



**Luzerne County Council
Voting Session
November 09, 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, November 09, 2021, at 6:01 PM. The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Chris Perry.

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 (virtually) experienced connection issues throughout the meeting
Chris Perry
Kendra M. Radle (virtually)
Sheila Saidman, Esq. (virtually)
Robert Schnee (virtually)
Stephen J. Urban
Matthew Vough (virtually)

Also Present

Romilda P. Crocamo, Esq., Acting County Manager (virtually)
Shannon Crake Lapsansky, Esq., Acting Chief County Solicitor (virtually)
Vito DeLuca, Esq., Assistant Solicitor (virtually)
Sharon Lawrence, Clerk of Council

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:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Recognitions/Ceremonial Proclamations

NONE

Deletions from Voting Session Agenda

NONE

Adoption of Voting Session Agenda

Motion to Adopt Voting Session Agenda by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Ms. Houck

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

The Voting Session Agenda is Adopted

Mr. Griffith discussed the removal of the word “Additions” from “Additions/Deletions from Voting Session Agenda”.

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.

NONE

Motion to adopt minutes of the October 26, 2021 Voting Session

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Ms. McDermott

Vote:

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 October 26, 2021 Voting Session Minutes are Adopted

Old Business

Mr. Griffith asked about Codification. Acting County Manager Crocamo responded.

Agenda Items

1. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the County Manager to Execute a Renewal Contract with Thomson Reuters for Westlaw Legal Research Software

Motion by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Ms. Houck

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

2. Motion to introduce ordinance Amending the 2021 Fiscal Year Budgets for Luzerne County (State Facility Closure Transition Program)

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

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

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

Motion Passed (9-2)

Ordinance is Introduced

3. Motion to adopt ordinance Amending the Capital Plan Budget for Luzerne County

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Ms. McDermott

Roll Call Vote:

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

One (1) No by Mr. SJ Urban

Motion Passed (9-1)

Mr. McGinley was not connected for the Vote.

Ordinance is Introduced

4. Motion to approve ABC Application with proposed changes

Motion by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Ms. Houck

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Vough

Motion Passed (10-0)

Mr. McGinley was not connected for the Vote.

5. Motion to adopt ordinance Amending the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority's Articles of Incorporation

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Mr. Schnee

Ms. Houck made an Amendment to eliminate Items 2 and 3.

Motion to Amend by: Ms. Houck

Second: Mr. Griffith

Roll Call Vote to Amend:

Six (6) Yes by Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Vough
Five (5) No by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Mr. McGinley, Ms. Saidman and Mr. Schnee

Motion Passed (6-5)

Ordinance is Amended

Roll Call Vote to Adopt:

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

Four (4) No by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Mr. McGinley and Mr. SJ Urban

Motion Passed (7-4)

Ordinance is Adopted

6. Motion to introduce ordinance Authorizing a budget transfer from line item 125.20.4176.400.11(CARES Act) to Local Transit Matches 100.96.4810.590.32 and the matching funds to the County Reserve Fund 100.99.9490.445.10

Motion by: Mr. Haas

Second: Mr. Griffith

Mr. Haas made Amendments to the Ordinance as follows:

- **Change "CARES ACT" to "AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT" throughout the Ordinance.**
- **Change line item number 125.20.4176.400.11 to 125.20.4176.599.82 throughout the Ordinance.**

Motion to Amend by: Mr. Haas

Second: Ms. Houck

Roll Call Vote to Amend:

Ten (10) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Vough

One (1) No by Mr. McGinley

Motion Passed (10-1)

Ordinance is Amended

Roll Call Vote to Introduce:

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

Five (5) No by Ms. McDermott, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman and Mr. Vough

Motion Passed (5-5)

Mr. McGinley was not connected for the Vote.

Ordinance is Introduced

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

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Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding Hazleton Transit, Community Development/UDAG money and funds for Road & Bridge.

Greg Griffin (Swoyersville) commented Verbally regarding the Mothers Opioid Committee, fentanyl and poly overdoses, the Wilkes-Barre Blighted Property Committee and the Luzerne County Blighted Property Committee.

Chris Zomerfeld (Larksville) commented Verbally regarding corruption, the need to set an example and stated he filed papers/charges with the DA.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Mr. McGinley was not connected for the Vote.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:11 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