



**Luzerne County Council
Voting Session
September 28, 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, September 28, 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.
Robert Schnee
Stephen J. Urban
Matthew Vough (virtually)

Also Present

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

Recognitions/Ceremonial Proclamations

Mr. McGinley read a proclamation commending all law enforcement officials involved in the ongoing battle against drug trafficking, particularly those who were instrumental in the September 22, 2021 operation. Chief Joseph Coffay spoke.

Additions to/Deletions from Voting Session Agenda

NONE

Adoption of Voting Session Agenda

Motion to Adopt Voting Session Agenda by: Mr. Schnee

Second: Ms. Saidman

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.

NONE

Motion to adopt minutes of the September 14, 2021 Voting Session

Motion by: Ms. Saidman

Second: Mr. Perry

Vote:

Eight (8) Ayes by Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

One (1) Nay by Mr. SJ Urban

Two (2) Abstentions by Mr. Griffith and Ms. Radle

Motion Passed (8-1) with (2) Abstentions

The September 14, 2021 Voting Session Minutes are Adopted

Old Business

Mr. SJ Urban commented on the LEO Agreement, contracts and investigation.

Mr. Griffith spoke about the Hazleton City Land bank and deed.

Agenda Items

1. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the Acting County Manager to Execute a Contract Amendment with ADP for Payroll Services

Motion by: Ms. Saidman

Second: Mr. Perry

Mr. SJ Urban made a motion to remove Acting County Manager Romilda P. Crocamo, Esq., from the resolution as he feels there is a conflict. After discussion and comment from Attorney DeLuca, Mr. SJ Urban withdrew his motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Three (3) No by Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck and Mr. Schnee

One (1) Abstention by Mr. SJ Urban

Motion Passed (7-3) with (1) Abstention

Resolution is Adopted

2. Motion to adopt resolution Approving the Recommendations of Zigmund & Company Ltd. Regarding Security/Bond Limits to Protect Luzerne County Against Risks of Loss for Calendar Year 2022

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Mr. Schnee

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

3. Motion to adopt resolution Approving a Contract with Broker USI Insurance Services for Insurance Brokerage Services for FY 2022 and 2023

Motion by: Mr. Haas

Second: Mr. Griffith

Roll Call Vote:

Five ~~(5)~~ *Six (6) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Mr. Perry, Mr. Schnee and Mr. SJ Urban

Five (5) No by Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman and Mr. Vough

~~*One (1) Abstention by Mr. SJ Urban~~

***Mr. SJ Urban originally abstained and then changed his vote to a yes**

Motion Passed (6-5)

Resolution is Adopted

4. Motion to adopt ordinance Amending an Intergovernmental Agreement with Butler Township for the Repair and Dedication of Roads in Accordance with the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Law, Act 177 of 1996, Previously adopted as Act 180 of 1972

Motion by: Ms. Saidman

Second: Ms. Houck

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Ordinance is Adopted

5. Motions regarding the Luzerne County Arts Advisory Board

5a. Motion to adopt ordinance establishing the Luzerne County Arts Advisory Board

Motion by: Mr. Perry

Second: Mr. Schnee

Motion to Postpone by: Mr. Haas

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Roll Call Vote to Postpone:

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

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

Motion to Postpone Failed (3-8)

Roll Call Vote to Adopt:

Eight (8) Yes by Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Three (3) No by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas and Mr. SJ Urban

Motion Passed (8-3)

Ordinance is Adopted

5b. Motion to approve the Luzerne County Arts Advisory Board Bylaws

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Mr. Schnee

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)

6. Motion to adopt resolution To Prohibit A Qualification Standard Based On Vaccination Against Covid-19 For Applicants For Employment Or Current County Employees And Prohibiting Discrimination Or Discipline Based On Same

Motion by: Mr. Perry

Second: Mr. Griffith

Motion to Table by: Ms. Radle

Second: Ms. Saidman

Roll Call Vote to Table:

~~Five (5)~~ *Seven (7) Yes by Ms. McDermott, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Vough

~~Six (6)~~ *Four (4) No by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck ~~Ms. McDermott~~, Mr. McGinley and Mr. Perry

***Ms. McDermott and Mr. Perry originally voted No and then changed their votes to a Yes**

Motion to Table Passed (7-4)

Resolution is Tabled

7. Motion to approve Letter of Consent of Final Submission of Revised Regional and Local Plans PY 2021 – 2024 (WIB)

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Mr. Perry

Roll Call Vote:

Eight (8) Yes by Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Three (3) No by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas and Mr. SJ Urban

Motion Passed (8-3)

Attorney DeLuca commented on the Executive Session. Council met in Executive Session from 5:00PM until 5:20/5:25PM and received a report from the Acting County Manager and discussed personnel matters. No deliberation took place and no decisions were made.

8. Motion to introduce ordinance Amending the 2021 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County (DA LEO)

Motion by: Mr. Schnee

Second: Ms. Houck

Mr. McGinley made a motion to postpone. After discussion, Mr. McGinley withdrew his motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

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

Vote to Introduce Passed (5-6)

Ordinance is Introduced

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

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Greg Griffin (Swoyersville) commented **Verbally** regarding the Mothers Opioid Committee, the opioid crisis and events that have occurred since the submission of the Opioid Letter from Council.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented **Verbally** regarding the Hazleton Land Bank purchase.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Perry

Second: Mr. Schnee

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Meeting Adjourned at 8:49 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