



Luzerne County Council
November 10, 2020 Meeting
Video/Teleconference via TEAMS
Minutes

Call to Order

The Luzerne County Council convened for a Voting Session on November 10, 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

In recognition of Veterans Day, Mr. McGinley honored and thanked Veterans who served and are currently serving to protect our freedom.

Roll Call

Present

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

Also Present

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

Absent

C. David Pedri, Esq., County Manager

Recognitions/Ceremonial Proclamations

None

Additions to/Deletions from Meeting Agenda

Mr. Griffith would like to add to the agenda a motion for the recommendation to the County Manager for the removal of the Joyce, Carmody and Moran law firm as legal representation for lawsuits in Luzerne County. Mr. McGinley stated it would be added to the voting session agenda as Item 4.

Adoption of Voting Session Agenda

Motion to Adopt Voting Session Agenda by: Ms. Houck

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

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: Mr. SJ Urban

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

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. Radle

Second: Ms. McDermott

Vote:

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

One (1) Nay by Mr. Griffith

Motion Passed (10-1)

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 Joyce, Carmody and Moran law firm.

Ron Knapp (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding the Joyce, Carmody and Moran law firm.

Richard Manta commented Verbally regarding the Joyce, Carmody and Moran law firm.

Brian Dwyer (Larksville) commented Verbally regarding the Joyce, Carmody and Moran law firm.

Motion to adopt Minutes of the October 27, 2020 Voting Session

Motion by: Ms. Radle

Second: Mr. Schnee

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 27, 2020 Voting Session Minutes are Adopted

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Griffith spoke about resolution R-2020-93 Transferring \$210,000.00 from Account 100.20.4176.445.10 Other Income to County Reserve Fund Account 100.99.4940.585.10 Reserve Fund. He would like the Solicitor to weigh in on what Council needs to do with how the transfer was done by the Budget & Finance Department. Ms. Crocamo stated she would do so.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Motion to approve updated ACT 13 WBI Grant Timeline

Motion by: Mr. Vough

Second: Ms. Houck

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes - Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

2. Motion to approve Wright Township ACT 13 WBI Grant Application

Motion by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Schnee

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes - Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

3. Motion to approve execution of Workforce Development Grant Agreement

Motion by: Ms. Radle

Second: Ms. McDermott

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes - Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

ADDED ITEM:

4. Motion for the recommendation to the County Manager for the removal of the Joyce, Carmody and Moran law firm as legal representation for lawsuits in Luzerne County

Motion by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Mr. Haas

Roll Call Vote:

Six (6) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Mr. Perry and Mr. SJ Urban

Five (5) No by Mr. McGinley, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Motion Passed (6-5)

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

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Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding the Joyce, Carmody and Moran law firm, the DA and senior targeting and the energy projects at LCCF.

Richard Manta (Back Mountain) commented Verbally regarding legal practice in the western district.

Ron Knapp (Nanticoke) commented Verbally regarding separate legal representation for Council and the Juvenile Detention Center.

Brian Dwyer (Larksville) commented Verbally regarding the Joyce, Carmody and Moran law firm.

Sheila Saidman commented Verbally regarding Mr. Knapps commentary/reference.

Walter Griffith commented Verbally thanking the Clerk of Council for work performed to provide Election Inquiry documents to the Committee and Council.

Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Griffith

Second: Mr. Vough

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Meeting Adjourned at 7:14 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