



**Luzerne County Council
Voting Session
July 25, 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 25, 2023 at 6:03 PM. The meeting was called to order by Chair Kendra Vough.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Roll Call

Present

Carl Bienias (virtually)
Kevin Lescavage
John Lombardo (virtually)
Lee Ann McDermott
Tim McGinley
Matt Mitchell
Chris Perry
Brian Thornton
Stephen J. Urban (virtually until 6:08PM)
Kendra Vough
Gregory S. Wolovich, Jr.

Also Present

Sharon Lawrence, Clerk of Council
Romilda Crocamo, Esq., County Manager
Harry Skene, Chief County Solicitor

Recognitions and Ceremonial Proclamations

NONE

Deletions from Voting Session Agenda

NONE

Adoption of Voting Session Agenda

Motion by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Thornton

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.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding CANDO and the letters to Carbon and Schuylkill Counties and the Government Study ordinance.

Elizabeth Hartman (Hanover Township) commented Verbally regarding the Government Study ordinance.

Motion to approve minutes of the July 11, 2023 Voting Session

Motion by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Ms. McDermott

Vote:

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

One (1) Nay by Mr. SJ Urban

Motion Passed (10-1)

The July 11, 2023 Voting Session Minutes are Approved

Old Business

NONE

1. Motion to adopt resolution to Renew Lease with Valley Aviation, Inc. for the Wilkes-Barre Wyoming Valley Airport and Provision of Fixed Based Operator Services

Motion by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. Lescavage

Mr. SJ Urban arrived at 6:08 prior to the vote.

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

2. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the Use of American Rescue Plan Act Funds on Various Wyoming Valley Airport Improvements

Motion by: Mr. Lescavage

Second: Mr. Mitchell

Motion to amend Six (6) Million to Three (3) Million by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Perry

Roll Call Vote to Amend:

Two (2) Yes by Mr. McGinley and Mr. Perry

Nine (9) No by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Thornton, Mr. SJ Urban, Ms. Vough and Mr. Wolovich

Motion to Amend Failed (2-9)

Roll Call Vote to Adopt:

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

One (1) No by Mr. McGinley

Motion Passed (10-1)

Resolution is Adopted

3. Motion to adopt resolution Approving the Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Jeremy Cieniawa v. Luzerne County, et. al

Motion by: Mr. Lombardo

Second: Mr. Lescavage

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

Two (2) No by Mr. Thornton and Mt. SJ Urban

Motion Passed (9-2)

Resolution is Adopted

4. Motion to introduce ordinance Amending the Capital Plan Budget for Luzerne County

Motion by: Mr. Wolovich

Second: Mr. McGinley

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Ordinance is Introduced

5. Motion to approve Letters to Schuylkill and Carbon Counties regarding Hazleton Public Transit Match

5a. Carbon County Letter

Motion to approve by: Mr. Mitchell

Second: Mr. Bienias

Motion to amend letter and add/cc Hazleton CANDO by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. Perry

Roll Call Vote to Amend:

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Letter is Amended

Roll Call Vote to Approve:

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Letter is Approved

5b. Schuylkill County Letter

Motion to approve by: Mr. Wolovich

Second: Mr. Thornton

Motion to amend letter and add/cc Hazleton CANDO by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. Perry

Roll Call Vote to Amend:

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Letter is Amended

Roll Call Vote to Approve:

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Letter is Approved

6. Nominations and Appointments for CCAP Voting Delegates

Motion to Open Nominations by: Mr. SJ Urban

Second: Mr. Perry

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Nominations Open

Mr. Thornton nominated: Carl Bienias

Second: Ms. McDermott

Mr. Perry nominated: Gregory Wolovich

Second: Mr. McGinley

Mr. Mitchell nominated: Brian Thornton

Second: Mr. Perry

Mr. Lescavage nominated: Matt Mitchell

Second: Mr. Thornton

Ms. McDermott nominated: Chris Perry

Second: Mr. Thornton

Motion to Close Nominations: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Thornton

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Nominations Closed

Motion to adopt resolution Appointing Carl Bienias as a CCAP Voting Delegate

by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Thornton

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

Motion to adopt resolution Appointing Gregory Wolovich as a CCAP Voting Delegate

by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. Mitchell

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

Motion to adopt resolution Appointing Brian Thornton as a CCAP Voting Delegate

by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Mitchell

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

Motion to adopt resolution Appointing Matt Mitchell as a CCAP Voting Delegate

by: Mr. Wolovich

Second: Ms. McDermott

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

Motion to adopt resolution Appointing Chris Perry as a CCAP Voting Delegate

by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Thornton

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

7. Motion to introduce ordinance Placing a Government Study Commission Question on the November 7th General Election Ballot and Designating the Number of Members to Serve on Said Commission

Motion by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Thornton

After discussion, Motion to Recess for an Executive Session by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Wolovich

Roll Call Vote:

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

One (1) No by Mr. Thornton

Motion Passed (10-1)

Council Recessed at 6:34 PM for an Executive Session

Motion to Reconvene by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Thornton

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Council Reconvened at 6:59 PM

Attorney Skene commented on the Executive Session. He stated the executive session was held to discuss a memo that was sent out late in the day today to discuss the various legal aspects of the Government Study Commission and not all Council had the opportunity to review it so we needed to have a conversation about it so I can give them a summary of what was in the memo.

Ms. McDermott withdrew her Motion.

Mr. Thornton withdrew his Second.

There were no other Motions.

Ordinance Failed

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

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Tammy Barber (Forty-Fort) commented Verbally regarding her employment with MHDS and her retirement compensation.

TJ Fitzgerald (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding prison tours in Luzerne and Lackawanna counties and prison issues.

Elizabeth Hartman (Hanover Township) commented Verbally regarding ARPA money for citizens and the middle class.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding the Government Study ordinance and the State budget impasse.

Jamie Walsh (Ross Township) commented Verbally regarding the Election Ballot Question vs. the Government Study.

Motion to adjourn: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Thornton

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Meeting adjourned at 7:14 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