

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

DATE & TIME: May 11, 2023 – 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 Bartels (arrived at 6:15 PM), Gavaris & Levine
ABSENT: Legislators Heppner & Ronk
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Erner and Maloney; Deputy County Executive Contreras – County Executive’s Office; Patricia Doxsey – Daily Freeman

Deputy Chair Roberts called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM

Motion No. 1: **Moved to Approve Minutes of the April 13, 2023 Meeting**

Motion By: Legislator Gavaris
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Levine

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gavaris, Levine & Roberts
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Minutes Approved**

Resolutions for the May 16, 2023 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 124: Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 3 Of 2023, A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 3 of 2019, A Local Law Establishing The Ulster County Electrical Licensing Board And Providing For The Qualifications, Examination, Licensing And Regulation Of Electricians In Ulster County, New York, To Be Held On Tuesday, June 13, 2023 At 7:10 PM

Resolution Summary: This resolution sets a public hearing on Tuesday, June 13, 2023 at 7:10 PM to provide the public an opportunity to comment on Proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2023

Deputy Chair Roberts informed the members that Minority Leader Ronk, sponsor of the legislation, was not present and was seeking postponement of the resolution. He added that the purpose of the proposed law is to extend the exemption from testing provision extended to certain practicing electricians.

Motion No. 2: **To Postpone Resolution No. 124**
Motion By: Legislator Gavaris
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Levine

Discussion:

Deputy Chair Roberts asked if there was any discussion and hearing none called for a vote in favor of postponing the Resolution.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gavaris, Levine & Roberts
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Postponed**

Resolution No. 279: Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 6 Of 2023, A Local Law Amending The Code Of The County Of Ulster, Chapter 131, Vehicles, County, Article I, Sustainable Green Fleet Policy, In Relation To Strategies And Goals, To Be Held On Tuesday, June 13, 2023 At 7:00 PM

Resolution Summary: This resolution sets a public hearing on Tuesday, June 13, 2023 at 7:00 PM to provide the public an opportunity to comment on Proposed Local Law No. 6 of 2023

Motion No. 3: **Resolution No. 279 Moved for Discussion**
Motion By: Legislator Gavaris
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Levine

Discussion:

Deputy Chair Roberts asked if there were any questions or discussion and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gavaris, Levine & Roberts
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Resolution No. 310: Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 5 Of 2023, A Local Law Amending Chapter 216 Of The Code Of The County Of Ulster, Human Rights, In Relation To Gender Expression, To Be Held On Tuesday, June 13, 2023 At 7:25 PM

Resolution Summary: This resolution sets a public hearing on Tuesday, June 13, 2023 At 7:25 PM to provide the public an opportunity to comment on Proposed Local Law No. 5 of 2023

Motion No. 4: **Resolution No. 310 Moved for Discussion**
Motion By: Legislator Gavaris
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Levine

Discussion:

Legislator Gavaris stated that he spoke with the sponsor to express that he has an issue with one of the definitions as it relates to potentially compelling speech. He added that the Resolution before them is setting the public hearing on the proposed law and that he would support moving the public hearing forward.

Legislator Maloney stated that there is a lot of LGBT language in the current law as well as protections guaranteed by the state. He asked what protections this law offers that is not current covered. Legislator Gavaris stated that pursuant to conversations with the sponsor the addition to the law is about gender expression, such as transgender clothing, makeup and things like that. Legislator Levine offered the term drag as clarification. The members discussed protections extended by the state and local law for gender identity, but not gender expression. Legislator Gavaris stated that the sponsor spoke with counsel and that the law was legal and may be the first in the country to protect gender expression.

The members discussed whether the protection was already covered under state and local protections. Legislator Maloney sought an example pf an individual who would be protected under the proposed law who would not have been protected under current laws. The members briefly discussed that the law was intended to preempt the circumstance and possible scenarios where discrimination could occur, such as at a public library or school.

Deputy Chair Roberts stated that he would be voting no unless the sponsor would be present at the next meeting and asked the members if they would support postponement. Legislator Gavaris stated that he had concerns with the reference to the county’s authority under police powers, as well as the concern he has with language in the definition of gender expression which includes a persons’ chosen name or pronoun as a form of gender expression.

The members continued to discuss the intent of the law and the possible scenarios it aims to address. Legislator Erner commented that a hypothetical situation could be at the county pool where someone who presents as male wears a bikini and is asked to leave. He continued by describing examples where drag performers specifically could be mistreated for the clothes they are wearing in a public setting. Deputy County Executive Contreras commented that the law could potentially offer protection to a heterosexual, cisgender male who is denied an apartment because he is a known drag performer. The members continued to debate whether a new protection is being extended or if the class is already protected.

Deputy Chair Roberts asked if there was any further discussion and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Gavaris & Levine
Voting Against: Legislator Roberts
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 1
Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Resolution No. 311: Confirming Appointment Of Member To The Ulster County Board Of Ethics

Resolution Summary: This Resolution confirms the appointment of Anne Zahradnik, PhD of Hurley to the Ulster County Board of Ethics for a term commencing immediately and expiring on August 31, 2025.

Motion No. 5: **Resolution No. 125 Moved for Discussion**
Motion By: Legislator Levine
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Gavaris

Discussion:

Deputy Chair Roberts asked if there were any questions or discussion and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

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

Deputy Chair Roberts asked if there was further discussion, old or new business, and hearing none;

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Gavaris
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Levine

No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 6:51 PM

Respectfully submitted: Deputy Clerk Mahler
Minutes Approved: June 12, 2023