

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

TRACEY A. BARTELS, Chairwoman
DAVID B. DONALDSON, Vice Chairman
JONATHAN R. HEPPNER, Majority Leader
KENNETH J. RONK, JR., Minority Leader
VICTORIA A. FABELLA, Clerk



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MINUTES

DECEMBER 4, 2019

SPECIAL SESSION: BUDGET

6:00 PM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRWOMAN: 6:25 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: Led by Chairwoman Tracey A. Bartels.

MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRE EVACUATION PLAN

PLEASE NOTE THAT IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT HAS REQUESTED THAT LEGISLATORS AND ALL OTHERS MOVE AT LEAST ONE BLOCK AWAY FROM THE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING IN ORDER NOT TO IMPEDE THE FIREFIGHTERS IN THEIR DUTIES

CELL PHONES

Please silence cell phones for the duration of the Special Session.

MICROPHONES

Please be reminded to use your microphones when speaking so that you are recorded for the official record.

ROLL CALL: Present: 21 Absent: 2 (Legislator's Eckert and Lopez)

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were (8) speakers signed up for the public comment period.

1. Linda Marston-Reid, Kingston: Ms. Marston-Reid Executive Director of Arts Mid-Hudson advocated for additional funding to be approved in the Ulster County 2020 Budget.
2. Christine Dinsmore, Saugerties: Ms. Dinsmore, former psychologist, requested Legislator Rodriguez recuse himself from the budget vote.
3. Bonnie Wagner, Woodstock: Ms. Wagner, a Wallkill Middle School counselor, past Executive Director of the NYS Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and SUNY New Paltz adjunct instructor who taught a course about violence against women in America, opposed Legislator Rodriguez voting on the Ulster County 2020 budget.
4. Tyrone Wilson, Kingston: Mr. Wilson founder of Harambee in Kingston, noted creating the position of Chief Diversity Officer is a positive step forward toward minority representation within the County.
5. Martin Dunkley, Saugerties: Mr. Dunkley. Member of the Harambee Board of Directors, spoke of the importance of diversity and minority representation within the Legislature and community.
6. Pete Carberry, Woodstock: Mr. Carberry, Commissioner of the Woodstock Fire Department and member of the Fire Advisory Board, advocated for additional funding for fire training programs.
7. Frank Banks, Esopus: Mr. Banks, Chair of the Fire Advisory Board, advocated for additional funding supporting fire training programs.
8. Rachel LaBare, New Paltz: Ms. LaBare thanked the Legislature for creating the Chief Diversity Officer position, requested more funding for early childhood care/education and environmental protection initiatives in the community, and opposed Legislator Rodriguez voting on the Ulster County 2020 Budget.

Please Note: Complete content of the public comment period can be heard on the Ulster County Legislative Website.

RESOLUTION NOS: 509 – 516

A motion was made by Majority Leader Heppner, seconded by Minority Leader Ronk to Block Resolution Nos. 509, 510, 511, 512 and 513. All in favor.

509 Ratification Of Tax Rolls

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 21 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Lopez)

510 Levy For Unpaid Sewer Rents

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 21 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Lopez)

511 Levy For Unpaid Water Rents

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 21 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Lopez)

512 Approving Completed Tax Rolls And Directing The Execution Of Delivery Of Warrants

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 21 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Lopez)

513 Authorizing Commissioner Of Finance To Make Transfers Of Funds And Budgetary Amendments

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 21 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Lopez)

514 Adopting the Ulster County Budget For Fiscal Year Commencing January 1, 2020 And Making Appropriations For The Conduct Of County Government

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2020 Ulster County Budget to include Amendment No. 1 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 21 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Lopez)

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2020 Ulster County Budget to include Amendment No. 2 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 21 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Lopez)

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2020 Ulster County Budget to include Amendment No. 3 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 21 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Lopez)

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2020 Ulster County Budget to include Amendment No. 4 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 21 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Lopez)

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2020 Ulster County Budget to include Amendment No. 5 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 21 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Lopez)

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2020 Ulster County Budget to include Amendment No. 6 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 21 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Lopez)

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2020 Ulster County Budget to include Amendment No. 7 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 21 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Lopez)

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2020 Ulster County Budget to include Amendment No. 8 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 21 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Lopez)

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2020 Ulster County Budget to include Amendment No. 9 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 20 NOES: 1
(Noes: Legislator Nolan)
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Lopez)

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2020 Ulster County Budget to include Amendment No. 10 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 21 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Lopez)

Amendment No. 11 as presented in the attached exhibit was withdrawn by sponsors.

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2020 Ulster County Budget to include Amendment No. 12 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 21 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Lopez)

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2020 Ulster County Budget to include Amendment No. 13 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 17 NOES: 4
(Noes: Legislators Maio, Brenda Maloney, Roberts,
and Ronk)
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Lopez)

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2020 Ulster County Budget to include Amendment No. 14 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 16 NOES: 5
(Noes: Legislators Fabiano, Maio, Brenda Maloney,
Roberts, and Ronk)
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Lopez)

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2020 Ulster County Budget to include Amendment No. 15 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 20 NOES: 1
(Noes: Legislator Gerentine)
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Lopez)

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2020 Ulster County Budget to include Amendment No. 16 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 20 NOES: 0
(1 Abstention: Legislator Joseph Maloney)
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Lopez)

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2020 Ulster County Budget to include Amendment No. 17 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 20 NOES: 0
(1 Abstention: Legislator Joseph Maloney)
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Lopez)

Legislator Donaldson motioned, seconded by Legislator Heppner, to amend Amendment No. 18 as presented in the attached exhibit to make the positions part time.

MOTION DEFEATED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 11 NOES: 10
(Ayes: Legislators Archer, Bartels, Collins, Delaune, Donaldson, Greene, Heppner, Joseph Maloney, Nolan, Petit, and Rodriguez)
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Lopez)

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2020 Ulster County Budget to include Amendment No. 18 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION DEFEATED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 9 NOES: 12
(Ayes: Legislators Archer, Bartels, Delaune, Donaldson, Greene, Heppner, Nolan, Petit, and Rodriguez)
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Lopez)

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2020 Ulster County Budget to include Amendment No. 19 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 19 NOES: 2
(Noes: Legislators Donaldson and Nolan)
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Lopez)

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2020 Ulster County Budget to include Amendment No. 20 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 14 NOES: 7
(Noes: Legislators Gerentine, Litts, Maio, Brenda Maloney, Roberts, Ronk, and Wawro)
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Lopez)

Amendment No. 21 as presented in the attached exhibit was withdrawn by sponsors.

Amendment No. 22 as presented in the attached exhibit was withdrawn by sponsors.

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2020 Ulster County Budget to include Amendment No. 23 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 13 NOES: 7
(Noes: Legislators Archer, Bartels, Collins, Delaune, Greene, Heppner, and Nolan)
(1 Abstention: Legislator Petit)
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Lopez)

Amendment No. 24 as presented in the attached exhibit was withdrawn by sponsor.

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2020 Ulster County Budget to include Amendment No. 25 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 13 NOES: 8
(Noes: Legislators Fabiano, Gerentine, Litts, Maio, Brenda Maloney, Petit, Roberts, and Ronk)
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Lopez)

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2020 Ulster County Budget to include Amendment No. 26 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 13 NOES: 8
(Noes: Legislators Fabiano, Gerentine, Litts, Maio, Brenda Maloney, Roberts, Ronk, and Woltman)
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Lopez)

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2020 Ulster County Budget to include Amendment No. 27 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 13 NOES: 8
(Noes: Legislators Fabiano, Gerentine, Maio, Brenda Maloney, Joseph Maloney, Petit, Roberts, and Ronk)
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Lopez)

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2020 Ulster County Budget to include Amendment No. 28 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION DEFEATED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 11 NOES: 10
(Ayes: Legislators Archer, Bartels, Collins, Delaune, Donaldson, Greene, Haynes, Heppner, Joseph Maloney, Nolan, and Rodriguez)
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Lopez)

Legislator Donaldson motioned, seconded by Legislator Heppner, to amend Amendment No. 29 as presented to reduce the net change to \$10,000.00.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 20 NOES: 0
(1 Abstention: Legislator Litts)
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Lopez)

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2020 Ulster County Budget to include Amendment No. 29 as amended.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 12 NOES: 8
(Noes: Legislators Fabiano, Gerentine, Litts, Maio,
Brenda Maloney, Petit, Roberts, and Ronk)
(1 Abstention: Legislator Litts)
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Lopez)

Amendment No. 30 as presented in the attached exhibit was withdrawn by sponsor.

Amendment No. 31 as presented in the attached exhibit was withdrawn by sponsor.

Amendment No. 32 as presented in the attached exhibit was withdrawn by sponsor.

Amendment No. 33 as presented in the attached exhibit was withdrawn by sponsors.

Amendment No. 34 as presented in the attached exhibit was withdrawn by sponsors.

Legislator Ronk motioned, seconded by Legislator Joseph Maloney, to amend Amendment No. 35 as presented to keep \$50,000.00 of the \$125,000.00 amendment funds in the Economic Development Professional Services – Other Fees line and reduce the amount moved to Contingency to \$75,000.00.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 21 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Lopez)

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2020 Ulster County Budget to include Amendment No. 35 as amended.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 12 NOES: 9
(Noes: Legislators Archer, Bartels, Collins, Delaune,
Donaldson, Greene, Heppner, Nolan, and Petit)
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Lopez)

Amendment No. 36 as presented in the attached exhibit was withdrawn by sponsors.

Amendment No. 37 as presented in the attached exhibit was withdrawn by sponsors.

ADOPTED AS AMENDED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 21 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Lopez)

515 Adopting Ulster County Capital Program For 2020 – 2025

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 21 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Lopez)

516 Approving The Advancement Of Capital Projects For The Ulster County Community College – Ulster County Community College

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 21 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Lopez)

Motion by Legislator Litts, seconded by Legislator Donaldson to adjourn Legislative Session.
All in favor.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 7:40 PM

NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Meeting of the Ulster County Legislature will be held on **Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at 6:30 PM** in the Legislative Chambers, Sixth Floor, Ulster County Office Building, 244 Fair Street, Kingston, New York.



December 4, 2019

together we create

Good evening Madame Chair and all members of the
Legislature:

My name is Linda Marston-Reid and I have the pleasure to serve as Arts Mid-Hudson's Executive Director. We have been grateful for the support provided for the arts across the County and have worked to provide excellent service for this community. Our commitment includes an Ulster-based office and staffing to serve as the arts council of Ulster County, fairly distributing the County's cultural funding. This is one facet of the work we do on a daily basis.

We had requested an increase for our funding this year of \$5,500 to provide for the increased time for staff across Ulster County.

Our services directly and indirectly benefit all in Ulster County. We gathered comments from our colleagues across Ulster County to provide a context for Arts Mid-Hudson's accomplishments. Crystal Wei, executive Director of Mount Tremper Arts says it well:

"Ulster County is known for its large population of artists, yet Arts Mid-Hudson is the sole organization with a mission that exists to serve them. From Gardiner to Kingston, to Pine Hill, individual artists and organizations scrape by on limited resources, while contributing to the enrichment and desirability of our communities. Arts Mid-Hudson provides necessary infrastructure and wields community partnerships that are vital to strong communities, especially in areas that are otherwise isolated."

Anne Bailey, CEO of Bailey Pottery Equipment in Kingston said:

"Through Arts Mid-Hudson's work, they have helped grow the local creative economy by supporting initiatives that attract cultural tourists to our area and create opportunities for young creative entrepreneurs to start their businesses in Ulster County. Without this kind of support, through Arts Mid-Hudson's programs, mentoring, workshops, and business development,- none of the truly exciting things I see happening around me would be possible."

Crystal Wei, Executive Director of Mount Tremper Arts spoke to economic development:

"Speaking to its role as an economic driver, funding from Arts Mid-Hudson is magnified in impact through hundreds of cultural activities, drawing visitors

and representing millions of dollars spent on local businesses and housing. Mount Tremper Arts in fiscal 2019 received a critical award of \$3,000, most of which is expended on local services and labor to support public programs. Audiences and artists served by this award then spend \$17,000—by conservative estimates—on local businesses such as restaurants, shops, and housing anywhere from Stone Ridge to Phoenicia. This fivefold return on investment from AMH is but one example of its impact, not to mention the immeasurable educational and cultural opportunities it creates.”

Ann Citron, Director of the Rosendale Theatre also spoke about the economic factor:

“We have been the recipients of the Ulster County Services and Promotion Fund and it has had a strong impact on us and also on our local businesses. The Rosendale Theatre is committed to economic development through the arts. Most recently, we were awarded this grant to produce a short play festival using all local writers, actors and directors. These plays played to packed houses. We survey the local restaurants and shops and they too have a big increase in business.”

Barbara Bravo of the Saugerties Artists Studio Tour and Arts Commission stated:

“The Saugerties Tour is entering into its 18th year and we have been the proud recipient of supportive grants from the Ulster County Legislature that have been administered by Arts Mid-Hudson. The AMH staff make application for these grants very accessible through workshops and personal assistance when needed, and keep everyone well informed regarding due dates and filing reports. They are the best champions for the arts in Ulster County that I have ever experienced and I believe that their hard work and diligence is helping to put Ulster County on the map as an arts destination.”

We respectfully request that the Legislature reconsider the requested budget of \$90,000 as an investment in the unique services that are imperative to our continued success as the rural cultural capital of New York. The arts are one of Ulster County’s greatest assets and Arts Mid-Hudson is committed to working with our diverse artists and organizations.