



**Luzerne County Council  
Voting Session  
August 22, 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 22, 2023 at 6:01 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  
John Lombardo  
Lee Ann McDermott  
Tim McGinley  
Matt Mitchell  
Chris Perry  
Brian Thornton  
Stephen J. Urban  
Kendra Vough  
Gregory S. Wolovich, Jr.

**Also Present**

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

**Attorney Skene commented on the Executive Session. He states prior to the Public Hearings there was an Executive Session concerning potential litigation and strategies for that litigation.**

**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.

**Lisa Napersky (Fairview Township) commented Verbally regarding** the Board of Elections ordinances.

**Claudia Glennan (Salem Township) commented Verbally regarding** the Board of Elections ordinance.

**Michelle Rothenbecker (Bear Creek Township) commented Verbally regarding** the Board of Elections ordinance.

**Greg Griffin (Swoyersville) commented Verbally regarding** LERTA's and taxes.

**TJ Fitzgerald (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding** LERTA's and Board of Elections ordinance.

**Walter Griffith (Trucksville) commented Verbally regarding** the \$5.00 Fee Refund and the Board of Elections ordinance rescinding O-2023-12.

**Joe Granteed (Plains) commented Verbally regarding** the \$5.00 Fee Refund and the Board of Elections ordinance.

Stephen J Urban read a text from Mark Rabo regarding LERTA's.

**Motion to approve minutes of the August 08, 2023 Voting Session**

**Motion by:** Mr. McGinley

**Second:** Mr. Bienias

**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 August 08, 2023 Voting Session Minutes are Approved**

**Old Business**

NONE

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

**Motion by:** Mr. Lescavage

**Second:** Mr. Bienias

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Ordinance is Adopted**

**2. Motion to adopt ordinance Amending the 2023 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County to transfer additional funds to the Luzerne County Courts**

**Motion by:** Mr. Lombardo

**Second:** Mr. Lescavage

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Ordinance is Adopted**

**3. Motion to adopt ordinance Adopting the 2024 Long-Range Operational, Fiscal and Capital Plan for Luzerne County**

**Motion by:** Mr. Bienias

**Second:** Mr. Lombardo

**Motion to Amend ordinance and add the EMA/911 UPS System (\$130,000.00)**

**by:** Mr. McGinley

**Second:** Mr. Mitchell

**Roll Vote to Amend:**

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Ordinance is Amended**

**Roll Vote to Adopt:**

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Ordinance is Adopted**

**4. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the County Manager to Execute a Lease Agreement Amendment between Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Area Agency on Aging and Joseph Soliman for an Active Adult Center located at 335 Third Avenue, Kingston, PA 18704**

**Motion by:** Mr. Wolovich

**Second:** Mr. McGinley

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**5. Motion to adopt resolution Providing Tax Exemption for New Construction in Deteriorated Areas under the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act (Northpoint LERTA Hanover Township)**

**Motion by:** Mr. Lombardo

**Second:** Mr. Bienias

**Motion to Amend resolution changing abatement schedule to:**

**Year 1: 89% Property Tax Abatement**

**Year 2: 88% Property Tax Abatement**

**Year 3: 87% Property Tax Abatement**

**Year 4: 86% Property Tax Abatement**

**Year 5: 85% Property Tax Abatement**

**Year 6: 84% Property Tax Abatement**

**Year 7: 83% Property Tax Abatement**

**Year 8: 80% Property Tax Abatement**

**Year 9: 70% Property Tax Abatement**

**Year 10: 60% Property Tax Abatement**

**Motion by:** Mr. Thornton

**Second:** Mr. Lescavage

**Roll Vote to Amend:**

Three (3) Yes by Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Thornton and Mr. SJ Urban

Eight (8) No by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Perry, Ms. Vough and Mr. Wolovich

**Motion Failed (3-8)**

**Roll Call Vote to Adopt:**

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

One (1) No by Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (10-1)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**6. Motion to adopt resolution Providing Tax Exemption for New Construction in Deteriorated Areas under the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act (Northpoint LERTA Hazle Township)**

**Motion by:** Mr. McGinley

**Second:** Mr. Lombardo

**Motion to Amend resolution changing abatement schedule to:**

**Year 1: 89% Property Tax Abatement**

**Year 2: 88% Property Tax Abatement**

**Year 3: 87% Property Tax Abatement**

**Year 4: 86% Property Tax Abatement**

**Year 5: 85% Property Tax Abatement**

**Year 6: 84% Property Tax Abatement**

**Year 7: 83% Property Tax Abatement**

**Year 8: 80% Property Tax Abatement**

**Year 9: 70% Property Tax Abatement**

**Year 10: 60% Property Tax Abatement**

**Motion by:** Mr. Thornton

**Second:** Mr. Lescavage

**Roll Vote to Amend:**

Three (3) Yes by Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Thornton and Mr. SJ Urban

Eight (8) No by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Perry, Ms. Vough and Mr. Wolovich

**Motion Failed (3-8)**

**Roll Call Vote to Adopt:**

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

One (1) No by Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (10-1)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**7. Motion to adopt resolution Providing Tax Exemption for New Construction in Deteriorated Areas under the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act (JVI LERTA 1)**

**Motion by:** Mr. Lombardo

**Second:** Mr. McGinley

**Motion to Amend resolution changing abatement schedule to:**

**Year 1: 89% Property Tax Abatement**

**Year 2: 88% Property Tax Abatement**

**Year 3: 87% Property Tax Abatement**

**Year 4: 86% Property Tax Abatement**

**Year 5: 85% Property Tax Abatement**

**Year 6: 84% Property Tax Abatement**

**Year 7: 83% Property Tax Abatement**

**Year 8: 80% Property Tax Abatement**

**Year 9: 70% Property Tax Abatement**

**Year 10: 60% Property Tax Abatement**

**Motion by:** Mr. Thornton

**Second:** Mr. Lescavage

**Roll Vote to Amend:**

Three (3) Yes by Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Thornton and Mr. SJ Urban

Eight (8) No by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Perry, Ms. Vough and Mr. Wolovich

**Motion Failed (3-8)**

**Roll Call Vote to Adopt:**

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

One (1) No by Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (10-1)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**8. Motion to adopt resolution Providing Tax Exemption for New Construction in Deteriorated Areas under the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act (JVI LERTA 2)**

**Motion by:** Mr. Wolovich

**Second:** Mr. Lombardo

**Motion to Amend resolution changing abatement schedule to:**

**Year 1: 89% Property Tax Abatement**

**Year 2: 88% Property Tax Abatement**

**Year 3: 87% Property Tax Abatement**

**Year 4: 86% Property Tax Abatement**

**Year 5: 85% Property Tax Abatement**

**Year 6: 84% Property Tax Abatement**

**Year 7: 83% Property Tax Abatement**

**Year 8: 80% Property Tax Abatement**

**Year 9: 70% Property Tax Abatement**

**Year 10: 60% Property Tax Abatement**

**Motion by:** Mr. Thornton

**Second:** Mr. Lescavage

**Roll Vote to Amend:**

Three (3) Yes by Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Thornton and Mr. SJ Urban

Eight (8) No by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Perry, Ms. Vough and Mr. Wolovich

**Motion Failed (3-8)**

**Roll Call Vote to Adopt:**

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

One (1) No by Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (10-1)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**9. Motion to adopt resolution Approving a Proposed Memorandum of Agreement between Luzerne County and Teamsters Local Union 401**

**Motion by:** Mr. Lombardo

**Second:** Mr. Wolovich

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**10. Motion to adopt resolution Approving the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between Luzerne County and AFSCME, AFL-CIO, District Council 87 (Court Appointed Support Staff Unit)**

**Motion by:** Mr. McGinley

**Second:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**11. Motion to adopt resolution Confirming the Luzerne County Coroner's Petition to the Court of Common Pleas Establishing a Fee Schedule**

**Motion by:** Mr. Thornton

**Second:** Ms. McDermott

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**12. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the Pennsylvania Department of Treasury to Establish a Process and Assume Responsibility for the Return of Unclaimed Fees to Residents Due to Luzerne County's Implementation of a \$5.00 Fee for Local Use as Provided by 75 Pa.C.S. §1935**

**Motion by:** Mr. Wolovich

**Second:** Mr. Lombardo

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

One (1) No by Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (10-1)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**13. Motion to introduce ordinance Amending the 2023 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County to Transfer Reserve Funds to the Luzerne County Courts**

**Motion by:** Mr. McGinley

**Second:** Mr. Lescavage

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Ordinance is Introduced**

**14. Motions regarding Opioid Committee**

**Motion that one member of Council and one member of the public serves on the Committee by:** Mr. Mitchell

**After discussion, Mr. Mitchell changed his motion to one member of Council serves on the Committee.**

**Motion by:** Mr. Mitchell

**Second:** Mr. Wolovich

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Motion that one member of the public serves on the Committee by:** Mr. Mitchell

**Second:** Mr. Bienias

**After discussion, Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Bienias withdrew their motions.**



**15. Motion to introduce ordinance Rescinding Ordinance No. 2023-12 which Placed a Question on the November 7, 2023 Municipal Election Ballot to Amend Article VIII Section 8.04 of the Luzerne County Home Rule Charter**

**Motion by:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Second:** Mr. Lescavage

**Roll Call Vote:**

Two (2) Yes by Ms. McDermott and Mr. SJ Urban

Nine (9) No by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Perry, Mr. Thornton, Ms. Vough and Mr. Wolovich

**Motion Failed (2-9)**

**16. Motion to adopt resolution Petitioning the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas to Appoint Judges or Electors of Luzerne County to Serve Instead of the Luzerne County Board of Elections and Registration to Frame the Ballot Referendum Set Forth in Ordinance 2023-12 for Placement on the November 7, 2023 Municipal Election Ballot**

**Motion by:** Mr. Wolovich

**Second:** Mr. Lescavage

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

One (1) No by Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (10-1)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**Public Comment on Non-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, in their entirety, can be heard by accessing the public comment portion of the meeting recording posted next to the meeting agenda.

**Walter Griffith (Trucksville) commented Verbally regarding** the Opioid Committee.

**TJ Fitzgerald (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding** the LERTA votes and tax increases.

**Greg Griffin (Swoyersville) commented Verbally regarding** housing shortages, LERTA's and solutions.

**Joe Granteed (Plains) commented Verbally regarding** the CEO ARPA money, the Whole Home Repairs Program, Weatherization and Utility Assistance.

**Chair Vough read Public Comment Emails from:**  
**Carole Shearer (Drums)**  
**Katarina Gereda (Kingston Borough)**  
**Cindy Malkemes (Dallas Township)**  
**Joseph Shafer (Dorrance Township)**

**Motion to adjourn:** Mr. McGinley

**Second:** Mr. Thornton

**Vote:**

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:32 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](mailto:sharon.lawrence@luzernecounty.org)