg)** asked for a legal opinion regarding meeting in person.

**Mr. Vough made a motion to amend the motion and added “according to the CDC Guidelines and safe air circulation”.**

**Second:** Ms. McDermott

**Roll Call Vote on Amendment:**

Seven (7) Yes by Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Three (3) No by Mr. Griffith, Ms. Saidman and Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (7-3)**

**Motion is Amended**

**Roll Call Vote on Amended Motion:**

Nine (9) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Mr. Schnee, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Vough

One (1) No by Ms. Saidman

**Motion Passed (9-1)**

**Motion to Adjourn:** Ms. Radle

**Second:** Mr. SJ Urban

**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)