

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

DAVID B. DONALDSON, Chairman
TRACEY A. BARTELS, Vice Chairwoman
JONATHAN R. HEPPNER, Majority Leader
KENNETH J. RONK, JR., Minority Leader
VICTORIA A. FABELLA, Clerk



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

MINUTES

AUGUST 11, 2020

PUBLIC HEARINGS

6:15 PM

**Powered by Zoom. Meeting ID: 982 8635 1219
And By Telephone (646) 558-8656**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIR: 6:34 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG AND MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION:
Led by Legislator Peter Criswell.

ROLL CALL: Present: 19 Absent: 4 (Legislators Fabiano, Parete, Roberts, & Wawro)

Note: Legislator Wawro present by phone at 6:38 PM, back on video at 6:52 PM.

6:15 PM - CALL OF THE 1st PUBLIC HEARING BY CLERK: 6:36 PM

On Proposed Local Law No. 8 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending The Ulster County Charter, (Local Law No. 2 Of 2006), And Amending The Administrative Code For the County Of Ulster, (Local Law No. 10 Of 2008), To Clarify Budget Modification After Adoption

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no speakers signed up for public comment.

Motion by Legislator Litts, second by Minority Leader Ronk to adjourn the public hearing. All in favor.

PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED: 6:37 PM

6:20 PM - CALL OF THE 2nd PUBLIC HEARING BY CLERK: 6:37 PM

On The Sale And/Or Transfer Of Lands Owned By Ulster County Located At Golden Hill, City Of Kingston To A Local Development Corporation

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were three speakers signed up for public comment. (See Transcript)

1. Matt Colangelo, Glen St. Kingston
2. Ellen DiFalco, Glen St. Kingston
3. Susan Reif, Glen St. Kingston

Motion by Legislator Litts, second by Legislator Bruno to adjourn the public hearing. All in favor.

PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED: 6:50 PM

6:25 PM - CALL OF THE 3rd PUBLIC HEARING BY CLERK: 6:50 PM

On Proposed Local Law No. 10 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 10 of 2015, A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 10 Of 2008 (A Local Law Adopting An Administrative Code For The County Of Ulster, State Of New York), Pertaining To Change Orders And/Or Amendments To Contracts Equal To Or Exceeding \$50,000.00

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no speakers signed up for public comment.

Motion by Legislator Bruno, second by Legislator Litts to adjourn the public hearing. All in favor.

PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED: 6:51 PM

6:30 PM - CALL OF THE 4th PUBLIC HEARING BY CLERK: 6:51 PM

As Required Under Article 25AA Of The Agriculture And Markets Law, On The Addition Of Lands To Agricultural Districts, To Be Held August 11, 2020 At 6:30 PM, Or As Soon Thereafter As The Public Can Be Heard, And Providing Direct Notice To Affected Municipalities

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was one speaker signed up for public comment. (See Transcript)

1. Joe DeGroodt, Town of Shawangunk

Motion by Legislator Litts, second by Legislator Bruno to adjourn the public hearing. All in favor.

PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED: 6:55 PM

NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Meeting of the Ulster County Legislature will be held next **Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 7:00 PM**. Further Meeting details shall be forthcoming.

Motion by Legislator Litts, second by Legislator Petit to adjourn. All in favor.

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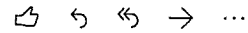
Public Hearing on Sale and/or Transfer of County Property



Victoria Ann Fabella

Tue 8/11/2020 4:17 PM

To: Tracey Bartels; tracebartels@gmail.com; Lynn Archer; Lynn Archer (LynnArcher@outlook.com) <lynnarcher@ou

AUGUST 11 2020 Legislature ...
14 KBCover Sheet and Petitions (Fiv...
2 MB

2 attachments (2 MB) Download all Save all to OneDrive - County of Ulster

Please see attached comment re: tonight's public hearing of the sale or transfer of the Golden Hill property.

Victoria A. Fabella, Clerk
Ulster County Legislature
244 Fair Street
PO Box 1800
Kingston, NY 12402
(845) 340-3666
vfab@co.ulster.ny.us

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AUG 11 2020

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Reply | Reply all | Forward

From: Joseph Difalco <difalcobrandy@aol.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 4:06 PM

To: Victoria Ann Fabella <vfab@co.ulster.ny.us>

Cc: mcolangelo99@gmail.com <mcolangelo99@gmail.com>

Subject: Fwd: Public Hearing on Sale and/or Transfer of County Property

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Vicky...

Attached please find five pages (which includes cover sheet and packet of petitions) for tonight's public hearing on sale and/or transfer of County property. If for some reason you are unable to read any portion, please let me know. I can provide the originals.

I am also sending my comments to be logged in for the public hearing too.

Thank you for your courtesies.

Ellen

AUGUST 11, 2020 Public Hearing on Sale and/or Transfer of County Property—Chairman Donaldson, Legislators, Members of the Press and Public.....

Thank you for the opportunity to address this body regarding the former Ulster County Jail property being considered for affordable housing.

First, you are in receipt of a packet of petitions signed by stakeholders and residents of the streets near the former County Jail on Golden Hill, insisting that our traffic safety issues be resolved before this project moves forward.

We believe serious consideration should be given to infrastructure improvements before the former Ulster County Jail site on Golden Hill is approved for housing development.

In addition, I am offering the following for the record:

Most of the negotiations for the disposition of another county property not too many years ago were done behind closed doors in secret executive sessions. It is my hope that the five private (reputable and qualified) developers who responded to the “Planning Department’s request for developer qualifications and site concepts for affordable mixed-income housing development” (SOQ) will be revealed in a timely manner so our nearby residents and stakeholders will have the opportunity to weigh in on the development process in the coming months.

Surely, there must be other surplus properties in the county that fit the criteria for affordable, mixed-income, workforce or low income housing. When the city of Kingston is already saturated with subsidized housing (50 percent of the county's subsidized rental units) while having only 13 percent of the county's population, it doesn't seem fair that the former County Jail parcel should be the first site chosen for housing development.

In addition, the city has 39 percent of the county's affordable housing units (according to RUPCO's executive). I believe the city of Kingston has its fair share of housing complexes and when there are 20 towns and 3 villages in the county, it's time for other communities to be part of the affordable housing equation.

Yes, I understand the county finances are shaky.....but it is disingenuous in my opinion, to move on this property transfer now during the pandemic when residents and stakeholders find it difficult to participate in virtual conversations and are not able to attend meetings to have open dialogues in person. This should be quite concerning for you. What's the rush now because this property has not been utilized since 2007 except for very limited use by a few county offices?

It is also perplexing why Planning Director Dennis Doyle made comments during a June 17 city Laws and Rules meeting relative to the "intensity of use at the former jail site."

He (Dennis Doyle) believes that “traffic is NOT likely to increase at Golden Hill” when we have been plagued with traffic issues for years and he knows this. He has been provided with numerous volumes of documentation saying otherwise.

Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, Planning & Transit Chairman Brian Cahill also commented at his July 7 committee meeting that using the former jail site for housing would be a great utilization of the property. Based on what facts?

I believe the nearby residents and stakeholders are being ambushed because a draft resolution is already prepared for the August 18 legislature meeting to dispose of the former jail property; a local housing development corporation who will ultimately choose the developer who responded to the SOQ with the best concept plans for the property is not in place; and timelines have already been established to complete this project.

In closing, it is my opinion that this property is not the best fit for affordable housing and not suitable as a solution to meet the affordable housing shortfall when other alternative sites should be considered.

Thank you.

Submitted by:

**Ellen DiFalco
66 Glen Street
Kingston NY**

RECEIVED

AUG 11 2020

COVER SHEET

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Petition to: Ulster County Legislature David Donaldson, Chairman

Attached please find PAGE 1 through 3 of 45 signatures obtained from residents and stakeholders who live near the former Ulster County Jail located on Golden Hill in the City of Kingston.

We hereby request that these petitions be accepted and become part of the record of the public hearing on sale and/or transfer of County property to be held on Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at 6:20 PM.

Dated: August 11, 2020

Submitted by:

Name: Joseph A. DiFalco
Address: 66 Glen Street Kingston NY 12401
Phone: 917 886 7318
E-Mail: difalcobrandy@aol.com

Name: Ellen DiFalco
Address: 66 Glen Street Kingston NY 12401
Phone: 845 331 7497
E-Mail: difalcobrandy@aol.com

Name: Matthew Colangelo
Address: 84 Glen Street Kingston NY 12401
Phone: 518 852 1672
E-Mail: mcolangelo99@gmail.com

**PETITION TO:
ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

We, the undersigned, do hereby state that we are opposed to the sale and/or transfer of the former Ulster County Jail and lands owned by Ulster County, located at Golden Hill to a local development corporation for affordable mixed-income housing development for the following reasons:

The residents of the Boulevard, Glen Street, Greenkill Avenue, Marius Street and other contiguous streets near the Golden Hill property have been plagued with traffic safety issues attributed to the Golden Hill Nursing and Rehabilitation Center and other county office buildings since 2013. In fact, the excessive traffic volume dates back to the 1970's when the county operated the Golden Hill Health Care Center and it has never been resolved. A traffic study that was completed in April 2016 identified an annual average daily traffic (AADT) of 655 vehicles for Glen Street alone.

We believe serious consideration should be given to infrastructure improvements before the former Ulster County Jail site on Golden Hill is approved for housing development. We, the stakeholders and residents of the streets near the former County Jail on Golden Hill, insist that our traffic safety issues be resolved before this project moves forward.

PETITION TO: ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE for Public Hearing August 11, 2021

DATE	PRINTED NAME/SIGNATURE	ADDRESS	PHONE AND/OR EMAIL
8-5-20	Nathaniel C. Long	84 Glen St	818-852-1672
8-6-20	Integration Director [Signature]	84 Glen St	845-532-1943
8-6-20	Tom [Signature]	153 Glen St	845-338-3454
8-6-20	Lincoln [Signature]	163 Glen St	845-331-5956
8-6-20	[Signature] [Signature]	145 Glen St	845-339-3878
8-8-20	[Signature] [Signature]	118 Glen St	845-853-5749
8-8-20	[Signature]	66 Glen St	845-331-7497
8-8-20	[Signature] [Signature]	62 Glen St	845-331-1069
8-8-20	[Signature]	111 Marcius St	845-332-9905
8-8-20	[Signature]	111 Marcius St	914-3887950
8-8-20	[Signature]	177 Glen St	358-5150
8-8-20	[Signature]	181 Glen St	335-6427
8-8-20	[Signature]	135 Glen St	394
8-8-20	[Signature]	105 Glen St	
8-8-20	[Signature]	105 Glen St	
8-8-20	[Signature]	53 Marcius St	417-8748
8-8-20	[Signature]	62 Marcius St	(845) 522-4434

PETITION TO: ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE for Public Hearing August 11, 2021

DATE	PRINTED NAME/SIGNATURE	ADDRESS	PHONE AND/OR EMAIL
8-8-20	<i>John Cordaro-Eulins</i>	62 Marius St.	(845) 536-1144
8-8-20	<i>John Alberto Sanchez</i>	64 Marius St	
8-8-20	<i>Roy M. M. M.</i>	74 Marius St	
8-8-18	<i>John V. V. V.</i>	87 Marius St.	
8/6/20	<i>John Brando</i>	107 Marius St.	(845) 430-2307
8/8/20	<i>John Brando</i>	68 Marius St.	701-6824
8.8.20	<i>Ellen Ditalco</i>	66 Glen Street	ditalcobrandy@aol.com
8-9-20	<i>John J. J. J.</i>	18 Glen St	845 338 0055
8/9-20	<i>John J. J. J.</i>	129 Marius St.	845-338-0291
8-9-20	<i>John J. J. J.</i>	129 Marius St	815 594 4185
8-9-20	<i>John J. J. J.</i>	135 Marius St	845-338-4335
8-9-20	<i>John J. J. J.</i>	135 Marius Street	"
8-9-20	<i>John J. J. J.</i>	120 Marius Street	347.804.9063
8-9-20	<i>Clara Garcia</i>	120 Marius St	347-906-4483
8-9-20	<i>John J. J. J.</i>	293 Greenkill Avenue	
8-9-20	<i>John J. J. J.</i>	13 Marius St	644 629 6569
8.9.20	<i>John J. J. J.</i>	72 Marius St	845 430 2344

PETITION TO: ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE for Public Hearing August 11, 2021

DATE	PRINTED NAME/SIGNATURE	ADDRESS	PHONE AND/OR EMAIL
8/9/20	Gerard Burger	115 Glen St	845 331 3177
8/9/20	Teresa Jacob	82 Glen St	845 331 6305
8/9/20	Diana B. Galizine	51 Glen St	914 522 5336
8/9/20	Joanne Salmo	151 Marius St.	
8/10/20	Daniel Bernady	98 Glen St	845-331-2019
8/10/20	Leurie Derrid / Lady	98 Glen St	
8/10/20	Steven Riddick	75 Glen St	845 430 3914
8-10-20	Susan O'Rourke	64 Glen St	
8-10-20	Nickolas Sack	64 Glen St.	845.217.7683
8-10-20	Patricia C. Sweeney	18 Glen Street,	338-0054
8-10-20	Diane McChaughey	12 Glen St.	339-2474

Established March 7, 1788



August 11, 2020

OFFICE OF THE TOWN SUPERVISOR

JOHN VALK, JR.

TOWN OF SHAWANGUNK

P.O. BOX 247

Wallkill, New York 12589

TELEPHONE (845) 895-2900

FAX (845) 895-1470

WEBSITE www.shawangunk.org

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AUG 11 2020

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Hon. David B. Donaldson
Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature
244 Fair Street
Kingston, NY 12401

RE: Ag District Inclusion – Lands of DeGroodt
Town of Shawangunk
Section 105.2 Block 2 Lot 3.2
Section 105.2 Block 2 Lot 3.3

Dear Chairman Donaldson:

The Town Board has reviewed this proposal and has voted four ayes and no nays to send you our reasons why we do not think that this request is in the best interests of the people of the Town.

For background, the two (2) parcels are part of a five (5) lot single-family clustered subdivision on a new cul-de-sac approved by the Town Board and by the Planning Board in 2008. At that time, the Town was aware of an existing Christmas Tree farm but received written assurance from the owner that such operations would be only seasonal (Thanksgiving to Christmas) and that hours of operation would be in keeping with the residential neighborhood. The approved map from 2008 reflects five (5) single-family home sites. The subject parcels are located on the back side of the cul-de-sac.

Tax Lot 3.2 is 1.1 acres and Tax Lot 3.3 is 7.4 acres.

In 2018, the owner sought and received a Building Permit for a 40' X 80', 1 bedroom dwelling (40' X 20') with an attached "Barn Shop" (40' X 60') for the 1.1 acre lot 3.2. The owner then proceeded to use the structure as an event venue, neighbors complained and the Building Department issued an Order to Remedy in 2019.

The concern of the Town Board is that if the property is included in an Ulster County Ag District the owner might be heard to argue that the "Right to Farm" protections resulting from inclusion in the District would allow ag-related uses and venues and that the Town and the neighbors would not be able to regulate these practices under the regular zoning rules of the Town.

Also, Section 303-b of the NYS Ag and Markets Law specifically requires that if land is to be added to an Agricultural District, it must be "...predominantly viable agricultural land..." We respectfully submit that a 40' X 80' structure with related parking all on a 1.1 acre parcel (tax lot 3.2) does not leave much if any "...predominantly viable agricultural land..." and cannot be included in the District per Section 303-b.

The Town of Shawangunk seeks to promote agricultural pursuits in the proper areas of the Town. It is our considered opinion that this is not one of those areas given the residential nature of this cul-de-sac subdivision and the complaints we are bound to receive in the future if ag uses of this type (and of other types such as raising of livestock) are allowed to happen within this residential subdivision.

Thank you for considering our views on this important matter of local concern.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Adrian M. DeWitt". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Adrian M. DeWitt
Deputy Supervisor

cc: Ulster County Planning Board

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> In-Place Archiv...

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Manage groups

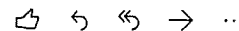
Shawangunk - Agricultural District



Victoria Ann Fabella

Tue 8/11/2020 2:04 PM

To: Tracey Bartels; tracebartels@gmail.com; Lynn Archer; Lynn Archer (LynnArcher@outlook.com) <lynnarcher@ou



20200811125400846.pdf

62 KB

Please see the attached letter from the Town of Shawangunk regarding a parcel of property that is currently being recommended by the Farmland Protection Board for inclusion into the Ag District.

Victoria A. Fabella, Clerk
Ulster County Legislature
244 Fair Street
PO Box 1800
Kingston, NY 12402
(845) 340-3666
vfab@co.ulster.ny.us

[Reply](#) | [Reply all](#) | [Forward](#)**From:** Jane Rascoe <townclerk@shawangunk.org>**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 1:00 PM**To:** Victoria Ann Fabella <vfab@co.ulster.ny.us>; kenronkjr@gmail.com <kenronkjr@gmail.com>**Subject:** Shawangunk - Agricultural District

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Vickie,

Thank you for your time in explaining the process. As I stated, our Assessor is on his way up to Kingston to hand deliver this letter.

Jane Rascoe
Town Clerk

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v Groups

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Office Group

New group

Discover groups

Manage groups

8/11/20 public hearing



Victoria Ann Fabella

Tue 8/11/2020 4:29 PM

To: Tracey Bartels; tracebartels@gmail.com; Lynn Archer; Lynn Archer (LynnArcher@outlook.com) <lynnarcher@ou

Additional comment for the Ag District Public Hearing.

Victoria A. Fabella, Clerk
Ulster County Legislature
244 Fair Street
PO Box 1800
Kingston, NY 12402
(845) 340-3666
vfab@co.ulster.ny.us

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AUG 11 2020

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Reply Reply all Forward

From: Joe DeGroodt <jdegroodt@perreca.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 4:27 PM

To: Victoria Ann Fabella <vfab@co.ulster.ny.us>; Jay Mahler <jmah@co.ulster.ny.us>

Subject: 8/11/20 public hearing

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Please get copies of this email to all members.
It will be part of the Public Official Record

Thanks

Board members,

Below is a copy of a letter the town had drafted, after the 8/6 4pm meeting, which I had no notice of.

It does NOT reflect the actual minutes and final vote on record. Unfortunately I tried calling for the minutes today, to forward – but the recording secretary was out both Friday & Monday, so no minutes were available. When the minutes finally come out, it will reflect a vote or neither yay or nay against me, vet a vote of “not happy with the counties process”.

So the below letter was much a surprise.

I respectfully am trying quickly to go through and address, once again highlight some of the content with my rebuttal.

Thank You

Joe DeGroodt

Dear Chairman Donaldson:

The Town Board has reviewed this proposal and has voted four ayes and no nays to send you our reasons why we do not think that this is in the best interests of the people of the Town.

Actually they voted to stay neutral. Neither nay or yay – in the minutes - Last fall a survey was done within the town with overwhelming support from the towns people

For background, the two (2) parcels are part of a five (5) lot single-family clustered subdivision (what I am doing was completely approved, and allowed within the town zoning for a cluster sub) on a new cl-de-sac approved by the Town Board and by the Planning Board in 2008. At that time, the Town was aware of an existing Christmas Tree farm but received written assurance from the owner that such operations would be only seasonal (Thanksgiving to Christmas) and that hours of operation would be in keeping with the residential neighborhood -the listed months and hours 12-14 years ago was strictly about the tree selling season, with any farm future growth for sustainability is encouraged in their own town handbook The approved map from 2008 reflects five (5) single-family home sites. The subject parcels are

Dear Chairman Donaldson:

The Town Board has reviewed this proposal and has voted four ayes and no nays to send you our reasons why we do not think that this is in the best interests of the people of the Town. Actually they voted to stay neutral. Neither nay or yay – in the minutes - Last fall a survey was done within the town with overwhelming support from the towns people

For background, the two (2) parcels are part of a five (5) lot single-family clustered subdivision (what I am doing was completely approved, and allowed within the town zoning for a cluster sub) on a new cul-de-sac approved by the Town Board and by the Planning Board in 2008. At that time, the Town was aware of an existing Christmas Tree farm but received written assurance from the owner that such operations would be only seasonal (Thanksgiving to Christmas) and that hours of operation would be in keeping with the residential neighborhood -the listed months and hours 12-14 years ago was strictly about the tree selling season, with any farm future growth for sustainability is encouraged in their own town handbook. The approved map from 2008 reflects five (5) single-family home sites. The subject parcels are located on the back side of the cul-de-sac. The venue / barn they refer to was approved and passed by the building inspector/health dept/engineer/

Tax Lot 3.2 is 1.1 acres and Tax Lot 3.3 is 7.4 acres

In 2018, the owner sought and received a building Permit for a 40'X80', 1 bedroom dwelling required by the town (40'X20') with an attached "Barn Shop" (40'X60') for the 1.1 acre lot 3.2. The owner then proceeded to use the structure as a event venue, neighbors complained and the Building Department issued an Order to Remedy in 2019.

We (myself & now wife did get married there, on our own property, & there were 2 charity events – 1 hosted for the Wallkill high school by a member of the town planning board, and another was a family get-together due to a tragedy.) 1 neighbor that did complain, was a personal reason, all others approved. The farm pre-existed LONG before any housed

The concern of the Town Board is that if the property is included in an Ulster County Ag District the owner might be heard to argue that the "Right to Farm" protections resulting from inclusion in the District would allow ag-related uses and venues and the Town and the neighbors would not be able to regulate these practices under the regular zoning rules of the Town. We tried going through the town zoning, and that failed. We are a farming family, and BOTH lots go hand-in-hand to fully support the farming operation

Without the help from nys ag, our farm will be lost. We have been holding on, and the last effort was directly out of the towns own farmland preservation plan – previous email

Also, Section 303-b of the NYS Ag and Markets Law specifically requires that if land is to be added to an Agricultural District, it must be "...predominantly viable agricultural land..." We respectfully submit that a 40'X80' structure with related parking all on a 1.1 acre parcel (tax lot 3.2) does not leave much if any "...predominantly viable agricultural land..." and cannot be included in the District per Section 303-b. Again the smaller parcel is directly farm related. Over 1000 trees, barn, farm equip & parking

The Town of Shawangunk seeks to promote agricultural pursuits in the proper areas of the Town. It is our considered opinion that this is not one of those areas given the residential later of this cul-de-sac

subdivision and the complaints we are bound to receive in the future if ag uses of this type (and of other types such as raising livestock) are allowed to happen within this residential subdivision.

If the town is truly in favor of farm preservation, then their letter should have addressed that and reflected my farm in a better light.

I still have the newspaper article where my farm donated the town Christmas Tree, and they held a tree lighting ceremony with me and the town supervisor turning on the lights.

Thank you for considering our views on this important matter of local concern.

Joe DeGroodt

Perreca Electric Co. Inc.

Data Supervisor

520 Broadway Newburgh NY 12550

email jdegroodt@perreca.com

CELL #

914-403-0496

main office 845-562-4080

Joe DeGroodt

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

DAVID B. DONALDSON, Chairman
TRACEY A. BARTELS, Vice Chairwoman
JONATHAN R. HEPPNER, Majority Leader
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VICTORIA A. FABELLA, Clerk



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

TRANSCRIPT

AUGUST 11, 2020

PUBLIC HEARINGS

6:15 PM

Powered by Zoom. Meeting ID 982 8635 1219

And By Telephone (646) 558-8656

Legislator Heppner

You're on mute, Chairman Donaldson.

Chairman Donaldson

Sorry about that. I'll call the meeting order. I'd like everybody to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and if Legislator Criswell could lead us in the allegiance and remain standing for a moment of silence.

Legislator Criswell

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.

Chairman Donaldson

All right be seated. Madam Clerk. Can you call the first Public Hearing to order?

Clerk Fabella

I'm going go ahead and take roll call first. Let's do a...

Clerk Fabella

Archer.

Legislator Archer

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Bartels.

Legislator Bartels

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Bruno.

Legislator Bruno

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Cahill.

Legislator Cahill

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Corcoran.

Legislator Corcoran

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Criswell.

Legislator Criswell

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Delaune. Delaune I saw. Yep. Okay.

Clerk Fabella

Donaldson.

Chairman Donaldson

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Fabiano.

Clerk Fabella

Gavaris.

Legislator Gavaris

Present.

Clerk Fabella

Greene

Legislator Greene

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Haynes.

Legislator Haynes

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Litts.

Legislator Litts

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Lopez.

Legislator Lopez

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Maio.

Legislator Maio

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Parete.

Clerk Fabella

Petit.

Legislator Petit

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Roberts.

Clerk Fabella

Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Present

Clerk Fabella

Uchitelle.

Legislator Uchitelle

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Walter.

Legislator Walter

Here.

Clerk Fabella

And Wawro. All right, so, Wawro is not here at the moment. So, that's nineteen present and four absent.

Clerk Fabella

Tonight's first Public Hearing is on Proposed Local Law No. 8 Of 2020. A local law amending the Ulster County Charter. And amending the Ulster County administrative code to clarify budget modification after adoption.

Clerk Fabella

And we currently have no speakers signed up for this public hearing.

Chairman Donaldson

Okay, there's no speaker signed up. I'd entertain a motion to adjourn that public meeting.

Legislator Litts

So moved.

Legislator Ronk

Second.

Chairman Donaldson

All those in favor?

Legislative Members

Aye.

Chairman Donaldson

Opposed? None. Adjourned.

Clerk Fabella

Tonight's second public hearing is on the Sale And/or Transfer Of Lands Owned By Ulster County Located At Golden Hill, City Of Kingston To A Local Development Corporation.

Clerk Fabella

On this one we do have written comment that was submitted and circulated to you that will be considered official record and that is from personal comments from a private citizen Ellen DiFalco, as well as the petition she filed on behalf of 45 residents. Mr. Matt Colangelo also has public comment on file, but he is also here to speak.

Chairman Donaldson

Matt?

Matthew Colangelo

Yes.

Chairman Donaldson

You're on.

Matthew Colangelo

All right. So, I guess I'm speaking on behalf of the people that filed a petition for the residence on Glen, Marius, Green Hill and the Boulevard. So, we submitted the petition. I personally knocked on every single door. These are statements or testaments from the people that are going to be directly impacted. I think we're all in support of the housing, most of us are anyway, that's not really our gripe. Our gripe is long standing.

Matthew Colangelo

The issue regarding egress and ingress into the Golden Hill complex, which houses some of the largest, if not the largest employers in the City, and they're continuing to use Glen Street, Maris, and Greenkill as the main, or one of the main sources of entry. There is multiple instances of complaints that date back to the 1970s. And really what we're asking for is remediation of that as part of the development. It is long overdue. We believe that it should be done. Glen Street does not meet roadway safety design. It would have to be widened. The traffic volume is ridiculous, especially during the day. So, shoe-horning... I don't know how many apartments you're building. The proposals that you have not been released to the public, we don't know. But we are asking that you take into consideration those impacts. Otherwise we will pursue litigation in order to have a court determine what is or isn't reasonable when it comes to the impact. That's really the crux of our, or at least for me, and most of the residents that I personally spoke with, have.

Matthew Colangelo

Some of the other issues I just want clarity on. I don't know if anybody can answer this, how the debris from the jail will be removed? You know will Glen St., Marius, and Greenkill be used as a main artery for that? Because exiting onto Route 32 from Golden Hill drive is dangerous. So, tractor trailers or truckloads full of debris could be a problem. I don't know if they'll be a flagger or some sort of traffic control device. And then just with regards to development, but, you know, if there's a way to get the tax incentives discussed prior to, I think that would be great. We're seeing a lot of development occur in Ulster County that kind of put the cart before the horse, if you will. I think any tax breaks or incentives should really be discussed prior to, in particular with housing. Any impact to the school district with regards to increased enrollment should really be at the forefront of that discussion. So, hopefully, you know, that will be discussed prior to, or as part of the development process. Like I said, you know, we're all huge supporters of housing, affordable housing, and making sure everybody has a place to reside. But we certainly hope that it is equitable across all the taxing jurisdictions. That's pretty much it. I appreciate the time. Thank you very much.

Chairman Donaldson

Thank you, Matt.

Clerk Fabella

Mr. Chairman, there were several people that joined late that we did not ask if they wanted to speak so it's up to you if you want to ask.

Chairman Donaldson

Yeah, could I try to figure out how to stroll down this. Jay, is there somebody that could actually send a text to say that they want to speak?

Clerk Fabella

They can use the chat feature if they want to. But if they can also unmute themselves and speak.

Chairman Donaldson

Ellen DiFalco, was she able to get audio? My understanding she wanted to speak.

Ellen DiFalco

Hi, David.

Chairman Donaldson

Is that you, Ellen?

Ellen DiFalco

Yes, this is Ellen DiFalco. How are you?

Chairman Donaldson

Very good. You have the floor, Ellen.

Ellen DiFalco

Well, thank you so much for the opportunity to address all of you this evening. You probably have my very lengthy statement in your possession. But I did want to just elaborate on the fact that there are other surplus properties in the county that perhaps fit the criteria for affordable, mixed income, workforce or low income housing. And we, the City of Kingston, we're already saturated with subsidized housing. And we only have 13% of the county's population. And it doesn't seem fair that the former jail parcel should be the first site chosen for housing development. We have our fair share of housing complexes. And I believe that when there are 20 towns and three villages in the county, it's time for other communities to be part of the affordable housing equation. I completely understand that the county finances are very shaky right now. And the sale of this property might solve a few of your financial woes. But it's disingenuous, in my opinion, to move on this property right now when residents and stakeholders are not able to participate in these types of conversations online. It is very cumbersome for a lot of people. We want to be face-to-face with all of you. And that should be very concerning for you right now. And the fact that this property has set idle for all of these years, what seems to be the rush?

Ellen DiFalco

It's also very perplexing when Dennis Doyle, County Planner, makes comments at a City Laws and Rules meeting relative to the intensity of the use of the former jail site. He believes that the traffic is not likely to increase at Golden Hill. And we've been plagued with traffic issues for years. He knows this. He's been provided with numerous volumes of documentation. And some of you might have that documentation, as well. And I believe that, and this is my opinion, that this particular property, the former jail on Golden Hill Drive, is not the best fit for affordable housing. And it's not suitable as a solution to meet the affordable housing shortfall when there are other alternatives. And you should be looking at all of them. And thank you for your time. And I look forward to seeing you in person someday.

Chairman Donaldson

Thank you, Ellen.

Chairman Donaldson

Does Terence Ward, do you wish to speak, Terence?

Terence Ward

No, I'm just here to report.

Chairman Donaldson

Very good. Thank you, Terence. Does anyone else wish to speak?

Clerk Fabella

Chairman there is a woman on video who keeps saying she wants to speak and keep speaking but she's needs to unmute herself. There's nothing we can do about it.

Chairman Donaldson

Where is she? Which one?

Clerk Fabella

She's looking for her mute button right now.

Chairman Donaldson

Yeah, I don't see her.

Clerk Fabella

Yeah, there's nothing we can do about it. She really is trying but there we can't undo it.

Susan Reif

Hello.

Clerk Fabella

She did it.

Chairman Donaldson

There you go.

Susan Reif

Hello.

Chairman Donaldson

Yes. Go ahead.

Clerk Fabella

We need to know your name though for the record my name.

Susan Reif

Okay. Hello, my name is Susan Reif, my property borders the jail, okay. I have a lot of land right there and I don't think that selling it and developing it to low-income housing is really beneficial to the people in this area. I feel that I already pay astronomical amount of taxes. And I'm opposed to having more low-income housing in this area, which is going to disrupt what we already have. I mean, I get it. There's other places to look for low-income housing, I feel that we're saturated in our area, and in Ulster County. And I also feel that it is going to lower my property value by putting that in this area, it's going to make my property value go down, and all of my taxes go up. And I just don't feel that it's a good fit for that to happen there. I think that even the traffic volume on 32, from the jail going on to 32, it's an issue. But also, bordering my property, can you guarantee that all of that nonsense isn't going to come over onto my property? Once it's up and going and this low-income housing is brought up into this area.?

Chairman Donaldson

Alright, thank you, Susan.

Susan Reif

Okay, so where do we go from here?

Chairman Donaldson

As a point of information, on public hearings, the legislature cannot speak. They are only allowed to listen.

Susan Reif

Okay, so I had already planned to come to the meeting and, and speak and say, you know, what is it exactly that they plan on doing? I mean, you know is... who is going to be on these committees that that say it's okay? I hope it's not the same kind of committees that were responsible for moving the jail across the street and building the new jail and it's already crumbling. Like, I'm not, I'm trying to understand who they're selling to. Is it somebody else that's going to sell them the land, okay, and then they're going to keep the maintenance on the land? Or what is actually going to

go to partake in all this? What's going to what's going to happen to what's already there, they're going to tear the jail down and throw up condos of, for low-income? I don't know I have a lot of questions that aren't resolved. And I'm opposed to this whole project taking off when, you know one that's directly affected by it.

Chairman Donaldson

Alrighty. Thank you, Susan Reif. Is there anyone else that would like to speak?

Chairman Donaldson

Bert, Bert Samuelson. Bert, would you like to speak?

Bert Samuelson

No, I'm just listening tonight, cuz... just listening.

Chairman Donaldson

Thank you, Bert.

Bert Samuelson

You're welcome.

Legislator Litts

I'll make a motion to close the public hearing.

Chairman Donaldson

All right. It looks like there's no one else who wishes to speak. I'll entertain that motion.

Legislator Bruno

I'll second it.

Chairman Donaldson

By Legislator Litts and seconded by...

Legislator Bruno

Al Bruno.

Chairman Donaldson

Al Bruno. All those in favor?

Legislative Members

Aye.

Chairman Donaldson

Any opposed? None. None being opposed.

Clerk Fabella

Tonight's third Public Hearing is on Proposed Local Law No. 10 of 2020, A Local Law amending Local Law No. 10 of 2015, to Pertaining to Change Orders And/or Amendments To Contracts Equal To Or Exceeding \$50,000.00.

Clerk Fabella

And there are no speakers, that we are aware of, for this hearing.

Chairman Donaldson

Nobody's yelling out. Alrighty.

Legislator Bruno

I'm make a motion to close Public Hearing; there's no speakers.

Legislator Litts

Second.

Chairman Donaldson

Seconded by... made by Bruno, seconded by Litts. All those in favor?

Legislative Members

Aye.

Chairman Donaldson

Any opposed? Hearing none, the Public Hearing is closed.

Clerk Fabella

And tonight's final Public Hearing is being conducted, as required under Article 25-AA, of the Agriculture and Markets Law, on the addition of lands to... I don't know why I'm having trouble with that. Agricultural, Agricultural Districts to be held...You know what I'm talking about, right? Ag District Annual Inclusion Public Hearing. Okay.

Chairman Donaldson

Easy for you to say.

Clerk Fabella

Right. So, on this one, we did have a lot of public comments submitted by one of the property owners, that their properties being recommended to be included. He is also here with us tonight, although he said he didn't want to speak I don't know if he does now. That's Joe DeGroodt.

Chairman Donaldson

Joe, we'd like to hear you speak.

Joe DeGroodt

Yes, I originally did say I wasn't not going to. But after listening to everybody speak, I figured I might as well take the opportunity. Yes, I do have two lots that are on the list for inclusion into the Ag District. I did respond. I think everybody probably got the letters, emails to a lot of questions that came up. This has been a farm for over 35 years. There was some question about the inclusion of one of the lots, but that lot I think I included in the email is directly on the farm, related to the farm, all about supporting the farm. It has trees, probably upwards of over 1000 trees on the lot. So, you know, I know there were some questions, and I hope I hope the emails that I sent out ahead of time, answers those questions. We did go to a last-minute meeting, last Thursday, that the town held in regards. So, I believe at the meeting, we thought we sufficiently answered all of the questions. I did try to get a copy of the minutes to submit. But the minutes are not out yet. The letter that the town did move forward is not exactly what we heard at the meeting.

Joe DeGroodt

So, I'm hoping that eventually the actual minutes will come out and reflect that. So, again, I'm not sure, I'm kind of new to this, not sure where it goes from here. But I certainly hope, because I got a farm that's in jeopardy. And you know, we are doing exactly what we were supposed to do to try to sustain the farm. And besides that, the farm, you know, the county did their own research. This land was all Ag District all the way dated back to World War II. It just recently went to ARG 4, and we were also surrounded by farms. I think that's it. I know this is not a question and answers forum. So, I think that's it.

Chairman Donaldson

Thank you, Mr. DeGroodt. I appreciate it.

Chairman Donaldson

Is there anyone else wishes to speak on the Ag Farm District?

Clerk Fabella

And we do have the letter that Mr. DeGroodt was referencing from the Town of Shawangunk, that is also part of the official record, and was also sent to each of you individually.

Chairman Donaldson

Very good. Thank you. I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

Legislator Litts

I'll make a motion that we adjourn the public hearing.

Chairman Donaldson

Seconded by Al Bruno.

Chairman Donaldson

All those in favor?

Legislative Members

Aye.

Chairman Donaldson

None opposed. It is adjourned.

Chairman Donaldson

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 18, 2020, at 7pm. And it will be a virtual meeting. I can add a quick understanding. We went through, I spoke with many of you and I understand where many people stood. And it was somewhat, not really consensus, that the committee meetings continue Zoom. But it was a majority. On the other one is much more divided in whether we come back or not. The problem with it is that when I'm looking at the way we're dealing with the COVID, and the idea with masks, that means we don't like to wear a mask in this room. With the mics between us, I think it's going to be a problem if we attempted to try to do a regular meeting, although I would like to do that. But I think this one's going to... this one will be a virtual meeting on the 18th.

Chairman Donaldson

And I thank everybody for getting back with me to talk to me about it. Particularly a few people that were very gracious in saying whatever I did was okay. Which is, you know, you don't get that often. But anyway, thank you and I'll see you again.

Legislator Litts

I'll make a motion for adjournment.

Legislator Petit

I'll second.

Chairman Donaldson

All those in favor?

Legislative Members

Aye.

Chairman Donaldson

Any opposed? Hearing none, we are adjourned. Thank you.