



**Luzerne County Council**  
October 07, 2019  
Council Meeting Room  
Luzerne County Courthouse  
200 N. River Street  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

**Minutes**  
**October 07, 2019 Voting Session**

**Call to Order**

The Luzerne County Council convened for a Voting Session in the Council Meeting Room of the Luzerne County Courthouse on Monday, October 07, 2019, at 6:01 PM. The meeting was called to order by Chair Tim McGinley.

**Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence**

**Roll Call**

**Present**

Patrick M. Bilbow  
Harry Haas  
Linda McClosky Houck  
Tim McGinley  
Rick Morelli (via phone)  
Chris Perry  
Sheila Saidman, Esq.  
Robert Schnee  
Stephen A. Urban (arrived at 6:55PM)  
Matthew Vough  
Jane Walsh Waitkus

**Also Present**

C. David Pedri, Esq., County Manager  
Romilda P. Crocamo, Chief County Solicitor  
Sharon Lawrence, Clerk of Council

### **Recognitions/Ceremonial Proclamations**

**Mr. McGinley read a proclamation for the Greater Pittston Regional Ambulance Association, in recognition of the Association receiving the Pennsylvania EMS Agency of the Year Award. Mr. Lombardo accepted the award, introduced other members in attendance and spoke briefly about the Association and its' members.**

### **Additions to/Deletions from Voting Session Agenda**

None

### **Adoption of Voting Session Agenda**

**Motion to Adopt:** Ms. Waitkus

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

**Mr. Stephen A. Urban had not arrived yet.**

**The Voting Session Agenda is Adopted (10-0)**

### **Public Comment on Voting Session Agenda Items**

**Mark Rabo (Hazleton)** commented on the Ordinance and 911 upgrades. He feels there needs to be better coordination between the consulting firm and the first responders as to what equipment is needed. Mr. Rabo recommended putting off the funding for the voting machines.

**Brian Shiner (Kingston)** asked if the grant resolution is in addition to the one million dollar grant already received. Mr. McGinley responded it is the same one that was announced last week. Mr. Shiner questioned if the borrowing amount should be reduced and Mr. McGinley stated that would be addressed in the meeting.

**Walter Griffith (Trucksville)** commented on the borrowing ordinance and feels Council should hold off on it and re-introduce it at another time as the voting machine funding is still unclear. Regarding the 911 funding, Mr. Griffith feels there is not enough information regarding the municipalities and if they are getting enough equipment. Lastly, he would like to know the costs for PFM and the Bond Council.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

**Motion to adopt minutes of the September 24, 2019 Voting Meeting**

**Motion by:** Ms. Saidman

**Second:** Mr. Morelli

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

**Mr. Stephen A. Urban had not arrived yet.**

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**The September 24, 2019 Voting Meeting Minutes are Adopted**

**1. Motion to adopt Ordinance Authorizing the Incurrence of Non Electoral Indebtedness of the County of Luzerne, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by the Issuance of a General Obligation Note, Series of 2019, in the Principal Amount of \$34,705,000 for and Toward Financing a Capital Improvement Program, a Current Refunding Program and Paying the Costs of Issuing the Note; Fixing the Form, Date, Interest, and Maturity of the Note; making a Covenant for the Payment of the Debt Service on the Note; Providing for the Filing of the Required Documents; Providing for the Appointment of a Sinking Fund Depository for the Note; Authorizing the Execution, Sale and Delivery thereof and Authorizing Other Necessary Action**

**Motion by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Mr. Bilbow

Scott Shearer provided Council with a handout titled “Maximum Parameters Bank Loan Sale Document”. He reviewed the handout and answered questions from Council.

Several first responders from various municipalities were present and spoke about the need for upgrades and the 911 funding.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

**Mr. Stephen A. Urban had not arrived yet.**

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Ordinance is Adopted**

**2. Motion to adopt resolution Requesting a Keystone Communities Program Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development**

**Motion by:** Ms. Waitkus

**Second:** Mr. Bilbow

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

**Mr. Stephen A. Urban had not arrived yet.**

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**Public Comment**

**Joe McCabe (Exeter)** asked about state grants for road repairs, the unemployment rate (people leaving the workforce) and renting parking spots for County employees. Mr. Pedri responded.

**Walter Griffith (Trucksville)** stated it is up to the Bureau of Elections to pick the voting machines. He commented on the hiring process and violations by one of the applicants. Mr. Griffith commented on budget transfers regarding ADA’s and the DA’s office. He still would like to know the fees for PFM and the Bond Council. Mr. McGinley stated it was in the PFM handout and gave Mr. Griffith the amounts.

**Mr. Stephen A. Urban arrived at 6:55 during Mr. Shiners’ commentary.**

**Brian Shiner (Kingston)** asked about the \$5.00 fee matching funds. Mr. O’Neill stated he would send out that information. Mr. Shiner asked about the 34 million and returning unused funds to the Bank. He stated there was a typo in the agenda, it is not a budget, but budgets that are being introduced. He referred to the Charter and Code regarding the title position budget vs. position list. Mr. Pedri commented.

**Mark Rabo (Hazleton)** spoke about grants and made recommendations. Mr. Rabo stated Grace Cuzzo passed away over the weekend. He spoke about her briefly and would like to see a proclamation from Council. Mr. Rabo requested the meeting be closed out with a moment of silence in her name.

**Patrick Bilbow** updated Council on the young people voter initiative across the County. He reported he reached out to the public high schools and had some great contacts. It is going very well.

**Sheila Saidman** provided positive feedback regarding the Social Collective presentation and the Luzerne County Community Cares Expo 2019. Mr. McGinley and Mr. Perry attended the Expo and agreed it was a job well done.

**Motion to Adjourn in the name of Grace Cuzzo:** Mr. Haas

**Second:** Mr. Schnee

**Vote:**

Eleven (11) Ayes - Unanimous

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:07 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](mailto:sharon.lawrence@luzernecounty.org)