



**Luzerne County Council
Voting Session
July 27, 2021
Council Meeting Room
Luzerne County Courthouse
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 Tuesday, July 27, 2021, at 6:07 PM. The meeting was called to order by 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

Romilda P. Crocamo, Esq., Acting County Manager
Vito DeLuca, Chief County Solicitor
Carol Thomas, Administrative Assistant, Office of Law

Absent

Sharon Lawrence, Clerk of Council

Attorney DeLuca commented on the Executive Session. He stated that Council met in Executive Session in the Council Meeting Room from 5:00-5:30 PM and received a report from the Director of Corrections and a report from the County Manager. No deliberations took place and no decisions were made.

Recognitions/Ceremonial Proclamations

Mr McGinley announced the retirements of:

- Mark G. Chudoba, Corrections Officer, LCCF
- John Evanchick, Jr., Deputy Sheriff 1, Sheriff
- Debra Ann Kivak, Corrections Officer, LCCF
- Deborah Parker, Detective, District Attorney
- Eugene Raymond, Security Officer, Sheriff

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

Mr. McGinley read a proclamation and congratulated Michael Enochs, who attained the rank of Eagle Scout.

Additions to/Deletions from Voting Session Agenda

Mr. Vough would like to remove Item 10 (AMERICA250PA Resolution) from the Voting Session Agenda. Mr. McGinley stated Mr. Vough has additional information forthcoming and needs to wait.

Mr. Griffith would like to add the 2 resolutions regarding the County Manager Search Committee from the July 1, 2021 Special Meeting:

Mr. Griffith would like to add a resolution regarding the County Manager Search Committee Budget from the July 1, 2021 Special Meeting.

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 Failed (4-7)

Mr. Griffith did not continue with his request to add a resolution regarding the County Manager Search Committee Number of Members from the July 1, 2021 Special Meeting.

Mr. McGinley added a resolution to the Voting Session Agenda regarding the CPACE program. He stated it was on the prior Work Session and should have been on the Voting Session Agenda. Mr. McGinley passed out copies of the resolution and documents and stated it was posted as well.

Roll Call Vote:

Eight (8) Yes by Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

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

Motion Passed (8-3)

Mr. Haas would like to remove Item 7 (Hazleton City Land Bank Resolution) from the Voting Session Agenda.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion Passed (6-5)

Item 7 is Removed from the Voting Session Agenda.

Adoption of Voting Session Agenda

Motion to Adopt Voting Session Agenda by: Mr. Vough

Second: Mr. Perry

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 the Hazleton City Land Bank Resolution and the Homestead Exemption.

Mr. McGinley read emails from:

David G. Wright (Drums)

Betsy Wallen

Michael Stash

Thomas & Linda Scalise (Drums)

AnneMarie Sutton

Richard Manta (Back Mountain) commented Verbally regarding the Homestead Act money.

Elizabeth Hartman (Hanover Township) commented Verbally regarding the Homestead Act money.

Ms. Saidman stated she received a letter from a constituent. Mr. McGinley confirmed it was sent to all of Council. Mr. Haas requested it be read. Mr. McGinley asked Mr. Haas to read the letter from Carl Handman (Plymouth) since he had it on his computer. Mr. Haas read the letter to Council.

Motion to adopt minutes of the July 01, 2021 Special Meeting

Motion by: Ms. Saidman

Second: Ms. McDermott

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 July 01, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes are Adopted

Motion to adopt minutes of the July 13, 2021 Voting Session

Motion by: Ms. Radle

Second: Ms. McDermott

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 July 13, 2021 Voting Session Minutes are Adopted

Old Business

NONE

Agenda Items

1. Motion to adopt ordinance Amending the 2021 Fiscal Year Budgets for Luzerne County (911)

Motion by: Mr, Schnee

Second: Ms. Radle

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Ordinance is Adopted

2. Motion to adopt ordinance Amending the 2021 Fiscal Year Budgets for Luzerne County (Probation)

Motion by: Ms. Radle

Second: Mr. Perry

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Ordinance is Adopted

3. Motion to introduce ordinance Amending the 2021 Fiscal Year Budgets for Luzerne County (911)

Motion by: Mr. Schnee

Second: Mr. Vough

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Ordinance is Introduced

4. Motion to introduce ordinance Amending the 2021 Fiscal Year Budgets for Luzerne County (ERA)

Motion by: Ms. Radle

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Roll Call Vote:

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

One (1) Abstention by Mr. Haas

Motion Passed (10-0) with (1) Abstention

Ordinance is Introduced

5. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the County Manager to Execute a Site License Agreement between Luzerne County and Hirschfeld Communication, LLC for a tower site location in Evans Falls

Motion by: Mr. Vough

Second: Ms. Saidman

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) Abstention by Mr. SJ Urban. Mr. SJ Urban stated it is his belief that the Acting County Manager is still the Chief Solicitor and when the contract was negotiated it would have been in her office and executing such document might be a conflict of interest.

Motion Passed (10-0) with (1) Abstention

Resolution is Adopted

6. Motion to introduce ordinance Amending the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority's Articles of Incorporation

Motion by: Mr. Schnee

Second: Ms. Radle

Roll Call Vote:

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

Two (2) No by Mr. McGinley and Mr. SJ Urban

Motion Passed (9-2)

Ordinance is Introduced

7. Motion to adopt resolution Approving the Request from Hazleton City Regarding County Tax Considerations for Land Bank Properties

REMOVED

8. Motion to adopt ordinance Authorizing the Luzerne County Assessor's Office to Approve a Homestead Exclusion of \$48,500 of Assessed Property for 2020 and 2021 and for the Office of Treasurer to Disburse Funds to Eligible Property Owners from line item (CARES Act Budget and Finance General Government Operation U.S. Treasury COVID-19 Fiscal Recovery) Obtained Through Federal Funding from The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

Motion by: Mr. Haas

Second: Mr. Griffith

Motion to Postpone by: Mr. Schnee

Second: Ms. Saidman

Roll Call Vote:

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

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

Motion Passed (7-4)

Ordinance is Postponed

9. Motion to adopt resolution to Establish an Administrative Assistant Position In The Office Of Clerk Of County Council

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Mr. Schnee

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

10. Motion to adopt resolution supporting the Pennsylvania Commission for the United States semiquincentennial (AMERICA250PA)

REMOVED

11. Nominations and Appointments to Boards and Commissions:

11a. Luzerne County Planning Commission (4) terms ending 12/31/2024

Motion to Open Nominations by: Ms. Houck

Second: Mr. Vough

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Nominations Open

Ms. Houck nominated: Cinda Hartman

Second: Mr. Vough

Mr. Vough nominated: Carl Naessig

Second: Mr. Schnee

Motion to Close Nominations by: Mr. Vough

Second: Ms. Houck

Mr. McGinley stated Nominations are Closed

Motion to adopt resolution appointing Cinda Hartman to the Luzerne County Planning Commission by: Ms. Houck

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) Abstention by Mr. SJ Urban. Mr. SJ Urban stated he still doesn't recognize the County Manager as the Acting County Manager along with being the Chief Solicitor under R-2016-50.

Motion Passed (10-0) with (1) Abstention

Resolution is Adopted

Motion to adopt resolution appointing Carl Naessig to the Luzerne County Planning Commission by: Mr. Vough

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) Abstention by Mr. SJ Urban stated it was for the same reason.

Motion Passed (10-0) with (1) Abstention

Resolution is Adopted

ADDED ITEM

12. 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

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Ms. Saidman

Motion to Table by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Roll Call Vote to Table:

Three (3) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas 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 (3-8)

Roll Call Vote to Adopt:

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

Three (3) No by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas and Ms. McDermott

One (1) Abstention by Mr. SJ Urban. Mr. SJ Urban did not state a reason.

Motion Passed (7-3) with (1) Abstention

Resolution is Adopted

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

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Mr. McGinley read Emails from:
Elizabeth Hartman (Hanover Township)

Meaghan Weber (Hanover Township) commented Verbally regarding mandatory drug testing on all county employees, foster parents, Children & Youth, Judges and the Court System.

Martin Dartoe (Wilkes-Barre) commented Verbally regarding the money the County is receiving and helping the people.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding infrastructure and the American Recovery Act money.

Richard Manta (Back Mountain) commented Verbally regarding the money and the Rain Tax.

Brian Shiner (Kingston) commented Verbally regarding infrastructure and the money, building a prison, and audio in the meeting room.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Ms. Radle

Second: Mr. Perry

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Meeting Adjourned at 7:46 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