



Luzerne County Council
November 16, 2020 Meeting
Video/Teleconference via TEAMS
Minutes

Call to Order

The Luzerne County Council convened for a Voting Session on November 16, 2020 at 6:37PM via TEAMS Video/Teleconference. The meeting was called to order by Council Chair Tim McGinley.

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

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

Additions to/Deletions from Meeting Agenda

None

Adoption of Voting Session Agenda

Motion to Adopt Voting Session Agenda by: Mr. Perry

Second: Mr. Schnee

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: Ms. Saidman

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. Saidman

Second: Ms. Radle

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

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Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding the UDAG funds, merit increases and recouping money owed the County.

Richard Manta commented Verbally regarding merit raises and small businesses.

Motion to adopt Minutes of the November 11, 2020 Voting Session

Motion by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Ms. Radle

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 November 11, 2020 Voting Session Minutes are Adopted

OLD BUSINESS

None

AGENDA ITEMS

Motions regarding FY2021 Budget Amendments

Ms. Saidman suggested waiting until the finalization of the Budget to vote on the merit increases and to table ALL merit increase amendments until then.

Motion by: Ms. Saidman

Second: Mr. Perry

Vote:

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

Four (4) Nays by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck and Mr. SJ Urban

Motion Passed (7-4)

***All amendments regarding Merit Increases are TABLED**

DIVISION 16 SOLICITORS

Dept 4154 Conflict Counsel

510-16 Merit Raises

Reduce by \$13,863.00

***TABLED**

550.20 Stenographic Services

Reduce by \$2,500.00

Motion by: Mr. Schnee

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

DIVISION 20 BUDGET AND FINANCE

Dept 4114 Administration

510.16 Merit Raises

Reduce by \$8,897.00

***TABLED**

550.15 Other Contractual Services

Reduce by \$11,500.00

Motion by: Ms. Radle

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Vote:

Six (6) Ayes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Ms. Radle and Mr. SJ Urban

Five (5) Nays by Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Motion Passed (6-5)

DIVISION 20 BUDGET AND FINANCE (cont.)

Dept 4136 Assessors

590.24 Transfer to Individuals

Reduce by \$3,000.00

Motion by: Mr. SJ Urban

Second: Mr. Griffith

Vote:

Four (4) Ayes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck and Mr. SJ Urban

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

Motion Failed (4-7)

Dept 4137 Tax Collection

590.14 Refunds

Reduce by \$75,000.00

Motion by: Mr. SJ Urban

Second: Mr. Griffith

Mr. McGinley proposed an amendment to the amendment placing the \$75,000.00 into the Reserve.

Motion by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Ms. McDermott

Vote on Amendment to Amendment:

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

Four (4) Nays by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck and Mr. SJ Urban

Motion Passed (7-4)

Vote on Amended Amendment:

Ten (10) Ayes by Mr. Griffith, 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)

Dept 4176 General Government

550.28 Parking

Reduce by \$4,000.00

Motion by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Vote:

Four (4) Ayes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck and Mr. SJ Urban

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

Motion Failed (4-7)

DIVISION 80 PUBLIC DEFENDER

Dept 4152 Public Defender

510.16 Merit Raises

Reduce by \$4,336.00

***TABLED**

DIVISION 11 CONTROLLER

Dept 4133 Controller

510.16 Merit Raises

Reduce by \$2,047.00

***TABLED**

DIVISION 13 COURTS

Dept 4184 Courts

510.16 Merit Raises

Reduce by \$60,806.00

***TABLED**

550.87 Master Fee Expenses

Reduce by \$4,500.00

Motion by: Mr. SJ Urban

Second: Mr. Griffith

Vote:

Four (4) Ayes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck and Mr. SJ Urban

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

Motion Failed (4-7)

Dept 4187 Domestic Relations

510.16 Merit Raises

Reduce by \$10,644.00

***TABLED**

Dept 4237 Probation Services

510.16 Merit Raises

Reduce by \$18,796.00

***TABLED**

599.46 Machinery and Equipment

Reduce by \$5,000.00

Motion by: Mr. SJ Urban

Second: Mr. Griffith

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

DIVISION 60 JUDICIAL SERVICES

Dept 4193 Coroner

510.35 Wages Overtime

Reduce by \$2,000.00

Motion by: SJ Urban

Second: Mr. Griffith

County Manager Pedri stated that Division Head Joan Hoggarth was unable to attend the meeting tonight and requested all amendments pertaining to her division (Division 60) be moved to another voting session so she may be present.

Motion to table ALL amendments regarding Division 60 until the November 24, 2020

Voting Session by: Mr. Haas

Second: Mr. Schnee

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

****All Division 60 amendments are Tabled.**

Dept 4193 Coroner

510.35 Wages Overtime

Reduce by \$2,000.00

****Tabled**

540.14 Office Supplies

Reduce by \$3,500.00

****Tabled**

540.70 Small Tools and Minor Equipment

Reduce by \$14,000.00

****Tabled**

599.22 Forensic Examinations

Reduce by \$50,000.00

****Tabled**

599.25 Toxicology

Reduce by \$10,000.00

****Tabled**

599.46 Machinery and Equipment >\$5,000.00

Reduce by \$5,000.00

****Tabled**

Dept 4195 Prothonotary

510.16 Merit Raises

Reduce by \$9,489.00

***TABLED**

540.14 Office Supplies

Reduce by \$5,000.00

****Tabled**

Dept 4197 Sheriff

510.20 Wages Represented

Reduce by \$100,000.00

****Tabled**

DIVISION 9100 AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Dept 9100 Area Agency on Aging

510.16 Wages Merit Increase

Reduce by \$10,403.00

***TABLED**

530.50 Benefits Miscellaneous Benefit

Reduce by \$4,000.00

Motion by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Vote:

Two (2) Ayes by Mr. Griffith and Mr. SJ Urban

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

Motion Failed (2-9)

540.22 Computer Software

Reduce by \$3,325.00

Motion by: Mr. SJ Urban

Second: Mr. Griffith

Vote:

Two (2) Ayes by Mr. Griffith and Mr. SJ Urban

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

Motion Failed (2-9)

DIVISION 96 INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS

Dept 4810 Intergovernmental Appropriations

590.32 Non Governmental Units

Reduce by \$180,037.00

Motion by: Mr. SJ Urban

Second: Mr. Griffith

Motion to Table by: Mr. Schnee

Second: Ms. Saidman

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Amendment is Tabled

DIVISION 12 DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Dept 4194 District Attorney

510.16 Wages Merit Increase

Reduce by \$12,770.00

***TABLED**

540.14 Office Supplies

Reduce by \$3,000.00

Motion by: Mr. SJ Urban

Second: Mr. Griffith

After discussion, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Griffith withdrew their motions.

Amendment is withdrawn.

DIVISION 40 CORRECTIONS

Dept 4233 Corrections Administration

510.16 Wages Merit Increase

Reduce by \$18,240.00

***TABLED**

510.35 Wages Overtime

Reduce by \$3,000.00

Motion by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Ms. Saidman asked if Mr. Rockovich was present and County Manager Pedri stated that Mr. Rockovich was not able to make the call. Ms. Saidman suggested tabling the amendments until he was present.

Motion to Postpone all amendments for Division 40 Corrections until the November 24, 2020 Meeting by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Ms. Saidman

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

*****All Division 40 Amendments are postponed until November 24, 2020.**

DIVISION 40 CORRECTIONS (cont.)

Dept 4233 Corrections Administration

510.35 Wages Overtime

Reduce by \$3,000.00

*****Postponed**

Dept 4234 Minimal Offender Unit

550.38 Electricity

Reduce by \$8,000.00

*****Postponed**

550.40 Gas

Reduce by \$1,500.00

*****Postponed**

550.41 Sewer

Reduce by \$2,000.00

*****Postponed**

550.43 Water

Reduce by \$12,500.00

*****Postponed**

Dept 4235 LCCF

550.38 Electricity

Reduce by \$10,000.00

*****Postponed**

550.41 Sewer

Reduce by \$10,000.00

*****Postponed**

550.43 Water

Reduce by \$15,000.00

*****Postponed**

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

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Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding Hazleton Transit, the Chesapeake Bay Commission Quarterly Meeting and the Storm Water Fee.

Richard Manta (Back Mountain) commented Verbally regarding Hazleton Transit, LCTA and Luzerne County.

Jason Carr (Saylorsburg) commented Verbally regarding Hazleton funding.

Mr. McGinley read a Public Comment EMAIL received from Brian Shiner regarding the passing of Mr. Ed Chesnovitch (Chesno).

Mr. Griffith read a letter he sent to Council regarding the passing of Mr. Chesnovitch.

Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Haas

Second: Mr.SJ Urban

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Meeting Adjourned at 8:08 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