



**Luzerne County Council
Voting Session
September 26, 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 26, 2023 at 6:08 PM. The meeting was called to order by Chair Kendra Vough.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Roll Call

Present

Carl Bienias
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

Absent

Kevin Lescavage

Attorney Skene commented on the Executive Session. He stated that prior to this meeting, we had an Executive Session covering two points. One point was litigation that is at the prison that we discussed how to proceed on it and the other was an attorney had given us an opinion a couple of years ago on certain funds and a determination as to whose funds they are.

Recognitions and Ceremonial Proclamations

NONE

Deletions from Voting Session Agenda

Motion to remove Voting Session Item 3 by: Mr. Wolovich

Second: Mr. Lombardo

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Voting Session Item 3 is removed from the Agenda.

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.

Scott Serafin (Forty-Fort Airport Advisory Board) commented Verbally regarding a recommendation for an appointment to the Forty-Fort Airport Advisory Board.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding the Government Study Commission and the Airport Board.

Motion to approve minutes of the September 12, 2023 Voting Session

Motion by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Thornton

Vote:

Nine (9) Ayes by Mr. Bienias, 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 (9-1)

The September 12, 2023 Voting Session Minutes are Approved

Old Business

NONE

Agenda Items

1. Motion to adopt resolution to Extend the Lease with the United States Government for Property Located on Route 11/Wyoming Avenue, Wyoming Borough

Motion by: Mr. Bienias

Second: Mr. Thornton

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Resolution is Adopted

2. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the County Manager to Execute a Contract with Justice Works, LLC for a Legal Software Upgrade

Motion by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. Bienias

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Resolution is Adopted

3. ~~Motion to introduce ordinance Amending the Capital Plan Budget for Luzerne County (Operations)~~

REMOVED

4. Motion to adopt ordinance Creating a Committee on Opioid Misuse and Addiction Abatement

Motion by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Bienias

Motion to Amend ordinance changing Committee to Commission by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Bienias

Roll Call Vote to Amend:

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

One (1) No by Mr. McGinley

Motion Passed (9-1)

Ordinance is Amended

Roll Call Vote to Adopt:

Ten (10) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Ordinance is Adopted

5. Motion to introduce ordinance Luzerne 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: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Lombardo

Roll Call Vote:

Six (6) Yes by Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Perry, Mr. SJ Urban and Ms. Vough

Four (4) No by Mr. Bienias, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Thornton and Mr. Wolovich

Motion Passed (6-4)

Ordinance is Introduced

6. Motion to adopt resolution Withdrawing the Litigation Pending in the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas Related to the Ballot Referendum Set Forth in Luzerne County Ordinance 2023-12

Motion by: Mr. Lombardo

Second: Ms. McDermott

Roll Call Vote:

Six (6) Yes by Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Perry, Mr. SJ Urban and Ms. Vough

Four (4) No by Mr. Bienias, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Thornton and Mr. Wolovich

Motion Passed (6-4)

Resolution is Adopted

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

Motion by: Mr. Lombardo

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Resolution is Adopted

8. Motion to adopt resolution Accepting the Declination of an Appointment to the Luzerne County Forty-Fort Airport Advisory Board and Declaring a Vacancy (Sedor)

Motion by: Mr. Lombardo

Second: Mr. Bienias

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Resolution is Adopted

9. Motion to adopt resolution Accepting the Declination of an Appointment to the Luzerne County Forty-Fort Airport Advisory Board and Declaring a Vacancy (Williams)

Motion by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Resolution is Adopted

10. Nominations and Appointments to Boards and Commissions:

10a. Luzerne County Forty-Fort Airport Advisory Board (1) term ending 12/31/2025

Motion to Open Nominations by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. McGinley

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Nominations Open

Mr. Lombardo nominated: Amy Frenchko

Second: Mr. Bienias

Motion to Close Nominations: Mr. Wolovich

Second: Mr. McGinley

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Nominations Closed

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

Second: Mr. Lombardo

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Resolution is Adopted

11. Motion(s) regarding Act 13 Committee

Mr. Thornton clarified his motion that was passed at the September 12, 2023 Meeting.

Motion to amend the Council Bylaws at Section 10C, Number 1, to recognize the Act 13 Committee as a Standing Committee for review and recommendations for use of all Act 13 monies received by Luzerne County by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

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.

Walter Griffith (Trucksville) commented Verbally regarding Items 5 & 6, order of voting and consequences.

Jamie Walsh (Ross Township) commented Verbally regarding the November Election information open to the public and the Court ruling.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding rescinding litigation, Charter conflicts and the State Constitution.

Motion to adjourn: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Lombardo

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Meeting adjourned at 6:44 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