

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

KENNETH J. RONK, JR., Chairman
JAMES F. MALONEY, Vice Chairman
MARY BETH MAIO, Majority Leader
HECTOR S. RODRIGUEZ, Minority Leader
VICTORIA A. FABELLA, Clerk



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MINUTES

MARCH 13, 2018

PUBLIC HEARINGS & SPECIAL INFORMATIONAL MEETING

6:00 PM

PUBLIC HEARING CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN: 6:15 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: Led by Chairman Kenneth J. Ronk, Jr.

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: 21 Absent: 2 (Legislators Fabiano, Roberts)

6:17 PM - CALL OF THE 1st PUBLIC HEARING BY CLERK:

Setting A Public Hearing On The Sale And/Or Transfer Of Three (3) Easements Across County Owned Property, Being A Portion Of The Former Ulster & Delaware Railroad Bed Property Located In The City Of Kingston, To The Ulster County Economic Development Alliance, Inc. ("UCEDA"), A Local Development Corporation

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were (14) speakers signed up for public comment.

1. Frank Eck, Kingston: Mr. Eck, General Counsel for Ulster Savings Bank, Kingston spoke in support of the transfer of the easements which split two bank owned parcels. He added that the bank cannot access its parcels without the easement. Mr. Eck also stated the bank's support of Hudson Valley Housing's senior house project proposed for that location.
2. M.T. O'Leary, Wappingers Falls: Ms. O'Leary, CEO, HV Housing Development Fund Co. Inc. Community Services Programs, Inc. stated that HVH has developed over 400 housing units in Dutchess, Orange and Ulster County since its inception in 1987. She added that HVH is a not-for-profit organization with a good reputation for the quality of the housing they build as well as the condition of the units they manage. She informed the members that there has been no affordable housing for seniors built in the City of Kingston for more than 16 years. The proposed development, Kingston Meadows, will provide 60 affordable senior units and amenities.
3. Ted Fink, Rhinebeck: Mr. Fink with GreenPlan Inc./Hudson Valley Housing is a professional planner who spoke in support of affordable senior housing and the Kingston Meadows project. He stated that the project design is sensitive to the environment in regard to its size, open space preservation, and compliance with NYS Smart Growth initiatives. He added that the City of Kingston has already determined that Kingston Meadows will not have any adverse impacts on the environment and adopted a SEQR negative declaration.
4. Kathy Hochman, Kingston: Ms. Hochman, COO, Resource Center For Accessible Living, Inc. (RCAL) spoke in support of the transfer of the easements and the Kingston Meadows project. She stated that RCAL regularly struggles to find affordable housing for individuals with accessibility needs. She added that all of the proposed units would be ADA compliant and 15% would have additional adaptations for wheelchairs and sight and hearing impairments.

5. Michael Berg, Family of Woodstock: Mr. Berg, Executive Director, Family of Woodstock, spoke in favor of the transfer of the easements, stating that there is a serious lack of housing in the county. He added that housing placement is a primary service of Family and the availability of affordable units must be addressed.
6. Reverend Childs, Church of St. Clare: Reverend Childs spoke in support of affordable senior housing.
7. Steven Miccio, People Inc.: Mr. Miccio spoke in support of affordable senior housing.
8. Michael Fieden, Fieden Appliances, Kingston: Mr. Fieden spoke in support of affordable senior housing.
9. Wilfredo Monroy, Willy's Landscaping, Kingston: Mr. Monroy spoke in support of Hudson Valley Housing stating that he has been employed by them for landscaping services at a number of their properties. He said the properties they maintain are well cared for and that the company is responsible and fair to their employees.
10. Peter Loughran, Kingston: Mr. Loughran spoke in opposition to the transfer of easements. He stated that he agreed there is a lack of affordable senior housing in the City of Kingston, but felt that the location was not suitable for such a development.
11. Mark Grunblatt, Kingston: Mr. Grunblatt spoke in support of affordable senior housing.
12. John Grossbohlen, Kingston: Mr. Grossbohlen spoke in support of affordable housing.
13. Lawrence J. Paggi PE, PC, Fishkill: Mr. Paggi, President, of his consulting engineering firm in Fishkill prepared the site/civil engineering designs for the Kingston Meadows Project. He is confident his designs are sufficiently conservative and the project will not create flooding issues.
14. Larry Roth, Phoenicia: Mr. Roth spoke in support of affordable housing.

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

PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED: 6:46 PM

6:47 PM - CALL OF THE 2nd PUBLIC HEARING BY CLERK:

Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 1 Of 2018, 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 Amend The Terms Of Office For Certain Ulster County Elected Officials

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were (5) speakers signed up for public comment.

1. Michael Catalinotto, Saugerties: Mr. Catalinotto spoke in opposition to the proposed local law. He stated that the former Board of Supervisors had two-year terms and that is sufficient. He added his opposition to term limits.
2. Domenick Cocchiara: Mr. Cocchionra stated his opposition to a term limit, but was not opposed to a four-year term.
3. Paul Andreassen, Saugerties: Mr. Andreassen stated his opposition to a term limit, but was not opposed to a four-year term.
4. Gloria Waslyn, Ruby: Ms. Waslyn spoke in favor of a four-year term, noting it seems like campaigning begins as soon as a person is elected.
5. Dare Thompson, LWV: Ms. Thompson, President of the NYS League of Women Voters and former local chapter President, stated that the League of Women Voters is opposed to term limits. She added that the LWM takes no position on the question of increasing the term to four years. He spoke in favor of have the two question addressed in separate local laws.

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

PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED: 6:55 PM

6:55 PM - CALL OF THE 3rd PUBLIC HEARING BY CLERK:

On Proposed Local Law No. 3 Of 2018, 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 Establish The Department Of Economic Development

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were (23) speakers signed up for public comment.

1. Ward Todd, President & CEO UC Regional Chamber of Commerce: Mr. Todd spoke in support of leaving the current Office of Economic Development as is. He stated that the Chamber of Commerce has developed a great working relationship with the office and commented on the great work they have been doing.
2. Dennis Doyle UC Planning Director: Mr. Doyle opposes Proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2018 and supports the Office of Economic Develop remaining in its current form.
3. Howard Slotnick, Town of Esopus EDC: Mr. Slotnick opposes Proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2018 and supports the Office of Economic Develop remaining in its current form.
1. CJ Hartwell-Kelly, Milton: Mr. Hartwell-Kelly opposes Proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2018 and supports the Office of Economic Develop remaining in its current form.
2. Christopher Marx: Mr. Marx opposes Proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2018 and supports the Office of Economic Develop remaining in its current form.
3. Robin & Sylvester Taliaferno: The Taliaferno's oppose Proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2018 and supports the Office of Economic Develop remaining in its current form. They spoke about the assistance his family farm has received through the OED.
4. Janet Irizarry: Ms. Irizarry opposes Proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2018 and supports the Office of Economic Develop remaining in its current form.
5. Tamara Murray, Emerson Resort & Spa, and Ulster County Lodging Coalition: Ms. Murray, Marketing and Sale Director at Emerson Resort & Spa and Co-Chair of the Ulster County Lodging Coalition, spoke in opposition to Proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2018 and commented on the great work the OED has done to promote tourism in Ulster County.
6. Al Lanzetta, Supervisor Town of Marlborough: Supervisor Lanzetta prefers to maintain the present configuration with Director Holt and her staff who have been very responsive.

7. Beth Davenport, Stockade Works: Ms. Davenport, Co-Founder/Executive Director of Stockade Works spoke in opposition to Proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2018 and in support the Office of Economic Develop remaining in its current form. She stated that Stockade Works has developed a great relationship with the staff at the OED and commented that the office is providing an amazing service that is not found in many other areas. She added that the work the OED is doing will encourage economic development opportunities for businesses in the film industry and beyond.
8. Melanie Forstrom: Ms. Forstrom opposes Proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2018 and supports the Office of Economic Develop remaining in its current form.
9. Brenna Robinson, Kingston: Ms. Robinson opposes Proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2018 and supports the Office of Economic Develop remaining in its current form.
10. Dan Stone, Kingston: Mr. Stone opposes Proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2018 and supports the Office of Economic Develop remaining in its current form.
11. Nan Potter, Kingston: Ms. Potter, of Nan Potter Realty Properties LLC spoke in opposition to Proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2018 and supports the Office of Economic Develop remaining in its current form. She stated that she has referred individuals looking to relocate businesses to Ulster County to the OED and they have always received great advice and service.
12. Peta Farrmathe, New Paltz: Ms. Farrmathe opposes Proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2018 and supports the Office of Economic Develop remaining in its current form.
13. Anula Courtis: Ms. Courtis opposes Proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2018 and supports the Office of Economic Develop remaining in its current form.
14. Jonathan Burnhart, Rhinebeck: Mr. Burnhart, a local film producer spoke in opposition to Proposed Local Law No. 3 2018 and in favor of keeping the Office of Economic Development in its current form. He stated that the OED has been an integral part in encouraging and promoting film in Ulster County. He added that the industry creates jobs and brings substantial economic benefits and opportunities.
15. Sam Kandel: Mr. Kandel opposes Proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2018 and supports the Office of Economic Develop remaining in its current form.
16. Joe Deegan: Mr. Deegan, Managing Director of Deegan-Collins Commercial Realty in Kingston, spoke in opposition to Proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2018 and recalled a number of instance when he worked with the OED and referred prospective businesses to the OED for assistance in relocating to Ulster County.

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17. Arnaldo Seherent: Mr. Seherent opposes Proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2018 and supports the Office of Economic Develop remaining in its current form.
18. Ralph Erenzo: Mr. Erenzo opposes Proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2018 and supports the Office of Economic Develop remaining in its current form.
19. John Morrow: Mr. Morrow, Chairman of the Ulster County Industrial Development Agency, spoke in opposition to Proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2018 and in support of leaving the Office of Economic Development in its current form.
20. Neil Bettez, Supervisor Town of New Paltz: Mr. Bettez spoke in opposition to Proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2018 and supports the Office of Economic Develop remaining in its current form.

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

PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED: 7:41 PM

SPECIAL INFORMATIONAL MEETING:

Cornerstone Environmental Group, LLC presented a summary of the results of the Feasibility Study for forming a new, three county, Solid Waste Management Authority.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:10 PM

NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Meeting of the Ulster County Legislature will be held next **Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 7:00 PM** in the Legislative Chambers, Sixth Floor, Ulster County Office Building, 244 Fair Street, Kingston, New York.