



**Luzerne County Council**  
October 15, 2019  
Council Meeting Room  
Luzerne County Courthouse  
200 N. River Street  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

**Minutes**  
**October 15, 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 Tuesday, October 15, 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  
Matthew Vough  
Jane Walsh Waitkus

**Also Present**

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

**Absent**

Stephen A. Urban

### **Recognitions/Ceremonial Proclamations**

**Mr. McGinley read a proclamation honoring Barbara Sciandra and Paint Pittston Pink. Ms. Sciandras' mother, Elaine Fisher, accepted the award on behalf of Barbara. She introduced her daughter Ann Fisher and they both spoke about Barbara and Paint Pittston Pink, thanking Council for the recognition.**

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

**D. Pedri added a mileage of 6.2742 to the 2020 Budget Ordinance.**

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

**Motion to Adopt:** Ms. Waitkus

**Second:** Mr. Vough

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

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

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

**Walter Griffith (Trucksville)** commented on the FY2020 Budget. He referenced Section 5.02 of the Charter regarding the “budgets”.

**Sam Troy (Wilkes-Barre)** commented on the FY2020 Budget. He asked Council for a show of hands indicating who will be trying to minimize or do away with the proposed tax increase. Mr. Schnee responded that all Council members are there to go through the Budget (as in past years) and reduce or eliminate any tax increase. Mr. Troy also suggested instituting an amusement tax as a source of revenue.

**Jason Carr (Saylorsburg)** commented on county overtime, specifically the Coroner's Department. Mr. McGinley responded it was part of the Executive Branch and the Manager is in charge of that branch. Mr. Pedri responded to Mr. Carr's concerns and the mandatory overtime in the Coroner's Office.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

**Motion to adopt minutes of the October 07, 2019 Voting Meeting**

**Motion by:** Ms. Waitkus

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (10-0)**

**The October 07, 2019 Voting Meeting Minutes are Adopted**

**1. Introduction of Ordinance Adopting the 2020 Fiscal Year Budgets for Luzerne County**  
**NO VOTE – automatically introduced by the County Manager**  
**Mr. Pedri provided Council with a handout and reviewed the presentation with Council.**  
**The presentation was also projected on the screen for the public.**  
**Mr. Pedri and Mr. Swetz answered questions from Council.**

**Public Comment**

**Walter Griffith (Trucksville)** commented on the budget presentation. He feels it is not the job of County Council to make cuts and reductions, it is the County Manager's responsibility to provide Council with an accurate document.

**Jason Carr (Saylorsburg)** commented on the budget presentation and the lack of line items cutting expenses. Mr. Carr requested Council to look for a way not have a tax increase.

**Kendra Radle (Exeter)** asked about the short term investment revenue in the FY2020 Budget. Mr. Pedri responded it was a projected amount based on what was received this year.

**Mr. Pedri spoke about the passing of Detective Dan Beky and requested the meeting be concluded with a moment of silence for him. Mr. McGinley agreed and called for a moment of silence.**

**Motion to Adjourn:** Ms. Saidman

**Second:** Mr. Schnee

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes - Unanimous

**Meeting Adjourned at 6:46 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)