



**Luzerne County Council  
Voting Session  
October 12, 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, October 12, 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, Esq., Assistant Solicitor (virtually)  
Sharon Lawrence, Clerk of Council

**Absent**

Shannon Crake Lapsansky, Esq., Acting Chief County Solicitor

### **Recognitions/Ceremonial Proclamations**

Mr. McGinley read a proclamation recognizing October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and presented the proclamation to Tammy Rodgers, Domestic Violence Service Center. Ms. Rodgers spoke about Domestic Violence and thanked Council for their support.

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

NONE

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

**Motion to Adopt Voting Session Agenda by:** Mr. Perry

**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.

**Jason Carr (Saylorburg) commented Verbally** regarding budget balances and surpluses, taxes and a statement made by the Acting County Manager in the newspaper.

### **Motion to adopt minutes of the September 28, 2021 Voting Session**

**Motion by:** Ms. Saidman

**Second:** Ms. McDermott

**Mr. Haas would like to amend the minutes regarding the tabling of Item 6. He requested his statement “Council should exercise leadership by taking an up count vote (by yes/no vote) and not postpone” be added to the minutes.**

**Ms. Saidman stated he actually said “a vote to postpone is a vote for tyranny” and that is what should be reflected.**

**Ms. Houck stated there is no discussion on a motion to table and therefore nothing should be included.**

**Mr. McGinley agreed and will take a Roll Call Vote.**

**Motion to Amend Minutes by:** Mr. Haas

**Second:** Mr. Griffith

**Roll Call Vote to Amend the Minutes as presented by Mr. Haas:**

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

Eight (8) No by Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle,

Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

**Motion Failed (3-8)**

**Ms. Saidman withdrew her amendment.**

**Vote to Approve Minutes:**

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

Two (2) Nays by Mr. Griffith and Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (9-2)**

**The September 28, 2021 Voting Session Minutes are Adopted**

**Old Business**

NONE

**Agenda Items**

**1. Introduction of Ordinance Adopting the 2022 Fiscal Year Budgets for Luzerne County**

**NO VOTE** - automatically introduced by the Acting County Manager.

**2. Motion to adopt resolution Approving the Forgiveness of Delinquent Tax Interest and Penalties Owed to Luzerne County by the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business & Industry**

**Motion by:** Ms. Saidman

**Second:** Ms. McDermott

**Motion to Table by:** Mr. Griffith

**Second:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Roll Call Vote to Table:**

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

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

**Motion Failed (3-8)**

**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

One (1) No by Mr. Griffith

One (1) Abstention by Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (9-1) with (1) Abstention**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**3. Motion to introduce ordinance Amending the 2021 Fiscal Year Budgets for Luzerne County (ERA)**

**Motion by:** Ms. Houck

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

**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**

**Ordinance is Introduced**

**4. Motion to adopt resolution declaring a vacancy on the Board of Elections and Registration**

**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**

**5. Motion to adopt ordinance Amending the 2021 Fiscal Year Budgets for Luzerne County (DA LEO)**

**Motion by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

**Mr. Griffith would like to change the “526 fund” to a “department”.**

**Mr. McGinley asked Atty. DeLuca for an opinion.**

**After discussion,**

**Motion to Postpone by:** Mr. Griffith

**Second:** ~~Ms. Houck~~ Ms. Houck

**Atty. DeLuca stated that an ordinance being introduced can't be postponed.**

**Ms. Houck withdrew her Second.**

**Mr. SJ Urban questioned “township” in the third paragraph.**

**Ms. Houck stated it was previously addressed and needs to be corrected.**

**During further discussion, it was noted that the ordinance was already introduced and therefore it can be postponed and Ms. Houck reinstated her Second.**

**Roll Call Vote to Postpone:**

Four (4) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck and Mr. SJ Urban

Seven (7) No by Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

**Motion Failed (4-7)**

**Mr. McGinley corrected/changed “township” in the third paragraph to “DA Office”.**

**Vote:**

**Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous**

**Roll Call Vote to Adopt:**

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

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

**Motion Failed (5-6)**

**Ordinance Failed**

**6. Motion to adopt resolution to Modify Resolution 2021-101 and Establish an Assistant Position in the Office of Clerk of County Council**

**Motion by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Ms. Houck

**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

One (1) No by Mr. Griffith

One (1) Abstention by Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (9-1) with (1) Abstention**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**7. Motion to allow Robert Bilbow to advertise County-owned property for sale**

**Motion by:** Ms. McDermott

**Second:** Mr. Schnee

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes 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) No by Mr. Griffith

**Motion Passed (10-1)**

**8. Motion to adopt ordinance Authorizing the Luzerne County Assessor's Office to Approve a Homestead Exclusion of \$48,500 of Assessed Property for 2020 and 2021 and for the Office of Treasurer to Disburse Funds to Eligible Property Owners from line item Obtained Through Federal Funding from The American Rescue Plan**

**Act of 2021**

**Motion by:** Mr. Haas

**Second:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion to Postpone by:** Ms. Radle

**Second:** Mr. Schnee

**Roll Call Vote to Postpone:**

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)**

**Ordinance is Postponed**

**9. Motion to approve recommendation by the Real Estate Committee to have a review performed of the appraisal completed by Cheryl Roman for the DeAndrea purchase proposal**

**Motion by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Ms. McDermott

**After discussion, Mr. Schnee withdrew his Motion.**

**Ms. McDermott changed her second to a first.**

**Motion by:** Ms. McDermott

**Second:** Mr. Perry

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

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

**Motion Passed (7-4)**

**10. Motion to adopt resolution Ratifying the Decision to Appeal Judge Robert J. Shenkin's Denial of Luzerne County Council's Petition for Preliminary Injunction Against the Luzerne County Board of Elections Related to the Placement of the District Attorney Seat on the November 2, 2021 General Election Ballot**

**Motion by:** Ms. Radle

**Second:** Ms. McDermott

**Mr. McGinley asked Atty. DeLuca to comment on the Executive Session. Atty. DeLuca stated he did not know the date and time. Mr. McGinley stated it was Sunday, 8AM.**

**Mr. Griffith pointed out that Atty. DeLuca was not at the meeting. Ms. Houck stated it was October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. McGinley asked Ms. Radle to confirm the length of time. She stated it was about 45 minutes, approximately 8AM to 8:45AM. Mr. McGinley stated there was an Executive Session held by Council on that date and time in regards to the ratification being presented tonight.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

Two (2) No by Ms. Houck and Mr. McGinley

One (1) Abstention by Mr. SJ Urban

**Motion Passed (8-2) with (1) Abstention**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:**

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**Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally** regarding Sunshine Law Violations, the Wilkes-Barre Chamber and the Homestead Ordinance.

**Jess Morgan (Dallas) commented Verbally** and applauded Mr. Haas for the Homestead Ordinance and spoke about the Acting County Manager and Ballot Issue.

**Adjournment**

**Motion to Adjourn:** Mr. Perry

**Second:** Mr. Schnee

**Vote:**

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:55 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)