

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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



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MINUTES

NOVEMBER 17, 2020

REGULAR MEETING

vimeo livestream <https://livestream.com/accounts/1512750/events/1824203>



Public Comment via Call in Studio. Dial: 205-Ulster-0 (205-857-8370)

7:00 PM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN: 7:08 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG AND MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION:

Led by Legislator John Gavaris.

ROLL CALL: Present: 22 Absent: 1 (Legislator Craig Lopez)

Note: Legislator Lopez arrived at 7:15 PM

BIRTHDAYS:

Legislator Brian Cahill, November 30th

MOTION TO DISPENSE WITH THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Majority Leader Heppner motioned, seconded by Minority Leader Ronk to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting. All in favor

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COMMUNICATIONS FROM:

UC Legislative Chairman, David B. Donaldson

Concerned Citizens

Concerned Citizen

UC Finance Department, Commissioner Burt Gulnick

UC Comptroller, March Gallagher

UC Clerk's Office, Accountant, Ray Kowatch

NYS DEC

UC Tourism Department

UC Attorney's Office, Attorney Clinton Johnson

County News

Town of Rochester, Supervisor Michael Baden

UC Recycling Oversight Committee, John Wackman

UC Resource Recovery Agency, Attorney Ken Gilligan

Kingstonwire, Alex Shiffer

UC Electrical Licensing Board

Concerned Citizens

UC Regional Chamber of Commerce

Catskill Watershed Corporation

NYSAC News

UC Environmental Mgmt. Council, J. David Halderman

UC Community Services Board

UC SPCA, Executive Director, Gina Carbonari

Press Release, Early Voting Centers

(4) In Support of the Kingstonian

(1) Opposing the Kingstonian PILOT

2020 Property Auction Canceled

Press Release, Delay Tax Auction

Semi-Annual Mortgage Report 4/1-9/30/20

Saugerties Town Landfill Site

Trending, November 2020

County Litigation, October 2020

October 12 & 26, 2020 - Vol. 52, No. 19 & 20

Emergency Order No. 26-30, 2020 & State of Emergency Declaration

EPA Sustainable Materials Academy 10/28

SEQRA Revised Notice Intent To Serve As Lead Agency

Electronics Recycling Service Changes

Letter, New Online Publication

Notice, Master Electrician License Application

(3) In Support of Kingstonian Project & Pilot

Ribbon Cutting, Mattress by Appointment

Ribbon Cutting, Zicatela's Bar & Restaurant

Notice of Preliminary Decisions 11/4/20

Fall 2020 Magazine

Letter, Support Bill A8349/5612A

Letter In Support of Inpatient Mental Health Beds at Health Alliance Hospital Kingston

Minutes 8/17/2020, 9/14/2020 & 10/19,2020

Sponsorship Opportunities Support for 2020

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COMMUNICATIONS (cont.):

Town of Ulster Supervisor James Quigley

Mental Health Assoc. in UC Inc. Jeannette Corrow

NYS Agriculture and Markets

Rocking Horse Ranch

Capital Investment Funding Bank of America

Eating Disorder Conference 2020 Link

Res. 307 of 2020

Letter, Proposed 2021 UC Budget

COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS:

Executive Order Nos. 49, 50, 51, 52, 53-2020

Press Release, Early Voting Security Measures

Press Release, Former Jail Site Development

Press Release, Second Wave COVID-19 Budgetary Transfers, October 2020

Corporate Compliance Mtg. Minutes 1/29/2020 & 2/26/2020

ANNUAL REPORTS:

UC Comptroller

12/31/19

DATE:

UC Popular Annual Financial Report

MEMORIALIZING LETTERS:

Ulster County Legislators

Class C Streams Bill (S.5612A / A.8349)

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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Economic Development, Tourism, Housing,
Planning & Transit
Energy & Environment

Law Enforcement and Public Safety

Laws and Rules, Governmental Services
Legislative Programs, Education & Community Services
Public Health and Social Services
Public Works and Capital Projects
Ways and Means

DATE:

October 6, 2020
October 5, 2020
October 8, 2020
October 7, 2020
October 15, 2020
October 19, 2020
October 6, 2020
October 5, 2020
October 7, 2020
October 13, 2020
October 14, 2020
October 20, 2020
October 22, 2020
October 27, 2020

PRESENTATION:

Chairman David B. Donaldson will call upon Legislator Peter Criswell to present a Proclamation on behalf of the Ulster County Legislature to the Kingston YMCA Farm Project Youth Crew, declaring November 26th as Sojourner Truth Day in Ulster County. The Kingston YMCA Farm Project program dedicates one day a week to social justice.

The Youth Crew took a self-guided Sojourner Truth tour based on the Black History Month Walk in February. They visited Jug Tavern, the Sojourner Truth Statue in Port Ewen, the newly unveiled Sojourner Truth statue at the entrance to the Walkway over the Hudson in Highland, several O+ murals, and the Pine St. African Burial Ground. They plan to visit the Ulster County Courthouse as well.

The Youth Crew joining us tonight include Briana Gary, Estefany Vargas, Alexander Rios, Isaiah Pacheco, Aleshanee Emanuel, Caleb Berrios, Kalia Jackson Hylton, Anayathsyn “Ani” Castillo, Elizabeth Jones, Neysa Navarrete, Tajsheona Chavis, and Julie Miller along with Social Justice Educators Jessica Alonso, Alonzo “AJ” Jordan Jr., Project Director and Farmer KayCee Wimbish, and Education Director for the Kingston YMCA Farm Project Susan Hereth.

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PUBLIC COMMENT: There were eight callers signed up for public comment. (See attached transcript)

1. Sarah Wenk:
2. Ilana Berger:
3. Kristina Winbish, Kingston:
4. Clark Richters, Kingston:
5. Alex Panagiotopoulos, Kingston:
6. Charlotte Adamis, Kingston:
7. Malia Cordel, Kingston:
8. Fanon Frazier:

RESOLUTION NOS: 323, 328, 379, 380, 382 -385, 387 – 424, 427; 426 – NO ACTION TAKEN; 232, WITHDRAWN; 242, 300, 345, 425, 428 – POSTPONED; 299, 381, 386 – DEFEATED

Resolution No. 232 – Calling For Issuance Of Extended Moratorium On Evictions And Rent Relief During State Of Emergency
WITHDRAWN BY SPONSOR

Resolution No. 242 – Approving Ulster County’s Local Solid Waste Management Plan
POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 299 – Authorizing The Use Of The Tax Stabilization Reserve Fund For COVID-19 Related Expenses
DEFEATED IN COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 300 – Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 12 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 4 of 2018, A Local Law Establishing An Ulster County Human Rights Law, To Be Held On Tuesday, November 17, 2020 At 7:00 PM
POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 345 – Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 13 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 Further Clarify Budget Modification after Adoption, To Be Held On Tuesday, November 17, 2020 At 7:10 PM
POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE

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Resolution No. 381 – Declaring Intent To Act As Lead Agency Under SEQRA For Review Of The Zero Waste Implementation Plan

DEFEATED IN COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 386 – Amending The 2020 Ulster County Budget To Adjust The Annual Salary Of The Director of Tourism

DEFEATED IN COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 425 – Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 15 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending Article XXX Of The Ulster County Charter And Article XXX Of The Ulster County Administrative Code To Eliminate The Term Limit Imposed On Commissioners, To Be Held On Tuesday, December 8, 2020 At 6:00 PM

POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 426 – Amending The Policy For Funding Non-County Organizations – Ulster County Legislature

NO ACTION TAKEN IN COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 427 – Authorizing And Appropriating A One-Time Compensatory Time Payment To Certain Employees Of The Ulster County Board Of Elections

NO ACTION TAKEN IN COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 428 – Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 16 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending The Ulster County Charter And Ulster County Administrative Code By Deleting Article XXXIX From Each (Department Of Tourism), And Amending The Ulster County Charter And Ulster County Administrative Code With Respect To Article XVII (Department Of Economic Development), To Be Held On Tuesday, December 8, 2020 At 6:05 PM

POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE

A motion was made by Majority Leader Heppner, seconded by Legislator Litts, to move Resolution No. 419 out of the Non-Consent Agenda and into the Consent Agenda. All in favor.

Consent

- 323 Responding To The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency Notice Of Intent To Act As Lead Agency Under The State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) For The Review Of The Draft Ulster County Local Solid Waste Management Plan**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 379 Confirming Appointment Of Lisa Berger As Director Of Tourism**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 380 Confirming Appointment Of Tim Weidemann As Director Of Economic Development**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 382 Authorizing An Intermunicipal Agreement For Consulting Services For Procurement Of Goods And Services Between The County Of Ulster And The SUNY Ulster – SUNY Ulster**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 383 Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 14 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 17 Of 2007, A Local Law To Create The Department Of The Environment And The Office Of Coordinator Of The Department Of The Environment For The County of Ulster, To Be Held On Tuesday, December 8, 2020 At 6:15 PM**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 384 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Payment In Lieu Of Taxes Agreement With Brodhead Solar, LLC For Solar Energy Systems Pursuant To Real Property Tax Law Section 487 – Finance Department**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 385 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Inter-Municipal Agreement For The Preschool Special Education And Related Services Program With The Kingston City School District – Department Of Social Services**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 387 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The New York State Department Of Transportation – To Accept The New York State Share For Mass Transportation Projects For Federal Fiscal Year 2020-2021 - Department Of Public Transportation (Ulster County Area Transit)**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 388 Supporting A Grant Application To The Federal Transit Administration To Apply, Accept And Administer Section 5311(b)(3) Funding For Bus Replacements And Authorizing The Ulster County Executive To Execute Any Required Applications Or Agreements To Accept Funding- Ulster County Area Transit (UCAT)**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 389 Supporting A Grant Application To The NYS Department Of Transportation To Apply, Accept And Administer Public Transportation Modernization And Enhancement Funding For Bus & Bus Facilities Capital Investment Program And Authorizing The Ulster County Executive To Execute Any Required Applications or Agreements To Accept Funding- Department Of Public Transportation (UCAT)**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 390 Supporting A Grant Application To The NYS Department Of Transportation To Apply, Accept And Administer Public Transportation Accelerated Transit Capital Program For Upstate Public Transportation Sponsors To Rehabilitate, Restore and Modernize Public Transit Assets, And Authorizing The Ulster County Executive To Execute Any Required Applications or Agreements To Accept Funding- Department Of Public Transportation (UCAT)**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 391 Amending Capital Project No. 529 (Purchase Of Mass Transit Buses And Related Equipment) And Amending The 2020 Capital Fund Budget – Ulster County Area Transportation (UCAT)**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 393 Approving A Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan – Department Of Public Transportation (Ulster County Area Transit)**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 394 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Extend An Intermunicipal Agreement With The Town Of New Paltz To Provide Public Transit Service To The New Paltz Area (New Paltz LOOP) – Department Of Public Transportation (Ulster County Area Transit)**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 395 Reappointing Member And Alternate To The Ulster County Planning Board – Town Of Olive – Ulster County Planning Department**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 396 Requesting The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Authorize Acceptance Of The Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance Grant For The Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-based Program (COSSAP) And Amending The 2020 Budget – Sheriff's Office**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 397 Appropriating Funds To The District Attorney's Periodical Account – Amending The 2020 Ulster County Budget – Ulster County District Attorney's Office**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 398 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Lease Agreement With The Spring Lake Fire Department To Be Used As An Impound Lot – Department Of Public Works (Buildings And Grounds)**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 401 Amending Capital Project No. 533 – Maltby Hollow Bridge, Town Of Olive – Funding Construction And Construction Inspection Phase – Department Of Public Works (Highways & Bridges)**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 0
(1 Abstention: Legislator Litts)

- 403 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Inter-Municipal Agreement With The Ulster Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) In Relation To Intermunicipal Cooperation For Testing Services – Department Of Public Works**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 404 Approving The Retention And Disposition Schedule For New York Local Government Records (LGS-1) – Ulster County Clerk**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 405 Authorizing The Conveyance Of County-Owned Properties To The Original Owners – Department Of Finance**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 406 Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$55,380.00 Entered Into By The County – Complete Building Solutions, Inc. – Department Of Public Works**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 407 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$2,191,507.98 Entered Into By The County – Harrison & Burrowes Bridge Constructors, Inc. – Department Of Public Works**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 0
(1 Abstention: Legislator Litts)

- 408 Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$219,495.00 Entered Into By The County – Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. – Department Of Public Works**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 0
(1 Abstention: Legislator Litts)

- 409 Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$26,794.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Tri-County Refrigeration, Inc. – Department Of Public Works**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 410 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$80,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Bonadio & Co. LLP – Department Of Social Services**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 411 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$139,787.00 Entered Into By The County – Family of Woodstock Inc. – Department Of Social Services**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 412 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$333,448.00 Entered Into By
The County – Family of Woodstock Inc. – Department Of Social Services**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 413 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$120,328.00 Entered Into By
The County – Family of Woodstock Inc. – Department Of Social Services**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 414 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$162,600.00 Entered Into By
The County – Family of Woodstock Inc. – Department Of Social Services**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 415 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$1,665,000.00 Entered Into
By The County – Family of Woodstock Inc. – Department Of Social
Services**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 416 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$75,000.00 Entered Into By
The County – Family of Woodstock Inc. – Department Of Social Services**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 417 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$109,995.00 Entered Into By
The County – Health Research, Inc. – Department Of Health**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 418 Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$42,714.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Tyler Technologies, Inc., F/K/A New World Systems Corporation – Information Services**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 419 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$382,750.00 Entered Into By The County – Cubic Creative, Inc. D/B/A Belo + Company – Department Of Tourism**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 420 Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$272,416.00 Entered Into By The County – Legal Services of the Hudson Valley – Department Of Probation**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 421 Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$49,745.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Black Creek Integrated System Corp. – Ulster County Sheriff**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 422 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$65,964.00 Entered Into By The County – Motorola Solutions – Emergency Management**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

**423 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$69,469.80 Entered Into By
The County – Motorola Solutions – Emergency Management**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

**424 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$59,400.00 Entered Into By
The County – Anderson Medical PC D/B/A Emergency One – Personnel
Department**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

Non-Consent

**328 Approving The Deviation By The Ulster County Industrial Development
Agency Relating To The Terms And Conditions Of A Certain PILOT
Agreement To Be Entered Into Between The Ulster County Industrial
Development Agency And Kingstonian Development, LLC In
Connection With The Kingstonian Development, LLC Project, And The
Undertaking Of The Project Under The Agency's Housing Policy**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING LONG ROLL VOTE:

AYES: 17 NOES: 6
(Noes: Legislators Archer, Bartels, Criswell,
Greene, Uchitelle, Walter)

- 392 BOND Authorizing Purchase Of Buses, For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$1,749,092.00, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$1,749,092.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING LONG ROLLVOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 399 Amending The 2020 - 2025 Capital Improvement Program – Establishing Capital Project No. 576, Ulster County Enterprise West – Amending The 2020 Capital Fund Budget – Department Of Public Works**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING LONG ROLLVOTE:

AYES: 18 NOES: 5
(Noes: Legislators Archer, Bartels, Delaune, Greene, Walter)

- 400 BOND Authorizing The Preliminary Reconstruction Of The Enterprise West Building, In And For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$399,282.00, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$399,282.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING LONG ROLLVOTE:

AYES: 18 NOES: 5
(Noes: Legislators Archer, Bartels, Delaune, Greene, Walter)

- 402 BOND Authorizing The Reconstruction Of The Maltby Hollow Bridge In The Town Of Olive, In And For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$1,330,000.00, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$1,330,000.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING LONG ROLLVOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 0
(1 Abstention: Legislator Litts)

**419 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$382,750.00 Entered Into By
The County – Cubic Creative, Inc. D/B/A Belo + Company – Department
Of Tourism**

Moved to Consent

**427 Authorizing And Appropriating A One-Time Compensatory Time
Payment To Certain Employees Of The Ulster County Board Of
Elections**

No Action Taken In Committee

MEETING ADJOURNED IN MEMORY OF: Read by Legislator Brian Cahill.

Norman Roberts, Newburgh, NY
Renee Sachs, Kingston, NY
Jeffrey R. Gold, West Hurley, NY
Walter J. Hackett, Saugerties, NY
Janet G. Kozma, Cottekill, NY
Michael J. Douglas, Modena, NY
Shirley H. Longto, Ulster Park, NY
Anne Allbright Smith, New Paltz, NY
Frances R. Laird, Hoschton, GA
Rotena Dubois Nippert, Lake Katrine, NY
Emma Levine, Pleasant Valley, NY
Evan M. Fraser, Rosendale, NY

Rev. Stephen J. Hanson, Saugerties, NY
Dennis Robinson, Bluffton, SC
David J. Morris, Lake May, FL
James J. Manion MD, Marlboro, NY
Ernest P. Bonelli Sr., Glasco, NY
Joel Raskoskie, Kingston, NY
Dr. Sheldon Spencer, New Paltz, NY
Dolores L. Fredericks, West Hurley, NY
Peter Warnecke, Hurley, NY
Mary L. Vogt, Hurley, NY
Henry F. O'Bryan Jr., Saugerties, NY

Motion by Legislator Litts, seconded by Legislator Bruno to adjourn Legislative Session.
All in favor.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:44 PM

NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Meeting of the Ulster County Legislature will be held on Tuesday, **December 15, 2020 at 7:00 PM**. Further Meeting details shall be forthcoming.

Resolution deadline is Friday, November 20, 2020 at 12 Noon.

Ulster County Legislature
Legislative Session

Meeting Transcript
November 17, 2020

Chairman Donaldson

I will call the meeting to order. And we will rise for the pledge to the flag. And I want to do a moment of silent meditation for our nation. We are bracing for another new wave of COVID. And we've had significant new case is right here in Ulster County and New York has caught over a 3% infection rate and so, I'm keeping that in mind in your moments of silence. Alrighty. Legislator Litts, could you please lead us in the Pledge?

Legislator Litts

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.

Chairman Donaldson

All righty. Madam Clerk, would you do the roll call please?

Clerk Fabella

Absolutely. 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.

Legislator Delaune

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Donaldson.

Chairman Donaldson

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Fabiano.

Legislator 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. I'm positive I saw him. I see him but he's not on video.

Clerk Fabella

Maio.

Legislator Maio

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Parete. Legislator Parete, you're muted.

Legislator Parete

Present.

Clerk Fabella

Beautiful.

Legislator Parete

Thank you.

Clerk Fabella

Petit.

Legislator Petit

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Roberts.

Legislator Roberts

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Present.

Clerk Fabella

Uchitelle.

Legislator Uchitelle

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Walter.

Legislator Walter

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Wawro.

Legislator Wawro

Here.

Clerk Fabella

I just want to call Lopez one more time. Lopez is definitely is not there. But let me call on Fabiano.

Legislator Fabiano

I'm here.

Clerk Fabella

You certainly are.

Clerk Fabella

So, we have twenty-two present and one absent.

Chairman Donaldson

Well, I believe... is it Lopez that is absent.

Clerk Fabella

It is. And if he gets on video, ah... he's coming in a different way to the meeting right now.

Chairman Donaldson

Because I did text him, so...

Clerk Fabella

And now I can see I'm Legislator Lopez. Are you present? He's on and off. He's on and off. But when he comes on and he votes, we can change that record.

Chairman Donaldson

All right, very good. We're still trying to bear our way through with the Zoom meetings, of course. But anyway, the roll call was called. And this month, we have one birthday legislator Brian Cahill, November 30. Happy birthday, Brian.

Chairman Donaldson

And I'd like to entertain a motion to dispense with the readings of the minutes of the previous meetings.

Legislator Ronk

So, moved.

Legislator Heppner

Second.

Legislator Fabiano

Second.

Chairman Donaldson

Very good. All those in favor?

Legislative Members

Aye.

Chairman Donaldson

Opposed? Carried.

Chairman Donaldson

You'll note there's various communications on record along with reports. If you had the time to avail yourself to them go for it. All right now, tonight, this evening, we had this fabulous group from Kingston YMCA Farm Project joining us. And I'm going to call on Legislator Peter Criswell to introduce them. And at the end, Legislator Criswell, will read a proclamation declaring November 26 Sojourner Truth Day in Ulster County. Peter, take it away.

Legislator Criswell

Thank you, Chairman Donaldson. I just wanted to say I was so thrilled when this group of young people contacted me. And I'm really impressed with the commitment of this group to honor the memory and legacy of Sojourner Truth. And as you'll hear, this is just one of the many actions that they've taken to better understand racism and social justice issues, and to honor heroes, past and present. And just hearing the energy that they put into this really gives me hope for our future. So, I want you to hear the story of this project and other things that they've been doing from the youth themselves. So, in that I'd like to introduce their teacher who is Susan Hereth, who's the Education Director of the Kingston YMCA farm project.

Legislator Criswell

Susan.

Susan Hereth

Good evening, everyone. On behalf of the crew, I'd like to thank you all for welcoming us to this meeting tonight, and especially to Peter, for really hearing their ideas and championing the voice of the youth. So, thank you for that.

Susan Hereth

I'm the education director of the Kingston YMCA Farm Project. And I work alongside KayCee Wimbish, who is the Project Director and is also on this call. I, you know, I want to speak on behalf of KayCee and I that we have the best jobs in the world because we work alongside these amazing young adults who absolutely love their community and are so passionate, and empathetic, and dedicated in the work they're doing.

Susan Hereth

There are thirteen of them on this call tonight between the ages of 15 and 21. Which is really amazing. And we refer to ourselves as Farm Fam. I just wanted to give them a shout out because I know that'll make them happy. We're, we're so proud to work with them and alongside them. And I think we learn from them every day. And their voices and ideas are really powerful. And you're going to hear that from them in a minute. And they're creating the world that they want to live in. And it's really exciting to see.

Susan Hereth

So, I'm going to pass this on to Brianna. And she's going to pass it to AJ. And he's going to pass it to Jessica. So, thank you.

Briana Gary

Okay, so I'm just going to briefly talk about like what the YMCA Farm Project does. So, the YMCA Farm Project is a farm-based education program focused on providing the youth with meaningful education and employment in a safe environment to basically make changes in our community as we see fit.

Briana Gary

Our farm is located behind the Y (YMCA) and River Radiology in Kingston. And we operate a community-based farm stand, two times a week in the Y, and every other week at the Institute for Family Health. And we just finished our seventh growing season in which we produce 5,700 pounds of food for our community, which is really important because we have a food desert and not everybody has equal access to getting fresh, healthy food like they need it.

Briana Gary

And we employ 37 high school and college age youth in 2020. And they worked on Farm Crew and Bark which focused on beautifying and cleaning up Kingston. We went around, we painted utility boxes, we picked up trash and just you know made it look a lot better.

Briana Gary

And they also worked on our you've design crew and cooking crew, which we're doing right now. And it's super fun. It's my favorite thing to do, because we're learning how to cook with vegetables. And we're also making a cookbook, which is my first time making a cookbook, and it's a lot, but it's super fun working with everyone.

Briana Gary

And overall, my favorite part about working on the farm is having a local community that I can talk to, and discuss plans on how we want to make the community better. And it just really brings everybody together. So, that's what we do on the farm. And that's what I love about it. And I'm passing it on AJ now.

Alonzo “AJ” Jordan Jr.

Hi, everyone, thank you for having us on and listening to what we have to say. So, I'm going to talk about the idea of how Sojourner Truth Day came about with us. And so, the idea for this really started just with all the anti-racist work we've been doing in the community, really in like a lot in the last six months.

Alonzo “AJ” Jordan Jr.

And so, our adult and youth staff read the book "Stamped" by Jason Reynolds and Jason Reynolds over the summer. And we loved the book and all the information that we got. But we did notice that Sojourner Truth was mentioned, but we didn't really like the lack of detail that was showed to her.

Alonzo “AJ” Jordan Jr.

So, we started coming up with new ideas and ways that we could try to learn more about her and really give her the credit she deserves. And so, we really decided to dive deep with that, and we visited the Jug Tavern where she was enslaved as a young child, around like 9 to 11 years old, I believe. And then we also went to her statues and Highland and Port Ewen, we visited Shaupeneak Ridge, which is the area where she would have escaped in her Walk to Freedom. And then we also went to local Kingston murals.

Alonzo “AJ” Jordan Jr.

And one day, we decided to have a conversation about government, we read a comic called "This is What Democracy Looks Like."

Alonzo “AJ” Jordan Jr.

And then we accompanied that with the game, where we had three spots where everybody would walk to if they felt that form of government should handle this part

of life. So, there was a local, state, and a federal government spot. And we all decided to walk to where we felt fit for the issues.

Alonzo “AJ” Jordan Jr.

And it came up local holidays, who should determine that, and one of our members, actually, Jessica, who's going to speak next, she said, "Well, I feel like local government should have a say in holidays, because certain areas will have certain things that are important to them. And like our area, Sojourner Truth is very important to us."

Alonzo “AJ” Jordan Jr.

So, that idea just went from there. And now we're really like taking the steps to make it a reality. But we really wanted to highlight a few things with the holiday. One of them being a Sojourner Truth's feats in women's rights and abolition as activism. And then also that she escaped to freedom in this area. And then also we wanted to be able to highlight and honor a day for mothers and women of color.

Alonzo “AJ” Jordan Jr.

So, I'm going to pass it to Jessica now, who I believe is going to read our anti-racist statement.

Jessica Alonso

Thank you, AJ. So, good to be here. My name is Jessica. And I'm going to read the anti-racist statement that the Youth Crew wrote this past summer.

Jessica Alonso

Okay, so after reading the book "Stamped" by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi, the Youth Crew learned the meaning of anti-racism and racism in America. We are more moved, we are more aware of injustices and we question the status quo. Many of us have found ourselves reviewing past experiences such as microaggressions, or institutional [(racism) audio drops]. Our curiosity continues to grow as we discovered there is more to every story. Most of all, we've learned that our voices are important. We realize there are challenges that come with having knowledge and sharing our knowledge with people who might not agree. It is especially a struggle when we see it is our own community reacting negatively. Some of us also struggle with being a person of color and relating with an American identity when we think about the brutality that our ancestors faced at the hands of our founders, knowing that those actions are at the root of present day America. Given everything, it is not enough to just to just think that you are not racist, you must actively be an anti-racist. Everyone can have a role in anti-racist work. Some places we have located ourselves in anti-racist work include being a listener, building relationships and trust being a student or teacher, being leaders protesting, amplifying voices, an accepting opportunity that puts

us in a position to make change. So, a question I'd like to pose to all of you, today is, where do you see yourself in anti-racist work?

Jessica Alonso

And that's all, thank you.

Legislator Criswell

Thank you so much. We really, really appreciate you being here today. And, again, it gives me great hope for our future. So, thank you so much.

Legislator Criswell

I'm now going to read the Proclamation.

Chairman Donaldson

Before you read the Proclamation, Peter. I also want to thank all them for coming tonight. You really made my day and you make me confident that our future will be in good hands.

Legislator Criswell

Thank you, Chairman.

Chairman Donaldson

Glad Peter.

Legislator Criswell

WHEREAS, Sojourner Truth whose given name Isabella Baumfree was one of 12 children born into slavery around 1797 in the Ulster County town of Esopus, and

Legislator Criswell

WHEREAS, after years of harsh treatment she escaped in 1826 and achieved her legal freedom in 1827 when the New York State Emancipation Act was approved, and

Legislator Criswell

WHEREAS, in 1847 she began traveling throughout the nation speaking to hundreds of audiences on subjects of abolition, women's rights, prison reform and capital punishment, and became one of our nation's leading voices for abolition and universal suffrage in the 19th century, and

Legislator Criswell

WHEREAS, during the Civil War she recruited black troops for the Union Army, met President Lincoln and fought for desegregation of military hospitals, and

Legislator Criswell

WHEREAS, in the post war she fought to make former slaves eligible for Federal land grants, and

Legislator Criswell

WHEREAS, Sojourner Truth's passionate belief in equal rights for all made her an enduring role model for the reformers of the civil rights and women's equality movements, and

Legislator Criswell

WHEREAS, numerous tributes to Sojourner Truth can be found throughout Ulster County including the Walkway over the Hudson in Highland, New York, the Sojourner Truth statue as a young girl in Port Ewen, New York, and the Sojourner Truth /Ulster Landing County Park in Saugerties, New York all in recognition of this abolitionist and suffragist leader, and

Legislator Criswell

NOW, THEREFORE I, DAVID B. DONALDSON declare that it is only fitting that the Ulster County Legislature pay tribute to and honor Sojourner Truth's lifetime achievements and contributions for promoting justice, equal rights and economic opportunity for all by proclaiming the 26th Day of November 2020 as:

Legislator Criswell

SOJOURNER TRUTH DAY THROUGHOUT ULSTER COUNTY

Legislator Criswell

Congratulations.

Chairman Donaldson

Thank you all for coming. I'd love to see those young faces. And you might as well all escape now, before we get to all the boring stuff that we're going to have to do. But you can stay.

Briana Gary

Thank you.

Neysa Navarrete

I just wanted to say on my behalf, I'm so sorry for the name, and for my sister, she doesn't like being alone.

Chairman Donaldson

No problem.

Neysa Navarrete

Thank you so much for everything.

Chairman Donaldson

You're welcome.

Chairman Donaldson

Alrighty, let's get back to our meeting.

Clerk Fabella

It looks like we only have six speakers signed up

Chairman Donaldson

Alrighty, but we will be using the Call-in Studio again this month. And every speaker gets two minutes. And we have a little leeway with that. But you know, try to keep the time down. We stick to items that are on the agenda. So, you say you have 16 signed up? Let them begin.

Clerk Fabella

We only have seven signed up right now the first speaker signed up to speak is Sarah Wenk.

Sarah Wenk

Hi. Can you hear me?

Clerk Fabella

We can.

Chairman Donaldson

I can hear you, Sarah.

Sarah Wenk

Good. Hi, good evening. I am going to speak just very briefly about the proposed Kingstonian PILOT, which I believe is on the agenda for tonight.

Chairman Donaldson

Yes, it is.

Sarah Wenk

Okay, and I asked the Board of Education, which is meeting tomorrow is the group that will be the most impacted by this PILOT if it passes. And they are certainly I think they deserve an opportunity to vote and make their feelings about it heard before the Legislature votes.

Sarah Wenk

But I have to say having listened to the first part of this meeting, that it's ironic to me that you hosted these young people who are focusing their energy and their efforts on racial justice, and acknowledging the complicated history of our region, and the racial and economic inequities that have driven life here for so long. While you're about to vote in favor of a PILOT that will perpetuate these exact issues: low wage jobs, luxury housing, economic inequality, breaks for developers. It's kind of stunning that... I hope you're all aware of the deep, deep irony of that. And I hope you can at least postpone on this vote until the Board of Education has a chance to make their feelings about it known.

Chairman Donaldson

Thank you.

Clerk Fabella

The next speaker signed up is Alex Panagiotopoulos. Alex, can you hear us?

Alex Panagiotopoulos

Yeah, I can hear you.

Clerk Fabella

Okay, go ahead.

Alex Panagiotopoulos

Okay. Yeah, I think Sarah just made a really good point. These kids are part of a much larger trend in Ulster County that people have to work for free or volunteer just to like, get their basic needs met, and make sure that everyone has just the very basics, while still massively getting priced out of their own homes. Not being able to afford to live where they are, feeling alienated from their communities. It takes a massive amount of energy, and also generosity from some people that you know, we don't, we don't always know if they're going to be here to fund all this stuff.

Alex Panagiotopoulos

So, for you guys to be voting tonight on something that's going to severely curtail the amount of resources that those kids, and their little siblings, and, you know, future

kids are going to have. You know, I think... I hope you guys really think about it, like 25 years of very harsh austerity that people are going to have to make up for with their generosity and charity volunteer hours. Also, developers can make just millions of dollars selling luxury back to people. I don't I don't believe that the benefits are going to trickle down to those kids and their families. I think it's a really bad idea.

Alex Panagiotopoulos

Peter, you know, ironic that you introduce those kids, because you didn't bring it back to me about the Kingstonian...

Multiple speakers

Point of order.

Legislator Heppner

Point of order, Chairman.

Chairman Donaldson

You're to address any legislator. That is, they cannot respond to you. So, it's inappropriate for you to address any Legislator directly.

Clerk Fabella

He left. So, the next speaker we have signed up is Clark Richters.

Chairman Donaldson

Go ahead, Clark.

Clark Richters

Yes, can you hear me?

Chairman Donaldson

I can hear you.

Clark Richters

Thank you very much for allowing me to speak. On... the first issue is the Kingstonian PILOT, I am really unhappy about the deletion of Fair Street Extension. It's my public right away, my street. I wasn't really, I mean not that I own the street, but I think it really should have been more informed because people aren't going to be aware that there will be a building there. If they do get that, if you approve that tax break. I would, you know, I'm going to disagree. One, because of the street. Second, I don't think you know, the developer needs a tax break. It should be like it's like, remind... is like, the previous meeting, the Legislature was speaking about racial, but I think it's it

has to do with what, you know, poor, the rich versus the poor when it comes to tax breaks. It just seems like it doesn't really... I mean, yes, it's their attention is to create jobs. But they really should be creating jobs and looking for a future.

Clark Richters

But for the school district for not receiving their taxes is really going to put a dilemma on the parents. They're already, the school district always, right now, and it's like they're they have to bring their own paper and pencil to school and they're probably buying laptops and they're struggling right now. And you're going to put more of a burden on the school district by allowing that PILOT to go through.

Clark Richters

And I would say like, and on that, it's like with the public right away. We have Spectrum cable that we have a public access agreement that all the town's collective franchisees agreements were over a half a million dollars and there are only...

Chairman Donaldson

Can you wrap it up?

Clark Richters

Okay, the county meanings are only available online. You have to have a computer or internet access to access or participate in your government.

Chairman Donaldson

Wrap it up, please.

Clark Richters

Okay, I would like to have the County Legislators to support their public access stations throughout the counties. And this meeting, alone, should be on the public Channel, Channel 23 for all the counties. Thank you very much.

Clerk Fabella

The next speaker signed up to speak is Kristine Winbish.

Chairman Donaldson

Can I get some water?

Kristine Winbish

Hello my name?

Chairman Donaldson

Yes, go ahead.

Kristine Winbush

Okay, Hi. My name is KayCee Winbush. I live in Kingston. I happen to also work at the Kingston YMCA Farm Project and just want to echo what the first few callers have said that one real anti-racist action that could be taken as instead of privileging these white wealthy developers would be to prioritize our communities of color, especially our young people. I feel strongly that the PILOT should not be approved for the Kingstonian. That the developers need to pay their fair share.

Kristine Winbush

The entity that's going to be most hurt by this is the Kingston City School District, who already announced early on this year that the reason kids couldn't go back to school earlier was because of the budget cuts to the state aid. So, to now further reduce their tax revenue and to force the school district into making a really difficult choice between cutting staff and programs or raising the property tax cap, both of which are very unpopular options. So, I just urge people to either take your time and not approve it tonight, or to just vote no against the PILOT for the Kingstonian. And thank you so much. And thank you so much for giving those young people a space to share the work that they've been doing.

Clerk Fabella

The next speaker signed up is Ilana Berger.

Ilana Berger

Hello, can you hear me?

Clerk Fabella

Yeah.

Ilana Berger

Can you hear me?

Chairman Donaldson

Yes.

Ilana Berger

Great. Hi, thank you for the opportunity to testify. I'm not going to say a whole lot different. I'm a parent here. I have two kids in the Kingston City School District, and involved in two different PTOs. I really appreciate what earlier speakers said

highlighting the absolute irony of honoring these amazing young people who go to the Kingston city schools. And then essentially, from what all accounts I hear going ahead and voting on a plan that will further impact, in a negative way, their education. So, yeah, also the fact that that kids have not been in school, we're not able to enact the reopening plan for the district this year because of budget cuts.

Ilana Berger

In a time where this project has already received public subsidies, I just find it criminal that at a moment of a record housing crisis and record housing increase in prices on housing in the City of Kingston. And an impact already with kids not being able to be in school, or very minimally in school, the impact that we have no idea even what it's going to have on our children. And we won't know for years.

Ilana Berger

What we do know, is like everything else, is going to have... the fact that folks haven't been able to get into school is going to have a disproportionate impact on kids of color, non-English speaking kids in the district. At this moment when we should be thinking about equity and investing in the folks who've been most impacted are most impacted by the pandemic, to give a luxury developer who has already received public dollars, the right to not pay taxes and to, you know, pay into the school district and pay into our community is criminal.

Ilana Berger

When I think about who pays taxes, nurses pay taxes, homecare workers pay taxes, minimum wage workers are paying taxes, our teachers, our lunchroom workers, everybody is paying taxes and contributing back into the system. And for these people to build luxury housing and a parking lot that has very debatable value to our community.

Ilana Berger

To grant a massive tax break to this set is just absolutely not working in the interest of the people in Kingston who most need public investment right now. And I really urge you to think about what kind of message you're sending to the community that you want to give tax dollars to rich developers rather than investing in a school system that is part of the future of our community. Thank you.

Chairman Donaldson

Thank you.

Clerk Fabella

The next speaker signed up is Charlotte Adamis.

Charlotte Adamis

Hi, can you hear me?

Charlotte Adamis

Yes.

Charlotte Adamis

Wonderful. Thank you so much for the opportunity. My name is Charlotte Adamis. I am a Kingston resident. I'm a retired teacher from the Kingston City School District, a parent of two children who went through Kingston. And I am a member of the citizen Action Committee for Education Justice.

Charlotte Adamis

And I have to say that it comes down to values, and what do we as a community value? And I think the previous speakers just really got to the heart of the matter. What do we... what message are we sending our young people?

Charlotte Adamis

I mean, I think that this program is really debatable. Does it benefit the City of Kingston? I'm certain that businesspeople would argue that it does. But it does. It does still on the backs of our school district, and it does so at a disproportionate amount. And I think that the entire tax system is just inequitable, and we can't continue to rob our children of their futures.

Charlotte Adamis

So, I really urge the Legislature to reconsider its support. I love the suggestion wait and see what the board of education does. I do hope is that our elected officials at the board, support our students and our faculty.

Charlotte Adamis

But I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak this evening, and I hope you vote your conscience and not wealthy developers pocketbooks.

Clerk Fabella

The next speaker signed up is Malia Cordel.

Malia Cordel

Hi. My name is Malia Cordel. I also have two kids in the Kingston City School District. And (clearing throat), excuse me, I am a member of my children's school PTA, and I'm also a member of the Citizen Action Education Justice Committee.

Malia Cordel

I agree with the first caller, and all these other callers, that you know, you need to first postpone the vote on the Kingstonian PILOT. But secondly, you must vote no on the PILOT. You know, yes, so it is going to hurt our Kingston City School District way too much. it's unconscionable to even consider yes vote when the district is potentially in such dire straits financially.

Malia Cordel

You know, they're already owed like \$14 million by the state. And they're facing like 20% budget cuts. which would mean layoffs and reductions of important services, you know, things like art classes, social workers, support for our English language learners, you know, sports. And as it was mentioned by earlier callers, you know, our, the school year plan had to change this year because of, like reductions to the budget. We're on this two day a week plan because of that.

Malia Cordel

You know, voting yes, on the PILOT would deny Kingston City School District students and additional \$27 million over 25 years. You know, if you vote yes, for this, you're voting against our children and against our community. And I hope you will not do that. Please put our needs and our children's needs above the financial goals of wealthy developers. Thank you.

Clerk Fabella

Our last speaker signed up is Fanon Frazier.

Fanon Frazier

Hi, good evening. My name is Fanon Frazier, representing a... I am a community organizer Citizen Action Hudson Valley, based here in Kingston, and also representing the Kingston Education Justice Committee. And, yeah, I think we should say, collectively, we should be saying no, to the pilot to the tax break.

Fanon Frazier

And I just want to echo what everyone said, especially the Kingston Farm Project youth. If we cannot listen to them, that we're just not listening at all. They are a diverse group of youths, who are doing this work collectively. And yes, the tax, the tax break would be coming from the education of mainly primarily black, brown and low income students, as PILOTs across the country have traditionally done. And if you're not doing the research, if you're not doing the homework, of course, you're all very professional here. But if you haven't researched this, and I think that should be

considered before you move forward with a consideration in either direction, whether yay or nay. But again, I want to echo what most folks have said here. Thank you.

Clerk Fabella

There are no other speakers signed up currently.

Chairman Donaldson

Alrighty very good, then let us get to the agenda.

Chairman Donaldson

Oh, Leader Heppner and Leader Ronk, are there any changes to the Consent or Non-Consent agenda?

Legislator Heppner

Yes, Chairman Donaldson I moved to move Resolution 419 from non-consent to consent.

Legislator Ronk

No objection from the Republican caucus. We agree with that.

Chairman Donaldson

Very good. So, moved.

Chairman Donaldson

All right, on the Consent Agenda, as amended.

Legislator Heppner

We are a short Yes.

Legislator Ronk

On the Consent Agenda. We're a short Yes with the following abstentions, Legislator Litts on 401, 407 and 408.

Clerk Fabella

Legislator Lopez joined us on video at 7:15. So, everyone is present on the consent agenda, it is adopted twenty-three to zero with the exception of Resolutions 401, 407 and 408, which are adopted twenty-two to zero with one abstention, Legislator Litts.

Chairman Donaldson

Already for the Non-Consent Agenda.

Clerk Fabella

Resolution 328: Approving The Deviation By The Ulster County Industrial Development Agency Relating To The Terms And Conditions Of A Certain PILOT Agreement To Be Entered Into Between The Ulster County Industrial Development Agency And Kingstonian Development, LLC In Connection With The Kingstonian Development, LLC Project, And The Undertaking Of The Project Under The Agency's Housing Policy.

Chairman Donaldson

On the issue? Legislator Uchitelle?

Legislator Uchitelle

I'd like to ask for a long roll.

Chairman Donaldson

Does anyone wish to speak before? You will be able to speak during the long roll. I don't see anyone on my screen here to speak up if you do, otherwise we'll start the long roll. On the issue - long roll.

Clerk Fabella

Archer.

Legislator Archer

Yes. I'm thankful that the suggestion for a third-party review was acted upon by the County Exec., and that the current proposal gets the taxing jurisdictions an additional \$2-\$2.5 million more than originally submitted by applicants. I do have a concern though that the final renegotiated terms were not reviewed in great detail and this was an accelerated review process. And at this juncture, I'm therefore, a no, on this resolution.

Clerk Fabella

Bartels.

Legislator Bartels

Thank you. I've struggled with this resolution and with this proposed deviation. I too, am grateful that an outside review was conducted. But I remain concerned that the proposal that we're being asked to consider is not at a minimum the proposal recommended by NDC.

Legislator Bartels

That said, fundamentally, I'm opposed to incentivizing market rate housing. It's counter to both the mission of Industrial Development Agencies and the very concept of market rate. I recognize that this project is complex and is before us in large part due to the parking complex. I've listened carefully to comments supporting and in opposition of this project, including those of the president of the Kingston City School District.

Legislator Bartels

When I spoke earlier of my concerns about the project, not contributing a fair share to the Kingston City School District, I was criticized for speaking about a district that was not my own. But my concerns are ideological. School taxes are a social contract and it continues to give me pause. Should the IDA choose to support this project, over my objection, I urge that the agreement require and guarantee, with claw backs, the full 277 public parking spaces proposed. The parking is the foundation on which this agreement is built. And should it move forward it must be protected. I cannot support this deviated PILOT. Thank you. I'm a no.

Clerk Fabella

Bruno.

Legislator Bruno

This has probably been one of the most difficult decisions I think all of us have had to make over the last year in my tenure as a legislator. Initially, I was a no vote. I did a lot of research on not only the parking, but the area which the Kingstonian will be developed. And a lot of the people who are against the PILOT are saying that we're losing tax dollars. This is a piece of property that has been generated zero tax dollars for a number of years and probably will continue to generate zero tax dollars for both the school district, and the county, and the city. This proposal, I think, brings tax dollars that were never there before. And I think this is a positive thing, not only for uptown Kingston, but for Ulster County as a whole. And for that, after doing the research, crunching a lot of numbers, and through a lot of personal debate in my own mind, I have to vote yes for this.

Clerk Fabella

Cahill.

Legislator Cahill

Yes, thank you. I just want to you know, repeat what many of the folks on the Legislature have heard and heard of various meetings over the last several months for me. And that is that I think that this is a cornerstone to an economic development engine in uptown Kingston that will generate housing for moderate income people, as

well as low income people, and will be an area that will, in the future, be the cornerstone of future development, future economic development, in not just in uptown Kingston, but in the region overall.

Legislator Cahill

I know there's a lot of people concerned about the level of housing that's being projected for that development. And one of the things that I keep repeating is, is that we're also undertaking other types of housing, as this is taking place. So, we're not ignoring any specific sector of housing. Each sector of housing is being addressed. And I think that that's as fundamentally as important as anything, when we're talking about the shortages of housing, which we have been from the first day I walked into the Legislature in this term, is that there's shortages of housing, with the exception of the uppermost level, there are shortages of housing at every level of in our county. And this project will address some of that.

Legislator Cahill

And I think the other part is, is that we're trying to invite people from different parts of the state that are making a little bit more money than we make here. When they come here, we have to be able to provide them with a decent place to live, a lot of people don't want to buy at home. People like me want to sell their home and move into a nice apartment and not worry about cutting the grass and shoveling the snow. And this is a kind of a complex and then kind of development that will give me that opportunity if I choose to do that. And I think that, you know, it's very important that we keep that in mind.

Legislator Cahill

And by the way, these are two local developers, these folks are local people that grew up in the area, they're from the area. Mr. Jordan has given back more to this community than many, many people that I can think of. He's been a cornerstone for volunteering, donating his property, donating his equipment for various different charities throughout the years. And I think it's important that we recognize that someone who has been doing that all along, is now willing to risk his own money and take a risk and building a big project like this in Kingston. It's a testament to his commitment to our area. And I think we should also recognize that. And for that reason, I will be a strong yes for this pilot. Thank you.

Clerk Fabella

Corcoran.

Legislator Corcoran

With much review, and much research, many conversations, I vote yes.

Clerk Fabella

Criswell.

Legislator Criswell

I'm going to pass.

Clerk Fabella

Delaune.

Legislator Delaune

I'm voting yes.

Clerk Fabella

Donaldson.

Chairman Donaldson

I want to make something clear. This does not reduce any taxes to the City of Kingston or reduce any taxes to the school district. It is... it'll reduce the total number that they get if the building goes up. That's what the tax incentive is. It's not taking any money away. It's still it's actually adding money to it.

Chairman Donaldson

This was a linchpin in the attraction of \$10 million in grant money into the City of Kingston. When the governor came to Kingston this was - that's what that was about. It was... it's that \$10 million. This was the thing that he looked at most because he saw that as a downtown development, a development that people have been waiting for in the City of Kingston for decades. People have attempted to do this before. Started the process. They did not complete it. And that is a third one, and within a few decades. And this is done by local people. A Jordan family has been in Kingston forever, I guess. I mean he is the owner of Plaza. He has donated again and again to our community. He is the person that basically, when they came to him for a Babe Ruth Field, he said, sure. And they actually built out the Babe Ruth Field for them on his own property.

Chairman Donaldson

This is going to be transformative for the uptown area. And the last time anything came into that area that was somewhat transformative was that Plaza that was built down just below the area of the uptown area. And the Plaza will be part of that parking for the hotel because the hotel is going to be valet parking.

Chairman Donaldson

This is not luxury apartments. It is market rate apartments and then there's 10% that are affordable. The City of Kingston's Common Council and the Mayor whole heartedly support it. And if you take a look at what's happening in the City of Kingston... just finished up, well, not the City Kingston, RUPCO did on E-Square in midtown, new affordable housing there. The Alms House is going up as we speak. And as I ride by it each day, it gets more near and more and more to completion. The Alms House, itself is looking really nice. They've redone that the old front area, I don't know what they've got done inside yet. But it looks really good.

Chairman Donaldson

And then of course, we just passed things to the Golden View, apartments up on Golden Hill. And they will be done, most likely they'll break ground on those affordable housing and probably late summer, or not sure exactly when, I mean there's a lot of paperwork still needs to be done.

Chairman Donaldson

And those are added... they were... these are added projects. Added from that of the Colonial Garden, Rondout Garden, Stuyvesant Charter, the motel uptown that was turned into affordable housing. Also, the Birches on O'Neil Street, the Birches on Flatbush Avenue. Various section eight housing and I believe I'm missing one or two, but there's just ones that are popping off the top of my head that have taken place in the City of Kingston.

Chairman Donaldson

So, these are not, again, this is not taking any money out of the school district. It is adding money to the school district. It's not adding it to the amount that some would like. They would like them to pay the full amount. But if they were going to pay the full amount, it would not be put up. It's already two projects and that same spot was left.

Chairman Donaldson

So, I will support this. I wholeheartedly support it. I think it's going to be transformative for the City of Kingston. And it's going to be something that I think people will be proud of in the end. So, I will be a yes.

Clerk Fabella

Fabiano

Legislator Fabiano

Yes, I would like to loudly echo what Legislator Cahill had said. I hear more and more every day around the county how hard it is to find a place to live. I was in that predicament just recently when we're - the home I was living in, my family decided to sell it. And I can tell you it took me almost four solid months to find a place to live. I hear from a lot of people. I have... I know people who are looking for places to live. They've been looking for months. They just can't find anything.

Legislator Fabiano

So, you know, I get taken back when I hear some of the callers say that don't vote for this and you'll be lining developer's pockets. I'm voting for this because I know we need housing in Ulster County. And I looked at the numbers and like Legislator Chairman Donaldson had just said, the money will be there for school districts in the City in turn. So, I will be a yes on this.

Clerk Fabella

Gavaris.

Legislator Archer

So, as already has been said, this is actually a net gain in revenue for taxes. It is not a decrease. Is this the best situation we could be in? No, of course not. But it's the only one. Nobody else has put any projects forward. The property has been sitting there. The City of Kingston went out look for somebody to do this project. And this is the developer that they chose. I think this is a win for the City. This is what they wanted. And I'm going to be yes.

Clerk Fabella

Greene.

Legislator Greene

Ah, I am I just want to be sure, yes. okay. I am opposed to this project, because I think it's too much. I think it's been falsely attributed to Einstein who said that insanity is doing what you've always done and expecting different results. We have a climate crisis. And this project is over built, if it was a simple project... And also, my other concern... if it was a much more-simple project, I might be able to support it. But you know, they're just using materials and energy wantonly.

Legislator Greene

And my other concern is, PILOTS in general, especially for market rate housing. Businesses are supposed to be able to complete their projects without being subsidized. And so, I really have both an environmental and economic social justice concerns. So, I'll be a no.

Clerk Fabella

Haynes.

Legislator Haynes

I am very simply a yes. Thank you.

Clerk Fabella

Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Litts.

Legislator Litts

Thank you. I had to unmute. I think people lose sight of the fact that the whole purpose of a PILOT is to spur economic development. This area of Kingston, for decades has been sitting undeveloped, not paying taxes, not on the tax rolls, or at least a portion of it. And if it continues to remain stagnant the way it is, it's going to generate minimal tax money for the school system, and for the county, and for the City of Kingston.

Legislator Litts

The purpose of a PILOT is to spur economic development. We finally have a developer or a group of developers that wants to come in and do something good in uptown Kingston. I know this is not in my district; won't have an effect on my district. But if you do look at the numbers, and study the numbers, even with the PILOT, in a few short years, this property will generate more tax dollars for the City of Kingston, for the school system, for Ulster County, then if it sits for 25 years at the current tax rate that it's paying.

Legislator Litts

People have to understand what the purpose of a PILOT is. And it's not giving the developers money. It's giving them a tax break incentive to put their money up to develop a piece of property that will eventually pay full taxes. And even with a tax abatement for some portion with the PILOT. Within a few short years, will be paying more tax dollars to the City, the school district and the county then if it sits for 25 years at the current tax rate. I am voting yes.

Clerk Fabella

Lopez.

Legislator Lopez

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Maio.

Legislator Maio

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Parete.

Legislator Parete

I just unmuted myself. You know, folks, when I graduated from Kingston High School back in the 50s, there were 30,000-35,000 people in the community. Right now, there's probably 10,000 people less. Something obviously is wrong, but in the interest of brevity, civility, and probably common sense, I'm voting yes on this.

Clerk Fabella

Petit.

Legislator Petit

You know, we had a recent county housing workshop, where the one thing I heard over and over again, was that we need to bring more developers into Ulster County. I'm concerned because I'm now seeing rental units that are going on the market. And I'm concerned that they're not going to go back...

Legislator Parete

I'm on a meeting with the Legislature (speaking on phone in a private call)

Legislator Petit

I love John...

Legislator Petit

I'm concerned that we all know if you get developers in, that it takes years to get these projects passed. These buildings, this particular parcel, it has been, you know, stagnant for 20 years. And, you know, if we don't develop it, we won't get any more money in anyway. We won't get people in to rent these apartments who are going to be spending

money locally. So, I... we need this housing, we need more housing and Ulster County. We need this housing? So, I'm a yes.

Clerk Fabella

Roberts.

Legislator Roberts

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Thank you. You know, I've heard, you know, some complaints about, you know, market rate housing, one thing I'd like to make clear, and this is sort of piggybacking on what Legislator Petit just said, in her explanation is that, you know, one of the ways to make housing more affordable in the county as a whole is to build more market rate housing. Because the more market rate housing you build, the more available units there are, the lower the market rates going to be. You know, the less, you know, it's just the simple law of supply and demand. The more demand and the less supply, the higher the price is going to go.

Legislator Ronk

You know, and I'd also like to talk about the rich developers, you know, that have been mentioned in public comment and other places. You know, these are local individuals, you know, you know, Brad Jordan, you know, a local guy who's worked very hard to build in this community, and to own a business in this community, and donate to this community, as others have said. And then Joe Bonora, over, you know, across the river and down in Orange County, you know, these are local businessmen who have who have donated their time, talents, and, and helped to build up our community. And quite frankly, you know, we should hope them to have great success, because the new PILOT agreement actually increases the payment to the City of Kingston school district if they have more success. So, you know, with those things in mind, you know, I'll be yes.

Clerk Fabella

Uchitelle.

Legislator Uchitelle

So, this is my district. This is a property that is across the street from the business that I ran for the... up until the end of 2019. And this has been, in my short tenure as a

Legislator, by far the hardest vote to confront. I consider among my closest friends, representative of people that are both in the camp of the most ardent supporters and the most ardent opponents. But I did not come here to make friends, I came here to represent the residents in my district. And that is what I'm going to be basing my decision on.

Legislator Uchitelle

Land doesn't vote; people vote. People are the ones that we represent. They are the ones that are counted when districts are drawn. And that's, again, how I'm making my decision, the decision is on a PILOT, not whether or not the project should happen. It's about whether we should put our finger on the scale in the form of a PILOT.

Legislator Uchitelle

And I believe in this case, that is not how we should use that power. That power should only be used when we need a special intervention to achieve a vision. And when I think of such a vision, I think about things like what is laid out in the Ulster 2040 plan, which outlines a human centric vision for the future of the county.

Legislator Uchitelle

And that is why I keep coming back to the folks in my district. So, with that, I understand that this project may create a more prosperous set of constituents within my district. However, I believe that it would be doing so only by replacing those who I was elected to represent in November. And who I continue to represent today, and I will be a no on this PILOT.

Clerk Fabella

Walter.

Legislator Walter

Thank you. I'm going to echo the words of Legislator Greene. We are in a climate crisis. And whenever possible, any decision we make should consider the environmental impact. And there are no environmentally conscious features of this development. There's no solar, there's no geothermal. And when I hear the argument, there are too many cars in uptown Kingston, their response should be how do we reduce the cars not how do we create more parking. So, instead of providing a PILOT that is geared towards increasing parking, and we should be using revenues from this for-profit entity to build up our green public transportation and increase bicycle lanes.

Legislator Walter

'In addition, I really appreciate that this session started with this presentation by the students talking about Sojourner Truth and talking about how are we doing anti-racist

work. So, it's not just the impact of this on the school, but it's the idea of the impact of this project on structural racism. And essentially structural racism, those who are less familiar than those people who don't face the daily barriers due to the color of their skin, don't recognize how the decisions they make impact people who do face those barriers every day. And it's not just about people of color being harmed by the criminal justice system. But it includes contributing to a cycle of poverty, to geographic displacement through gentrification.

Legislator Walter

So, I'm not accusing those people who are in favor of the Kingstonian of being racist. But I firmly believe that the project is an example of what structural racism is that we face. In this system, those of means typically, people who are white, have blinders on sometimes on the impact of the actions that they take that are beneficial to them, how that impacts people of color who are hurt by these actions.

Legislator Walter

And the past eight months as people focus on building a luxury hotel, and retail and predominantly market apartment, in one part of Kingston, which is already kind of quite gentrified. Just blocks away, there's a Kingston neighborhood that's predominantly low income, people of color who had had 12 shootings and 4 homicides. I mean, the I think that irony of those two just blocks away from each other. Warning bells should go off also, when groups like Citizens Action, and Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson, are fighting against these as those groups work tirelessly to support those people who are impacted every day by structural racism against those who are benefited by its support. So, adding this as a PILOT, not only detracts the school children, which should give everyone pause, but it also impacts our communities of color. And so, given that, I have to object to this PILOT.

Clerk Fabella

Wawro.

Legislator Wawro

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

And Criswell

Legislator Criswell

Though, I too have struggled with this. I've gone back and forth 800 times Yes. No. Yes. No. Yes. No. Yes. No. And I had all these arguments for the support that I've seen for it and why I think it would be a good addition to the City of Kingston. And I

keep going back to this particular time in history, and what are the messages that we are sending out? And I feel like this is a moment when we should be supporting schools as much as we can, supporting people of color, supporting programs that are going to promote equality. And having heard all the back and forth, back and forth. I feel like I have to say no to this PILOT.

Clerk Fabella

The resolution is adopted seventeen to six.

Clerk Fabella

Resolution 392: Authorizing Purchase Of Buses, For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$1,749,092.00, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$1,749,092.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof.

Chairman Donaldson

This is a long roll. It's a bond. So, long roll.

Clerk Fabella

Archer

Legislator Archer

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Bartels.

Legislator Bartels

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Bruno.

Legislator Bruno

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Cahill.

Legislator Cahill

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Corcoran.

Legislator Corcoran

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Criswell.

Legislator Criswell

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Delaune.

Legislator Delaune

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Donaldson.

Donaldson

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Fabiano.

Legislator Fabiano

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Gavaris.

Legislator Gavaris

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Greene.

Legislator Greene

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Haynes.

Legislator Haynes

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Litts.

Legislator Litts

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Lopez.

Legislator Lopez

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Maio.

Legislator Maio

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Parete.

Legislator Parete

Yes. Sorry.

Clerk Fabella

No, it was great.

Clerk Fabella

Petit.

Legislator Petit

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Roberts.

Legislator Roberts

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Uchitelle.

Legislator Uchitelle

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Walter.

Legislator Walter

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

And Wawro.

Legislator Wawro

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

The resolution is adopted twenty-three to zero.

Clerk Fabella

Resolution 399: Amending The 2020 - 2025 Capital Improvement Program – Establishing Capital Project No. 576, Ulster County Enterprise West – Amending The 2020 Capital Fund Budget – Department Of Public Works

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Archer.

Chairwoman Archer

Yeah, I'd like to call a long roll on this one, please.

Chairman Donaldson

All right. Does anyone wish to speak before we have a long roll for debate? Or you can wait for the long roll and speak. If someone wants to speak, speak up a little bit, because it is a little hard to find you. I'm running through the computer. I don't see anyone. All right then, let's do the long roll.

Clerk Fabella

Archer.

Legislator Archer

Yeah, I just want to make a couple of comments. This has been a difficult decision. I recognize the value of Enterprise West as it being called now. And if in fact, this were a resolution to prevent further deterioration of the building, and not one to bring the building to minimum standards for occupancy, I'd be a yes.

Legislator Archer

But we had this conversation back in June, when we approved \$350,000, to bring the building online, create electrical independence from the buildings across the street. And now we're here being asked for another \$400,000, not just for preventing further deterioration of the building, but to get it ready for occupancy.

Legislator Archer

And so, in total, just this year alone, we're in three quarters of a million dollars spent. And that's not including making towns or school districts hold on the text. We've had conversations about safety issues and requirements. And these improvements are required to ensure the safety of the building, the current upgrades are being done to obtain a temporary occupancy as determined by our own Safety Department.

Legislator Archer

You know, are we setting safety standards to be able to show the building for future development or for occupancy? And I think it's the latter. I don't believe that government is the right it should be a landlord. And that we really should be... before we spend any more of taxpayer dollars, we should be out there looking to see if we can develop this through people who do this for a living. We don't do this for a living. And I think and anything we do, it's going to be on the taxpayers back because they're going to be footing the bill. There is a lot of interest in this area. We all have seen it over this past year.

Legislator Archer

Given the fact that we are still in the pandemic, that we still have no clue what cuts we're getting from the state, to be spending \$400,000 at this juncture, 400,000 that could potentially impact us down the road when we get state cuts and it impacts programs, I think is the wrong thing to be doing at this juncture. So, for all those reasons. I am I am a no to this. Thank you.

Clerk Fabella

Bartels.

Legislator Bartels

I'd like to echo so many of Legislator Archers comments, I remain deeply concerned about the escalating expense of this building in the absence of a defined and accepted plan for this building. I cannot and I will not support the county becoming a landlord some of which has been raised in recent days as a possibility. I'd like to see an RFP process in which we actually have valuate interest and proposals so we have something real before us and we move aggressively to get the building out of county ownership and into a developer or an LDCs hands. I toured the building today, I'm optimistic that there will be interest but at this moment in time and this pandemic I have to be fiscally conservative and vote no.

Clerk Fabella

Bruno.

Legislator Bruno

I want to echo Legislator Bartels and Legislator Archers comments. But at the same time, my experience in the building trades throughout my 60 years, I don't want to see the county end up with a white elephant that's unsellable or unusable to any perspective tenants or buyers. And to maintain a building, it costs money. And I get that, and I think the taxpayers will understand that as well. I'm going to be yes on this. And but I am cautious. Yes, I do not want to become... I don't think the county should become a landlord. And I don't think the county should be looking at long-term

ownership of this building. But for the short-term, I'm going to be yes, you have to invest a certain amount of money. And I think it will be a positive return on our money in the long run. So, I'll be a yes.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Cahill.

Legislator Cahill

Thank you, Madam Clerk. I just want to talk a little bit about how I feel that this property fits into a grander scheme of economic development, including what we discussed earlier, the Kingstonian. We're undertaking some major projects in Ulster County in the coming year here. We're looking at development on Greenkill, I'm sorry, on Golden Hill, we're looking at the Alms House, we're looking at the Kingstonian. And now we're looking at Enterprise West. You combine all four of these, and that sends a very distinct clear message to folks who are looking in this area, that we're serious about improving things, we're serious about economic development, and we're serious about, you know, helping the community move forward.

Legislator Cahill

It's very important that we keep this building in a place where people will be able to safely walk through it, and look at it. And so, we can do. Which every person that I've spoken to, in the executive branch of the government about this project has agreed that the sooner we can get rid of this property, the better. And I think that that's what this is in a direction to do, those types of things. And I'm very, very strongly in favor of doing what we need to do to move that process forward.

Legislator Cahill

And just the idea that the county is stepping up, would step up, to invest in the property to help a prospective tenant, or perspective LDC, or prospective buyer. However, it ends up being. And of course, I don't want the county to be in a real estate business either. However, it ends up being I think it's important that we show that spirit, overall, that we are a progressive county when it comes to economic development and housing. And this is just a step in that direction. For that reason, I will be a yes.

Clerk Fabella

Corcoran?

Legislator Corcoran

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Criswell

Legislator Criswell

I too, took a tour of the building. And I have real concerns about this becoming a money pit for the county. And those concerns were, for the most part taken care of with the confirmation over and over again, that the county was not going to hold on to this building. That it was not going to be owned by the county. That there was going to there was going to be a process of getting this out of the county's hands. And so, with that promise, which I really hope we hold the Executive Branch to that promise. I'm going to be a yes on this.

Clerk Fabella

Delaune.

Legislator Delaune

I thank you without seeing a plan, without seeing a process, I don't believe that we should be in the business of being a landlord. So, I'm voting no on this.

Clerk Fabella

Donaldson.

Chairman Donaldson

Pass.

Clerk Fabella

Fabiano.

Legislator Fabiano

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Gavaris.

Legislator Gavaris

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Greene.

Legislator Greene

Pass.

Clerk Fabella

Haynes.

Legislator Haynes

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

So, based on Legislator Criswell's his comments, which I thought were very well said, and as I mentioned in caucus, I'm going to cast a vote of faith, right now on this project, at the stage. And have faith in the Executive's Office to work with us and develop a plan and ensure transparency going forward. But we definitely have to, you know, be observant. I definitely hear the concerns of my colleagues. But tonight, I will vote yes.

Clerk Fabella

Litts.

Legislator Litts

Yes, thank you. I, like everyone else likes to save a little money and do things right. But shutting my furnace off for the winter probably would not be a smart thing. I would save a quite a bit of money. But I don't think my house would be worth much next spring with broken pipes and all the things that would go along with turning my furnace off.

Legislator Litts

I think the county needs to protect the asset that it has acquired through the foreclosure of the property, turning it over to the county. And not to protect that asset, I think would be the wrong thing to do. There's already a building across the street from this, that they did not protect that asset, and it had to be torn down this year because it was non-usable. This building is usable this building with you know, a little help and a little money. It could be... is an asset to the county and it's an asset where you should not let go by not taking care of it through the winter months. I'm a yes.

Clerk Fabella

Lopez.

Legislator Lopez

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Maio.

Legislator Maio

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Parete.

Legislator Parete

I've got to unmute myself. You know, I know what the county has a huge investment in this building already. They've made whole of Kingston School District. They've made whole the community of Ulster. They've made hold their own County. I think it's an investment we have to consider and not abandon. And I'm a yes on this.

Clerk Fabella

Petit.

Legislator Petit

You know, I would like nothing better than to not spend any money. But we have a building that's basically been dysfunctional for decades. And everyone keeps coming up with great ideas about what we should do, and it should all go into Tech City. It hasn't been collecting taxes for years. And at this point we can't wait out the pandemic and hope that we don't have a crisis down the road. We have to invest in Ulster County. And I think it was best said by Legislator Cahill, we have to show both investors and potential new residents that we are willing to invest in Ulster County. So, I am a hesitant yes, but I am a yes on this resolution.

Clerk Fabella

Roberts.

Legislator Roberts

I'm a yes.

Clerk Fabella

Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Uchitelle.

Legislator Uchitelle

Like others have said this is a moment for us to you know, have faith that the county can make something exciting happen here. And I'm going to be a yes on this. And I'm excited to see where this project could go.

Clerk Fabella

Walter.

Legislator Walter

I'm like everyone else. I'm very excited about where this project can go. I'm looking forward to this area not being what it's been for many years now. That said, this is my first time coming around on the budget season and at of recent Ways and Means I had to hear about almost \$300,000 of cuts that might result in children being taken from their homes and put in foster care because we are in this very, very difficult challenging financial time. And so, I just have a hard time.

Legislator Walter

I did a walk around. I did a walk through, I spoke to... you know, I asked a lot of questions. The building's actually quite stable. It hasn't been mothballed for that long, they were very happy with there'd been no mold there. It's not deteriorating. I'm not looking for years and years and years of doing nothing. My feeling was, let's be clear what we're going to do with it, and then we can invest the revenue into whatever path was deemed right. And I believe that that that path could be identified in just months, not years. So, it's not about it all falling apart. But here we are making major cuts to programs, and families and children, that that money could just be so much better served. And so, with that in mind, I am a vote no.

Clerk Fabella

Wawro.

Legislator Wawro

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Donaldson.

Chairman Donaldson

This is a very valuable piece of property for economic development in this county. And it's going to have an effect on more than just the Ulster-Kingston area. And getting this property up to a point where it is actually more sellable, more saleable, has been something that our new Economic Development Director wishes that to be done. And has been pushing for that be done. I mean, he was the person that we enthusiastically confirmed last month. And he had some visions that he's been talking with people. The Farm Bridge is interested in maybe leasing 60% of this building.

Chairman Donaldson

And I don't wish to be a long-term owner, as a county, but sometimes short-term that makes sense. And it certainly is right now, regardless of if we do something and enter into a lease or not enter a lease, we need to get the building up to a point where it can be shown. So, a minimal occupancy means that you can walk in there safely. And that's what our safety department as pointed out. If you really want to show this, you have to be... it has to meet a certain standard in order to walk through the building and do it safely. I so, I agree with Tim Weidemann. And I have to have some faith in that.

Chairman Donaldson

And I have some faith when we change over to an executive form of government, the government was meant to have a leader. And we are the ones that keep them on their toes, shall we say. And that's what we're doing. I think we're keeping them on their toes.

Chairman Donaldson

But as I said, this is a valuable piece of property. And like Legislator Litts said, we can save money, I could save money in my house by turning off the heater for the winter. But I'm not going to do that. And really, when you look at this property, and if Farm Bridge does come in, and if we rent it for a short-term and if we're a part of the owners on that, that's okay. We can still do an LDC. And I think that's where we should do. We should do... go out for RFQs and take a look at what... bring in developers to take a look at this property.

Chairman Donaldson

And for somebody to say, well, developers don't want it if somebody is renting it. I don't know any developers I've ever talked to, if they found out they have 60% rental on that property at that point, I knew it would be quite happy that they already add something and then they could work towards doing whatever they wish in the future.

Chairman Donaldson

And the way you draw up that LDC and the RFQs, you do it in a manner that protects our interest for the county as a whole. And to move forward and get it off our books. I've said something before. And sometimes, you know, when a municipality owns something for a short time, they're able to do some significant things for it to get it ready. And some cases like the City of Kingston owns the bulkhead down in the Rondout. area and they have done is rented the area's out and forced renters to no more bulkhead, and no more docks. And today that started around 35 years ago and take a look at the Rondout now. So, sometimes you might be able to get good out of that. But still, I'm still not supportive of a long-term ownership. But I am supportive of getting this property up. And I do... I will give my faith until they... I decide that they don't deserve it anymore. And then I'll change my mind. But right now, I think getting the building back to where it should be at a point for sale and for showing. I'm an enthusiastic yes.

Clerk Fabella

And Greene.

Legislator Greene

Yeah, this is a real tough one for me, because what I really like about it is that it is a rehab, it is taking an existing building and improving it and making it useful. And I am concerned that there is no plan, no long-term plan. I am concerned because we are in a pandemic. And my caucus knows that I was ready to vote yes on this. But the thing that is blocking me from doing so is what Legislator Walter said about the programs that we have had to cut. And taking money away from programs that ensure quality of life, while putting a huge amount of money to moving this building, which is stable. We're not turning the heat off for the winter. But what this proposes to do is improve it so that it can be rented and, you know, make it more saleable. But I'm, at this time, I'm going to switch my thinking from voting yes to voting no because of the programs that have had to be cut. And I don't, I don't see that we can afford to do this at this time. Thank you.

Clerk Fabella

The resolution is adopted eighteen to five.

Clerk Fabella

Resolution 400 is a bond for this project: Authorizing The Preliminary Reconstruction Of The Enterprise West Building, In And For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$399,282.00, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$399,282.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof.

Clerk Fabella

Archer

Legislator Archer

No.

Clerk Fabella

Legislator Archer that was no, right?

Legislator Archer

Correct.

Clerk Fabella

Thank you. Bartels.

Legislator Bartels

No.

Clerk Fabella

Bruno.

Legislator Bruno

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Cahill.

Legislator Cahill

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Corcoran.

Legislator Corcoran

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Criswell.

Legislator Criswell

With those caveats I met mentioned before, I will be a yes on this.

Clerk Fabella

Delaune.

Legislator Delaune

Sorry, no.

Clerk Fabella

No problem. Donaldson.

Legislator Donaldson

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Fabiano.

Legislator Fabiano

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Gavaris.

Legislator Gavaris

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Greene.

Legislator Greene

No.

Clerk Fabella

Haynes.

Legislator Haynes

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Litts.

Legislator Litts

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Lopez.

Legislator Lopez

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Maio.

Legislator Maio

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Parete.

Legislator Parete

Sorry. Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Petit.

Legislator Petit

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Roberts.

Legislator Roberts

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Just as a point of information, you know, as I as I'm about to cast my yes vote on this bond, you know, just to the Legislators who are basing their no vote on this on the fact that operational items are cut in the budget. These are capital items, which are going to be bonded for which don't come out of the same pot of money in one year as monies that have to be cut due to budget constraints this year. With that having been said, I will be a yes.

Clerk Fabella

Uchitelle.

Legislator Uchitelle

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Walter.

Legislator Walter

With that clarification, I'm a no.

Clerk Fabella

Wawro.

Legislator Wawro

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

The resolution is adopted eighteen to five.

Clerk Fabella

Our final Resolution tonight is 402, another bond: Authorizing The Reconstruction Of The Maltby Hollow Bridge In The Town Of Olive, In And For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$1,330,000.00, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$1,330,000.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof.

Clerk Fabella

Archer.

Legislator Archer

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Bartels.

Legislator Bartels

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Bruno.

Legislator Bruno

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Cahill.

Legislator Cahill

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Corcoran.

Legislator Corcoran

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Criswell.

Legislator Criswell

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Delaune.

Legislator Delaune

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Donaldson.

Chairman Donaldson

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Fabiano.

Legislator Fabiano

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Gavaris.

Legislator Gavaris

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Greene.

Legislator Greene

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Haynes.

Legislator Haynes

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Litts.

Legislator Litts

Abstain.

Clerk Fabella

Lopez.

Legislator Lopez

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Maio.

Legislator Maio

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Parete.

Legislator Parete

The people in the Town of Olive say, thank you, hopefully. Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Petit.

Legislator Petit

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Roberts.

Legislator Roberts

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Uchitelle.

Legislator Uchitelle

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Walter.

Legislator Walter

For the people of Olive, yes.

Clerk Fabella

And Wawro.

Legislator Wawro

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

The resolution is adopted twenty-two to zero with one abstention, Legislator Litts.

Clerk Fabella

There's no more resolutions.

Chairman Donaldson

Before I call on Legislator Cahill to read the memorials, I just want to take a second to say that I know you all join me in offering our condolences to our colleague and friend, Legislator Roberts.

Chairman Donaldson

Kevin, we are so sorry for the loss of your father Norman a few short weeks ago. When I was looking at the obituary, I realized, and I was amazed at the idea, that he witnessed the assassination attempt, as a child of seven years old, of President Elect Roosevelt. That was really an amazing piece of information. But even more amazing, is a 70-year marriage to your mom, Elizabeth. But those of you who didn't know Norman, he was a Marine, fought in the Second World War and in the Korean War. And when he was home, he worked in the Roseton Brick Yards and Joe is a proud Teamster working on the New York State Thruway, Newburgh Beacon Bridge, and Danskammer. He sounds like he was an amazing man, and a credit to your family and the community he lived in. Our hearts go out to you and your family.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Cahill.

Legislator Cahill

Thank you, Chairman.

Legislator Cahill

Tonight's meeting is adjourned in memory of Norman Roberts, Newburgh, NY; Renee Sachs, Kingston, NY; Jeffrey R. Gold, West Hurley, NY; Walter J. Hackett, Saugerties, NY; Janet G. Kozma, Cottekill, NY; Michael J. Douglas, Modena, NY; Shirley H. Longto, Ulster Park, NY; Anne Allbright Smith, New Paltz, NY; Frances R. Laird, Hoschtton, GA; Rotena Dubois Nippert, Lake Katrine, NY; Emma Levine, Pleasant Valley, NY; Rev. Stephen J. Hanson, Saugerties, NY; Dennis Robinson, Bluffton, SC; David J. Morris, Lake May, FL; James J. Manion MD, Marlboro, NY; Ernest P. Bonelli Sr., Glasco, NY; Joel Raskoskie, Kingston, NY; Dr. Sheldon Spencer, New Paltz, NY; Dolores L. Fredericks, West Hurley, NY; Peter Warnecke, Hurley, NY; Mary L. Vogt, Hurley, NY; Henry F. O'Bryan Jr., Saugerties, NY.

Chairman Donaldson

We have any others you wish to add? Legislator Haynes.

Legislator Haynes

I ask that we add the name of Evan Frazier of Main Street Rosendale, who died suddenly in a tragic motorcycle accident and that we keep both his wife Priscilla and his son in our thoughts and prayers. Thank you.

Chairman Donaldson

Thank you. Legislator Greene. Unmute yourself, Legislator Greene.

Legislator Greene

Thank you. I just learned of the passing of Dr. Sheldon Spencer. And if some of you think I'm too much of an annoying crunchy, granola. tree hugger... Dr. Sheldon Spencer had a lot to do with that. Dr. Spencer was a professor at SUNY New Paltz, and I took one... I was a nurse, headed for what I thought was medical school and I took one graduate course and environmental studies with him, and I was hooked. So, I'm very sorry to hear of his passing and I thought I'd just share that with my colleagues. Thank you.

Chairman Donaldson

Thank you, Legislator Greene.

Chairman Donaldson

I do not see anyone else? Anybody else to speak up? I don't see you.

Chairman Donaldson

Alright, having that our... we do have meetings tomorrow with the budget amendments. Every legislator should have got a copy of those amendments. And what are going to be looked at tomorrow. Then again on Thursday, both starting at one o'clock. It is one o'clock - starting at one o'clock.

Chairman Donaldson

But the next regular meeting of the County Legislature will be held on Tuesday, December 15th at 7pm. Further meeting details shall be forth coming. Wait a minute, you don't have the Budget Vote on this. We have the budget vote on December 8, do we not?

Chairman Donaldson

Alright, so the next meeting is November is actually December 8th, not December 15th. That vote will be on the budget. And that will be at 7pm. Resolution deadline is Friday, November 20, 2020, at 12 noon. So, having seen that, I'd entertain a motion to adjourn.

Legislator Litts

Mr. Chairman. I'll make a motion for an adjournment.

Legislator Bruno

I'll second.

Chairman Donaldson

To be seconded by Legislator Bruno. He beat you Legislator Ronk.

Chairman Donaldson

And all those in favor?

Chairman Donaldson

Aye. (23-0)

Chairman Donaldson

None opposed. Are you sure you don't want to pose that Legislator Ronk?

Legislator Ronk

I only oppose adjournments when my ability to speak is being shut down, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Donaldson

All right. I understand.

Chairman Donaldson

Well, thank you. The meeting is adjourned and I thank everyone for a wonderful meeting.

Legislator Litts

Everybody stay healthy and be safe.

Committee Members

Happy Thanksgiving.

Legislator Litts

Happy Thanksgiving.