Economic Development, Planning, Education, Employment, Arts & Agriculture Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: May 6, 2025 - 6:00 PM

LOCATION(S): KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston, NY

Livestreamed at https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislature/streams

PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Sperry

LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk & Tyron Rogers, Technical Support Specialist

MEMBERS PRESENT: Legislators Clinton, Corcoran, Hewitt, Litts & Walls

MEMBERS ABSENT: Legislator Stewart

QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Nolan; Director Dennis Doyle – UC Planning Department; Director Sharon Williams – UC Office of Employment & Training; Director Kevin Lynch – UC Department of Economic Development; Director Lisa Berger – UC Tourism Department; Dr. Alison Buckley, Jenn Zell and Michael Schreiber – SUNY Ulster County Community College; Deputy County Executive Amanda LaValle; Executive Director Jake Wedemeyer – Ulster County Soil & Water Conservation District; Executive Director Melanie Forstrom – Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County

Complete content of the meeting can be accessed via the Ulster County Legislature's YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislature/streams

Chair Sperry called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM and asked Legislator Litts to lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion No. 1: Motion to Approve the minutes of the April 1, 2025 Regular Meeting

Motion Made By: Legislator Corcoran Motion Seconded By: Legislator Litts

Voting in Favor: Legislators Clinton, Corcoran, Hewitt, Sperry, Litts & Walls

Voting Against:
None
Votes in Favor:
6
Votes Against:
0

Disposition: Minutes Approved

Chair Sperry recognized SUNY Ulster County Community College President, Dr. Alison Buckley and Vice President of Administration and Finance, Michael Schreiber, to give a presentation on the 2025 -2026 college budget.

Resolutions for the May 20, 2025 Legislative Session:

Resolution No. 203 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$80,000.00 Entered Into By The County – United Way Of Ulster County Inc. – Office Of Employment And Training

Resolution Summary – This Resolution approves a \$80,000.00 contract with United Way for payroll services for the Brighter Futures Initiative from 7/1/25 - 12/31/26

Motion No. 2: Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 203

Motion Made By: Legislator Hewitt
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Clinton

Voting in Favor: Legislators Clinton, Corcoran, Hewitt, Sperry, Litts & Walls

Voting Against:
None
Votes in Favor:
6
Votes Against:
0

Disposition: Resolution Adopted

Resolution No. 204 – Authorizing The Ulster County Executive To Execute A Contract With The New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation Represented By The Office Of Community Renewal, For Federal Funding For The Implementation Of Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) And Amending The 2025 Ulster County Budget – Department Of Economic Development

Resolution Summary – This Resolution authorizes the County Executive to execute an agreement (NYS Contract No. 1160ME572-25) and any related amendments with the New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation in the amount of \$300,000.00, authorizes the Director of Economic Development to act as certifying officer, and amends the Operating Budget accordingly.

Motion No. 3: Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 204

Motion Made By: Legislator Litts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hewitt

Voting in Favor: Legislators Clinton, Corcoran, Hewitt, Sperry, Litts & Walls

Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution Adopted

Resolution No. 205 – Amending The 2025 Ulster County Budget For 2024 Rollover Grant Expenses – Department Of Tourism

Resolution Summary – This Resolution authorizes payment of NYS EDA Tourism Partner grant monies to the Department of Tourism to use for such purposes as intended by the state grant program, and amends the 2025 Operating Budget to account for unspent grant funds from 2024.

Motion No. 4: Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 205

Motion Made By: Legislator Litts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran

Voting in Favor: Legislators Clinton, Corcoran, Hewitt, Sperry, Litts & Walls

Voting Against:
None
Votes in Favor:
6
Votes Against:
0

Disposition: Resolution Adopted

Resolution No. 206 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$50,720.00 Entered Into By The County – The Offset House, Inc. D/B/A Catamount Color – Department Of Tourism

Resolution Summary – This Resolution approves a contract with The Offset House for \$50,720 for printing and distribution of the UC Travel Guide from 5/1/25-4/30/26

Motion No. 5: Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 206

Motion Made By: Legislator Hewitt
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Clinton

Voting in Favor: Legislators Clinton, Corcoran, Hewitt, Sperry, Litts & Walls

Voting Against:
None
Votes in Favor:
6
Votes Against:
0

Disposition: Resolution Adopted

Resolution No. 207 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$80,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Arts Mid-Hudson, Inc. – Legislature

Resolution Summary – This Resolution approves a \$80,000 contract with Arts Mid-Hudson to provide facilitation of the UC Legislature's Cultural Services & Promotion Fund to maintain and promote the artistic and cultural assets of the county from 1/1/25 - 12/31/25.

Motion No. 6: Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 207

Motion Made By: Legislator Corcoran Motion Seconded By: Legislator Clinton

Voting in Favor: Legislators Clinton, Corcoran, Sperry, Litts & Walls

Voting Against: None

Abstention: Legislator Hewitt

Votes in Favor: 5 Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution Adopted

Resolution No. 210 – Supporting The Lower Esopus Stream Management Plan And Urging Those State And Federal Agencies That Provide Funding For Water Quality And Recreational Resources To Recognize The Stream Management Plan – Department Of Planning

Resolution Summary – This Resolution declares support for the Lower Esopus Stream Management Plan, and urges those state and federal agencies that provide funding for water quality and recreational resources to recognize the Plan, the implementation projects contained therein, and the efforts associated with its development in their decisions regarding funding requests and technical assistance made in accordance with the Plan.

Motion No. 7: Motion Adopt Resolution No. 210

Motion Made By: Legislator Hewitt Motion Seconded By: Legislator Walls

Voting in Favor: Legislators Clinton, Corcoran, Hewitt, Sperry, Litts & Walls

Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution Adopted

Resolution No. 215 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$350,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Community Foundations Of The Hudson Valley – Department Of Planning

Resolution Summary – This Resolution approves a \$350,000 contract with Community Foundations to administer a grant program for UC emergency food service providers from 6/1/25 - 12/31/26.

Motion No. 8: Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 215

Motion Made By: Legislator Clinton Motion Seconded By: Legislator Walls

Voting in Favor: Legislators Clinton, Corcoran, Sperry, Litts & Walls

Voting Against: None

Abstention: Legislator Hewitt

Votes in Favor: 5 Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution Adopted

Resolution No. 216 – Scheduling A Public Hearing As Required Under Article 25AA Of The Agriculture And Markets Law, On The Addition Of Lands To Agricultural Districts, And Providing Direct Notice To Affected Municipalities – Department Of Planning

Resolution Summary – This Resolution schedules a Public Hearing as required under Article 25AA of the Agriculture And Markets Law, on the addition of lands to agricultural districts, and providing direct notice to affected municipalities to be held on June 17, 2025 at 7:15 PM, or as soon thereafter as the public can be heard.

Motion No. 9: Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 216

Motion Made By: Legislator Litts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hewitt

Voting in Favor: Legislators Clinton, Corcoran, Hewitt, Sperry, Litts & Walls

Voting Against:
None
Votes in Favor:
6
Votes Against:
0

Disposition: Resolution Adopted

Resolution No. 217 – Reappointing Members To The Soil And Water Conservation District Board

Resolution Summary – This Resolution reappoints the following individuals to the Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District Board for the terms indicated as follows: Herbert Litts, III - Present through December 31, 2025; Kathy Nolan - Present through December 31, 2025; Leonard Tantillo as Farm Bureau Representative - Present through December 31, 2027; and James Delaune as Member-At-Large - Present through December 31, 2027.

Motion No. 10: Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 217

Motion Made By: Legislator Clinton
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran

Voting in Favor: Legislators Clinton, Corcoran, Hewitt, Sperry, Litts & Walls

Voting Against:
None
Votes in Favor:
6
Votes Against:
0

Disposition: Resolution Adopted

New Business

Chair Sperry advised the members of upcoming events:

- UCSWCD 2025 Soil Health Field Day
 - o Thursday, May 22nd 5:30 PM 7:30 PM
- IDA Annual Economic Development Community Event
 - o Thursday, June 5th from 5:00 PM 7:30 PM at the Hudson House (Route 9W, West Park)
- Cornell Cooperative Extension Ag Tour for Elected Officials
 - o Tuesday, July 8th (July 9th rain date)
- Ulster County Fair
 - o Tuesday, July 29th Sunday, August 3rd

Legislator Hewitt briefly mentioned Depression Survival planning and that he would like to begin serious discussions on the subject.

Old Business None

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Litts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran

Votes in Favor: 6 Votes Against: 0

TIME: 7:09 PM

Respectfully Submitted: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk

Adopted: June 3, 2025

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