

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

DATE & TIME: October 7, 2019 – 6:15 PM (or immediately following the Legislative Programs, Education & Community Services Committee)
LOCATION: KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman Donaldson
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
PRESENT: Legislators Archer, Heppner, Roberts & Ronk
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Nolan, Legislative Counsel Gordon, Minority Counsel Pascale, Deputy County Executive Rider – UC Executive’s Office, Jeremy Russell – Citizen, Spectrum News

Chairman Donaldson called the meeting to order at 6:24 PM.

Motion No. 1: Moved to APPROVE the Minutes of the September 16, 2019 meeting

Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Donaldson, Heppner, Roberts & Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Minutes APPROVED**

Resolutions for the October 15, 2019 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 374: Establishing A Policy To Prohibit Appointees Of Ulster County Elected Officials And Board Of Elections Staff From Holding Any Elective Public Office Of Any City, Town or Village Within Ulster County

Resolution Summary: This resolution establishes a policy prohibiting the holding of any elective public office of any City, Town or Village within Ulster County by any appointed members of the County Executive’s staff, including Deputy County Executives, Department Heads, and all other assistants, officers, and employees of the County Executive’s office; the Commissioners of the Board of Elections and all employees of the Board of Elections; and any appointees of the Comptroller, County Clerk, District Attorney, Sheriff and Ulster County Legislature.

Motion No. 2: Resolution No. 374 MOVED FOR DISCUSSION

Motion By: Legislator Ronk

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Roberts

Discussion:

Chairman Donaldson reminded the members that there were a few amendments made at the previous meeting and asked Legislator Ronk to remind the members of the specifics. Legislator Ronk advised the members that they added a provision to exempt members of unpaid boards and commission from the policy, as well as individuals elected to Fire, Library or School District Boards. Chairman Donaldson stated that he would like to see the effective date moved to January 1, 2020.

Legislator Heppner stated that he would support the amendment, but continued to have concerns with the policy.

Motion No. 3: Motion to AMEND the last RESOLVED to change the effective date of the policy to December 31, 2019

Motion By: Legislator Donaldson

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Roberts

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Donaldson, Heppner, Roberts & Ronk

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Amendment ADOPTED

Motion No. 4: Motion to ADOPT Resolution No. 374 AS AMENDED

Motion By: Legislator Ronk

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Roberts

Discussion:

Chairman Donaldson asked if there was any further discussion on the policy. Legislator Ronk stated that he would like to see the measure moved to the floor for further discussion by the full body.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Donaldson, Roberts & Ronk

Voting Against: Legislators Archer & Heppner

Votes in Favor: 3

Votes Against: 2

Disposition: Resolution ADOPTED AS AMENDED

Resolution No. 380: Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 4 Of 2019, A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 2 of 2019, A Local Law Requiring Restaurants And Fast Food Service Establishments Provide Plastic Beverage Straws Solely Upon Request, To Include Plastic Stirrers, Plastic Cutlery And Condiment Packets

Resolution Summary: This resolution adopts Proposed Local Law No. 4 of 2019

Motion No. 5: **Resolution No. 380 MOVED FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Heppner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Archer

Discussion:
Chairman Donaldson reminded the members that the committee added a provision allowing for condiment packets to be made available for an individual to access without request.

Motion No. 6: **Motion to ADOPT Resolution No. 380**

Motion By: Legislator Heppner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Archer

Discussion:
Legislator Roberts commented that he supported sending the law to the floor for a vote, but did not support its adoption.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Donaldson, Heppner, Roberts & Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 381: Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 8 Of 2019, A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 4 Of 2019, A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 2 Of 2006 (A Local Law Adopting A County Charter Form Of Government For The County Of Ulster, State Of New York) And Amending Local Law No. 10 Of 2008 (A Local Law Adopting An Administrative Code For The County Of Ulster, State Of New York), To Create Term Limits For Certain Ulster County Elected Officials, To Further Restrict Said Terms, To Be Held On Tuesday, November 12, 2019 At 6:20 PM

Resolution Summary: This resolution sets a public hearing for Tuesday, November 12, 2019 At 6:20 PM to allow the public to offer comments on Proposed Local Law Number 8 of 2019.

Motion No. 7: **Resolution No. 381 MOVED FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Roberts

Discussion:

Chairman Donaldson reminded the members that the Resolution was postponed at the previous meeting because the sponsor was not present. Legislator Ronk advised the members that he spoke with Legislator Joseph Maloney, sponsor of the Resolution, who advised him that he had no objections to the committee voting on the measure in his absence. Chairman Donaldson stated that he supported a twelve-year term, but did not see the value in changing the limit so soon after the twelve-year limit was instituted. He added that he felt it would confuse voters.

Chairman Donaldson called the question.

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| Voting In Favor: | Legislator Roberts |
| Voting Against: | Legislators Archer, Donaldson, Heppner & Ronk |
| Votes in Favor: | 1 |
| Votes Against: | 4 |
| Disposition: | Resolution DEFEATED |

Resolution No. 407: Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 10 Of 2019, A Local Law Regarding Campaign Finance Reform in Ulster County, To Be Held On Tuesday, November 12, 2019 At 6:10 PM

Resolution Summary: This resolution sets a public hearing for Tuesday, November 12, 2019 At 6:10 PM to allow the public to offer comments on Proposed Local Law Number 10 of 2019.

Motion No. 8: **Resolution No. 407 MOVED FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Heppner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion:

Legislator Nolan questioned if the two proposed laws from 2018 would be withdrawn if Proposed Local Law 10 was passed. Legislator Heppner commented that it is the sponsor’s responsibility to withdraw a Resolution. Chairman Donaldson stated that he would be willing to withdraw his Proposed Campaign Finance Law if Legislator Nolan would do the same. Chairman Donaldson and Legislator Nolan withdrew Resolutions 361 and 212 of 2018 respectively.

Chairman Donaldson asked if there were any questions or comments on the law. Legislator Heppner stated that there were a lot of specifics that informed changes to the law. Chairman Donaldson asked for a summary of the changes from the previous laws. Legislator Heppner stated that he would work with Legislative Staff to determine the best format for the summary. The members briefly discussed the timeframe of upcoming county elections. Legislator Ronk stated that he would like to see the law moved forward to a public hearing to allow for the members of the Legislature to have an opportunity to vote on it. Legislature Archer stated that she was supportive of moving the law forward to public hearing.

Chairman Donaldson called the question on the Resolution.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Donaldson, Heppner & Ronk
Voting Against: Legislator Roberts
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 1
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 411: Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 11 Of 2019, A Local Law Amending Various Sections Of The Ulster County Charter And Ulster County Administrative Code To Reduce The Ulster County Legislature To 21 Members, To Be Held On Tuesday, November 12, 2019 At 6:15 PM

Resolution Summary: This resolution sets a public hearing for Tuesday, November 12, 2019 At 6:15 PM to allow the public to offer comments on Proposed Local Law Number 11 of 2019.

Chairman Donaldson advised the members that there had been discussion on this in the past, but the timing would have resulted in redistricting in the middle of a legislative term. He added that now would be the time to consider it with the census at hand and redistricting coming up. He reminded the members that the reduction of the Legislature from 33 to 23 happened post census and prior to a new term of the Legislature. Legislator Archer questioned what analytics were used to determine the number 21 as opposed to 19, 17, etc. Legislator Ronk responded that he actually supported a much smaller Legislature, but recalled the difficulty in obtaining a reduction from 33 to 23. He added that one of the reasons for 21, was the even divisibility by 3 to more reasonably reach 2/3 of the body required for vetoes. Legislator Archer asked if the increase in the number of constituents per Legislator and effects on Towns were considered when deciding on 21. The members briefly discussed projected increase in the number of constituents and the desire to keep Towns whole.

Legislator Heppner advised the members that these concerns give him pause to move forward with the measure without more information and study. Legislator Ronk stated that, with the census approaching, and the referendum requirement, the Legislature would either have to act on the measure soon, or redistrict twice in ten years.

Legislator Roberts commented that he was against the proposal a few months ago, but was open to discussing it again in January with the new body. Legislator Ronk reminded the members that the law would take effect for the 2023 elections. Chairman Donaldson asked Legislative Staff to inquire if the county still had access to the software programs used by the last Redistricting Commission.

Disposition: **NO ACTION TAKEN**

Chairman Donaldson asked if there was any new business. Deputy County Executive Rider informed the members that they should expect a late Resolution from the Board of Elections to accept additional state money to offset the cost of early voting. He added that the amount was around \$200,000 and required adoption in October because the deadline for signature on the contract was the 23rd. Chairman Donaldson advised the members that he would schedule a special meeting on Session night to consider the Resolution.

Chairman Donaldson asked the members if there was any other business, and hearing none;

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Archer
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 6:54 PM

Respectfully submitted: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
Minutes Approved: November 18, 2019