



**Luzerne County Council
July 01, 2021 Special Meeting
Video/Teleconference via TEAMS
Minutes**

Call to Order

The Luzerne County Council convened for a Special Meeting on July 01, 2021, at 5:00PM 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

Vito DeLuca, Esq.
Sharon Lawrence, Clerk of Council

Additions to/Deletions from Special Meeting Agenda

None

Adoption of Special Meeting Agenda

Motion to Adopt Voting Session Agenda by: Ms. Houck

Second: Ms. Saidman

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

The Special Meeting 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. Radle

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: Ms. McDermott

Second: Ms. Saidman

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 following the Charter Section 4.02.

Agenda Items

1. Motion to approve the number of members to the Manager Search Committee

Motion for 7 members by: Mr. Vough

Second: Mr. Perry

Motion to amend the number to 3 by: Ms. Houck

Second: Mr. Haas

Roll Call Vote:

Four (4) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, 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 to amend the number to 3 Failed (4-7)

Motion to amend the number to 5 by: Ms. Houck

Second: Mr. Griffith

Roll Call Vote:

Five (5) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Ms. Saidman and Mr. SJ Urban

Six (6) No by Mr. Haas, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Motion to amend the number to 5 Failed (5-6)

Motion to Postpone Vote pending casting a wider net for more candidates by: Mr. Haas

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Roll Call Vote:

Four (4) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, 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 to Postpone Failed (4-7)

Ms. Saidman suggested discussing eligibility of applicants before determining the number. Mr. Griffith reviewed some of the applicants and explained why he believed they were eligible or ineligible.

Council discussed eligibility and the newspaper ad.

Ms. Saidman suggested possibly re-running the ad and asked if she could make that amendment. Mr. McGinley thought the proper procedure would be to table the current motion and then vote on re-running the ad. Mr. McGinley asked Attorney DeLuca for his opinion. Attorney DeLuca responded.

Motion to Table by: Ms. Houck

Second: Ms. Saidman

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion to Table Passed (11-0)

2. Nominations and Appointments to the County Manager Search Committee

Mr. McGinley stated that since Item 1 was tabled, nominations and appointments would not be taking place.

Council discussed changes to the ad for the County Manager Search Committee.

Mr. Griffith would like to use the same ad and:

- 1. Take out the section that says “This Committee shall be governed by the same rules and restrictions applicable to other Luzerne County Authorities, Boards and Commissions pursuant to Article VIII of the Luzerne County Charter.”**
- 2. Leave in the number of 3-5 in the ad.**
- 3. Add Section 4.02 that states what the qualifications are for the committee.**

Motion by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Ms. Houck

Ms. Saidman would like eliminate any reference to the number of members.

Motion by: Ms. Saidman

Second: Mr. Schnee

Mr. Griffith questioned if it was necessary to have public comment.

Attorney DeLuca stated there should be public comment.

Mr. Griffith repeated his request to put the language from Section 4.02 that pertains to the process in the ad.

Mr. McGinley confirmed Mr. Griffith made the motion and asked for a second.

Second: Ms. Saidman

Ms. Houck stated the deadline date needs to be amended. After discussion, the date selected was July 14, 2021, close of business.

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Ms. Saidman

Ms. Saidman suggested a statement be included that any individual who has already interviewed need not reapply.

Motion by: Ms. Saidman

Second: Ms. McDermott

Mr. McGinley recapped all amendments and opened up public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally stating he was happy it was tabled and spoke about Section 8.

Motion to amend advertisement deadline date to July 14, 2021 at the close of business (4:30PM)

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Ms. Saidman

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Motion to amend advertisement adding “anyone who was previously interviewed need not reapply”

Motion by: Ms. Saidman

Second: Mr. Schnee

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Motion to amend advertisement including Section 4.02 of the Charter in the advertisement

Motion by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Ms. Saidman

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Motion to amend advertisement eliminating any number for the number of members for the County Manager Search Committee

Motion by: Ms. Saidman

Second: Mr. Schnee

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, 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 (10-1)

Motion to amend advertisement keeping the numbers 3-5 in the advertisement for the number of members for the County Manager Search Committee

Mr. McGinley stated Ms. Saidman's amendment deleted Mr. Griffith's amendment.

Motion to amend advertisement deleting Article 8

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Mr. McGinley stated the advertisement will be amended and sent to the four newspapers for publication and placed on the County's Facebook Page and on the County Council Webpage.

Ms. Saidman suggested also putting it in the Bar Journal.

After discussion, Mr. McGinley confirmed an Interview Session on July 20, 2021 and a Special Meeting on July 22, 2021, both at 5:00PM.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

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Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally on deliberation, working together and good government.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Haas

Second: Ms. Saidman

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Meeting Adjourned at 6:58 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