



**Luzerne County Council
Voting Session
October 24, 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 24, 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 (virtually)
Kevin Lescavage
John Lombardo
Lee Ann McDermott
Tim McGinley
Matt Mitchell
Chris Perry
Brian Thornton
Stephen J. Urban (arrived at 6:04 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

Chair Vough stated there was an Employee Recognition Event held in the Rotunda before the Council Meeting for Employees that had 40 and 41 years of service. On behalf of Council she thanked and congratulated them for their service to the County. She stated they were presented with proclamations at the event and read their names:

Linda Casey	40 years
Robert Hetro	40 years
Cheryl Stevenson	40 years
Nancy Pillets	41 years

Chair Vough stated there was a proclamation presented by Mr. McGinley at an event held in the Courthouse Rotunda last week, Empty Place at the Table, and read the proclamation.

Deletions from Voting Session Agenda

NONE

Adoption of Voting Session Agenda

Motion by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Lombardo

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 6:04 PM during Public Comment by Greg Griffin.

Greg Griffin (Swoyersville) commented Verbally regarding the Mericle LERTA, tax exemptions and housing.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding the Mericle LERTA, a traffic study, the watershed, the YMCA, Multi-Modal and the Government Study Commission.

Eugene Wallace (Wilkes-Barre) commented Verbally regarding the three commissioner form of government.

Walter Griffith (Trucksville) commented Verbally regarding New World and the Government Study Question timeframe.

Dave Chaump (West Pittston) commented Verbally regarding the Government Study Commission.

Motion to approve minutes of the October 10, 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 October 10, 2023 Voting Session Minutes are Approved

Old Business

NONE

Agenda Items

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

Motion by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Ordinance is Adopted

2. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the Use of Interest Earned on American Rescue Plan Act Funds for a New World Management System Software Upgrade

Motion by: Mr. Wolovich

Second: Mr. Thornton

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

3. Motion to adopt resolution Approving the Recommendations of Zigmund & Company Ltd. Regarding Security/Bond Limits to Protect Luzerne County Against Risks of Loss for Calendar Year 2024

Motion by: Mr. SJ Urban

Second: Mr. Thornton

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

4. Motion to adopt resolution Approving the Sales of Certain Parcels of Property Held in Repository by Elite Revenue Solutions, LLC Acting as the Luzerne County Tax Claim Bureau

Motion by: Mr. Lombardo

Second: Ms. McDermott

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

5. Motion to adopt resolution Approving an Agreement with Newport Township for the Luzerne County Treasurer to Collect Newport Township Taxes

Motion by: Mr. Wolovich

Second: Mr. Mitchell

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

6. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the County Manager to Execute a Lease Agreement Amendment between Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Area Agency on Aging and the Supervisors of Exeter Township Wyoming County for an Active Adult Center located at 2813 Sullivan's Trail, Falls, PA 18615

Motion by: Mr. Mitchell

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

7. Motion to adopt resolution approving a contract with ETA Insurance Group as Consultant and Broker for Employee Benefit Services

Motion by: Mr. Lombardo

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

8. Motion to adopt resolution providing for temporary exemption from real property taxation under the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act, 72 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 4722 et. seq., or "LERTA", for specified time periods for increases in assessed valuation of the new construction and of improvements, including repairs, construction or reconstruction, made on industrial, commercial, or business property in certain deteriorated and blighted areas in Hazle Township (and located within the Hazleton Area School District), Luzerne County, Pennsylvania and further defined as containing approximately 1,740.23 acres and known as CrossRoads East Business Park, as more particularly described on Exhibit "A" attached hereto and incorporated herein, and which are further identified by Parcel Tax Identification Numbers U7 OOA 011; U7 OOA 11C; U7 OOA 17A; U7 OOA 01D; U7S4 005 023; U7 OOA 31B; U7 OOA 018; U7 OOA 01E; U7 OOA 15B; U7S4 001 001; U7 OOA 01C; T7 OOA 11A; T7 OOA 11B; T7 OOA 11C; T7 OOA 11D; T7 OOA HE; U7S4 001 002; U6S3-001-28A (formerly identified as being part of U6S3 001 027 and U6S3 001 028); V6-00A-019; US OOA 04A 004; US OOA 04A 000; US OOA 04A 001; US OOA 04A 003; and U9S1A 003 001 (collectively referred to herein as "CrossRoads East Business Park") and prescribing the requirements and the procedures for securing such exemption with respect to CrossRoads East Business Park

Motion by: Mr. Lombardo

Second: Mr. Thornton

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

9. Introduction of ordinance Amending the Capital Plan Budget for Luzerne County (Operations)

Motion by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. McGinley

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Ordinance is Introduced

10. Motion to adopt resolution Approving a Modification to an American Rescue Plan Act Funds Awarded Project – Greater Wyoming Valley Area YMCA

Motion by: Mr. Wolovich

Second: Mr. Mitchell

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Perry, Mr. Thornton, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Wolovich

One (1) Abstention by Ms. Vough

Motion Passed (10-0) with (1) Abstention

Resolution is Adopted

11. Motion to adopt resolution Approving a Modification to an American Rescue Plan Act Funds Awarded Project – Wyoming Valley Habitat for Humanity

Motion by: Mr. Mitchell

Second: Mr. Lombardo

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

12. Motion to adopt resolution Approving a Modification to an American Rescue Plan Act Funds Awarded Project – Wyoming Borough 2022 Sewer Enhancement

Motion by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Wolovich

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

13. Motion to adopt resolution Requesting a Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Motion by: Mr. Lombardo

Second: Mr. Thornton

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes-Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

14. Motion to adopt 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 with (7) members by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Ms. McDermott

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 Adopted

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

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Jamie Walsh (Ross Township) commented Verbally regarding requested video/evidence from the past election and the Philadelphia Attorney hired by the County Manager.

Julius Zucherman (Avoca) commented Verbally regarding the 122 billion dollars of ARPA money. Mr. McGinley clarified it was 112 million.

David Stettler (Hunlock Township) commented Verbally regarding the election and election issues, Attorney Gates manual and contractors.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding the lease with Hazleton City and the Hazleton Mayor and Council.

Eugene Wallace (Wilkes-Barre) commented Verbally regarding a job fair he attended and applied at.

Joe Granteed (Plains) commented Verbally regarding being a poll worker, paper shortage, electronic problems with boxes and videos.

Maryann Potsko (Hanover Township) commented Verbally regarding security scanners, videos, being a judge of elections, a complaint and video.

Nicholas Stark (Hanover Township) commented Verbally regarding the number of Council members versus 3 Commissioners and videos.

Mike Potsko (Hanover Township) commented Verbally regarding videos and appeal.

Dave Chaump (West Pittston) commented Verbally regarding an LCCC Board Appointment.

Jason Carr (Saylorsburg) commented Verbally regarding taxpayers.

Nina Roppa (Kingston Township) commented Verbally regarding videos.

Motion to adjourn: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Mitchell

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Meeting adjourned at 7:08 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