



**Luzerne County Council
Voting Session
September 12, 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 September 12, 2023 at 6:03 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 (virtually)
Lee Ann McDermott
Tim McGinley
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

Absent

Matt Mitchell

Recognitions and Ceremonial Proclamations

Chair Vough read a proclamation for John Thalenfeld, CEO of Trion Industries, who was recently honored at the Temple B'Nai B'rith Annual Gala.

Chair Vough read a proclamation in Memoriam for Walt Jones, a volunteer that was with Luzerne County from 1972 until his death in 2020. David Elmore, Interim Director of EMA, spoke about Mr. Jones.

Attorney Skene commented on 2 Executive Sessions. He stated that prior to this meeting, we had an Executive Session concerning 2 litigation matters. One having to do with an employment matter at the prison which we discussed a possible settlement and the other one we just generally discussed where we are going to proceed in that matter. Also in the week prior, we had an Executive Session concerning litigation with the Board of Elections.

Deletions from Voting Session Agenda

Mr. Thornton would like Work Session Item 5 (regarding the Act 13 Committee) moved to the Voting Session.

Motion by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. Bienias

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Work Session Item 5 is moved to the Voting Session as Item 7.

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.

Ryan Sharp (USI Insurance) commented Verbally regarding a contract extension for USI, risk, the 5 year plan and asked for Council support.

Dr. Richard Blum (Kingston) commented Verbally regarding his experience and being would like to be appointed to the Forty-Fort Airport Advisory Board.

Walter Griffith (Trucksville) commented Verbally regarding the Act 13 Committee and the Co-Operation Agreement.

Motion to approve minutes of the August 22, 2023 Voting Session

Motion by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Wolovich

Vote:

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

One (1) Nay by Mr. SJ Urban

Motion Passed (9-1)

The August 22, 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 Reserve Funds to the Luzerne County Courts

Motion by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Thornton

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Ordinance is Adopted

2. Motion to adopt resolution Approving a Contract Extension with Broker USI Insurance Services for Insurance Brokerage Services for FY 2024

Motion by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. Wolovich

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Resolution is Adopted

3. Motion to adopt resolution Approving the Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Daniella De'Angelo v. Luzerne County, et. al

Motion by: Mr. Lombardo

Second: Mr. Thornton

Roll Call Vote:

Nine (9) Yes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Mr. Thornton, Mr. SJ Urban, Ms. Vough and Mr. Wolovich

One (1) No by Mr. Lescavage

Motion Passed (9-1)

Resolution is Adopted

4. Motion to introduce ordinance Creating a Commission on Opioid Misuse and Addiction Abatement

Motion by: Mr. SJ Urban

Second: Mr. Wolovich

Mr. McGinley would like Commission changed to Committee throughout the ordinance.

Motion to Amend by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Bienias

Roll Call Vote to Amend:

Ten (10) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Ordinance is Amended

Roll Call Vote to Introduce:

Ten (10) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Ordinance is Introduced

5. Motion to adopt resolution Declaring a Vacancy on the Luzerne County Forty-Fort Airport Advisory Board Due to the Resignation of a Member

Motion by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. Bienias

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Resolution is Adopted

6. Nominations and Appointments to Boards and Commissions:

6a. Luzerne County Forty-Fort Airport Advisory Board (4) terms ending 12/31/2025

Motion to Open Nominations by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Thornton

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Nominations Open

Mr. Lombardo nominated: Richard Blum
Second: Mr. Bienias
Mr. Wolovich nominated: William Greiner
Second: Mr. SJ Urban
Mr. Thornton nominated: John Sedor
Second: Mr. Bienias
Mr. Lombardo nominated: Amy Frenchko
Second: Mr. Lescavage
Mr. Thornton nominated: Jeffrey Williams
Second: Mr. Wolovich
Motion to Close Nominations: Mr. McGinley
Second: Mr. Thornton
Vote:
Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous
Motion Passed (10-0)
Nominations Closed

Roll Call Vote (1 name) Seat 1:

Mr. Bienias: Blum
Mr. Lescavage: Blum
Mr. Lombardo: Blum
Ms. McDermott: Blum
Mr. McGinley: Blum
Mr. Perry: Blum
Ms. Vough: Blum
Mr. Thornton: Blum
Mr. Stephen J. Urban: Blum
Mr. Wolovich: Blum
Results:
Blum 10

Roll Call Vote (1 name) Seat 2:

Mr. Bienias: Greiner
Mr. Lescavage: Greiner
Mr. Lombardo: Greiner
Ms. McDermott: Greiner
Mr. McGinley: Greiner
Mr. Perry: Greiner
Ms. Vough: Greiner
Mr. Thornton: Greiner
Mr. Stephen J. Urban: Greiner
Mr. Wolovich: Greiner
Results:
Greiner 10

Roll Call Vote (1 name) Seat 3:

Mr. Bienias: Sedor

Mr. Lescavage: Sedor

Mr. Lombardo: Frenchko

Ms. McDermott: Sedor

Mr. McGinley: Sedor

Mr. Perry: Sedor

Ms. Vough: Sedor

Mr. Thornton: Sedor

Mr. Stephen J. Urban: Sedor

Mr. Wolovich: Sedor

Results:

Sedor 9

Frenchko 1

Roll Call Vote (1 name) Seat 4:

Mr. Bienias: Frenchko

Mr. Lescavage: Frenchko

Mr. Lombardo: Frenchko

Ms. McDermott: Frenchko

Mr. McGinley: Williams

Mr. Perry: Williams

Ms. Vough: Frenchko

Mr. Thornton: Williams

Mr. Stephen J. Urban: Williams

Mr. Wolovich: Williams

Results:

Williams 5

Frenchko 5

REPEAT Roll Call Vote (1 name) Seat 4:

Mr. Bienias: Williams

Mr. Lescavage: Frenchko

Mr. Lombardo: Williams

Ms. McDermott: Williams

Mr. McGinley: Williams

Mr. Perry: Williams

Ms. Vough: Williams

Mr. Thornton: Williams

Mr. Stephen J. Urban: Williams

Mr. Wolovich: Williams

Results:

Williams 9

Frenchko 1

Motion to adopt resolution Appointing Richard Blum to the Luzerne County Forty-Fort Airport Advisory Board by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Resolution is Adopted

Motion to adopt resolution Appointing William Greiner to the Luzerne County Forty-Fort Airport Advisory Board by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Resolution is Adopted

Motion to adopt resolution Appointing John Sedor to the Luzerne County Forty-Fort Airport Advisory Board by: Mr. Wolovich

Second: Mr. Bienias

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Resolution is Adopted

Motion to adopt resolution Appointing Jeffrey Williams to the Luzerne County Forty-Fort Airport Advisory Board by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Ms. McDermott

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Resolution is Adopted

6b. Luzerne/Schuylkill Workforce Investment Board (5) terms ending 06/30/2027

Motion to Open Nominations by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. Wolovich

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Nominations Open

Mr. Wolovich nominated all 5 applicants: Jane Ashton, Carmen Kahiu, Mary Malone, Heather Nelson and Michael Saporito

Second: Mr. Bienias

Motion to Close Nominations: Mr. Wolovich

Second: Mr. Bienias

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Nominations Closed

Motion to adopt resolution Appointing Jane Ashton to the Luzerne/Schuylkill Workforce

Investment Board by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. Wolovich

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Resolution is Adopted

Motion to adopt resolution Appointing Carmen Kahiu to the Luzerne/Schuylkill

Workforce Investment Board by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Ms. McDermott

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Resolution is Adopted

Motion to adopt resolution Appointing Mary Malone to the Luzerne/Schuylkill Workforce

Investment Board by: Mr. Wolovich

Second: Mr. McGinley

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Resolution is Adopted

Motion to adopt resolution Appointing Heather Nelson to the Luzerne/Schuylkill

Workforce Investment Board by: Mr. SJ Urban

Second: Ms. McDermott

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Resolution is Adopted

Motion to adopt resolution Appointing Michael Saporito to the Luzerne/Schuylkill

Workforce Investment Board by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Ms. McDermott

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Resolution is Adopted

6c. Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug & Alcohol Executive Commission

(1) Community Member term ending 12/31/2025

(1) Elderly Member term ending 12/31/2025

COMMUNITY MEMBER

Motion to Open Nominations by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Lombardo

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Nominations Open

Mr. Lombardo nominated: Katherine Silfa

Second: Mr. Wolovich

Mr. Thornton nominated: Theodore John Fitzgerald

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Motion to Close Nominations: Mr. Wolovich

Second: Mr. Thornton

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Nominations Closed

Roll Call Vote (1 name):

Mr. Bienias: Silfa

Mr. Lescavage: Silfa

Mr. Lombardo: Silfa

Ms. McDermott: Silfa

Mr. McGinley: Silfa

Mr. Perry: Silfa

Ms. Vough: Silfa

Mr. Thornton: Fitzgerald

Mr. Stephen J. Urban: Fitzgerald

Mr. Wolovich: Silfa

Results:

Silfa 8

Fitzgerald 2

ELDERLY MEMBER

Motion to Open Nominations by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. Wolovich

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Nominations Open

Mr. Bienias nominated: Charles Blewitt

Second: Mr. Wolovich

Motion to Close Nominations: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. Wolovich

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Nominations Closed

Motion to adopt resolution Appointing Charles Blewitt to the Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug & Alcohol Executive Commission by: Mr. Wolovich

Second: Mr. Bienias

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Resolution is Adopted

Motion to adopt resolution Appointing Katherine Silfa to the Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug & Alcohol Executive Commission by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. Wolovich

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Resolution is Adopted

ADDED ITEM

7. Motion regarding creation of a Standing Act 13 Committee

Motion:

“I move that the Act 13 Committee be recognized by County Council as a Standing Committee comprised of 3 Council Members selected by the Council Chair and shall function under the following parameters: All funds received by Luzerne County from the Commonwealth’s Act 13 Marcellus Shale Grant Program shall be deposited into a single County account dedicated solely to Act 13 activity. Any and all expenditures from this account shall first be requested before the committee and voted upon by the committee at a properly advertised Act 13 Committee Meeting and all committee approved expenditures shall subsequently be presented to County Council for their approval at a public Council Meeting.”

Motion by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. Bienias

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

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.

Greg Griffin (Swoyersville) commented Verbally regarding Lee Ann McDermott and her work with housing and real estate, KOZ's and LERTA's, and affordable housing.

TJ Fitzgerald (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding being nominated for the Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug & Alcohol Executive Commission and his continued work.

Walter Griffith (Trucksville) commented Verbally regarding the Work Session Division Summary page.

Motion to adjourn: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Thornton

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 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