

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE



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

MINUTES

PUBLIC HEARINGS & ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, 244 Fair Street, Kingston, NY and via videoconference due to extraordinary circumstances pursuant to NYS Public Officers Law Section 103-A and Ulster County Local Law No. 8 of 2022, Zoom Meeting ID: 896 5378 2841 or by dialing (646) 558-8656.
Also Available via Livestream <https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislature>

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025

6:35 PM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY VICTORIA A. FABELLA, CLERK OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE: 6:37 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG AND MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION:
Led by Legislator Litts

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRE EVACUATION PLAN

PLEASE NOTE THAT IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT HAS REQUESTED THAT LEGISLATORS AND ALL OTHERS MOVE AT LEAST ONE BLOCK AWAY FROM THE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING IN ORDER NOT TO IMPEDE THE FIREFIGHTERS IN THEIR DUTIES

CELL PHONES

Please silence cell phones for the duration of the Public Hearings and Organizational Meeting.

MICROPHONES

Please be reminded when speaking to use your microphones so that you are recorded for the official record.

ROLL CALL:

Present: 23

Absent: 0

(Legislator Stewart attended via videoconference due to extraordinary circumstances pursuant to NYS Public Officers Law Section 103-A and Ulster County Local Law No. 8 of 2022)

6:35 PM – CALL OF THE 1st PUBLIC HEARING BY CLERK: 6:39 PM

On Proposed Local Law No. 19 of 2024, A Local Law Regulating The Use Of County Parking Lots

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were 2 speakers signed up for public comment.

1. Laura Petit, Esopus – Former Legislator, in support of Proposed Local Law No. 19.
2. Rachel Gans, Rosendale – In support of Proposed Local Law No. 19.

PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED: 6:43 PM

Motioned by Legislator Litts, Seconded by Legislator Kitchen

6:40 PM – CALL OF THE 2nd PUBLIC HEARING BY CLERK: 6:43 PM

On Naming A County-Owned Asset; Naming the second floor of the County Office Building “The Ulster County Clerk’s Office and Nina Postupack Historical Center”

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was 1 speaker signed up for public comment.

1. Butch Dener, New Paltz – In support of naming the second floor of the County Office Building after late County Clerk Nina Postupack.

PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED: 6:49 PM

Motioned by Legislator Litts, Seconded by Legislator Kitchen

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**NOMINATION OF THE TEMPORARY CHAIR OF THE
ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

Clerk Victoria A. Fabella called upon Deputy Majority Leader Levine for the purpose of nominating a Temporary Chair.

Legislator Levine motioned, seconded by Legislator Sperry to nominate Majority Leader Uchitelle as Temporary Chair.

Clerk Fabella called for any other nominations. No other nominations.

Motion to close nominations by Legislator Litts, seconded by Legislator Levine.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

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NOMINATION OF THE CHAIR OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Temporary Chair Uchitelle announced that nominations were open for the election of a Permanent Chairman.

Legislator Sperry motioned, seconded by Legislator Levine to nominate Legislator Peter Criswell for Chair of the Legislature

Temporary Chair Uchitelle called for any other nominations.

Legislator Lopez motioned, seconded by Legislator Litts to nominate Minority Leader Kevin Roberts as Chair of the Legislature.

Temporary Chair Uchitelle called for any other nominations. Motion to close nominations by Legislator Litts, seconded by Legislator Levine. Clerk Fabella called the long roll.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE:

Legislator Criswell – 14 (Legislators Clinton, Collins, Criswell, Donaldson, Gavaris, Greene, Harmon, Hewitt, Levine, McCollough, Nolan, Sperry, Stewart, Uchitelle)

Legislator Roberts – 9 (Legislators Corcoran, Hansut, Kitchen, Kovacs, Litts, Lopez, Maloney, Roberts, Walls)

Clerk Fabella announced that Legislator Peter Criswell was re-elected as the 2025 Chair of the Ulster County Legislature.

CHAIR’S ACCEPTANCE
(Speech appended to these minutes)

THE FOLLOWING DESIGNATIONS ARE ON FILE:

Majority Leader – Abe Uchitelle

Minority Leader – Kevin Roberts

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS

PUBLICATION OF CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS, ELECTION NOTICES ISSUED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE, AND THE OFFICIAL CANVASS

(D) – Daily Freeman
(R) – Southern Ulster Times

PUBLICATION OF LOCAL LAWS AND VARIOUS NOTICES

(D) – Hudson Valley One
(R) – Shawangunk Journal

BIRTHDAYS:

Legislator Gina Hansut, January 12th

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

Majority Leader Uchitelle motioned, Seconded by Minority Leader Roberts to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting. All in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM:

Ulster County Legislative Chair, Peter Criswell

Ulster County Clerk of the Legislature, Victoria Fabella

Minority Caucus

Legislative News

Mark A. Cozzupoli, UC Veterans Services

Ulster County Personnel Department

Allison Costanzo, Ulster Chamber of Commerce

Veto Response Letter

Foil Response – Ramona Catalanello

Letter to Comptroller Gallagher re: UC Community Action

UC Legislature approves design of Cornell Street Park, also Spanish Translation

Statement from Chair Peter Criswell on County Executive Veto

Republican Legislative Caucus condemns County Executive Metzger for denying workers a raise before the holidays

Statement from Chair Peter Criswell on December 19, 2024 Special Legislative Session

UC Legislature Approves Minimum Staffing Levels for Board of Elections

Veteran Related Communications

Civil Service Exams/Job Announcements

Ribbon Cutting – Fantzye Bagels – Tuesday, January 7th @ 10:00 AM – 392 Hasbrouck Avenue, Kingston

COMMUNICATION FROM (continued):

	Ribbon Cutting – Woodstock Infusions – Thursday, January 16 th @ 2:00 PM – 104 Mill Hill Road, Woodstock
	Ribbon Cutting – Play Haven – Monday, January 13 th @ 10:30 AM – 402 Albany Avenue, Kingston
	Ribbon Cutting – Moonrise Bagels – Friday, January 17 th @ 11:00 AM – 746 Broadway, Kingston
Amee Peterson, Kingston	Email – public comment – opposed to the Ulster County Office Building being named after Nina Postupack
NYS Dept of Agriculture & Markets	NYSERDA - Sun Submission – intent to undertake action - Highland 201 Solar Project in Town of Marlborough
Brian Slack, UC Transportation Council	January 6, 2025 Agenda for Ulster County Traffic Safety Board
Comptroller Gallagher	Community Action Audit Legislative input request
Dafne DeJesus, Office of the Comptroller	Comptroller March Gallagher Unveiled New and Improved Accessible Comptroller’s Website
Dennis Doyle, Director County Planning	GOC NEG DEC
UC Purchasing Department	Non-Commodity Solicitations: RFP-UC24-046 – Threat Assessment Training RFB- UC24-044 – Cold in Place Asphalt Recycling RFB-UC24- 150C – Multi-Bridge Element Specific Bridge Repairs RFB-UC24-151C – NY Route 32/Golden Hill Drive Traffic Signal Installation Rebid
Hinman, Howard, Kattell, LLP	UC Industrial Development Agency PILOT Termination Notice

COMMUNICATIONS FROM (continued):

Kenneth Juras, Budget Department
Laurie Albright, Office of Real Property Tax Services
Nate Litwin, UC Department of Finance

Ramona Catalanello

Rebecca Martin, Hudson 7
Roseann Daw, Commissioner of Finance
Sarah Gardner, Public Comment

Ulster County Planning Board

Budget Transfer Report December 2024
Ulster County Tax Apportionment
ARP, Q4 of 2024 (Partial), Revenue Journals

Foil Request – Resolution 701 from December 17, 2024 – Establishing Capital Project No. 716, Ulster County Pool Upgrades

Accomplishments in 2024
2023 Reserve Reports
Email – Public Comment – County Wide Housing Emergency

Agenda for January 8, 2025 & Minutes for December 4, 2024

COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS:

2025 Executive Budget Reserves approved by Ulster County Legislature
UC Executive Jen Metzger Vetoes Legislative Budget Amendment Undermining Collective Bargaining Process
UC Emergency Services Hosts Successful Emergency Services orientation for elected officials
Response to Minority Leader Kevin Roberts Memorializing Letter
UC Awarded \$558K Grant for Repairs to Historic Matthewis Persen House in Uptown Kingston
UC Awarded \$2M Clean Energy Grant for New Emergency Communications Center

COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS (continued):

UC Executive Jen Metzger Appoints
Laura Nordstrom as Director of Housing
and Homelessness

PUBLIC COMMENT (on Resolutions currently before the Legislature): There was 1 speaker signed up for public comment.

1. Laura Petit, Esopus – Spoke on Resolution No. 1 – Creating standing Committees for the year of 2025. In favor and supports the added Housing and Transportation Committee.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

Chair Criswell recognized Majority Leader Uchitelle for the purposes of a motion, seconded by Minority Leader Roberts to enter into Committee of the Whole. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee of the Whole called to order by Majority Leader Uchitelle at 7:04 PM.

Resolution No. 1 - Creating Standing Committees For The Year 2025

Motion Made By: Legislator Sperry
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Levine

Text of Motion: To Adopt Resolution No. 1

Voting In Favor: 22
Voting Against: 1 (Legislator Maloney)
Disposition: Resolution Adopted

Resolution No. 2 - Designation Of Official Newspapers

Motion Made By: Legislator Levine
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Harmon

Text of Motion: To Adopt Resolution No. 2

Voting In Favor: 23
Voting Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution Adopted

Adjournment of the Committee Of The Whole – 7:40 PM

Motion Made By: Legislator Clinton
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Sperry

Votes in Favor: 23
Votes Against: 0

RESOLUTION NOS: 1 and 2

1	Creating Standing Committees For The Year 2025 ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE: AYES: 22 NOES: 1 (Noes: Legislator Maloney)
2	Designation Of Official Newspapers ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE: AYES: 23 NOES: 0

PUBLIC COMMENT (on subjects *not* currently before the Legislature): There were 15 speakers for Public Comment.

1. Zack Kortright, Warwarsing – Against Milk Rd. landfill
2. Tony Viera, Warwarsing – Against Milk Rd. landfill
3. Poppy Cannon Reese – Against Milk Rd. landfill
4. Reuben Butchart, Warwarsing – Against Milk Rd. landfill
5. Andrew Faust, Warwarsing – Against Milk Rd. landfill
6. Anna Mott, Warwarsing – Against Milk Rd. landfill
7. Rachel Gans, Bloomington – Spoke on housing, clean water, rent hikes for storage units and salaries
8. Stana Weisburd, New Paltz – Spoke on housing & the homeless
9. Devon Blightbro, Warwarsing – Against Milk Rd. landfill
10. Jim McIntosh, Warwarsing – Against Milk Rd. landfill
11. Chad McPeak – Spoke on need for affordable housing

PUBLIC COMMENT (continued):

12. Marc Rider, Rifton – Executive Director of the UCRRA, Clarification on landfill siting RFP process
13. Chad McPeak (2nd time) – Spoke on mobile access for laundry and showering, contracting with the laundry mats and prioritizing local contractors
14. Roger Ross, Warwarsing – Opposed to landfill in Wawarsing
15. Kenneth Wayne Cook, Warwarsing – Opposed to landfill in Wawarsing

MEETING ADJOURNED IN MEMORY OF: Read by Majority Leader Uchitelle

Sharon Solis, Marlboro
Joy Lapp, Rosendale
Peter Haig Kaprelian, Kingston
Lenore Cane, Kingston
Gary White, Kingston
Kevin B. Rosa, Sr., Saugerties
Luis Juncosa, Poughkeepsie
Philomina R. Strazzullo, Highland
Peter Yarrow, Woodstock
Kristin R. Koyon,

Kevin L. Brodhead, Kingston
Edmond Alan Garfinkle, Sawkill
Phyllis S. Phillips, Pine Bush
Frank Herbert, Ulster
Suzanne Brogdan, Sawkill
Victoria (Vikki) Beach, New Paltz
Dennis Michael Totten, Highland
Joseph Cotich, Saugerties
Former President, Jimmy Carter

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:17 PM
Motioned by Legislator Litts
Seconded by Legislator Hewitt

NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Meeting of the Ulster County Legislature will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the Legislative Chambers, Sixth Floor, Ulster County Office Building, 244 Fair Street, Kingston, New York.

Resolution deadline is Wednesday, January 22, 2025.