

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE



P.O. Box 1800
KINGSTON, NEW YORK 12402
Telephone: 845 340-3900
FAX: 845 340-3651

Minutes

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2024

6:30 PM

Meeting is also available via Livestream: <https://livestream.com/accounts/1512750/events/1824203>

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY VICTORIA A. FABELLA, CLERK OF THE
LEGISLATURE: 6:45 PM**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG AND 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 Meeting.

MICROPHONES

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

ROLL CALL: **Present:** 22 **Absent:** 1 (Legislator Hansut)

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SWEARING IN OF LEGISLATORS

BY THE

HONORABLE DAVID M. GANDIN
NEW YORK STATE SUPREME COURT JUSTICE, THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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NOMINATION OF THE TEMPORARY CHAIR OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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

Legislator Levine motioned, seconded by Legislator Sperry to nominate Majority Leader Uchitelle as Temporary Chair.

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

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 0

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NOMINATION OF THE CHAIR OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Temporary Chair Uchitelle called upon Legislator Sperry for the purpose of making a nomination of Chair.

Legislator Sperry motioned, seconded by Legislator Levine to nominate Legislator Peter Criswell as Chair.

Temporary Chair Uchitelle then asked if there were any other nominations. Motion to close nominations by Legislator Nolan, seconded by Legislator Stewart. Clerk Fabella called the long roll.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 0

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**CHAIR'S ACCEPTANCE
(Speech Attached with the Minutes)**

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THE FOLLOWING DESIGNATIONS ARE ON FILE:

Majority Leader – Abe Uchitelle

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Minority Leader – Kevin Roberts

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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 12th

MOTION TO DISPENSE WITH THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

COMMUNICATIONS FROM:

UC Legislative Chair, Tracey Bartels

Appointed Craig Hightower to the Ulster County Renewable Energy Implementation Working Group

Thank you letters to 2023 Audit Committee Members for their Service

Thank you letters to Climate Smart Committee Members for their Service

Thank you Letter to Issabella Bassett - Communities in Action: Building a Better New York and 2023 American Rescue Plan Act Project Report

Regis Obijiski appointment to the RRA Board

NYS Public Service Commission

Subsequent Filing – Matter No. 21-0118

Edward Jordan, Director of Purchasing

RFB-UC23-149C Bridge Replacements Over Mombaccus Creek Sawkill Creek Final

Concern Citizens (6)

Opposed Resolution No. 709 & 710

Jay Nelson

Mailed- Public Notice – for protection of 25-30 county owned acres south of Paradies Lane West of South Ohioville Rd and East of the Thruway

Stana Weisburd

Supporting Resolution No. 425 & 462

Ulster County Board Of Health

Agenda for November 14, 2023

Ulster County Climate Smart Committee

Town of Woodstock Report for December 2023

COMMUNICATIONS FROM (continued):

Ulster County Compliance Committee	Agenda for November 29, 2023 & Minutes for October 2023
Ulster County Dept of Finance Real Property Tax Service	UC IDA PILOT project payment calculation and billing
Ulster County Personnel Department	Civil Service Announcement
Ulster County Planning Board	Agenda for January 3, 2024, and Minutes for December 6, 2023
Ulster County Tourism	January 2024 Trending Calendar
UC Veteran Services Director, Mark A. Cozzupoli	Veteran Related Communications

COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS:

Appoints Michael P Hein & Michael Caslin to the Investment Advisory Board

Appoints Sean Brix, Jana Kantor, Joe McDole, Tiziana Rinaldi, Dan Whalen To the Ulster County Workforce Development Board

UC Executive Jen Metzger Signed \$412M 2024 Ulster County Adopted Budget

UC Legislature Approves Hotel, Motel, & Short-Term Rental Occupancy Tax Increase

UC Executive Metzger's First -In-The-State Decarbonization Capital Reserve Passes Legislature

UC Executive and Chair of the Legislature visit the White House to discuss local impacts of federal Programs

UC County Executive Jen Metzger sends letter to Governor Hochul, WMC Health Urging Prevention of service cuts at Health Alliance Hospital

COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS (continue):

Ulster County Executive Statement on
Supreme Court Decision Re: Comptroller
Subpoena

Nominating and Appointing Ken Juras to
the position of Director of Budget
pending confirmation

UC Executive Jen Metzger Sworn in for
First Full Four-Year Term

MEMORIALIZING LETTER:

To Governor Hochul regarding funding for HealthAlliance Hospital

PUBLIC COMMENT (on items currently before the Legislature): None

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

Chair Criswell designated Majority Leader Uchitelle to Chair the Committee of the Whole.

Majority Leader Uchitelle called the Committee of the Whole to Order.

MOTION NO. 1 Moved to Block - Resolution Nos. 1- 6 - All in favor

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 2024

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 Notes 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

Voting In Favor: 22
Voting Against: 0
Absent: 1 (Hansut)

Disposition: Resolutions Blocked

Majority Leader Uchitelle called the question on the blocked Resolutions.

Voting In Favor: 22
Voting Against: 0
Absent: 1(Hansut)
Disposition: Resolution Nos. 1-6 Adopted

Adjournment of the Committee Of The Whole

Motion Made By: Legislator Kitchen
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Litts
No. of Votes in Favor: 22
No. of Votes Against: 0

RESOLUTION NOS: 1 – 6

1	Adoption Of The Rules Of Order ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE: AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Hansut)
2	Appointing A Clerk Of The Ulster County Legislature ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE: AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Hansut)

3	Creating Standing Committees For The Year 2024 ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE: AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Hansut)
4	Designation Of Official Newspapers ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE: AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Hansut)
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 DEFEATED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE: AYES: 10 NOES: 12 (Ayes: Collins, Corcoran, Greene, Levine, Litts, Lopez, Nolan, Stewart, Uchitelle, and Walls) (Absent: Legislator Hansut)
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 2024 Real Property Taxes Based On 2023 Real Property Tax Assessments For The Current Fiscal Year Of Said County DEFEATED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE: AYES: 9 NOES: 13 (Ayes: Collins, Corcoran, Levine, Litts, Lopez, Nolan, Stewart, Uchitelle, and Walls) (Absent: Legislator Hansut)

7:00 PM – CALL OF THE PUBLIC HEARING BY CLERK: 7:19 PM

On Proposed Local Law No. 20 Of 2023, A Local Law Amending Article XIII Collection Of Delinquent Real Property Taxes, Of The Code Of The County Of Ulster, In Relation To Authorization

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED: 7:19 PM

Motioned by Legislator Kitchen
Seconded by Legislator Litts

PUBLIC COMMENT (on subjects *not* currently before the Legislature): None

MEETING ADJOURNED IN MEMORY OF: Read by Legislator Sperry

Diane McCord, Esopus
Ralph Post Sr, Marlborough
Gary F Parks, Marlborough
Antoinette Weber, Kingston
Will Husta, Marbeltown

Gary F. Parks, Milton
Theodore Humphrey, Sr., Port Ewen
Robert Tomaszewski, Kingston
Dominic Affuso, Marlborough

Chair Criswell gave a special welcome to all the new Legislators and stated he is looking forward to working with new and returning legislators this year and having a productive year.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 7:24 PM

Motion by Legislator Litts
Seconded by Majority Leader Uchitelle