

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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



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MINUTES

DECEMBER 10, 2019

PUBLIC HEARINGS

6:00 PM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRWOMAN: 6:04 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: Led by Chairwoman Tracey A. Bartels.

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 Public Hearings.

ROLL CALL: Present: 15 Absent: 8 (Legislators Collins, Eckert, Fabiano, Greene, Gerentine, Litts, Joseph Maloney, Roberts)

Note: Legislator Gerentine arrived at 6:07 PM

MINUTES

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DECEMBER 10, 2019

6:05 PM - CALL OF THE 1ST 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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were (2) speakers signed up for public comment.

1. Cynthia Bell: Ms. Bell, President of the Mid-Hudson chapter of the NYS League of Women Voters has formed a committee to study the number of representatives on other county legislatures to better understand how these and other changes work to benefit the citizens of the county.
2. Dare Thompson: Ms. Thompson President of the NYS League of Women Voters noted that changes to the Charter should not be taken lightly and expressed that the proposed local law is premature and the league would like to have time to study it further.

Motion by Minority Leader Ronk second by Majority Leader Heppner to adjourn the public hearing. All in favor.

Please Note: Complete content of the public comment period can be heard on the Ulster County Legislative Website.

PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED: 6:08 PM

6:08 PM - CALL OF THE 2ND PUBLIC HEARING: On Proposed Local Law No. 12 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 Require Submission Of Departmental Budget Estimates From Elected Officials To The Legislature

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no speakers signed up for public comment.

Motion by Minority Leader Ronk second by Majority Leader Heppner to adjourn the public hearing.
All in favor.

PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED: 6:09 PM

6:10 PM - **CALL OF THE 3RD PUBLIC HEARING:** On Proposed Local Law No. 13 Of 2019, A Local Law Requiring That Property Owners Of Multi-Family Dwellings Located In Ulster County With More Than Twenty Units Have An Office In Ulster County

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was (1) speaker signed up for public comment.

1. Cynthia Bell: Ms. Bell, President of the League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region thanked the Legislature for this legislation that addresses the needs of the people of Ulster County.

Motion by Majority Leader Heppner second by Minority Leader Ronk to adjourn the public hearing.
All in favor.

Please Note: Complete content of the public comment period can be heard on the Ulster County Legislative Website.

PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED: 6:11 PM

NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Meeting of the Ulster County Legislature will be held on **Wednesday**, December 18, 2019 at **6:30 PM** in the Legislative Chambers, Sixth Floor, Ulster County Office Building, 244 Fair Street, Kingston, New York.



**Public Comment on Proposed Local Law 11 of 2019 a Local Law To Reduce the
Ulster County Legislature to 21 Members
December 12, 2019**

My name is Cynthia Bell and I speak both as a citizen of Ulster County and as the President of the League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region.

While reducing the size of the legislature may or may not be beneficial, the only explanation I have heard is that it will make it easier for this body to override an Executive veto. I certainly hope that isn't the only reason to move the balance of power in Ulster County government.

If there are other reasons, we would like to know what they might be. There will be a time to revise the Charter when these things can be fully debated by a Commission and that might be a better opportunity to make changes.

That said, our local League has formed a committee to study other county legislatures so that we may better understand how these and other changes work to benefit the citizens of the county.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Bell