



**Luzerne County Council
Voting Session
August 24, 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, August 24, 2021, at 6:01 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. (virtually)
Harry Haas (virtually)
Linda McClosky Houck
Lee Ann McDermott
Tim McGinley
Chris Perry
Kendra M. Radle (virtually)
Sheila Saidman, Esq. (virtually)
Robert Schnee
Stephen J. Urban
Matthew Vough (virtually-connected at 6:08PM)

Also Present

Romilda P. Crocamo, Esq., Acting County Manager (virtually)
Vito DeLuca, Chief County Solicitor (virtually)
Sharon Lawrence, Clerk of Council

Attorney DeLuca commented on 2 Executive Sessions.

8-24-21 Executive Session

Attorney DeLuca stated Council met in Executive Session from 5:15PM until 5:45PM regarding the opioid litigation and received an update from the County Manager regarding insurance/our fees.

8-17-21 Executive Session

Attorney DeLuca stated Council met in Executive Session from 5:00-5:30PM and received an update from Stephens and Lee regarding the matter of Luzerne County vs. Luzerne County Election Board.

Recognitions/Ceremonial Proclamations

Mr. McGinley read a proclamation for the 100th Anniversary of the Henry Citizens Club and presented the proclamation to Joseph Matchko.

Mr McGinley announced the retirements of:

- Karen Kanjorski, Secretary, District Justice Courts
- Thomas J. Ratchford, Asst District Attorney, District Attorney

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

Additions to/Deletions from Voting Session Agenda

Mr. Griffith would like to remove Item 3 as it was not discussed in the Work Session. Acting County Manager Crocamo and Mr McGinley commented. It needs to stay on the Voting Session due to time restraints. Mr. Griffith suggested moving Item 3 before Item 2 in order to establish the position first. Mr. McGinley agreed.

Mr. Vough connected to the call.

Adoption of Voting Session Agenda

Motion to Adopt Voting Session Agenda by: Mr. Perry

Second: Ms. Houck

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 Auto Theft Officer position.

Motion to adopt minutes of the August 10, 2021 Voting Session

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Ms. Saidman

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 August 10, 2021 Voting Session Minutes are Adopted

Old Business

Mr. Griffith stated he sent out an email regarding the Kronos Time Clock System, the directive issued and tracking of time. Acting County Manager Crocamo responded.

Mr. Griffith commented on the email he received and forwarded to Council from Peter Jones regarding the LEO agreement.

Mr. SJ Urban commented on the Kronos System. Acting County Manager Crocamo responded.

Agenda Items

1. Motion to adopt resolution Entering into a Lease for a Portion of Land at the Luzerne County Annex for use by the Flower Tent

Motion by: Mr. Schnee

Second: Ms. McDermott

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 still due to Resolution 2016-50 and the Acting County Manager signature being part of the agreement.

NOTE: Resolution 2016-50 is the reason for his abstentions on subsequent votes for resolutions.

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

Resolution is Adopted

ITEMS 2 and 3 WERE SWITCHED IN ORDER

3. Motion to adopt resolution Creating an Auto Theft Officer Position in the Luzerne County District Attorney's Office

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Mr. Perry

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

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

Resolution is Adopted

*******Motion to Reconsider by:** Mr. Haas

Second: Mr. Griffith

Roll Call Vote:

Four (4) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. McDermott and Mr. Vough

Six (6) No by Ms. Houck, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman and Mr. Schnee

One (1) Abstention by Mr. SJ Urban

Motion Failed (4-6) with (1) Abstention

2. Motion to introduce ordinance Amending the 2021 Fiscal Year Budgets for Luzerne County (DA Position)

Motion by: Mr. Schnee

Second: Ms. McDermott

Mr. Haas would like to amend the Ordinance by:

1. Deleting the last line of the resolution.
2. Adding a Sunset Clause "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: The Auto Theft Officer position automatically terminates should the Pennsylvania Auto Theft Authority discontinue funding the position."

Motion by: Mr. Haas

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

After discussion, it was determined that the proposed amendments were for the Resolution (Item 3) and the change in order caused confusion. Mr. Haas withdrew his motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Ordinance is Introduced

*******Mr. Haas asked to have the Resolution (Item 3) reconsidered**

4. Motion to adopt resolution Approving the Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Restructuring Plan of Pharmaceutical Company Mallinckrodt PLC, et al

Motion by: Mr. Schnee

Second: Mr. McGinley

Mr. Schnee would like to amend the resolution and add “that we follow PEC recommendations on this issue”.

Motion to Amend by: Mr. Schnee

Second: Ms. McDermott

Roll Call Vote to Amend:

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

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

Resolution is Amended

Roll Call Vote to Adopt:

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

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

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.

Fred Javer (Dallas) commented Verbally regarding a friend who placed a bid on a repository property and is having issues. Mr. McGinley and Ms. McDermott responded.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding the Auto Theft Task Force, funding for the LEO agreement, training and Joyce, Carmody and Moran being on the approved law firm list.

Mr. McGinley read emails from:

Greg Griffin

Shirley Heckman

Jessica Morgan

Andrea Jones

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Schnee

Second: Mr. Perry

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

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