



Luzerne County Council
September 22, 2020 Meeting
Video/Teleconference via TEAMS
Minutes

Call to Order

The Luzerne County Council convened for a Voting Session on September 22, 2020 at 6:04PM 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
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

Vito DeLuca announced Council met in an Executive Session from 5:30PM until 6:00PM to discuss personnel matters via the ZOOM platform.

Recognitions/Ceremonial Proclamations

Mr. McGinley announced the retirements of:
Sam C. Mastruzzo, Corrections Officer, LCCF
Marian R. Morris, Inspector, Elections Bureau
Michael Simko, Planning and Zoning Analyst, Planning & Zoning
Letters of thanks and congratulations will be sent out to them from Council.

Additions to/Deletions from Meeting Agenda

**Ms. McDermott requested Item 7 from the Work Session be moved to the Voting Session.
Mr. McGinley confirmed and stated it would be Item 10 on the Voting Session.**

Ms. Saidman requested Item 9 be removed from the Voting Session Agenda.

Motion to remove Item 9 by: Ms. Saidman

Second: Mr. Griffith

Mr. Griffith noted he was going to ask to have it removed as well.

Mr. McGinley confirmed and stated it would be removed. He stated that Item 10 (added to the Voting Session by Ms. McDermott) will now become Item 9 on the Voting Session Agenda.

Adoption of Voting Session Agenda

Motion to Adopt Voting Session Agenda by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Ms. Radle

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

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: Ms. Radle

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

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. McDermott

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes by Mr. Haas, 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

Motion Passed (10-1)

Public Comment on Agenda Items

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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.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding the KBJ Real Estate Investment LLC's Grant.

Ron Knapp (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding the KBJ Real Estate Investment LLC's Grant.

Motion to adopt Minutes of the September 08, 2020 Voting Session

Motion by: Ms. Radle

Second: Ms. McDermott

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 September 08, 2020 Voting Session Minutes are Adopted

OLD BUSINESS

None

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing an Application to the Pennsylvania Municipal Assistance Program

Motion by: Ms. Saidman

Second: Ms. Radle

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

2. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the County Manager to Execute a Lease Agreement Between the UFCW Community Credit Union and Luzerne County for Magisterial District Court 11-02-03

Motion by: Mr. Schnee

Second: Ms. Houck

Motion to Amend resolution by adding "All lease extensions for year 4 and 5 must be approved by Luzerne County Council pursuant to the Luzerne County Home Rule Charter." to the NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED section by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Ms. Houck

Roll Call Vote on Amendment:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Roll Call Vote on Amended Resolution:

Ten (10) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Vough

One (1) Abstention by Ms. Radle

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

Resolution is Adopted

3. Motion to remove from table resolution Approving KBJ Real Estate Investment LLC's Cooperation/Indemnity Agreement for Grant Funding for the KBJ Startup Community Project, and Authorizing Luzerne County to Reimburse the Commonwealth for the Commonwealth's Share of Ineligible Costs Incurred

Motion by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Ms. Radle

Roll Call Vote:

Nine (9) Yes by Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Vough

Two (2) No by Mr. Griffith and Mr. Haas

Motion Passed (9-2)

Resolution is Removed from Table

4. Motion to adopt resolution Approving KBJ Real Estate Investment LLC's Cooperation/Indemnity Agreement for Grant Funding for the KBJ Startup Community Project, and Authorizing Luzerne County to Reimburse the Commonwealth for the Commonwealth's Share of Ineligible Costs Incurred

Motion by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Ms. Saidman

Roll Call Vote:

Seven (7) Yes by Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Four (4) No by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck and Mr. SJ Urban

Motion Passed (7-4)

Resolution is Adopted

5. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the County Manager to Execute the Sale of County-Owned Property to John and Catherine Wega

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Vough

One (1) Abstention by Mr. Haas

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

Resolution is Adopted

6. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the Negotiation and Execution of an Engagement Letter with () for the Audit of Fiscal Year 2020 Financial Transactions

Ms. Houck nominated: Boyer & Ritter

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Ms. Saidman nominated: Baker Tilley Virchow Krause

Second: Ms. Radle

Roll Call Vote (select one name):

Mr. Griffith: Boyer & Ritter

Mr. Haas: Boyer & Ritter

Ms. Houck: Boyer & Ritter

Ms. McDermott: Baker Tilley Virchow Krause Young

Mr. McGinley: Baker Tilley Virchow Krause Bindus

Mr. Perry: Baker Tilley Virchow Krause Kubitz

Ms. Radle: Baker Tilley Virchow Krause Young

Ms. Saidman: Baker Tilley Virchow Krause Bindus

Mr. Schnee: Baker Tilley Virchow Krause Kubitz

Mr. Stephen J. Urban: Boyer & Ritter

Mr. Vough: Baker Tilley Virchow Krause Bindus

Results:

Boyer & Ritter 4

Baker Tilley Virchow Krause 7

Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the Negotiation and Execution of an Engagement Letter with Baker Tilley Virchow Krause for the Audit of Fiscal Year 2020 Financial Transactions

Roll Call Vote:

Seven (7) Yes by Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Four (4) No by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck and Mr. SJ Urban

Motion Passed (7-4)

Resolution is Adopted

7. Motion to adopt resolution Declaring a Vacancy on the Luzerne County Children and Youth Advisory Board (Bonin)

Motion by: Mr. SJ Urban

Second: Mr. Schnee

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

Point of Order

Mr. SJ Urban noted that the resolution just passed contains a typographical error in the second line regarding Mr. Bonin's name. Mr. McGinley stated it would be corrected.

8. Motion to adopt resolution Declaring a Vacancy on the Luzerne County Children and Youth Advisory Board (LeDonne)

Motion by: Mr. Haas

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

REMOVED

9. Motion to adopt resolution to Reprimand County Manager C. David Pedri

ADDED (was originally added as Item 10)

9. Motion to accept the Real Estate Committee's recommendation to proceed with an RFP for the sale of the Juvenile Detention Center

Motion by: Ms. Radle

Second: Ms. McDermott

Roll Call Vote:

Nine (9) Yes by Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Two (2) No by Mr. Griffith and Mr. SJ Urban

Motion Passed (9-2)

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

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Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Mr. McGinley read Public Comment EMAILS received from:

Ernest Searfoss (Buck Township)

Hilary Palencar

Motion to Adjourn: Ms. Radle

Second: Mr. Vough

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Meeting Adjourned at 7:13 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