



**Luzerne County Council
Voting Session
August 08, 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 August 08, 2023 at 6:09 PM. The meeting was called to order by Chair Kendra Vough.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Roll Call

Present

Carl Bienias
Kevin Lescavage
Lee Ann McDermott
Tim McGinley
Matt Mitchell
Chris Perry
Brian Thornton
Stephen J. Urban
Kendra Vough
Gregory S. Wolovich, Jr.

Absent

John Lombardo

Also Present

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

Attorney Skene commented on the Executive Session. He stated today before this meeting we had an Executive Session concerning various contracts for Union Representatives that we are negotiating. One is close to completion and the other two are still under negotiation.

Recognitions and Ceremonial Proclamations

NONE

Deletions from Voting Session Agenda

Motion to remove Item 6 - Motion to adopt resolution Using American Rescue Plan Act Grant Monies for Grant Administration Costs (Majikes) and Item 7 - Motion to adopt resolution Using American Rescue Plan Act Grant Monies for Grant Administration Costs (Sparich) from the Voting Session Agenda by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. McGinley

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Items 6 & 7 are removed from the Coting Session Agenda.

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.

NONE

Motion to approve minutes of the July 25, 2023 Voting Session

Motion by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Bienias

Vote:

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

One (1) Nay by Mr. SJ Urban

Motion Passed (9-1)

The July 25, 2023 Voting Session Minutes are Approved

Old Business

NONE

1. Motion to adopt resolution Transferring \$18,789.28 from the Election Expense Reimbursement to the General Fund for Reimbursement of Wages for General Fund Assisted Elections Support

Motion by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Bienias

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Resolution is Adopted

2. Motion to introduce ordinance Amending the 2023 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County to transfer additional funds to the Office of Law budget

Motion by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Mitchell

Motion to amend Ordinance changing \$200,000.00 to \$300,000.00 by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Lescavage

Roll Call Vote to Amend:

Ten (10) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Ordinance is Amended

Roll Call Vote to Introduce with Amendment:

Ten (10) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Ordinance is Introduced

3. Motion to introduce ordinance Amending the 2023 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County to transfer additional funds to the Luzerne County Courts

Motion by: Mr. Lescavage

Second: Mr. Thornton

***Motion to amend ordinance and take \$55,755.00 from the Energy Fund, \$105,000.00 from the Reserve and the remainder of \$254,245.00 from Capital by:** Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Wolovich

After discussion, Mr. McGinley revised his amendment to \$55,755.00 from the Energy Fund, \$40,899.00 from the Reserve and the remainder of \$318,346.00 from Capital.

Motion by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Wolovich

Roll Call Vote on Amendment:

Ten (10) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Ordinance is Amended

After discussion regarding the way the ordinance is written, Mr. McGinley proposed new amendments to the Ordinance:

208.50.4315.550.15 Other Contractual Services \$55,755.00 Energy

194.50.4315.550.15 Other Contractual Services \$318,346.00 Capital

And transferring to:

100.13.4184.550.15 Other Contractual Services \$374,101.00

Motion by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Wolovich

***After discussion, Mr. McGinley and Mr. Wolovich would like to rescind their original motions that were voted on.**

Motion to Rescind by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Wolovich

Roll Call Vote to Rescind:

Ten (10) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Original Amendments are Rescinded

Roll Call Vote on Amendments:

Nine (9) Yes by Bienias, Lescavage, McDermott, McGinley, Mitchell, Perry, Thornton, SJ Urban and Wolovich

One (1) Abstention by Vough

Motion Passed (9-0) with (1) Abstention

Ordinance is Amended

Roll Call Vote to Introduce with Amendments:

Nine (9) Yes by Bienias, Lescavage, McDermott, McGinley, Mitchell, Perry, Thornton, SJ Urban and Wolovich

One (1) Abstention by Vough

Motion Passed (9-0) with (1) Abstention

Ordinance is Introduced

4. Motion to adopt resolution Setting Aside American Rescue Plan Act Grant Monies for a Heating and Utility Assistance Program

Motion by: Mr. Wolovich

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Resolution is Adopted

5. Motion to adopt resolution Setting Aside American Rescue Plan Act Grant Monies for the Whole Home Repair Program

Motion by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. Bienias

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Resolution is Adopted

6. ~~Motion to adopt resolution Using American Rescue Plan Act Grant Monies for Grant Administration Costs (Majikes)~~

REMOVED

7. ~~Motion to adopt resolution Using American Rescue Plan Act Grant Monies for Grant Administration Costs (Sparieh)~~

REMOVED

8. Motion to adopt resolution Approving the Settlement of Threatened Litigation in the Matter of Zarinah Muhammad v. Luzerne County

Motion by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Perry

Roll Call Vote:

Seven (7) Yes by Bienias, McDermott, McGinley, Mitchell, Perry, Vough and Wolovich

Three (3) No by Lescavage, Thornton and SJ Urban

Motion Passed (7-3)

Resolution is Adopted

9. Motion to adopt resolution Approving the Initiation of Litigation Against Shelton Washington and Heba A. Elsherbiny

Motion by: Mr. Bienias

Second: Mr. Wolovich

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Resolution is Adopted

10. Motion to adopt ordinance Amending the Capital Plan Budget for Luzerne County

Motion by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Ms. McDermott

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Ordinance is Adopted

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

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Walter Griffith (Trucksville) commented Verbally regarding the resignation of Mr. Swetz, the Mid Year Report, Poll Books, the \$5.00 Fee Refund, the Office of Law Budget Amendment and the ACE Commission.

Greg Griffin (Swoyersville) commented Verbally regarding the Whole Home Repairs and the Heating and Utility Assistance, litigation insurance coverage and prison suicides.

TJ Fitzgerald (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding the prison, night court and union contracts.

Joe Granteed (Plains) commented Verbally regarding the sound system in the Council Room and the 5 million for the ARPA programs for citizens.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding Mr. Swetz, the Capital Plan, UDAG money and LERTAS.

Motion to adjourn: Mr. Bienias

Second: Mr. Thornton

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Meeting adjourned at 6:56 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