



Luzerne County Council
October 13, 2020 Meeting
Video/Teleconference via TEAMS
Minutes

Call to Order

The Luzerne County Council convened for a Voting Session on October 13, 2020 at 6:01PM via TEAMS Video/Teleconference. The meeting was called to order by Council Chair Tim McGinley.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Roll Call

Present

Walter L. Griffith, Jr.
Harry Haas
Linda McClosky Houck
Lee Ann McDermott
Tim McGinley
Kendra M. Radle
Sheila Saidman, Esq.
Robert Schnee
Stephen J. Urban
Matthew Vough

Absent

Chris Perry

Also Present

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

Recognitions/Ceremonial Proclamations

Mr. McGinley announced it was Domestic Violence Awareness Month and a proclamation was presented to the group earlier in the month. The proclamation is posted on the council agenda webpage for viewing.

Additions to/Deletions from Meeting Agenda

None

Adoption of Voting Session Agenda

Motion to Adopt Voting Session Agenda by: Ms. Radle

Second: Ms. Saidman

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

The Voting Session Agenda is Adopted

Motions

Motion to suspend Bylaws regarding the requirement a majority of those participating in the meeting must be physically present by: Ms. Houck

Second: Ms. McDermott

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Motion to suspend Bylaws regarding the conduct of public meetings to the extent that the current format is inconsistent with the term of the State's Emergency Declaration by: Ms. Saidman

Second: Ms. McDermott

Vote:

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

One (1) Nay by Mr. Griffith

Motion Passed (9-1)

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Due to COVID-19 all meetings are currently held via Video/Teleconference.

WRITTEN comments are submitted electronically via EMAIL or TEAMS. 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.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Jason Carr (Saylorsburg) commented Verbally regarding the Election Inquiry Committee.

Richard Manta (Back Mountain) commented Verbally regarding the Election Inquiry Committee and the Rain Tax.

Ron Knapp (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding the Election Inquiry Committee resolution.

Motion to adopt Minutes of the September 22, 2020 Voting Session

Motion by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Ms. Radle

Vote:

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

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

Motion Passed (8-2)

The September 22, 2020 Voting Session Minutes are Adopted

OLD BUSINESS

Walter Griffith stated he sent emails to the County Manager regarding the RFP for ballot printing and the delay in sending out the General Election ballots. He would like the two items addressed. Mr. Pedri and Ms. Watchilla responded.

Harry Haas stated he sent an email to the Chair requesting a public session for the Hazard Mitigation Plan and would like it addressed. Mr. McGinley and Mr. Jones responded.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Introduction of Ordinance Adopting the 2021 Fiscal Year Budgets for Luzerne County

NO VOTE – automatically introduced by the County Manager.

Mr. Pedri reviewed a FY2021 Proposed Budget Powerpoint Presentation with Council and projected it on TEAMS for public view. Mr. Pedri and Mr. Swetz answered questions.

2. Motion to introduce ordinance Designating Processing and/or Disposal Facilities; Providing Waste Flow Control Requirements to Direct Municipal Waste to Designated Processing and/or Disposal Facilities and Providing Penalties for Violation of this Ordinance

Motion by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Schnee

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes - Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Ordinance is Introduced

3. Motion to adopt resolution adopting a 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan

Motion by: Mr. Schnee

Second: Ms. Saidman

Motion to Table by: Mr. SJ Urban

Second: Mr. Griffith

Roll Call Vote:

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

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

Motion to Table Failed (2-8)

Motion to Amend resolution correcting date to October 13, 2020 by: Mr. Schnee

Second: Ms. Saidman

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes - Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Resolution is Amended

Mr. McGinley confirmed the original motion and second made by Mr. Schnee and Ms. Saidman.

Roll Call Vote:

Eight (8) Yes by Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Ms. Radle,

Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Two (2) No by Mr. Griffith and Mr. SJ Urban

Motion Passed (8-2)

Resolution is Adopted

4. Motion to introduce ordinance Amending the Luzerne County Zoning Map to Re-Zone Four Parcels of Property totaling 7.25 acres in Lake Township from Mixed Zoning Districts of B-3 and A-1 Zones to Single Family Residence District (R-1) Zone

Motion by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Ms. Houck

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes - Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Ordinance is Introduced

5. Motion to adopt resolution declaring a vacancy on the Luzerne County Forty-Fort Airport Advisory Board

Motion by: Mr. SJ Urban

Second: Ms. Saidman

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes - Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Resolution is Adopted

6. Motion to adopt resolution declaring a vacancy on the Luzerne County Transportation Authority

Motion by: Mr. SJ Urban

Second: Ms. Saidman

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes - Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Resolution is Adopted

7. Motion to adopt resolution Initiating an Inquiry into the Luzerne County Bureau of Elections and Voter Registration Policies, Procedures, and Practices (Houck)

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Mr. Schnee

Motion to Amend resolution adding “the inquiry would not take place until after the election votes are certified” by: Ms. Saidman

Second: Mr. McGinley

Roll Call Vote:

Two (2) Yes by Mr. McGinley and Ms. Saidman

Eight (8) No by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Ms. Radle, Mr. Schnee, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Vough

Motion to Amend Failed (2-8)

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes - Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Resolution is Adopted

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

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Richard Manta (Back Mountain) commented Verbally regarding the Rain Tax Letter.

Jason Carr (Saylorsburg) commented Verbally regarding the FY2021 Proposed Budget.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding the FY2021 Proposed Budget.

Ronald Knapp (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding the Election Inquiry Committee resolution and the General Election.

Motion to Adjourn: Ms. Radle

Second: Ms. McDermott

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

Meeting Adjourned at 8:19 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