



Luzerne County Council

August 13, 2019

EMA Building

Route 118

Dallas, PA 18612

Minutes

August 13, 2019 Voting Session

Call to Order

The Luzerne County Council convened for a Voting Session in the Dallas EMA Building on Tuesday, August 13, 2019, at 6:01 PM. The meeting was called to order by Chair Tim McGinley.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Roll Call

Present

Patrick M. Bilbow

Harry Haas

Linda McClosky Houck

Tim McGinley

Chris Perry

Sheila Saidman, Esq.

Robert Schnee

Stephen A. Urban

Jane Walsh Waitkus

Also Present

C. David Pedri, Esq., County Manager

Shannon Crake-Lapsansky, Assistant County Solicitor

Sharon Lawrence, Clerk of Council

Absent

Matthew Vough

Recognitions/Ceremonial Proclamations

None

Additions to/Deletions from Voting Session Agenda

None

Adoption of Voting Session Agenda

Motion to Adopt: Ms. Waitkus

Second: Ms. Saidman

Vote:

Nine (9) Ayes – Unanimous

The Voting Session Agenda is adopted (9-0)

Public Comment on Voting Session Agenda Items

Walter Griffith (Trucksville) spoke about the Ordinance to amend the Administrative Code. He pointed out the memo that was on the table for the public was not posted on the website prior to the meeting. Mr. Griffith also commented on Section 7.05 of the Charter with regard to transparency and interviews. He questioned if anyone from Council or the County Manager asked any of the applicants to apply for the position. No one responded and Mr. McGinley confirmed the same.

Old Business

None

New Business

Motion to adopt minutes of the July 23, 2019 Voting Meeting

Motion by: Ms. Saidman

Second: Ms. Waitkus

Vote:

Eight (8) Ayes by Mr. Bilbow, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Ms. Waitkus

One (1) Nay by Mr. Stephen A. Urban

Motion Passed (8-1)

The July 23, 2019 Voting Meeting Minutes are Adopted

1. Motion to adopt resolution authorizing the County Manager to execute a Lease Agreement between Luzerne County and Butler Township for premises located at 415 West Butler Drive, Drums PA, 18222

Motion by: Mr. Schnee

Second: Ms. Waitkus

Roll Call Vote:

Nine (9) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (9-0)

Resolution is Adopted

2. Motion to adopt ordinance amending the 2019 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County (Part-Time Drug Task Force Officer Positions)

Motion by: Mr. Schnee

Second: Mr. Perry

Roll Call Vote:

Nine (9) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (9-0)

Ordinance is Adopted

3. Motion to adopt ordinance amending the Administrative Code at Section 2.07 in accordance with the Home Rule Charter of Luzerne County (the “Charter”)

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Mr. Stephen A. Urban

Roll Call Vote:

Three (3) Yes by Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck and Mr. Stephen A. Urban

Six (6) No by Mr. Bilbow, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Ms. Waitkus

Motion Failed (3-6)

4. Motion to adopt resolution filling the vacancy of the Elected Position of County Council Member

Motion to Open Nominations by: Mr. Bilbow

Second: Mr. Stephen A. Urban

Vote:

Eight (8) Ayes by Mr. Bilbow, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Saidman and Ms. Waitkus

One (1) Abstention by Mr. Schnee

Nominations Open

Mr. Perry nominated: Rick Morelli

Second: Ms. Saidman

Mr. Stephen A. Urban nominated: Michael Vacendak

Second: Ms. Houck

Motion to Close Nominations by: Mr. Haas

Second: Mr. Stephen A. Urban

Vote:

Eight (8) Ayes by Mr. Bilbow, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Saidman and Ms. Waitkus

One (1) Abstention by Mr. Schnee

Nominations Closed

Roll Call Vote (1 name):

Mr. Bilbow: Morelli

Mr. Haas: Morelli

Ms. Houck: Vacendak

Mr. McGinley: Morelli

Mr. Perry: Morelli

Ms. Saidman: Morelli

Mr. Schnee: Abstained

Mr. Stephen A. Urban: Vacendak

Ms. Waitkus: Morelli

Results:

Morelli 6

Vacendak 2

Abstention 1

Motion to adopt resolution appointing Rick Morelli to fill the vacancy of the Elected Position of County Council Member

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Mr. Perry

Roll Call Vote:

Seven (7) Yes by Mr. Bilbow, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Saidman and Ms. Waitkus

One (1) No by Mr. Stephen A. Urban

One (1) Abstention by Mr. Schnee

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

Resolution is Adopted

Public Comment

Walter Griffith (Trucksville) was going to speak about the KOZ consideration on the Work Session Agenda but Mr. McGinley advised it was withdrawn. It will be on the Work Session Agenda for August 27th instead. Mr. Griffith stated he was baffled that the Solicitors' Office can research other matters but did not find out that one of the candidates for the position was ineligible. He also noted there was no public comment at the interview session. Mr. Griffith asked why Mr. Schnee abstained. Mr. Schnee responded as stated in the newspaper, he is in a partnership with Mr. Ryba and a conflict with Mr. Morelli was borderline.

Ed Gustitus (Kingston) wanted to know how many Authorities exist in the County, what fees were collected in the past and what fees are collected today. Mr. Gustitus feels no one is watching over them and they have free reign. Mr. Stephen A. Urban responded.

Motion to Adjourn: Ms. Waitkus

Second: Mr. Stephen A. Urban

Vote:

Nine (9) Ayes - Unanimous

Meeting Adjourned at 6:27 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