



**Luzerne County Council
Voting Session
October 10, 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 October 10, 2023 at 6:01 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
Lee Ann McDermott
Tim McGinley
Matt Mitchell
Chris Perry
Brian Thornton
Stephen J. Urban (arrived at 6:03 PM)
Kendra Vough
Gregory S. Wolovich, Jr.

Also Present

Sharon Lawrence, Clerk of Council
Romilda Crocamo, Esq., County Manager
Harry Skene, Chief County Solicitor

Recognitions and Ceremonial Proclamations

NONE

Deletions from Voting Session Agenda

NONE

Adoption of Voting Session Agenda

Motion by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Thornton

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

Mr. SJ Urban had not arrived yet.

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.

Mr. SJ Urban arrived at 6:03 PM during Public Comment by Mark Rabo

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding the Government Study, UDAG Money and the Hotel Sterling and provided Council with a Handout.

John Suchoski (Wilkes-Barre) commented Verbally regarding the Sterling Project.

Walter Griffith (Trucksville) commented Verbally regarding UDAG Money and the Sterling Hotel Project.

Greg Griffin (Swoyersville) commented Verbally regarding MAP Money, the MAP 2023 Program at LCCF, Fentanyl, Overdoses and the Opioid Commission.

Motion to approve minutes of the September 26, 2023 Voting Session

Motion by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Lombardo

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, 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 (10-1)

The September 26, 2023 Voting Session Minutes are Approved

Old Business

NONE

Agenda Items

1. Introduction of Ordinance Adopting the 2024 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County

NO VOTE REQUIRED - automatically introduced by the County Manager

Ordinance is Introduced

2. Motion to introduce ordinance Amending the 2023 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County (Operations)

Motion by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Ms. McDermott

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Ordinance is Introduced

3. Motion to adopt resolution Approving Use of Opioid Settlement Proceeds to Fund the Medication Assisted Treatment Program at the Luzerne County Correctional Facility for 2023

Motion by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. Lombardo

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

4. Motion to adopt ordinance 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. SJ Urban

Roll Call Vote:

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

Five (5) No by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Thornton and Mr. Wolovich

Motion Passed (6-5)

Ordinance is Adopted

5. Motion to introduce ordinance Council Placing a Government Study Commission Question on the 2024 Primary Election Ballot and Designating the Number Of Members to Serve on Said Commission

Motion by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Lombardo

Roll Call Vote:

Eight (8) Yes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Thornton, Mr. SJ Urban and Ms. Vough

Three (3) No by Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry and Mr. Wolovich

Motion Passed (8-3)

Ordinance is Introduced

6. Motion to introduce ordinance Amending the 2023 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County to Transfer U-DAG Funds for the Hotel Sterling Site Project

Motion by: Mr. SJ Urban

Second: Mr. Lescavage

Mr. SJ Urban would like to amend the ordinance and replace the name Stephen Barrouck with H&N Investments, LLC.

Motion to Amend Ordinance by: Mr. SJ Urban

Second: Mr. Lombardo

Roll Call Vote to Amend:

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Ordinance is Amended

Roll Call Vote to Introduce:

Six (6) Yes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. Thornton and Mr. SJ Urban

Five (5) No by Mr. McGinley, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Perry, Ms. Vough and Mr. Wolovich

Motion Passed (6-5)

Ordinance is Introduced

7. Nominations and Appointments to Boards and Commissions:

7a. Luzerne County Forty-Fort Airport Advisory Board (1) term ending 12/31/2025

Motion to Open Nominations by: Mr. SJ Urban

Second: Mr. Thornton

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Nominations Open

Mr. Lombardo nominated: Erin Connors

Second: Mr. Bienias

Motion to Close Nominations: Mr. SJ Urban

Second: Mr. Thornton

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Nominations Closed

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

Second: Mr. Lombardo

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

8. Motion to adopt Budget Meeting Schedule

Motion by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Lombardo

Mr. McGinley suggested adding a Budget Meeting October 17th and changing the subsequent dates to reflect the added meeting.

Motion to Amend Budget Meeting Schedule by: Mr. McGinley

Second: NONE

Motion Fails for Lack of a Second

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

FY2024 Budget Meeting Schedule is Approved

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 introduction of the ordinance and UDAG money, ARP, New World and ETA Insurance.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding the Developer and the Sterling Project.

John Suchoski (Wilkes-Barre) commented Verbally regarding the Developer and the Sterling Project.

Hysni Sylva (Sam) from H&N Investments LLC commented Verbally regarding his company and the Sterling Project.

Motion to adjourn: Mr. Lombardo

Second: Mr. McGinley

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Meeting adjourned at 6:43 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