

Establishing A Policy To Provide Budget Transparency

Referred to: The Ways and Means Committee (Chairman Gavaris and Legislators Archer, Bartels, Haynes, Maio, Parete, Ronk, and Walter)

Legislator Lynn Archer offers the following:

WHEREAS, §C-11 of the Ulster County Charter and §A2-5 of the Administrative Code state, “The County Legislature shall be the legislative, appropriating and policy-determining body of the County and, as such, shall have and exercise all powers and duties now or hereafter conferred upon it by applicable law and any and all powers necessarily implied or incidental thereto”; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to § C-11 (A) of the Ulster County Charter and §A2-5(1) of the Administrative Code, the Ulster County Legislature has the specific authority “to make appropriations, levy taxes, incur indebtedness and adopt a budget, including a capital program”; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature deems transparency an invaluable tool used to share information with citizens and hold elected officials accountable for the conduct of the people’s business, which includes any and all items related to tax payer spending; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to § C-11 (F) of the Ulster County Charter and §A2-5(6) of the Administrative Code, the Ulster County Legislature has the explicit authority “to fix the number of hours constituting a legal day's work for all classes of County employees,” and

WHEREAS, pursuant to § C-11 (H) of the Ulster County Charter and §A2-5(8) of the Administrative Code, the Ulster County Legislature has the specific authority “To fix the compensation of all officers and employees paid from County funds or, for employees not covered by a collective bargaining agreement, to establish salary ranges within which the appointing authority shall have discretion to set the actual salary within the range”; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature believes that budget transparency is vital in order for the body to adopt a proposed budget, and to properly carry out its responsibilities under the above-mentioned Charter provisions; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, any proposed operating budget for any ensuing fiscal year preceding the date of adoption of this legislation shall contain a personnel listing, which shall include, but not be limited to: position number, position title, ~~name of employee~~, employee’s standard work hours, previous year’s adopted compensation, and the proposed recommended compensation for the ensuing fiscal year; **and be it further**

Resolution No. 647 December 21, 2021

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RESOLVED, that within five (5) business days of delivery of any proposed operating budget for any ensuing fiscal year, the Commissioner of Finance shall deliver to the Clerk of the Legislature and Chairperson of the Ways and Means Committee a report containing the name of each employee associated with each position number and position title listed in said proposed budget,

and move its adoption.

ADOPTED AS AMENDED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislator Bruno)

Postponed in Committee: Ways and Means on December 7, 2021 for one week

Passed Committee: Ways and Means as amended on December 21, 2021

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE

Legislator Archer motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the resolution to strike “name of employee” in the first RESOLVED, and add an additional RESOLVED as indicated in bold font.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 21 NOES: 1
(Noes: Legislator Donaldson)
(Absent: Legislator Bruno)

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STATE OF NEW YORK

ss:

COUNTY OF ULSTER

I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Ulster, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is the original resolution adopted by the Ulster County Legislature on the 21st Day of December in the year Two Thousand Twenty-One, and said resolution shall remain on file in the office of said clerk.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the County of Ulster this 23rd Day of December in the year Two Thousand Twenty-One.

|s| Victoria A. Fabella
Victoria A. Fabella, Clerk
Ulster County Legislature

Submitted to the County Executive this
23rd Day of December 2021.

Returned unsigned by the County Executive and
Deemed adopted this 28th Day of December 2021.

|s| Victoria A. Fabella
Victoria A. Fabella, Clerk
Ulster County Legislature

|unsigned| _____
Patrick K. Ryan, County Executive