



Luzerne County Council
August 25, 2020 Meeting
Video/Teleconference via TEAMS
Minutes

Call to Order

The Luzerne County Council convened for a Voting Session on August 11, 2020 at 6:01PM via TEAMS Video/Teleconference. The meeting was called to order by Council Chair Tim McGinley.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Roll Call

Present

Walter L. Griffith, Jr.
Harry Haas (connected to call at 6:08PM)
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

Recognitions/Ceremonial Proclamations

Mr. McGinley announced the retirements of:
Andress L. Derby, Equipment Operator 1, Road & Bridge
Sherlene A. Long, Clerk Typist 2, Area Agency on Aging
Vincenza Palmiter, Budget Analyst 1, MHDS
Nancy Restaino, PT Sr Center Mgr 1, Area Agency on Aging
Letters of thanks and congratulations will be sent out to them from Council.

Mr. McGinley read a Proclamation from Council acknowledging September 2020 as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Awareness Month in Luzerne County.

Additions to/Deletions from Meeting Agenda

None

Adoption of Voting Session Agenda

Motion to Adopt Voting Session Agenda by: Ms. Radle

Second: Ms. Saidman

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

Mr. Haas was not connected to the call yet.

Motion Passed (10-0)

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. Griffith

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

Mr. Haas was not connected to the call yet.

Motion Passed (10-0)

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. Saidman

Second: Ms. Radle

Vote:

Nine (9) Ayes by 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

Mr. Haas was not connected to the call yet.

Motion Passed (9-1)

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.

Mr. Haas connected to the call at 6:08PM during Public Comment.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding the Capital Plan.

Motion to adopt Minutes of the August 11, 2020 Voting Session

Motion by: Ms. Saidman

Second: Ms. Houck

Motion to amend the August 11, 2020 Voting Session Minutes to include the Public Comment Emails in the written minutes by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Mr. Perry

Vote to Amend:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

The August 11, 2020 Voting Session Minutes are Amended

Vote to Adopt:

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 11, 2020 Voting Session Minutes are Adopted

OLD BUSINESS

None

1. Motion to remove from table ordinance adopting the 2021 Long-Range Operational, Fiscal and Capital Plan for Luzerne County

Motion by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Mr. Schnee

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Ordinance is Removed from Table

2. Motion to adopt ordinance adopting the 2021 Long-Range Operational, Fiscal and Capital Plan for Luzerne County

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Ms. McDermott

Point of Order called by Mr. Griffith:

Mr. Griffith questioned if the motion to Remove from Table should have been a Roll Call Vote. After discussion, a Roll Call Vote was taken.

Roll Call Vote to Remove from Table:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Ordinance is Removed from Table

A Revised Capital Plan and Explanation was submitted by the County Manager. Mr. McGinley read the Explanation and Mr. Pedri and Mr. O'Neill provided further commentary regarding the changes.

Point of Order called by Mr. Griffith:

Mr. Griffith questioned if another public hearing and/or public comment is needed with the revision. Mr. DeLuca and Ms. Crocamo responded. Another public hearing is not required but public comment needs to be allowed.

Motion to amend the 2021 Long-Range Operational, Fiscal and Capital Plan for Luzerne County with the proposed Revision by: Mr. Schnee

Second: Ms. Saidman

Public Comment by:

Mark Rabo (Hazleton)

Richard Manta (Back Mountain)

Ron Knapp (Nanticoke)

Roll Call Vote on Revision:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Revision Passed.

Mr. McGinley confirmed the motion and second by Ms. Houck and Ms. McDermott with the revision.

Mr. Griffith would like to make a revision to the Capital Plan.

Motion to remove the \$100,000.00 for the Airport Fuel Tank and the \$50,000.00 for the Airport Masonry Repair by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Roll Call Vote on Revision:

Five (5) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Ms. Saidman and Mr. SJ Urban

Six (6) No by Mr. Haas, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Motion Failed (5-6)

Revision did not Pass.

Mr. McGinley confirmed the motion and second by Ms. Houck and Ms. McDermott.

Roll Call Vote to Adopt Ordinance:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

The 2021 Long-Range Operational, Fiscal and Capital Plan for Luzerne County is Adopted.

3. Motion to introduce ordinance entering into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Hanover Township for the Repair and Dedication of the Division Street Bridge in Accordance with the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Law, Act 177 of 1998, previously adopted as Act 180 of 1972

Motion by: Mr. Schnee

Second: Ms. Radle

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Ordinance is Introduced

4. 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: Ms. Houck

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

5. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the County Manager to Execute a Lease Agreement Between Luzerne County and Butler Township for the Active Adult Center, Drums, Pennsylvania by the Luzerne/Wyoming Agency on Aging

Motion by: Mr. Schnee

Second: Mr. Perry

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

6. Motion to introduce ordinance Amending the 2020 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County (Human Services)

Motion by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Roll Call Vote:

Six (6) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry and Mr. SJ Urban

Five (5) No by Mr. Haas, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Motion Passed (6-5)

Ordinance is Introduced

7. Motion to introduce ordinance Amending the 2020 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County (Aging)

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Mr. Griffith

Roll Call Vote:

Eight (8) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry Ms. Radle and Mr. SJ Urban

Three (3) No by Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Motion Passed (8-3)

Ordinance is Introduced

8. Motion to introduce ordinance Amending the 2020 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County (DA)

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Ms. Radle

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Ordinance is Introduced

9. Motion to adopt resolution Transferring Federal HAVA Grant Funds from Account 100.30.4120.445.10 Other Income to Account 100.95.4721.570.81 2019 GO Bond Principal

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)

10. Motion to introduce 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: Mr. SJ Urban

Roll Call Vote:

Three (3) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Ms. Houck and Mr. SJ Urban

Eight (8) No by Mr. Haas, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Motion Failed (3-8)

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

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Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding government operations, budgetary matters, co-equal branches of government and the resolution pertaining to the Attorney General.

Richard Manta (Back Mountain) commented Verbally regarding Voting Machines, outside council regarding Shaheen Mackey, a separate lawyer for County Council and the Cross Valley lighting.

Ron Knapp (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding Luzerne County and Shaheen Mackey.

Brian Shiner (Kingston) commented Verbally regarding the Position Budget and the Admin Code.

Jason Carr (Saylorsburg) commented Verbally regarding public comment at the Flood Protection Authority Meetings.

Mr. McGinley read Public Comment EMAILS received from:

Sue Ellen Feuerstein (Lewisburg)

Martha Shebosky (Hazle Township)

Kimberly Frink-Umbriac (Luzerne County)

Francisco Torres-Aranda (Commissioner GACLA, PA Human Relations Committee)

Elaine Maddon Curry (Chair, Hazleton Advisory Council, PHRC)

Ed Motovidlak (West Pittston)

Elizabeth Hartman (Hanover Township)

Nicole Dante (Hanover Township)

Laura Pinero (Exeter)

Ronald Knapp (Nanticoke)

Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Griffith

Second: Mr. Haas

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Meeting Adjourned at 8:33 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