



**Luzerne County Council  
Voting Session  
July 11, 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 July 11, 2023 at 6:06 PM. The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair John Lombardo.

**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  
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

**Absent**

Kendra Vough

### **Recognitions and Ceremonial Proclamations**

Vice-Chair Lombardo read a proclamation for Agudas Israel Congregation Synagogue 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**Attorney Skene commented on the Executive Sessions.**

**He stated there were 6 litigation matters that were discussed. Counsel was in from the insurance company on 3 of the matters. Opportunities of what can be done was discussed. There were 2 additional matters against other parties to recoup monies that were spent as a result of somebody else's actions.**

**Vice-Chair Lombardo stated there was also an Executive Session on Thursday, July 6<sup>th</sup>.**

**Attorney Skene stated there was an update for everything that was happening at Children & Youth. We are trying to get our license back and hopefully that is going to be happening very soon. We had a very positive meeting with the State and Children & Youth before this meeting but we had to have an Executive Session to discuss the different options we have before us and to discuss who would be working in there in management.**

### **Deletions from Voting Session Agenda**

**Motion to move Work Session Agenda Item 3 (Discussion regarding resolution Authorizing the Use of American Rescue Plan Act Funds for Road and Bridge Department Repairs and Maintenance Projects) to Voting Session by: Mr. Thornton**

**Second: Mr. Bienias**

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Work Session Agenda Item 3 is moved to the Voting Session Agenda as Item 4.**

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

**Motion by: Mr. McGinley**

**Second: Mr. Wolovich**

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**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.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding American Rescue Act Funding (Items 3 & 4) and the Resolution requiring a Resolution (Item 5)

**Motion to approve minutes of the June 27, 2023 Voting Session**

**Motion by:** Mr. McGinley

**Second:** Mr. Wolovich

**Vote:**

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

One (1) Nay by Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (9-1)**

**The June 27, 2023 Voting Session Minutes are Approved**

**Old Business**

NONE

**1. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the County Manager to Execute a Lease Agreement Amendment between Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Area Agency on Aging and Freeland Northside Area Senior Citizens Services Association for an Active Adult Center located at 701 Chestnut Street, Freeland, PA 18224**

**Motion by:** Mr. Thornton

**Second:** Mr. Perry

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes-Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**2. Motion to adopt resolution Approving the Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Leonard D. Omolecki, Jr. v. Luzerne County**

**2a. Motion to remove from table by:** Mr. McGinley

**Second:** Ms. McDermott

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes-Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Resolution is Removed from Table**

**2b Motion to adopt resolution by: Mr. Lescavage**

**Second: Mr. Bienias**

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes-Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**3. Motion to adopt resolution Re-Allocating the Use of American Rescue Plan Act Funds from Sweet Valley Road to Main Road**

**Motion by: Mr. Wolovich**

**Second: Mr. Thornton**

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes-Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**ADDED**

**4. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the Use of American Rescue Plan Act Funds for Road and Bridge Department Repairs and Maintenance Projects**

**Motion by: Mr. SJ Urban**

**Second: Mr. McGinley**

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes-Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**4. 5. Motion to adopt resolution Requiring Municipalities and Government Entities, et. al. to Pass an Appropriate Resolution Prior to Making Funding Requests to Luzerne County**

**Motion by: Mr. Thornton**

**Second: Mr. SJ Urban**

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes-Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**5. 6. Motion to adopt resolution Declaring a Vacancy on the Luzerne County Cares Commission Due to the Death of a Member**

**Motion by: Mr. McGinley**

**Second: Ms. McDermott**

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes-Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**6. 7. Nominations and Appointments to Authorities:**

**a. Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority (1) term ending 12/31/2027**

**Motion to Open Nominations by:** Mr. Thornton

**Second:** Mr. McGinley

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Nominations Open**

**Mr. Wolovich nominated:** Vincent Fayock

**Second:** Mr. Mitchell

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

**Second:** Ms. McDermott

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Nominations Closed**

**Motion to adopt resolution Appointing Vincent Fayock to the Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority by:** Mr. Bienias

**Second:** Mr. Thornton

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**b. Northeastern PA Hospital and Education Authority (2) terms ending 12/31/2027**

**Motion to Open Nominations by:** Mr. Thornton

**Second:** Mr. McGinley

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Nominations Open**

**Mr. Thornton nominated:** Kathy Grinaway and Thomas McGrath

**Second:** Mr. Mitchell

**Motion to Close Nominations:** Mr. Wolovich

**Second:** Ms. Bienias

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Nominations Closed**

**Motion to adopt resolution Appointing Kathy Grinaway to the Northeastern PA Hospital and Education Authority by:** Ms. McDermott

**Second:** Mr. Thornton

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**Motion to adopt resolution Appointing Thomas McGrath to the Northeastern PA Hospital and Education Authority by: Mr. McGinley**

**Second:** Mr. Wolovich

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

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

**a. Luzerne County Planning Commission (1) term ending 12/31/2026**

**Motion to Open Nominations by: Mr. Thornton**

**Second:** Mr. Bienias

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Nominations Open**

**Mr. Wolovich nominated:** Patrick Coffey

**Second:** Mr. Bienias

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

**Second:** Mr. Thornton

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Nominations Closed**

**Motion to adopt resolution Appointing Patrick Coffey to the Luzerne County Planning Commission by: Mr. Bienias**

**Second:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

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

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**Greg Griffin (Swoyersville) commented Verbally regarding** the DA, the Drug Task Force, the Opioid Settlement and the Opioid Settlement Committee.

**Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding** the MOU financing and drugs and fireworks in Hazleton.

**Joe Granteed (Plains) commented Verbally regarding** the Whole Home Repairs Program and the 5 million ARP funds set aside for the citizens.

**Motion to adjourn:** Mr. McGinley

**Second:** Mr. Bienias

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Meeting adjourned at 6:35 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)