

**Laws, Rules & Government Services Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: November 14, 2024 – 4:00 PM
LOCATION(S): Mescal Hornbeck Community Center, 56 Rock City Rd, Woodstock, NY 12498
Livestreamed at <https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislature/streams>
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Kovacs
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk & Tyron Rogers, Technical Support Specialist
MEMBERS PRESENT: Legislators Criswell, Gavaris, Hansut, Harmon & Levine
MEMBERS ABSENT: Legislators Kitchen & Uchitelle
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Collins, Nolan and Stewart; Legislative Counsel Ragucci and Minority Counsel Pascale; Commissioner Joe McDonald – UC Human Rights Commission; Comptroller Gallagher; Deputy County Executives Jamie Capuano, Johanna Contreras & Amanda LaValle – UC Executive’s Office, Joseph Kovacs – member of the public

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

Chair Kovacs called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM and asked those present to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. He thanked Woodstock for hosting the evening’s meetings and Legislative Staff for organizing it.

Motion No. 1: **Motion to Approve the Minutes of the October 10, 2024 Regular Meeting**
Motion Made By: Legislator Gavaris
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Harmon

Voting in Favor: Legislators Criswell, Gavaris, Hansut, Harmon, Kovacs & Levine
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Minutes Approved**

Human Rights Commissioner McDonald was unable to attend the Committee’s Special Meeting on October 30th to discuss the County Executive’s Proposed 2025 Budget and Proposed 2025-2030 Capital Program as it pertained to his department. Chair Kovacs invited thanked him for attending and asked him to give a broef overview of his 2025 budget.

Committee discussion and Department responses can be viewed via the Ulster County Legislature’s YouTube channel at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4st3gW6_j_w

Resolutions for the November 19, 2024 Session of the Legislature:

Resolution No. 553 – Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 9 Of 2024, A Local Law Providing Real Property Tax Exemption Of The County Portion Of The Real Property Taxation And Special Ad Valorem Levies For The Creation Of New Accessory Dwelling Units In Accordance New York State Real Property Tax Law Article 4 Title 2 Private Property Section 421-P*2

Resolution Summary – This Resolution adopts Proposed Local Law No. 9 of 2024, A Local Law Providing Real Property Tax Exemption Of The County Portion Of The Real Property Taxation And Special Ad Valorem Levies For The Creation Of New Accessory Dwelling Units In Accordance New York State Real Property Tax Law Article 4 Title 2 Private Property Section 421-P*2.

Motion No. 2: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 553**
Motion Made By: Legislator Gavaris

Chair Kovacs advised the members that Planning Director Doyle requested the committee postpone the Resolution while he drafted language to address the committees’ questions and concerns about short term rentals.

Legislator Gavaris withdrew his motion.

Motion No. 3: **Motion to Postpone Resolution No. 553**
Motion Made By: Legislator Gavaris
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut

Voting in Favor: Legislators Criswell, Gavaris, Hansut, Harmon, Kovacs & Levine
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Postponed**

Resolution No. 555 – Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 12 Of 2024, A Local Law Amending Article II Of The Administrative Code For The County Of Ulster (Local Law No. 10 Of 2008) In Relation To Certain Employment Restrictions, To Be Held On Tuesday, December 17, 2024 At 6:05 PM

Resolution Summary – This Resolution sets a public hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 12 Of 2024, A Local Law Amending Article II Of The Administrative Code For The County Of Ulster (Local Law No. 10 Of 2008) In Relation To Certain Employment Restrictions, to be held on Tuesday, December 17, 2024 At 6:05 PM

Motion No. 4: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 555**
Motion Made By: Legislator Gavaris
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut

Voting in Favor: Legislators Criswell, Gavaris, Hansut, Harmon, Kovacs & Levine
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Resolution No. 556 – Amending The Rules Of Order As They Relate To Decorum At Legislative Session And Legislative Committee Meetings

Resolution Summary – This Resolution amends Rule 10 Monthly and Special Meetings, Notice; Rules of Order Section (G) Decorum to update the Rules of Order to foster a more constructive, positive, and collaborative environment.

Motion No. 5: **Motion to Adopt the Amendments as presented**
Motion Made By: Legislator Levine

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Harmon
Voting in Favor: Legislators Criswell, Gavaris, Hansut, Harmon, Kovacs & Levine
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Amendments Adopted**

Motion No. 6: **Motion to Strike “prevent personal reflections” from Section G, Subsection 1., Expand Subsection 3 to read “Any Legislator who engages in personal attacks upon any other member of the Legislature, other elected officials, members of the public, etc.” and strike the word “ideally” from Subsection 7(b)ii**

Motion Made By: Legislator Levine
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut

Voting in Favor: Legislators Criswell, Gavaris, Hansut, Harmon, Kovacs & Levine
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Amendments Adopted**

Motion No. 7: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 556 As Amended**

Motion Made By: Legislator Levine
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut

Voting in Favor: Legislators Criswell, Gavaris, Hansut, Harmon, Kovacs & Levine
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Adopted As Amended**

Resolution No. 559 – Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 13 Of 2024, A Local Law Amending Article II Of The Administrative Code For The County Of Ulster (Local Law No. 10 Of 2008) To Remove Certain Employment Restrictions, To Be Held On Tuesday, December 17, 2024 At 6:10 PM

Resolution Summary – This Resolution sets a Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 13 Of 2024, A Local Law Amending Article II Of The Administrative Code For The County Of Ulster (Local Law No. 10 Of 2008) To Remove Certain Employment Restrictions, to be held on Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 6:10 PM.

Motion No. 8: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 559**

Motion Made By: Legislator Gavaris
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Harmon

Voting in Favor: Legislators Criswell, Gavaris, Hansut, Harmon, Kovacs & Levine
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Resolution No. 597 – Establishing A Policy Requiring Minimum Staffing Levels At The Ulster County Board Of Elections

Resolution Summary – This Resolution resolves that it is the Policy of Ulster County that the Ulster County Board of Elections shall employ a minimum of four (4) full-time employees in addition to the appointed Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners within two (2) years of the adoption of this Resolution, and that in each ensuing fiscal year the Ulster County Board of Elections shall employ a minimum of two (2) additional full-time employees for every full allotment of twenty thousand (20,000) active registered voters beyond forty thousand (40,000) active registered voters in the County of Ulster.

Motion No. 9: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 597**
Motion Made By: Legislator Levine
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut

Voting in Favor: Legislators Hansut, Kovacs & Levine
Voting Against: Legislators Criswell, Gavaris & Harmon
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 3
Disposition: **Resolution Defeated**

Resolution No. 598 – Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 14 Of 2024, A Local Law Amending The Code Of The County Of Ulster, Chapter 232 Living Wage, In Relation To Applicability And Compensation, To Be Held On Tuesday, December 10, 2024 At 6:00 PM

Resolution Summary – This Resolution sets a Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 14 Of 2024, A Local Law Amending The Code Of The County Of Ulster, Chapter 232 Living Wage, In Relation To Applicability And Compensation, to be held on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 6:00 PM.

Motion No. 10: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 598**
Motion Made By: Legislator Harmon
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Levine

Voting in Favor: Legislators Criswell, Gavaris, Hansut, Harmon, Kovacs & Levine
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Resolution No. 599 – Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 15 Of 2024, A Local Law Amending The Ulster County Charter And The Ulster County Administrative Code By Deleting Article XLIV From Each (Insurance Department), And Amending The Ulster County Charter And The Ulster County Administrative Code With Respect To Article XLIII (Safety Department), To Be Held On Tuesday, December 10, 2024 At 6:05 PM

Resolution Summary – This Resolution sets a Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 15 Of 2024, A Local Law Amending The Ulster County Charter And The Ulster County Administrative Code By Deleting Article XLIV From Each (Insurance Department), And Amending The Ulster County Charter And The Ulster County Administrative Code With Respect To Article XLIII (Safety Department), to be held on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 6:05 PM.

Motion No. 11: Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 599

Motion Made By: Legislator Gavaris

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut

Voting in Favor: Legislators Criswell, Gavaris, Hansut, Harmon, Kovacs & Levine

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 6

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution Adopted

Resolution No. 600 – Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 16 Of 2024, A Local Law Amending The Ulster County Charter And The Ulster County Administrative Code By Renaming Article XVI From Department Of Purchasing To Department Of General Services, To Be Held On Tuesday, December 10, 2024 At 6:10 PM

Resolution Summary – This Resolution sets a Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 16 Of 2024, A Local Law Amending The Ulster County Charter And The Ulster County Administrative Code By Renaming Article XVI From Department Of Purchasing To Department Of General Services, to be held on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 6:10 PM.

Motion No. 12: Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 600

Motion Made By: Legislator Gavaris

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut

Voting in Favor: Legislators Criswell, Gavaris, Hansut, Harmon, Kovacs & Levine

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 6

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution Adopted

Resolution No. 601 – Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 17 Of 2024, A Local Law Applying The Salary Revisions Pursuant To The 2025 Ulster County Budget To County Officers Serving For Fixed Terms, To Be Held On Tuesday, December 10, 2024 At 6:15 PM

Resolution Summary – This Resolution sets a Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 17 Of 2024, A Local Law Applying The Salary Revisions Pursuant To The 2025 Ulster County Budget To County Officers Serving For Fixed Terms, to be held on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 6:15 PM.

Motion No. 13: Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 601

Motion Made By: Legislator Levine

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Harmon

Voting in Favor: Legislators Criswell, Gavaris, Hansut, Harmon, Kovacs & Levine

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 6

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution Adopted

Resolution No. 602 – This Resolution sets a Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 18 Of 2024, A Local Law Applying Salary Revisions for Certain Elected Ulster County Officials Serving For Fixed Terms, to be held on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 6:20 PM.

Resolution Summary – This Resolution

Motion No. 14: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 602**

Motion Made By: Legislator Harmon

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Levine

Voting in Favor: Legislators Criswell, Gavaris, Harmon & Levine

Voting Against: Legislators Hansut & Kovacs

Votes in Favor: 4

Votes Against: 2

Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Resolution No. 603 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Roemer Wallens Gold & Mineaux LLP – County Attorney

Resolution Summary – This Resolution approve a contract amendment for \$50,000 with Roemer Wallens Gold & Mineaux LLP to increase 2024 funding for comprehensive legal service related to employment matters

Motion No. 15: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 603**

Motion Made By: Legislator Gavaris

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut

Voting in Favor: Legislators Criswell, Gavaris, Hansut, Harmon, Kovacs & Levine

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 6

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Resolution No. 604 – Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into A Funding Agreement In The Amount Of \$155,351.00 Under The Electronic Pollbook Grant Program With The NYS Board Of Elections – Ulster County Board Of Elections

Resolution Summary – This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Legislature to sign a grant agreement in the amount of \$155,351.00 with the NYS Board of Elections to obtain Electronic Pollbook Grant Program funds to offset eligible expenses in the amount of \$77,675.00 for 2024 and \$77,676.00 for 2025.

Motion No. 16: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 604**

Motion Made By: Legislator Gavaris

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Levine

Voting in Favor: Legislators Criswell, Gavaris, Hansut, Harmon, Kovacs & Levine

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 6

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Resolution No. 605 – This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Legislature to sign a grant agreement in the amount of \$83,089.00 with the NYS Board of Elections to obtain Ballot by Mail Grant Program funds to offset eligible expenses in the amount of \$44,544.00 for 2024 and \$41,545.00 for 2025.

Resolution Summary – This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Legislature to sign a grant agreement in the amount of \$83,089.00 with the NYS Board of Elections to obtain Ballot by Mail Grant Program funds to offset eligible expenses in the amount of \$44,544.00 for 2024 and \$41,545.00 for 2025.

Motion No. 17: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 605**
Motion Made By: Legislator Gavaris
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Levine

Voting in Favor: Legislators Criswell, Gavaris, Hansut, Harmon, Kovacs & Levine
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Resolution No. 606 – Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into A Funding Agreement In The Amount Of \$55,216.00 Under The 2024 General Election Grant Program With The NYS Board Of Elections – Ulster County Board Of Elections

Resolution Summary – This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Legislature to sign a grant agreement in the amount of \$55,216.00 with the NYS Board of Elections to obtain 2024 General Election Grant Program Funds to offset eligible expenses in the amount of \$27,608.00 for 2024 and \$27,608.00 for 2025

Motion No. 18: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 606**
Motion Made By: Legislator Gavaris
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut

Voting in Favor: Legislators Criswell, Gavaris, Hansut, Harmon, Kovacs & Levine
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

LATE Resolution No. 614 – Amending The 2024 Ulster County Budget To Accept Allocation Of Rental Assistance Program Funds From The New York State Office Of Temporary And Disability Assistance – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary – This Resolution amends the 2024 Ulster County Budget upon receipt of notification from the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) of an allocation of funding to support Family-Centered Case Management Services in the amount of \$330,769.00.

Motion No. 19: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 614**
Motion Made By: Legislator Harmon
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut

Voting in Favor: Legislators Criswell, Gavaris, Hansut, Harmon, Kovacs & Levine
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

LATE Resolution No. 615 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$171,297.00 Entered Into By The County – Family Of Woodstock Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary – This Resolution approve a \$171,297.00 contract with Family of Woodstock for Family-Centered case management services for TANF families placed in emergency housing at the Kingston Motel for 1/1/24 – 6/30/25.

LATE Resolution No. 616 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$159,472.00 Entered Into By The County – RUPCO, Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary – This Resolution approve a \$159,472.00 contract with RUPCO for Family-Centered case management services for TANF families placed in emergency housing for 1/1/24 – 6/30/25.

Motion No. 20: **Motion to Block Resolution Nos. 615 & 616**
Motion Made By: Legislator Criswell
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Levine

Voting in Favor: Legislators Criswell, Gavaris, Hansut, Harmon, Kovacs & Levine
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolutions Blocked**

Motion No. 21: **Motion to Adopt Blocked Resolutions**
Motion Made By: Legislator Harmon
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Levine

Voting in Favor: Legislators Criswell, Gavaris, Hansut, Harmon, Kovacs & Levine
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolutions Adopted**

Forthcoming Resolution

Resolution No. 470 – Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 10 Of 2024, A Local Law Amending The Code Of The County Of Ulster, Chapter 205 Food Service, Article II Use Of Disposable Polystyrene Foam, To Include Polypropylene Plastic, To Be Held On Tuesday, October 15, 2024 At 7:00 PM [*Postponed in Energy, Environment & Sustainability Committee on November 4th*]

New Business None

Old Business None

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Harmon
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut
Voting in Favor: Legislators Criswell, Gavaris, Hansut, Harmon, Kovacs & Levine
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0

TIME: 5:22 PM
Respectfully Submitted: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
Approved: December 12, 2024

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