

**Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, Planning & Transit Committee
Committee Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: February 4, 2020 – 6:30 PM
LOCATION: K.L. Binder Library
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman Brian Cahill
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn Tantillo
PRESENT: Legislators Lynn Archer, James Delaune and Mary Beth Maio,
ABSENT: Legislator Herbert Litts, III, Thomas Corcoran and Abe Uchitelle
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Tracey Bartels, John Parete and Laura Petit; Deputy County Executives Marc Rider and Evelyn Wright; Dennis Doyle, Director Department of Planning; Randall Leverette, Ulster County Industrial Development Agency (UCIDA); Kathy Nolan, Catskill Mountainkeeper; Kevin Smith Woodstock Land Conservancy/UCTAC, Dominick Mercurio, Ashokan Rail Trail Stewart; John Grossbohl, City of Kingston Complete Streets Advisory Committee; Connor Gillis, Ulster County Board of Realtors; Amanda Sisenstein, Friends of Kingston Transit Riders; Rachel Gans; Mike Ham; Dean Tamburri, Local 17 Laborers

Chairman Cahill called the meeting to order at 6:32 and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. He then asked legislators and County officials to introduce themselves.

Motion No. 1: **Motion to Approve the Minutes of December 3, 2019**

Motion Made By: Chairman Cahill
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Delaune

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Archer, Delaune and Maio
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Minutes Approved**

Resolutions for the February 18, 2020 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 8: Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 1 Of 2020, A Local Law Requiring That Property Owners Of Multi-Family Dwellings Located In Ulster County With Six Or More Units Have An Office In Ulster County, To Be Held On Tuesday, March 10, 2020 At 6:00 PM

Resolution Summary: This resolution would schedule a public hearing on Proposed Local Law 1 of 2020 on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 6:00 PM.

Motion No. 2: **Motion to Discuss Resolution No. 8**
Motion By: Chairman Cahill
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio

Discussion: Chairman Cahill discussed the need for a housing study to take stock of the current housing situation throughout Ulster County. He is working with County Executive Ryan to do a comprehensive housing study and noted the Mayor of Kingston and other community leaders have recently announced similar efforts. He recognized the need but wanted to ensure the efforts were started on the right foot.

Legislator Petit said the proposed local law was in response to a critical problem described by tenants who report they have no one to contact in an emergency, a lack of reasonable and responsible maintenance, and being generally ignored by absent-t landlords.

The committee and observers had a lengthy discussion that included various approaches to the housing crisis; what laws are currently in place in local municipalities; discrepancies in the proposed local law; clarification of definitions in the proposed local law; the need for information on existing housing before a committee is established to ensure some sector of the population is not overlooked.

Legislator Petit, the sponsor of Resolution No. 8, objected to no action by the committee.

Disposition: **No Action**

Resolution No. 9: Establishing A Special Committee To Define Ulster County Housing Needs

Resolution Summary: This resolution would establish a Special 7-member committee to develop an Affordable Housing Master Plan and associated county policies.

Motion No. 3: **Motion to Discuss Resolution No. 9**
Motion By: Chairman Cahill
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio

Discussion: Chairman Cahill expressed his commitment to addressing the housing needs of the county once the Legislature had all available data. He hoped to engage the public and local municipalities in this effort to “make a difference, not a headline.”

Legislator Parete said there is no question that Ulster County has a housing crisis but he questioned if this Standing Committee could adequately address it. He thinks there have been enough studies and pointed out that this committee has had oversight of housing since at least 2007 and nothing has been done.

Mr. Doyle reminded the members that in 2007 the Legislature adopted Priority Strategies to Develop Housing in Ulster County and as part of the County’s Comprehensive Plan and it carries legal weight. He discussed the Housing Needs Assessment done every 5 years, work done regionally with Patterns for Progress and other analytics that includes income vs. housing costs. He suggested the County’s Shovel Ready Statue be modified to support infrastructure for community needs.

Motion No. 4: **Motion to Postpone Resolution No. 9**
Motion By: Legislator Delaune
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Archer

Discussion: Legislator Petit, the sponsor of Resolution No. 9, objected to this postponement.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Archer, Delaune and Maio
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Postponed**

Resolution No. 10: Reaffirming That The Ulster County Industrial Development Agency (UCIDA) Requires Prevailing Wage And Local Labor Provisions As Requirements For Securing IDA Assistance

Resolution Summary: The resolution reaffirms Resolution No. 244 of 2005 and directs the UCIDA to adopt measures mandating prevailing wage for all construction related projects and prioritize local labor in this contraction.

Motion No. 5: **Motion to Discuss Resolution No. 10**
Motion By: Legislator Maio
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Archer

Discussion: Legislator Bartels noted that although the Legislature appoints members to the UCIDA they do not have the authority to dictate to them.

Deputy Executive Rider noted that the UCIDA insentives are using public funds. He reminded the members that the Legislature requires prevailing wage for Ulster County contracts and soon it will be required by New York State.

Mr. Leverette explained the UCIDA point system used to evaluate candidates and explained that currently points are given for prevailing wage and/or using local labor.

A discussion ensued.

Legislator Petit, sponsor of Resolution No. 10, suggested amending the resolution to replace the word “directs” with “encourages” in the first ‘Resolved’ and strike the third ‘Resolved’ completely.

Motion No. 6: **Motion to Amend Resolution No. 10** to replace the word “directs” with “encourages” in the first ‘Resolved’ and strike the third ‘Resolved’ completely.
Motion By: Legislator Delaune
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Archer, Delaune and Maio
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Amendment Adopted**

Motion No. 7: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 10 as Amended**
Motion By: Legislator Archer
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Delaune

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Archer, Delaune and Maio
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Adopted as Amended**

Resolution No. 19: Confirming Appointment Of Lisa M. Berger As Director Of Economic Development

Resolution Summary: This resolution will confirm the County Executives appointment of Lisa M. Berger as Director of Economic Development

Motion No. 8: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 19**
Motion By: Legislator Maio
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Archer

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Archer, Delaune and Maio
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Resolution No. 29: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Apply For Grant Funding To The New York State Department Of Agriculture And Markets To Develop An Agricultural And Farmland Protection Plan For Ulster County – Department Of Planning

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes a grant application submittal to update the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan for Ulster County

Motion No. 9: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 29**
Motion By: Legislator Delaune
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Archer, Delaune and Maio

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 4

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Resolution No. 30: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Request That The New York State Department Of Transportation Release Jurisdiction Over Unused Highway Lands Along Route 9W (Ulster Avenue) In The Town Of Ulster, At And Adjoining 1905 Ulster Avenue – Department Of Planning

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chair of the Legislature to request NYSDOT release jurisdiction over a parcel located in the Town of Ulster that is no longer needed for highway purposes to facilitate the transfer of the parcel to a local business.

Motion No. 10: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 30**

Motion By: Legislator Archer

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio

Discussion: Mr. Doyle explained the background of this parcel and the procedure to transfer it to a local car dealership.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Archer, Delaune and Maio

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 4

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Resolution No. 64: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Spacesaver Systems, Inc. D/B/A Infolinx System Solutions – Information Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution would approve the 4th amendment to extend a contract with Spacesaver Systems, Inc. for maintenance and support of the physical records management system and Cloud-based hosting services through April 2, 2023.

Motion No. 11: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 64**

Motion By: Legislator Maio

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Delaune

Discussion: Deputy Executive Rider described this service. He felt the county was pleased with the company's performance to date. He said the county did not put this contract out for bid because the cost of initiating a new system would be much more expensive.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Archer, Delaune and Maio
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

New Business

Otis Street

Chairman Cahill described a glitch in the Apple i-phone map application that is directing the public to Otis Street, a dead-end street next to Development Court, when they ask for directions to Development Court in Kingston, NY.

Residents report dozens of cars a day making U-turns at the end of the street, driving on lawns, damaging property and creating a dangerous situation for residents of Otis St. The problem has been exacerbated because of the recent move of the Ulster County Family Court and other county departments to Development Court.

This glitch has been corrected on other mapping tools such as MapQuest, Waze, Garmin and Google Maps but persists on the popular Apple i-phone Map application despite numerous reports of the error using the Map reporting system.

Deputy Executive Rider said that they are aware of the issue. In addition to IS reaching out to Apple directly, the county is working with local officials on signage to divert traffic before they enter Otis Street.

Chairman Cahill asked if there was any other business, hearing none;

Motion to Adjourn

Motion Made By: Legislator Archer
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Time: 8:20 PM

Respectfully submitted by: Fawn Tantillo
Minutes Approved: March 3, 2020