

# ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE



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## MINUTES

### ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2022

6:30 PM

*vimeo* livestream <https://livestream.com/accounts/1512750/events/1824203>



**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY VICTORIA A. FABELLA, CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE:**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG AND MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION:**

Led by Legislator Herbert Litts.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present: 23**

**Absent: 0**

\* \* \* \* \*

## **SWEARING IN OF LEGISLATORS**

**BY THE**

**HONORABLE BRYAN E. ROUNDS, ULSTER COUNTY COURT JUDGE**

\* \* \* \* \*

**NOMINATION OF THE TEMPORARY CHAIR OF THE  
ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

Clerk Victoria A. Fabella called upon Legislator Uchitelle for the purpose of nominating a Temporary Chair.

Legislator Ronk motioned, seconded by Legislator Criswell to nominate Majority Leader Heppner as Temporary Chair.

Clerk Fabella then asked if there were any other nominations. Motion to close nominations by Legislator Nolan, seconded by Legislator Ronk.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23                      NOES: 0

\* \* \* \* \*

**NOMINATION OF THE CHAIR OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

Temporary Chair Heppner called upon Legislator Cahill for the purpose of making a nomination of Chair.

Legislator Cahill motioned, seconded by Legislator Petit to nominate Legislator Tracey Bartels as Chair.

Temporary Chair Heppner then asked if there were any other nominations. Motion to close nominations by Minority Leader Ronk seconded by Legislator Cahill. Clerk Fabella called the long roll.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: 23                      NOES: 0

Clerk Fabella announced that Legislator Tracey Bartels was elected as the 2022 Chairwoman of the Ulster County Legislature.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **CHAIR'S ACCEPTANCE**

Chairwoman Bartels thanked everyone for their confidence and support, and is looking forward to working together with elected officials and the entire legislative body. "As your chair I do commit to working together to deliver on our shared goals and a vision for an ever-stronger Ulster County. Together, we will deliver transformative change and relief. Thank you all. I look forward to the good work ahead."

\* \* \* \* \*

### **THE FOLLOWING DESIGNATIONS ARE ON FILE:**

**Majority Leader – Jonathan R. Heppner, District No. 23**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Minority Leader – Kenneth J. Ronk, Jr., District No. 13**

\* \* \* \* \*

### **OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS**

#### **PUBLICATION OF CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS, ELECTION NOTICES ISSUED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE, AND THE OFFICIAL CANVASS**

**(D) – Daily Freeman**  
**(R) – Southern Ulster Times**

#### ***PUBLICATION OF LOCAL LAWS AND VARIOUS NOTICES***

**(D) – Hudson Valley One**  
**(R) – Shawangunk Journal**

**BIRTHDAYS:**

Legislator Gina Hansut, January 12<sup>th</sup>  
Legislator Dean Fabiano, January 24<sup>th</sup>  
Legislator Laura Petit, January 28<sup>th</sup>

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM:**

UC Dept. of Finance, Comm. Burt Gulnick

CFA News  
UC Attorney, Clinton Johnson  
St. Patrick's Parade, Inc.

UC Personnel Dept.  
UC Planning Board  
NYS Assoc. County Coroners & Medical Examiners  
Mr. Kevin Ahearn  
Mr. Gary Sprung, Boulder, CO  
Mr. Harv Hilowitz, Stone Ridge

Catskill Watershed Corp.  
Mr. Sean Condon, CPLteam.com, Newburgh

UC IDA PILOT Projects,  
Calculation/Billing  
Brochure, Winter 2021 Vol. 39 No.4  
County Litigation, December 2021  
Advertising, Kingston Parade  
Information  
UC Civil Service Exam Announcements  
Agenda 1/5/2021, Minutes 12/1/2021  
Coroner 101 Class 2/12/2022  
Email, The Rondout Reader  
Email, In Support Catskill Mtn. Railroad  
Email, Resettle Refugees in Ulster  
County  
Notice of Preliminary Decisions  
FOIL Request/Response Marbletown  
Elem. Septic

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS:**

Reappointment Board of Ethics, Gerald  
Benjamin Term 1/1/2022 – 12/31/2026  
Executive Order No. 2021-4.06  
Executive Order No. 2021-4.07 & State  
of EM  
Executive Order No. 2021-4.08  
Press Release, CARES Grant Recipients  
Press Release, COVID-19 Dist. Events &  
Schools  
Press Release, State Run COVID Test  
Site  
Reopening Guidance for 2021-2022

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS (cont.):**

Press Release, Test-to-Stay Policy Public Schools  
PSA What To Do If You Test Positive COVID-19  
Appt. Dr. Eric Stutt, Interim Medical Examiner  
Appt. Tara McDonald, Interim Comm. MH  
Appt. Susan Hoger, UC OFA Advisory Council  
Reappointment, Michael Iapoce, Comm. DSS  
Appt. (4) & ReAppt. (4) UC Traffic Safety Board  
Letter, Receipt of Audit Committee Request for Administration & Financing For Project Resilience  
Budgetary Transfers, December 2021

**MEMORIALIZING LETTERS:**

Opposition to COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There were no speakers signed up for public comment.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:**

Chairwoman Tracey Bartels designated Majority Leader Heppner to Chair the Committee of the Whole.

Committee Chair Heppner called the Committee of the Whole to Order.

MOTION NO. 1                      Resolved to consider - Resolution Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 as a Block

Motion Made By:                  Minority Leader Ronk  
Motion Seconded By:              Legislator Herbert Litts

Text of Motion:                      Resolution No. 1: Adoption Of The Rules Of Order  
   Resolution No. 2: Appointing A Clerk Of The Ulster County  
   Legislature  
   Resolution No. 3: Creating Standing Committees For The Year 2022  
   Resolution No. 4: Designation of Official Newspapers  
   Resolution No. 5: Authorizing The Issuance And Sale Of Up To  
   \$15,000,000.00 Revenue Anticipation Notes Of The County Of Ulster,  
   New York, In Anticipation Of The Collection Or Receipt Of Revenues  
   Estimated To Be Received From Sales And Compensating Use Taxes  
   During The Current Fiscal Year Of Said County  
   Resolution No.6: Authorizing The Issuance And Sale Of Up To  
   \$20,000,000.00 Tax Anticipation Notes Of The County Of Ulster, New  
   York, In Anticipation Of The Collection Or Receipt Of 2022 Real  
   Property Taxes Based On 2021 Real Property Tax Assessments For The  
   Current Fiscal Year Of Said County  
   Resolution No. 7: Establishing A Special Committee To Review And  
   Evaluate American Rescue Plan Funding Expenditures

Discussion:                              None  
Roll Call Vote:                          No  
Voting In Favor:                        23  
Voting Against:                         0  
Absent:                                    0

Disposition:                            Carried, Resolutions Blocked

Committee Chair Heppner called the question on the blocked Resolutions.

Discussion: None  
Roll Call Vote: No  
Voting In Favor: 23  
Voting Against: 0  
Absent: 0

Disposition: Resolution Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 Adopted

Adjournment of the Committee Of The Whole

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk  
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Litts

No. of Votes in Favor: 23  
No. of Votes Against: 0

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A motion was made by Majority Leader Heppner, seconded by Minority Leader Ronk, to block Resolution Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7. All in favor.

Discussion: None  
Roll Call Vote: No  
Voting In Favor: 23  
Voting Against: 0  
Absent: 0

Disposition: Resolution Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 Adopted

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**RESOLUTION NOS: 1 - 7**

**1 Adoption Of The Rules Of Order**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23                      NOES: 0

**2 Appointing A Clerk Of The Ulster County Legislature**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23                      NOES: 0

**3 Creating Standing Committees For The Year 2022**

Legislator Ronk motioned, seconded by Legislator Maloney, to move Housing to the Economic Development Committee.

MOTION DEFEATED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 7                      NOES: 16  
(AYES: Legislators Corcoran, Hansut, Litts, Lopez,  
Maloney, Roberts, and Ronk)

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING LONG ROLL VOTE:

AYES: 18                      NOES: 5  
(Noes: Legislators Corcoran, Litts, Lopez, Maloney, and  
Ronk)

**4 Designation Of Official Newspapers**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23                      NOES: 0



- 5 Authorizing The Issuance And Sale Of Up To \$15,000,000.00 Revenue Anticipation Notes Of The County Of Ulster, New York, In Anticipation Of The Collection Or Receipt Of Revenues Estimated To Be Received From Sales And Compensating Use Taxes During The Current Fiscal Year Of Said County**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23                      NOES: 0

- 6 Authorizing The Issuance And Sale Of Up To \$20,000,000.00 Tax Anticipation Notes Of The County Of Ulster, New York, In Anticipation Of The Collection Or Receipt Of 2022 Real Property Taxes Based On 2021 Real Property Tax Assessments For The Current Fiscal Year Of Said County**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23                      NOES: 0

- 7 Establishing A Special Committee To Review And Evaluate American Rescue Plan Funding Expenditures**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23                      NOES: 0

**MEETING ADJOURNED IN MEMORY OF:** Read by Legislator Uchitelle.

Richard P. Boice, Lake Katrine, NY  
Linda Venett, Kingston, NY  
George W. McClure, Kingston, NY  
Sandra L. Daw, Port Ewen, NY  
Demetrios Drakontaidis, Kingston, NY  
Norman Hurrten, Saugerties, NY  
John P. Traverse, Stone Ridge, NY  
James L. Relyea, Highland, NY  
Thomas W. Schoonmaker, Highland, NY  
Bruno J. Ronkese, Marlboro, NY

Marguerite Hagl, West Shokan, NY  
Rose M. Porsch, Kingston, NY  
Catherine L. Neer, Rifton, NY  
Virginia H. Soovajian, Woodstock, NY  
Edward G. Zellefrow, Kingston, NY  
Virginia L. Cahill, Irondequoit, NY  
Michael Lang, Woodstock, NY  
Richard Colurciello, Milton, NY  
Mark A. Trott, Town of Ulster, NY

Motion by Legislator Herbert Litts, seconded by Legislator Cahill, to adjourn the Organizational Meeting. All in favor.

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 7:28 PM**

# ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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TRACEY A. BARTELS, Chairwoman  
JONATHAN R. HEPPNER, Majority Leader  
KENNETH J. RONK, JR., Minority Leader  
VICTORIA A. FABELLA, Clerk



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## TRANSCRIPT

January 10, 2022

### ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

*vimeo* livestream <https://livestream.com/accounts/1512750/events/1824203>



6:30 PM

#### **Clerk Fabella**

Recording. Hey, it is 6:33 and I'm going to call the organizational meeting of the Ulster County Legislature to order. Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance, remain standing for a moment of silent meditation and I'm going to ask that Legislator Litts lead the pledge.

#### **Legislator Litts**

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands one nation under God indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

#### **Clerk Fabella**

Be seated everyone. Our first item is roll call.

#### **Clerk Fabella**

Bartels.

#### **Legislator Bartels**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Cahill.

**Legislator Cahill**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Corcoran.

**Legislator Corcoran**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Criswell.

**Legislator Criswell**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Erner.

**Legislator Erner**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Fabiano.

**Legislator Fabiano**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Gavaris.

**Legislator Gavaris**

Present.

**Clerk Fabella**

Greene.

**Legislator Greene**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Hansut.

**Legislator Hansut**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Heppner.

**Legislator Heppner**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Hewitt.

**Legislator Hewitt**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Levine.

**Legislator Levine**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Litts.

**Legislator Litts**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Lopez.

**Legislator Lopez**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Maloney.

**Legislator Maloney**

Present.

**Clerk Fabella**

Nolan.

**Legislator Nolan**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Petit.

**Legislator Petit**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Roberts.

**Legislator Roberts**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Ronk.

**Legislator Ronk**

Present.

**Clerk Fabella**

Sperry.

**Legislator Sperry**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Stewart.

**Legislator Stewart**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Uchitelle.

**Legislator Uchitelle**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

And Walter.

**Legislator Walter**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

23, present and zero absent.

**Clerk Fabella**

Before we really get started with our business here. I would like to welcome a couple special guests. A few special guests who we have joining us tonight and I'm so thrilled that they're here. The first is county executive Pat Ryan. We also have our county comptroller March Gallagher.

**Comptroller Gallagher**

Good evening.

**Clerk Fabella**

And we have the Ulster County Sheriff Juan Figueroa.

**Sheriff Figueroa**

Happy New Year.

**Clerk Fabella**

Thank you all so much for joining us tonight. Our swearing in the 2022-2023 legislative body is going to be conducted by the Honorable Bryan Rounds Ulster County Family Court Judge. And at this time, I'd like to turn it over to Judge Rounds. Except for you were muted.

**Judge Bryan Rounds**

Good evening everyone. Most all of you are familiar faces. I feel like I've been in a cage for two years and I get to see all of you again. Thank you so much for having me tonight. It's such an honor to be here. For the official public record, I'm not the family court judge, I am the Ulster County Court Judge.

**Clerk Fabella**

I knew that for the record. So I apologize.

**Judge Bryan Rounds**

Please, all the legislators if you would, please raise your right hands and repeat after me. I state your name,

**Legislative Body**

I ...

**Judge Bryan Rounds**

do solemnly swear,

**Legislative Body**

do solemnly swear,

**Judge Bryan Rounds**

that I will support the Constitution of the United States,

**Legislative Body**

that I will support the Constitution of the United States,

**Judge Bryan Rounds**

the Constitution of the State of New York,

**Legislative Body**

the Constitution of the State of New York,

**Judge Bryan Rounds**

and the charter of the county of Ulster,

**Legislative Body**

and the charter of the county of Ulster,

**Judge Bryan Rounds**

and that I will faithfully discharge the duties,

**Legislative Body**

and that I will faithfully discharge the duties,

**Judge Bryan Rounds**

of the office of legislator,

**Legislative Body**

of the office of legislator,

**Judge Bryan Rounds**

for the county of Ulster,

**Legislative Body**

for the county of Ulster,

**Judge Bryan Rounds**

according to the best of my ability.

**Legislative Body**

according to the best of my ability.

**Judge Bryan Rounds**

I do further solemnly swear or affirm,



**Legislative Body**

I do further solemnly swear or affirm,

**Judge Bryan Rounds**

that I have not directly or indirectly,

**Legislative Body**

that I have not directly or indirectly,

**Judge Bryan Rounds**

paid, offered, or promised to pay,

**Legislative Body**

paid, offered, or promised to pay,

**Judge Bryan Rounds**

contributed or offered or promised,

**Legislative Body**

contributed or offered or promised,

**Judge Bryan Rounds**

to contribute any money or other valuable thing,

**Legislative Body**

to contribute any money or other valuable thing,

**Judge Bryan Rounds**

as consideration or reward,

**Legislative Body**

as consideration or reward,

**Judge Bryan Rounds**

or the giving or withholding a vote,

**Legislative Body**

or the giving withholding a vote,

**Judge Bryan Rounds**

at the election at which I was elected to said office,

**Legislative Body**

at the election at which I was elected to said office,

**Judge Bryan Rounds**

and have not made any promises,

**Legislative Body**

and have not made any promises,

**Judge Bryan Rounds**

to influence the giving,

**Legislative Body**

to influence the giving,

**Judge Bryan Rounds**

or withholding of any such vote.

**Legislative Body**

or withholding of any such vote.

**Judge Bryan Rounds**

Congratulations to all of you.

**Legislative Body**

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you, Judge Rounds.

**Judge Bryan Rounds**

My pleasure.

**Clerk Fabella**

Thank you very, very much. So, our next order of business is to nominate a temporary Chair of the Ulster County Legislature. Are there any nominations for temporary chair? Legislator Uchitelle.

**Clerk Fabella**

I'm having trouble hearing your audio. Is everybody having that problem? Or is that just me? Everybody's having that problem?

**Legislator Ronk**

I nominate Majority Leader, Jonathan Heppner.

**Clerk Fabella**

Oh, that is something interesting there. Is there a second?

**Legislator Criswell**

I'll second that nomination.

**Clerk Fabella**

Thank you, Legislator Criswell.

**Legislator Abe Uchitelle**

This is even better. Even better a bipartisan nomination - now that I've got my audio sorted out.

**Clerk Fabella**

Okay, so that's a nomination and a second for Legislator Heppner. Are there any other nominations?

**Clerk Fabella**

For the purposes of those who aren't familiar with this? There's some procedural things we need to do here. I need to ask a couple more times. Are there any other nominations? One more time. Are there any other nominations for temporary Chair of the Ulster County Legislature? Hearing none,

**Legislative Body**

I motion nominations be closed.

**Legislator Ronk**

Second.

**Clerk Fabella**

Legislator Nolan closed nominations, seconded by Legislator Ronk. All in favor of Legislator Heppner is temporary chair?

**Legislative Body**

Aye. Aye. Aye.

**Clerk Fabella**

Opposition. With no opposition Legislator Heppner the meeting is yours.

**Legislator Heppner**

Thank you, Clerk Fabella and Happy New Year to all, especially our esteemed guests. Thank you for joining us. And welcome to our new members. And as always, it's great to see our returning members. With that let's get down to business. At this time, I will ask for nominations for permanent Chair of the Ulster County Legislature. Legislator Cahill.

**Legislator Cahill**

Thank you, Chairperson Heppner, I come before this body to nominate Legislator Tracey Bartels to serve as chairperson of the Ulster County Legislature. I have known Tracey for more than 15 years. I first met Legislator Bartels when we served together during the transition from a legislative controlled government to an executive form of government in 2006. In that time, very few people have demonstrated more

commitment to serving the people of Ulster County and to holding those of us privileged enough to serve the citizens accountable in our service. After just a few interactions with Legislator Bartels, it became clear, she is an open minded, fair and willing to listen to all sides of a discussion no matter what your political party affiliation is. Those are traits the leader of the county legislature must possess. Legislator Bartels has displayed them every day of her tenure as a legislator dating back to 2004. Whether it was leaving no stone unturned investigating delays and cost overruns of the Ulster County Law Enforcement Center, serving on the bipartisan committee of the U&D rail trails, working to implement a ban on single use plastic bags, shining a light on the details of the recent transactions involving the former IBM complex, serving as Vice Chair for the past two years, or the latest effort to create a county wide land bank. One thing is for certain, no one will ever outwork or work harder than Legislator Tracey Bartels. Having stepped into the lead a legislature that was in turmoil during the middle of a term, Legislator Bartels was able to stabilize the legislature and showed she has what it takes to lead - the right person at the right time. For those reasons, and many others, I am honored to place the name of Legislator Tracey Bartels in nomination for chairperson of the Ulster County Legislature.

**Legislator Heppner**

Thank you, Legislator Cahill. Is there a second? Legislator Petit.

**Legislator Petit**

I've worked with Tracey Bartels, can you hear me? I've worked with Tracey Bartels as both a fellow legislator and a colleague for nearly two decades. And there are many issues that we work together and agree on. And there's some we absolutely do not. But debate and compromise is the only way possible to achieve some of the best solutions for our public. And now more than ever, we need to come up with those solutions and take immediate action. So with that, I am holding Legislator Bartels to that task, and I'm seconding the nomination for her for Legislative Chair.

**Legislator Heppner**

Thank you, Legislator Petit. With that I will ask are there any other nominations? For a second time, are there any other nominations? And for the third and final time, are there any other nominations? Hearing none,

**Legislator Ronk**

I motion that the nominations be closed.

**Legislator Heppner**

And a second?

**Legislator Cahill**

I'll second the nomination.

**Legislator Heppner**

With that the nominations have been closed by leader Ronk and Legislator Cahill. Clerk Fabella please call the roll.

**Clerk Fabella**

So I'll call the roll and with only one nomination, the vote is on Legislator Bartels to be Chair. It's a yes or no vote.

**Clerk Fabella**

Bartels.

**Legislator Bartels**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Cahill.

**Legislator Cahill**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Corcoran.

**Legislator Corcoran**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Criswell.

**Legislator Criswell**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Erner.

**Legislator Erner**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Fabiano.

**Legislator Fabiano**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Gavaris.

**Legislator Gavaris**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Greene.

**Legislator Greene**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Hansut.

**Legislator Hansut**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Heppner.

**Legislator Heppner**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Hewitt.

**Legislator Hewitt**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Levine.

**Legislator Levine**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Litts.

**Legislator Litts**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Lopez.

**Legislator Lopez**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Maloney.

**Legislator Maloney**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Nolan.

**Legislator Nolan**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Petit.

**Legislator Petit**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Roberts.

**Legislator Roberts**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Ronk.

**Legislator Ronk**

Before I cast my vote, I listened intently to Legislator Cahill's nomination speech and I sincerely hope and hold out. I hold out sincere hope I should say that Legislator Bartels lives up to the bipartisanship that he talked about. With that hope being held, I will be a yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Sperry.

**Legislator Sperry**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Stewart.

**Legislator Stewart**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Uchitelle.

**Legislator Uchitelle**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

And Walter.

**Legislator Walter**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

By unanimous vote of 23 to zero, the new chair of the Ulster County Legislature is Chair Bartels.

**Chairwoman Bartels**

Thank you. Thank you all so much. It's an honor and it's a privilege to return to this seat. And I am so humbled by the unanimous support truly. To Legislators Cahill and Petit, thank you for your nomination and your second. As you stated, I've known each of you for longer than the 14 years that I've served as a legislator, and I'm humbled by your support and moved by your words. I'd like to take a moment to thank the Honorable Judge Rounds for swearing us in tonight. We appreciate your service to the people of Ulster County and are grateful and honored that you took the time to preside over our ceremonial swearing in. On behalf of all of us, thank you. Thank you to our fellow elected leaders, Executive Pat Ryan, Sheriff Juan Figueroa and Comptroller March Gallagher for attending tonight's organizational meeting. I speak for the entire legislative body when I say that we look forward to working with each of you and the other countywide elected officials in the coming term. To my colleagues in the legislature, both new and returning, thank you for the confidence that you've placed in me. As we are all keenly aware, these are unprecedented times. With the continued and changing challenges of the COVID 19 pandemic, we're called to work together to respond to urgent needs of our constituency. As a county and a nation we face critical crises in housing, mental health and climate. Many of our small businesses struggle, while Amazon records record profits. Local restaurants shuttered due to the compounded pressure of hiring shortages, COVID outbreaks and decreased traffic. Essential workers are exhausted from healthcare professionals to emergency responders, such as our esteemed colleague, Legislator Minority Leader Ronk, to teachers to grocery store clerks. And so despite our physical separation, we are called upon to unite to place the needs of the people first and to serve. As your chair I do commit to working together to deliver on our shared goals and a vision for an ever-stronger Ulster County. As I've stated before, I believe the chair is a seat among equals. Together, we will deliver transformative change and relief. Thank you all. I look forward to the good work ahead.

**Chairwoman Bartels**

And now, on to tonight's agenda. The following designations are on file. Congratulations to Majority Leader Jonathan Heppner, district number 23. And Minority Leader Kenneth Ronk, district number 13. As stated I look forward to working with you both in the coming year. We also have on file designations



for official newspapers. And I would like to recognize our esteem January birthdays. Legislator Gina Hansut, January 12th, happy birthday.

**Legislator Hansut**

Thank you.

**Chairwoman Bartels**

Legislator Dean Fabiano January 24th. Happy birthday.

**Legislator Fabiano**

Thank you very much.

**Chairwoman Bartels**

And Legislator Laura Petit, January 28th. Happy Birthday Legislator Petit.

**Chairwoman Bartels**

As always, we maintain a list of regular communications on file, especially for the new legislators. Please feel free to contact the clerk if you'd like copies of any of the communications that are listed in our agenda and you can reach out and you'll be provided any detail that you ask for. Moving on to public comment. Clerk Fabella are there any speakers signed up for public comment?

**Clerk Fabella**

There are no speakers signed up.

**Chairwoman Bartels**

Okay. Given that there are none signed up, I'd like to just ask if there's anyone on the call-in studio that would like to speak, that is not signed up to speak?

**Clerk Fabella**

Okay, we doublechecked that and there's no one there.

**Chairwoman Bartels**

Okay, hearing none, at this point, I'll appoint Majority Leader Heppner to run our Committee of the Whole.

**Legislator Heppner**

Thank you and congratulations Chair Bartels. With that I will move forward. This is a procedural exercise that is necessary to move all the items for us to vote for and possibly amend on the floor. So with that, I'll ask leader Ronk for a motion to block resolutions one through seven.

**Legislator Ronk**

I'll make that motion.

**Legislator Heppner**

And can I have a second?

**Legislator Litts**

I'll second it.

**Legislator Heppner**

Second by Legislator Litts. All in favor?

**Legislative Body**

Aye. Aye. Aye. Aye.

**Legislator Heppner**

All opposed?

**Legislator Ronk**

(inaudible)

**Legislator Heppner**

Can I have a motion to adjourn?

**Legislator Ronk**

So moved.

**Legislator Heppner**

A second.

**Legislator Litts**

Second.

**Legislator Heppner**

Legislator Litts.

**Legislator Heppner**

We're adjourned.

**Chairwoman Bartels**

Thank you. So on the resolutions Majority Leader Heppner are we able to block any of the resolutions?

**Legislator Heppner**

Yes, I believe with the consent of Leader Ronk. We can block resolutions one, two, and four through seven.

**Legislator Ronk**

No objection unless any of my members have an objection.

**Chairwoman Bartels**

Seeing no objections, maybe I'll just call out all in favor of the block.

**Legislative Body**

Aye. Aye. Aye.

**Chairwoman Bartels**

Any opposed? Hearing no objections on the block, Majority Leader Heppner.

**Legislator Heppner**

We are a short yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

On the block we're a short yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

The resolutions are adopted 23 to zero. The one item remaining is Resolution No. 3., Creating Standing Committees For The Year 2022.

**Chairwoman Bartels**

Legislator Rock.

**Legislator Ronk**

Thank you. At this time, I'd like to make a motion to amend the resolution to move housing back to the Economic Development Committee, with all due respect to those who are in favor of moving it to Health. Most if not all of the non DSS county functions in housing in the county are housed in the Department of Planning, which is still under Economic Development. I feel like it belongs better in Economic Development. In addition to that the county executive is the only elected official not mentioned in any committee. I'd like to amend as part of this amendment move the county executive by letter into Laws and Rules.

**Chairwoman Bartels**

Is there a second to the proposed amendment? Legislator Maloney are you raising your hand for a second?

**Legislator Maloney**

I'll make a second and make a comment. Um, I agree I'd rather see housing in its own standing committee. I do not believe it belongs, being moved to where it is. I've heard temporary housing those are two very, very different issues. Temporary housing is people that are literally homeless, people running from an abusive spouse into a shelter, that is a very different issue than not having enough affordable rental properties for college students, or a young family - both parents working not being able to find a house, I just the two very different problems to combine them doesn't make a lot of sense. That committee already has the largest part of our budget, which is DSS. I just think it's a very different approach. I'm not crazy about it being in Economic Development anymore. To be honest with you, I'm

not crazy about our approach to economic development, which is so abatement driven, and so much involvement from public beneficiary corporations where we don't get a lot of oversight. And so but it is better in economic development than I think moving it over to Health. I think we should discuss this. A third, the legislature is new and other third probably got about a term under their belt, I would have much rather see this many changes, wait a month or two, and have us all, you know, real robust debate on a lot of these and then make those changes. I think this was kind of rushed and pushed through, we're not even meeting in person. So I was a little disappointed at how aggressive we were with changing the standing committees without allowing the legislature to even serve. So I will be seconding it doesn't also make a lot of sense that we don't assign the Exec. to a committee, the same way we do the other county wide elected officials. I think there's plenty of arguments you can make to add the Exec. I would prefer Laws and Rules and Governmental Services. But those are some of my issues with doing it at this point. But I do I will second that. And I agree with the amendment.

### **Chairwoman Bartels**

On the amendment. Legislator Uchitelle.

### **Legislator Uchitelle**

Yeah, I just want to speak to the reason why I think many of us feel so strongly about including housing in particular. And I also want to speak to some of the other changes as well, but you know, including housing and public health, I'll just point out that, you know, the mention of temporary housing. The Public Health committee already deals with temporary housing. DSS already deals with temporary housing. The fact that we separate these, in the prior format of the committee's, I think speaks and is very representative of the problem that we have in our community where there is a major disconnect between an availability. I mean, the comptroller provided a report last year about the vast amount of money that we spend on temporary housing and all of that oversight happens within the Health committee. Our community, our constituents are struggling to make the jump from temporary housing into permanent housing, and I think our committee structure reflects that we have not been able to connect those dots. We need to do something different around housing. Right now, our solution to housing is to send DSS to talk to them. And that is not a solution. We need to connect these, together these topics together. And we should have the same legislative committee members overseeing these two issues to get a full understanding of the scope so that we can really ramp up our permanent housing. It is a public health issue. And I think, for us to continue the same breakdown of these topics and expect a different result, when I think just about everyone recognizes that we are in a housing crisis in our community, you know, would be the definition of insanity to keep perpetuating that and to not make a change. So I know these, while we've only recently been sworn in, we're still very close to the starting line. But these topics, and these changes are not completely fresh, they're not half baked in any way. These have been discussed, you know, for a great deal of time. And while we are all newly sworn in, I think that these are very well fleshed out ideas. And I'm very excited. I'm also very excited about seeing the arts and agriculture in Economic Development, because they're such important contributors to our economy. Seeing aging going into Public Health, I think is incredibly important. Particularly, there's so many people that are relying on DSS that are not in stable housing, you know, whether it's because their assessments are going up, or because they're, you know, the owners of their buildings are selling. You know these are folks that are senior citizens, and connecting them with the Office of the Aging, I think makes perfect

sense. So I think the subject matter areas come together very, very, very nicely here. And I am incredibly excited about the structure of the committees as described without any amendments tonight.

**Chairwoman Bartels**

Legislator Walter.

**Legislator Walter**

Thank you. Um, I will agree with Legislator Uchitelle. You know, when I think about why is housing important, housing is absolutely tied into economic development sure. Because if you have businesses and there's nowhere for people to live, that's a problem. However, that's not quite the most important reason why housing is important. The most important reason is because housing is and housing insecurity is one of the number one social determinants of health. So to me, it makes absolute sense that it is withheld. Individuals who are homeless have higher rates of chronic health and mental health conditions. They have difficulty with compliance with medication, if you don't have a refrigerator, you have nowhere to put your insulin if you're a diabetic. People who are in homes that are less stable, are have issues with air quality, lead, access to heat, which increases risk of high blood pressure and heart problems and, and impact on mental health. So to me, you know, housing, it can fall under economic development, but where it most where it's most important were the places that we have to really, why we need to care so much about housing is because of its impact on health. And it doesn't take away from its relevance to some of the other committees. But it's number one priority of why we need to have good healthy housing for all of our constituents, makes this the perfect place for it to be so I support that. I'll also say in regards to the executive. You know, that just and this is not accusation all but just seeing this now, I feel like I would need more time to think about this and understand that kind of addition. And so I'm uncomfortable right now making a call on how I feel about adding the executive to Laws and Rules. And I'll leave it at that for now. Thank you.

**Legislator Fabiano**

I feel (inaudible)

**Chairwoman Bartels**

I've recorded Legislator Ronk's hand and then Legislator Maloney.

**Legislator Ronk**

Legislator Maloney can go first.

**Chairwoman Bartels**

Legislator Maloney.

**Legislator Maloney**

Thank you. I just heard homelessness again. And it's very different temporary housing, which we're all aware is in the House Committee is very different than housing in general, and many of the things we're going to be dealing with, which is why I would have preferred to see along with some other legislators that haven't had a lot of time to debate it in its own standing committee. Markertek, I believe the biggest business in Saugerties is actually losing, losing employees, because of housing. These are people

making 20 to \$25 an hour that can't buy a house or find an affordable rental. That is very different than the large homelessness problem we have. And it's a different complex approach with different solutions. One of the biggest things that we're going to be talking about is Airbnb regulation. The municipalities have to deal with it, we have to deal with it our own way. That's housing. That's one of the biggest issues for housing. And I don't see that going through the Health Committee. Once again, we haven't had a lot of time to debate this, a third of the legislature is serving their first couple of hours. Well, kind of, because the swearing in was a couple of days ago. But um, this is another reason. I just heard that a couple people aren't comfortable with voting on the Exec. being added. We were just sworn in. So that's my point, we haven't had time to discuss any of these things. I've talked to several former majority leaders, current majority leader, several former chairs of the legislature, no one has seen this many wholesale changes in a standing committee at one time, and we haven't even had chance to discuss it. And after we got it a couple of days ago, and there were many people putting forth different points of view, where did we end up one thing changed 100% of what was put in is basically going to be exactly as is. So all the discussions we had on the phone, not in person, not real debate, not real conversation, that all accounted for changing the word standing to special on the ARPA. That's what got changed. That's how much our voices were respected in this process. Because we really haven't debated or gone through any of this. I'm uncomfortable with voting on all this at this point. Because it was too much, too early, without any real debate or discussion or compromised. That's where I'm at. And I truly believe that it would be better off housing would be better off and Economic Development for now. And eventually, I think if we had a couple of months to talk about it, we'd end up with some different things and housing might end up with its own standing committee. But for now, I agree. I don't know if a question to Legislator Ronk. Are we voting on this? Should we split these up? Um, to have two separate votes on moving the Exec. to Laws and Rules and moving and I don't know why we wouldn't want why we would want for what countywide elected officials spoken for in our standing committees and not the other not the fifth? I don't I don't even know. I mean, of all the things not to debate. I mean, that would be a simple one. But, um, to me, but I don't know what you think.

**Chairwoman Bartels**

Through the Chair are you are you asking Legislator Ronk to

**Legislator Maloney**

So we're not voting on this? They're two very different things. Can we split them Ken?

**Legislator Ronk**

Yeah, no objection. I'll withdraw the portion about the executive for now. And

**Chairwoman Bartels**

Legislator Ronk you're frozen. I don't know if everyone else saw you freeze but for me you froze - okay you froze, but I understand that you're willing to withdraw the portion of relating to the Exec. so the amendment before us would be strictly related to housing.

**Legislator Ronk**

Correct.

**Chairwoman Bartels**

And Legislator Maloney, I'm assuming you're willing to withdraw your second on that portion. So now we are. We're currently discussing just housing. So Legislator Ronk your hand was up next but we're now speaking on just the amendment related to housing.

**Legislator Ronk**

Affirmative. So with all due respect to, you know what Legislators Uchitelle and Walter had said. You know, I'm not saying that there isn't a public health aspect to housing. What I'm saying is that our committees are about what we can functionally do as a county. And for all intents and purposes, on the overarching issue of housing the county portion of the government influence and effort related to housing is in the Department of Planning. That's where the Planning Board is. That's where, you know, all of our county functions that have to do with housing, other than emergency housing, which is already in Health reside. And what we're doing here is we're telling the public that the Health committee is going to take care of housing, and we're not moving the Department of Planning to the Health Committee, which makes very, very, very little sense. I understand it's a good soundbite. It's good politically to say out loud housing is a public health issue, and that's why we're putting housing underneath the Public Health committee. But the mechanisms with which to deliver on housing are still in Economic Development under the Department of Planning. So I believe that you know, sort of to Legislator Joe Maloney's point about you know, rushing into things and changing things at the start of the year rather than doing it in a reasoned way, you know, and quite frankly to Legislator Walters point about not having a lot of time to think these things through, you know. Legislator Walters concern about you know another amendment but we you know she talked about it so I feel like I have to respond to it now let Chairwoman Bartels. She's concerned about adding the words county executive to Laws and Rules. But sorry, hold on, stand by, there we go. Um, you know, concerned, adding that you know, the words county executive to Laws and Rules, but here we are adding housing without the mechanisms to deal with housing to the Public Health committee. It just doesn't make a lot of sense to me.

**Chairwoman Bartels**

Legislator Nolan.

**Legislator Nolan**

Thank you, Chair Bartels. I think that these suggestions as a whole are really fabulous. They really show a lot of potential to make the work of the committee's go much better. And I think the idea of having housing within Public Health is a strong one. Is it going to work? It certainly the executive staff is available to all the committee's. So I have every reason to suspect that it will work and will work well. If it doesn't, then I think we you know, take that information, and we have a chance to reevaluate. But I think the package as a whole is so strong that it seems worth investing in it and seeing how it works. And I have the hope that by having some of these areas of focus be in committees where there is a link to other work that that committee is already doing that it will be helpful. So I appreciate them. And I think that they're going to be really exciting new structures to work within.

**Chairwoman Bartels**

Legislator Hewitt.

**Legislator Hewitt**

Thank you, Chairwoman Bartels. Good evening, everyone. It's a pleasure to serve with you all. After reading the committee's and the suggested changes and all of your feedback. I am in favor of the proposed committees. But as I read Minority Leader Ronk suggested changes, I saw some great language was removed about temporary emergency affordable workforce and senior housing. I think Legislator Maloney started touching upon the fact that workforce housing is different. And over the last four years, in the town of Rochester, as we created Airbnb regulations, we discussed workforce housing a lot and the fact that there's not great definitions because people who work really hard with children and jobs are struggling to live here. So it may be that that's more economic development. And senior housing is also important for walkable villages and incorporating seniors into our multi-generational living. So although I'm in favor of the proposed committees, we may want to think about it in the future to break some housing issues apart. Thank you.

**Chairwoman Bartels**

Legislator Walter.

**Legislator Walter**

Thank you. Um, so, you know, many issues that we bring up. Many resolutions are heard by more than one committee, because of the relevance there might be a capital projects that's related to the environment, and it's heard by more than one committee. And it's, it's reasonable. And so you. And so the fact that planning is still located in Economic Development doesn't concern me because I feel like the primary issues that the obstacles we really need to tackle its association with planning is secondary. It may very likely come up or it may not but the primary obstacles we need to tackle with housing really should have its focus. It helps. I'm gonna say that I don't necessarily disagree with Legislator Maloney that it should stand alone. However, at this point, when I think of the work of the committees and resolutions that have to be addressed, it's not in its place right now to stand alone as its own committee, because it's not just it's not seeing the level of resolutions that a committee work would be what would be involved in committee work. I think that in Health, I would really strongly support and encourage those people in that committee to consider making a sub or a task force that's really focused on housing. I know Legislator Petit brought this up, probably the very beginning of last legislative session that's two years ago, the importance of doing that. And so, you know, I think there is a relevancy of highlighting housing and really coming up with solutions. But in terms of where it should sit in the committee, I once again, supported in Health, it doesn't mean that some of the issues might not also have to come up in Economic Development, if it's relevant. That's up to our clerk to make those kinds of calls. But again, it's focused on priorities, and the priorities are making these improvements for the health and wellbeing. And I just want to also say, and I don't know if those specify to me, I was certainly not talking just about homelessness. We have a lot of people in our county, who live in low grade housing. And because of the high cost of housing, whether it's due to Airbnb or just housing deficit, and that low-grade housing creates large numbers of health problems for those individuals, too. So this is not just about the people are homeless, this is the people who are in unstable. And if I was to reword what low grade housing is, I would call it unhealthy housing, which again, reiterates why I strongly support this. And the last thing I'm going to say is, I do feel like I had substantial time to look at the changes proposed by the chair. I don't feel like they were last minute at all. The amendments for the executive did feel like last minute, because I just saw it about 10 minutes ago. So I just want to clarify that I don't feel that these changes are last



minute. I feel like we've had substantial time to talk about and think about them, discuss them with each other. And I wholly support them as they originally are. Thank you.

**Chairwoman Bartels**

Legislator Petit.

**Legislator Petit**

Thank you, um, housing has been an issue for two, three years now. And now it's gone critical. And it's not just, it's not just temporary housing, or section eight subsidized housing. You know, it's everything from the working class to the middle class. And, you know, if we're looking at economic development, we're also looking at, you know, high end houses. I do believe, though, that because it is such an important issue, it should be in its own committee. And I know we spoke quite a bit with several legislators about that. I don't - I mean, moving it from one committee back to the other. I just, I really think it should be its own committee. But that's not the motion so I'll stop there.

**Chairwoman Bartels**

I do not see any other hands raised. So on the amendment. For clarification, because it has been changed, which is related to the move of housing only. Majority Leader.

**Legislator Heppner**

Yeah, so I believe that amendments on moving housing back to Economic Development?

**Chairwoman Bartels**

Yes.

**Legislator Heppner**

On that amendment, I believe we are a short no with one yes, Legislator Maloney. Please speak up if the if I miss read that.

**Chairwoman Bartels**

Okay, and Minority Leader Ronk.

**Legislator Ronk**

As far as I know, I believe are a short yes with one no Fabiano, unless anybody else speaks up.

**Clerk Fabella**

So with hearing none, that amendment is defeated seven to 16.

**Chairwoman Bartels**

Thank you. On resolution, yes Legislator Ronk.

**Legislator Ronk**

You know, unless somebody else wants to make an amendment. You know, I'll leave well enough alone with the rest of it. I mean, it doesn't sound like the supports there. I've already made my points. It

seems as if there's a will of the legislature to just move forward with these large changes to the committee's, you know, on the first day that we're together, so I won't belabor the point.

**Chairwoman Bartels**

On the resolution.

**Legislator Ronk**

I'd like a long roll.

**Chairwoman Bartels**

Before the long roll, is there anyone else who wants to speak before the roll? Legislator Litts?

**Legislator Litts**

Yes, thank you. Um, I know that a lot of people are passionate about temporary housing and affordable housing. But what we have to remember is the Ulster County Planning Board, which works with all the towns. One of their major functions is commercial property and residential housing. And that committee or that planning board reports to our planning department and the Planning Department reports to the Economic Development Committee. And that's a major role in our economy of the county. Just remove everything and put it in a different committee I don't think makes sense. Because, I mean, that's a major function of our county economic drivers. And I think we need to - I understand the compassion but I think we need to consider the unintended consequences of taking it away from Economic Development.

**Chairwoman Bartels**

Are there any other comments before we move into a long roll?

**Chairwoman Bartels**

Okay, so on the resolution, I'll turn it over to the clerk for a long roll.

**Clerk Fabella**

Bartels.

**Chairwoman Bartels**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Cahill.

**Legislator Cahill**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Corcoran.

**Legislator Corcoran**

No.

**Clerk Fabella**

Criswell.

**Legislator Criswell**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Erner.

**Legislator Erner**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Fabiano.

**Legislator Fabiano**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Gavaris.

**Legislator Gavaris**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Greene.

**Legislator Greene**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Hansut.

**Legislator Hansut**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Heppner.

**Legislator Heppner**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Hewitt.

**Legislator Hewitt**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Levine.

**Legislator Levine**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Litts.

**Legislator Litts**

I'm going to be a no, because I think we're, we're splitting the baby here. And we're not realizing the unintended consequences. I believe we should be looking at maybe bifurcating the housing question into maybe putting it into different committees under different standings, but I'll be you know.

**Clerk Fabella**

Lopez.

**Legislator Lopez**

No.

**Clerk Fabella**

Maloney.

**Legislator Maloney**

I'll explain my vote real quick. You know, post charter, I think every legislative body has spoken about truly empowering the legislature to a co-equal branch of government, that no one, no one I talked to, in leadership, or any other part of the legislature in this term so far in the last term that I served on thinks that we are a coequal branch of government. We are only as powerful as we are, as a group. A 12 - member group becomes a real co-equal branch of government. We have not been able to do that. And a lot of that is because we have not been able to empower our standing committees. And I just think right now, what we're doing way too early, is moving words around. Moving a word under this word, but it doesn't fix the underlying problem is how we've been functioning. And I think the only way to do that is to really take serious, we're going to have to start postponing and voting things down, demanding inclusion information and data and real time, a seat at the table - reminded the Democratic caucus the other day, that, you know, the executives job is day to day operations. Our job as policymakers is really a plan and a path forward. And then the executive takes over. That is not how this county is functioning. And for that reason, I'll be a no. And I think it's important because I really don't agree with the process, the timing, and

some of the things that I haven't really had a chance to debate with my fellow legislators in a real way. I'll be a no and I think it's important that we all are noes a little more often when it's not right. To fix this we're going to have to stand up and demand that we are part of the conversation. We have a seat at the table and we truly are policy makers and fund appropriators. So I'll be a no.

**Clerk Fabella**

Nolan.

**Legislator Nolan**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Petit.

**Legislator Petit**

Well, you know again, I'd really like to see housing and transportation in their own committee. But with that, as it is now I'm a yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Roberts.

**Legislator Roberts**

Madam Chair, I'm not going to second guess you on your first day. I'm a yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Ronk.

**Legislator Ronk**

I'll be a no.

**Clerk Fabella**

Sperry.

**Legislator Sperry**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Stewart.

**Legislator Stewart**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Uchitelle.

**Legislator Uchitelle**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

And Walter.

**Legislator Walter**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

The resolution is adopted 18 to five.

**Chairwoman Bartels**

Thank you. We've concluded resolutions. I'd like to call on Legislator Uchitelle to read to night's memorials.

**Legislator Uchitelle**

Thank you, Chairwoman Bartels. Tonight's meeting is adjourned in the memory of Richard P. Boice of Lake Katrine in New York, Marguerite Hagl of West Shokan, New York, Linda Venett of Kingston, New York, Rose M. Porsch of Kingston, New York, George W. McClure of Kingston, New York, Catherine L. Neer of Rifton, New York, Sandra L. Daw of Port Ewen, New York, Virginia H. Soovajian of Woodstock, New York, Demetrius Drakontaidis of Kingston, New York, Edward G. Zellefrow of Kingston, New York, Norman Hurtle of Saugerties, New York, Virginia Cahill of Irondequoit, New York, John P. Traverse of Stone Ridge, New York, Michael Lang of Woodstock, New York, James L. Reylea of Highland, New York, Richard Colurciello, of Milton, New York. And finally, Bruno J. Ronkese, a world war two veteran of Marlboro, New York.

**Chairwoman Bartels**

Thank you. Legislator Litts.

**Legislator Litts**

Yes, thank you, Madam Chairman. I would like to also add Tom Schoonmaker from Highland, New York.

**Clerk Fabella**

Legislator Walter.

**Legislator Walter**

Thank you. I just want to say briefly about Michael Lang from Woodstock, New York. This is an amazing, amazing person from Ulster County and when we speak of arts being added to economic development, this person who created the Woodstock festival as we know it, both the first time around and the second time around, and the energy that he put into really raising arts, it's not only the attention towards the arts,

but it wasn't- it served as a major economic driver. And it's a huge loss to our county for loss of Michael Lang. I just wanted to say that.

**Chairwoman Bartels**

Legislator Cahill.

**Legislator Cahill**

Thank you, Chairperson Bartels. I wanted to add the name of Mark Trot. Mark is a former candidate for both legislature in the town of Ulster Town Board. And he passed away yesterday. He's a good guy and left the young family. Very sad.

**Chairwoman Bartels**

Legislator Heppner.

**Legislator Heppner**

Thank you, Chair Bartels. Legislator Walter echoed it perfectly in regards to the memory of Michael Lang, co-founder of the Woodstock Festival. And you know, as a person that grew up in the community that lent his name to that festival. I just want you to know, he was someone that was almost legendary infamous status, you know, from a young age and what he meant to generations in the future that would come from what he created in 1969. So I just want to, again, recognize his memory and condolences to his family and so many in this community that are hurting from his loss. Thank you.

**Chairwoman Bartels**

Thank you. Okay, I don't see any more hands. I'd like to just let everyone know that I anticipate releasing the legislative schedule shortly. I look forward to working with majority and minority leaders regarding committee assignments in the coming weeks and I anticipate reaching out to each of you directly as well. At this point, I would ask for a motion to adjourn.

**Legislator Litts**

Madam Chairwoman I will make a motion to adjourn.

**Chairwoman Bartels**

Is there a second?

**Legislator Cahill**

Second.

**Chairwoman Bartels**

Thank you all those in favor of adjournment.

**Legislative Body**

Aye. Aye. Aye.

**Chairwoman Bartels**

Thank you. Thank you all stay safe and stay healthy.

**Legislator Litts**

Happy New Year.

**Legislator Brian Cahill**

Congratulations.

**Chairwoman Bartels**

Thank you.

**Legislator Fabiano**

Congratulations.

**Chairwoman Bartels**

Thank you, good night everyone.