

**Laws, Rules & Government Services Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: September 19, 2022 – 6:00 PM
LOCATION: KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
PRESIDING OFFICER: Deputy Chair Roberts
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
PRESENT: Legislators Gavaris, Levine & Ronk
ABSENT: Legislator Heppner
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Erner & Petit, Legislative Counsel Ragucci, Deputy County Executive Rider – UC Executive’s Office, Brian MacGregor – UC Insurance Dept., Carl Brown – UC Human Rights Commission

Deputy Chair Roberts Heppner called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Motion No. 1: Moved to APPROVE Minutes of the August 11th Meeting Minutes

Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Roberts

Discussion: See transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gavaris, Levine, Roberts & Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Minutes APPROVED

Resolutions for the September 20, 2022 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 438: Confirming The Appointment Of Brian MacGregor As Insurance Officer

Resolution Summary: This Resolution confirms the appointment of Brian MacGregor as the UC Insurance Officer

Motion No. 2: Resolution No. 438 MOVED FOR DISCUSSION
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Gavaris

Discussion: Deputy Chair Roberts welcomed Mr. MacGregor and asked the members if they had any questions for him before the vote. The members thanked him for attending and congratulated him on the new post. Mr. Mac Gregor thanked the members for their time and support.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gavaris, Levine, Roberts & Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4

Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution ADOPTED

Resolution No. 198: Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 5 Of 2022, A Local Law Amending Various Sections Of The Ulster County Charter And Ulster County Administrative Code To Reduce The Ulster County Legislature To 17 Members, To Be Held On Tuesday, October 18, 2022 At 7:05 PM

Resolution Summary: This resolution sets a public hearing on Tuesday, September 20, 2022 At 7:05 PM to provide members of the public the opportunity to offer comments on Proposed Local Law No. 5 of October 18, 2022 At 7:05 PM 2022.

Motion No. 3: Resolution No. 198 MOVED FOR DISCUSSION
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Gavaris

Discussion: Legislator Ronk expressed his support for defeating the Resolution. He added that the deadline for the required referendum was already passed. Deputy Chair Roberts agreed and called the question.

Voting In Favor: None
Voting Against: Legislators Gavaris, Levine, Roberts & Ronk
Votes in Favor: 0
Votes Against: 4
Disposition: Resolution DEFEATED

Resolution No. 199: Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 6 Of 2022, A Local Law Amending Section C-101 B. Of The Ulster County Charter, Section A30-2 B. Of The Ulster County Administrative Code, And Section 216-5 Of The Code Of The County Of Ulster In Relation To Appointments To The Commission Of Human Rights, To Be Held On Tuesday, October 18, 2022 At 7:10 PM

Resolution Summary: This resolution sets a public hearing on Tuesday, October 18 at 7:10 PM to provide members of the public the opportunity to offer comments on Proposed Local Law No. 6 of 2022.

Motion No. 4: Resolution No. 199 MOVED FOR DISCUSSION
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Gavaris

Discussion: Deputy Chair Roberts recognized Legislator Erner, Resolution Sponsor. Legislator Erner asked if he could defer to Human Right Commission Chair Carl Brown to explain the proposed language before the committee. Deputy Chair Roberts recognized Commission Brown who explained that the Human Rights Commission (HRC) requested that Charter language be amended 1. to allow the HRC to elect their own Chair, 2. Provide clarification on conditions that a seat is vacated and how the vacancy would be filled.

He explained that the most significant change is a change to the appointing authority to the Ulster County Commissioner of Human Rights if a vacancy is not filled within 90 days by the original appointing authority.

The members discussed the timeframe for appointment. Legislator Ronk stated that he did not support the change and commented that finding the right candidate who can provide diversity of thought as well as the willingness to volunteer the time can be difficult. He stated that he would be more comfortable with a 180 timeframe. Mr. Brown stated that open ended vacancies are problematic and hinders the work of the commission. He suggested 120 days. Mr. Brown commented that the HRC would like to see further changes to the membership of the commission, including requiring appointment of a lawyer as a member, increasing the membership to 15 with 1/3 of members representing low income residents, 1/3 representing the public sector and 1/3 representing the public sector. Deputy Chair Roberts commented that a lawyer would likely not be able to give legal advice or act as counsel to the commission while serving as a member.

The members discussed the option of submitting the proposed amendment directly to the Charter Revision Commission since the timeframe to submit the required referendum question for the 2022 November election ballot has passed. Legislator Gavaris commented that there would be time to reintroduce the law in 2023 if the Charter Revision Commission did not include it in their recommendations. The members briefly discussed the work of the Charter Commission. Legislator Erner asked if the committee would be willing to submit its support for the vacancy local law language to the Charter Revision Commission. Legislator Ronk stated that he would support forwarding the language to the Commission, but hesitated to lend the committee's support for the change.

Motion No. 5: MOTION TO POSTPONE Resolution No. 199
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Gavaris

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gavaris, Levine, Roberts & Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution POSTPONED

Resolution No. 437: Confirming Appointment Of Members To The Ulster County Board Of Ethics

Resolution Summary: This confirms the appointment of Dean McGee, Dylan Gallagher, Lara Kasper-Bukareff, Deborah Schneer and Robert Nuzzo to the UC Board of Ethics for terms commencing immediately and expiring on 8/31/27, 8/31/26, 8/31/27, 8/31/25 and 8/31/26 respectively.

Motion No. 5: Resolution No. 437 MOVED FOR DISCUSSION
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Gavaris

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gavaris, Levine, Roberts & Ronk

Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 490: Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 10 Of 2022, A Local Law Amending The Code Of The County Of Ulster In Relation To Construction Apprenticeships, To Be Held On Tuesday, October 18, 2022 At 7:25 PM

Resolution Summary: This resolution sets a public hearing on Tuesday, October 18 at 7:25 PM to provide members of the public the opportunity to offer comments on Proposed Local Law No. 6 of 2022.

Motion No. 6: **Resolution No. 490 MOVED FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Levin

Discussion: Legislator Petit indicated that she would like to have her name added as a co-sponsor. Legislator Ronk, sponsor of the Local Law stated he would be pleased to have her name added, and commented that Mike Ham from the Operating Engineers Local spoke to him about the difficulty in following the current apprenticeship law as structured.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gavaris, Levine, Roberts & Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 491: Calling For The Position Of County Executive To Be Filled At The November 2022 General Election Pursuant To The Ulster County Charter And Administrative Code

Resolution Summary: This Resolution calls for the unexpired term of Patrick K. Ryan in the office of the Ulster County Executive be filled by popular vote at the November 2022 General Election.

Motion No. 7: **Resolution No. 491 MOVED FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Levine

Discussion: Legislator Levine commented that there was a question in caucus earlier in the week as to whether the new Executive would take office, and asked if a determination was made on the timeframe; when election results were certified or January 1, 2023. Legislative Counsel Ragucci responded that he was not comfortable responding just yet. Legislator Ronk stated that he believed January 1st.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gavaris, Levine, Roberts & Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Deputy Chair Roberts advised the members that the Health, Human Services & Housing Committee took no action on Resolution No. 200 at their September 7th meeting.

Deputy Chair Roberts moved on to Old Business and advised the members that the Charter Revision Commission met the past Thursday. He asked the members if they had any other old business, and hearing none moved on to new business.

He advised the members that they received an invitation from the Board of Elections to their open house and mock election. He added that the Chair of the Legislature reached out to him for his thoughts on adding a New Business section to the Legislative Session agenda. He stated that the request came from another Legislator and that the Chair was opposed to it. He commented that the Laws & Rules committee is charged with amending the Rules and may want to consider the proposal at a future meeting. Legislator Gavaris commented that subjects for discussion at Legislative Session need to be published ahead of time and questioned whether a New Business section was even allowable. The members briefly discussed allowability. Legislator Ronk stated that the meeting agenda is up to the Chair and she can chose how he runs her meeting. Legislator Gavaris commented that there are numerous committee meetings prior to session and did not see the reason for bringing up new business at monthly legislative session. Legislator Ronk stated his hesitation for creating a rule to for one person or group of people Deputy Chair Roberts commented that it is impossible to create rules that foresee all possibilities. He asked if there was any new business and hearing none.

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Gavaris

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

No. of Votes in Favor: 4

No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 6:40 PM

Respectfully submitted: Deputy Clerk Mahler

Minutes Approved: October 13, 2022