



Luzerne County Council
October 22, 2019
Hazle Township Municipal Building
101 W. 27th Street
Hazle Township, PA 18202

Minutes
October 22, 2019 Voting Session

Call to Order

The Luzerne County Council convened for a Voting Session in the Meeting Room of the Hazle Township Municipal Building on Tuesday, October 22, 2019, at 6:01 PM. The meeting was called to order by Chair Tim McGinley.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Roll Call

Mr. McGinley announced Mr. Morelli was on the phone. According to the Bylaws, a vote by Council is required to allow him to participate in the Meeting by phone.

Motion to allow Mr. Morelli to participate by phone

Motion by: Ms. Waitkus

Second: Mr. Schnee

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Mr. Morelli is present and will participate in the meeting.

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

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 announced the retirement of Angelo Salerno, Equipment Operator 1, Road & Bridge. A letter of thanks and congratulations will be sent out to him from Council.
- Mr. McGinley announced a proclamation was prepared in response to the request from Mr. Stephen A. Urban for the Greater Hazleton Area Polonaise Society. The proclamation was presented at their annual dinner last weekend on October 20th.

Additions to/Deletions from Voting Session Agenda

None

Adoption of Voting Session Agenda

Motion to Adopt: Ms. Waitkus

Second: Ms. Saidman

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

The Voting Session Agenda is Adopted (11-0)

Public Comment on Voting Session Agenda Items

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) spoke about his request for a proclamation for former Hazleton City Councilwoman Grace Cuozzo. He will prepare a draft proclamation once he sees the one being presented at the Hazleton City Council Meeting tomorrow evening.

Old Business

None

New Business

Motion to adopt minutes of the October 15, 2019 Voting Meeting

Motion by: Ms. Saidman

Second: Mr. Schnee

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes by Mr. Bilbow, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Morelli, Mr. Perry, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee, Mr. Vough and Ms. Waitkus

One (1) Nay by Mr. Stephen A. Urban

Motion Passed (10-1)

The October 15, 2019 Voting Meeting Minutes are Adopted

1. Motion to adopt resolution requesting a Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Motion by: Mr. Stephen A. Urban

Second: Ms. Waitkus

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes - Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

Public Comment

Brian Shiner (Kingston) spoke about the Election Board and Election Bureau. He stated the meetings were not advertised and therefore all votes are null and void. Mr. Shiner also commented on the Clerk to the Election Bureau/Head of Administrative Services Division.

Walter Griffith (Trucksville) commented on the merit increase process, the LCCC audit, the county “rain tax” bill for 2019, the election board meeting notices, the local use fee, and Section 217 of the Charter regarding questions on the Budget.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) spoke about the \$5.00 fee. He pointed out the State Budget does not reflect matching funds for 2020 and that the county resolution regarding the \$5.00 fee contains a clause that if it is not matched, the \$5.00 fee would not resume. Mr. Rabo also spoke about the voting machines and prison mental health services.

Robert Schnee responded regarding the \$5.00 fee and asked Mr. Pedri to follow up on it.

Stephen A. Urban responded regarding the Election Board and requested the solicitor look into the meeting advertisements.

Walter Griffith asked for a response on his “rain tax” and local use fee questions. Mr. Pedri stated the storm water fee was not paid for this year and the county is currently in negotiations. Mr. O’Neill gave an estimate of the bill amount and stated he will follow up and provide the actual amount. Mr. Pedri stated he will follow up on the local use fee.

Patrick Bilbow asked for the status on the letter of support regarding the closing of White Haven. Mr. McGinley stated it was assigned to Ms. Crake and as soon as it is completed it will be in a work session. Mr. Haas would like to add in SCI retreat as well.

Motion to Adjourn: Ms. Waitkus

Second: Mr. Stephen A. Urban

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes - Unanimous

Meeting Adjourned at 6:23 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