



Luzerne County Council
July 28, 2020 Meeting
Video/Teleconference via TEAMS
Minutes

Call to Order

The Luzerne County Council convened for a Voting Session on July 28, 2020 at 6:32PM via TEAMS Video/Teleconference. The meeting was called to order by Council Chair Tim McGinley.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Mr. Schnee asked to have a Moment of Silence for Judge Andrew Barilla. Mr. McGinley agreed and stated the Moment of Silence will be in honor of former Magisterial Judge Andrew Barilla preceded by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

C. David Pedri, Esq., County Manager
Romilda P. Crocamo, Chief County Solicitor
Vito DeLuca, Esq.
Sharon Lawrence, Clerk of Council

Vito DeLuca announced Council met in an Executive Session today from 5PM until 5:30PM and received a report regarding two pieces of litigation. One was the Trump Campaign vs. Luzerne County Board of Elections and the second was Martin vs. Luzerne County. No deliberations took place and no decisions were made. Mr. McGinley noted that the Executive Session ran over until approximately 5:45PM.

Recognitions/Ceremonial Proclamations

Mr. McGinley announced the retirements of:
Richard Gavlick, Supply Clerk, LCCF
Erin E. Joyce, Deputy Sheriff 1, Sheriff
Kimberly J. Karavitch, Corrections Officer, LCCF
Elizabeth W. Kinter, Admin Officer 1, Area Agency on Aging
James T. Nardone, Caseworker 2, Children & Youth Services
Paula Schnelly, Administrative Assistant, District Attorney
Wilma M. Snopek, Caseworker 2, Children & Youth Services
Mary Wallace, Executive Admin Asst, Coroner
Letters of thanks and congratulations will be sent out to them from Council.

Ms. Radle thanked all retirees for their service to the County and gave a special Shout Out to Erin Joyce from the Sheriff's Department.

Additions to/Deletions from Meeting Agenda

None

Adoption of Voting Session Agenda

Motion to Adopt Voting Session Agenda by: Ms. Saidman

Second: Ms. Houck

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

The Voting Session 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: Mr. Schnee

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. Radle

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.

Brian Shiner (Kingston) commented Verbally regarding the Position Budget Ordinances, Inspectors and the Real Estate Property Tax Penalty Extension Ordinance.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding the Real Estate Property Tax Penalty Extension Ordinance.

Richard Manta (Back Mountain) commented Verbally regarding the Budget and Line Items for the COVID money and Rain Tax.

Motion to adopt Minutes of the July 14, 2020 Voting Session

Motion by: Mr. Schnee

Second: Mr. Griffith

Vote:

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

The July 14, 2020 Voting Session Minutes are Adopted

OLD BUSINESS

Walter Griffith addressed:

- Codification and the Codification RFP

1. Motion to adopt ordinance Amending the 2020 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County

Motion by: Mr. Perry

Second: Ms. Saidman

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Ordinance is Adopted

2. Motion to adopt resolution Appointing a Member to the Luzerne County Transportation Authority

Motion to Open Nominations by: Ms. Radle

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes - Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Nominations Open

Ms. Radle nominated: Jeffrey Kubitz

Second: Mr. Perry

Mr. Griffith nominated: John Young

Second: Ms. McDermott

Ms. Houck nominated: Thomas Bindus

Second: Ms. Saidman

Motion to Close Nominations by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Haas

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes - Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Nominations Closed

Roll Call Vote (select one name):

Mr. Griffith: Young

Mr. Haas: Young

Ms. Houck: Bindus

Ms. McDermott: Young

Mr. McGinley: Bindus

Mr. Perry: Kubitz

Ms. Radle: Young

Ms. Saidman: Bindus

Mr. Schnee: Kubitz

Mr. Stephen J. Urban: Young

Mr. Vough: Bindus

Results:

Young 5

Bindus 4

Kubitz 2

Jeffrey Kubitz is eliminated with 2 votes. each.

A Roll Call Vote will be taken on the remaining 2 names.

Roll Call Vote (1 name):

Mr. Griffith: Young

Mr. Haas: Young

Ms. Houck: Bindus

Ms. McDermott: Young

Mr. McGinley: Bindus

Mr. Perry: Bindus

Ms. Radle: Young

Ms. Saidman: Bindus

Mr. Schnee: Bindus

Mr. Stephen J. Urban: Young

Mr. Vough: Bindus

Results:

Young 5

Bindus 6

Motion to adopt resolution appointing Thomas Bindus to the Luzerne County

Transportation Authority by: Ms. Houck

Second: Ms. Saidman

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

3. Motion to introduce ordinance Amending the Luzerne County Zoning Map to Re-Zone One Parcel of Property totaling 0.13 acres in Wyoming Borough from R-1, Single Family Residence Zone to Highway Business District (B-3) Zone

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes - Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Ordinance is Introduced

4. Motion to adopt ordinance to amend the 2020 Position Budget legislatively authorizing the elimination and creation of positions in Division 60, Department 4197 Sheriff

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Mr. Griffith

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)

Ordinance Failed

5. Motion to adopt ordinance to amend the 2020 Position Budget legislatively authorizing the elimination and creation of positions in Division 30, Department 4120 Elections

Motion by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Ms. Houck

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)

Ordinance Failed

6. Motion to adopt Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2020-05 for the Reduction of the Penalty Period Fees for the 2020 Luzerne County Real Estate Taxes

Motion by: Mr. Griffith

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 Failed (4-7)

Ordinance Failed

7. Motion to approve the Luzerne/Schuylkill WDB Budget for Program Year (PY) 2020 in accordance with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

Motion by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Mr. Perry

Motion to Table by: Ms. Houck

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) No by Mr. Haas

Motion Passed (10-1)

Item is Tabled

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

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Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding the vote on the Penalty and the Position Budget ordinance and the Election Office.

Richard Manta (Back Mountain) commented Verbally regarding WVSA and the Budget and Rain Tax Line Item.

Brian Shiner (Kingston) commented Verbally regarding the Real Estate Property Tax Penalty Extension Ordinance and LCCF visitations and phone calls.

Motion to Adjourn: Ms. Houck

Second: Ms. Radle

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Meeting Adjourned at 8:19 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