

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

TRACEY A. BARTELS, Chair
PETER CRISWELL, Vice Chair
JONATHAN R. HEPPNER, Majority Leader
KENNETH J. RONK, JR., Minority Leader
VICTORIA A. FABELLA, Clerk



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

Minutes

DECEMBER 21, 2023

SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION

**Members Of The Public May Also Attend At 604 Bradford Court, Boynton Beach, FL, and
2182-D Anchorage Lane, Naples, FL, and 3 Mary Davis Road, Accord, NY
Also Available via the Legislature's Livestream at <https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislature/streams>**

6:00 PM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIR: 6:20 PM

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRE EVACUATION PLAN

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

CELL PHONES

Please silence cell phones for the duration of the Session.

MICROPHONES

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

ROLL CALL: Present: 21 Absent: 2 (Legislators Fabiano & Lopez)

PUBLIC COMMENT (on items currently before the Legislature):

There were 5 Speakers to signed up to provide Public Comment.

1. Dave Donaldson: Spoke regarding Proposed Local Law No. 16 of 2023, complimented the chair in getting many needed changes to the charter as he expressed by the Charter Revision Commission in the legislation. The commission gave this body a redline copy or complete side by side comparison of changes. His problem as a commission member, like that of the towns and planning board is the non-transparent changes snuck in that commission, towns and planning board were opposed to and not having the side-by-side comparisons.
2. Mike Baden: Spoke regarding Proposed Local Law No. 16 of 2023, would like this Law sent back to committee and having more discussion.
3. Steve Turk: Spoke regarding Proposed Local Law No. 19 of 2023
4. Samantha Turk: Spoke regarding Proposed Local Law No. 19 of 2023
5. Tom Smiley: Spoke regarding Proposed Local Law No. 19 of 2023

RESOLUTION NO: 760 & 762

760	Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 16 Of 2023, 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 Modify Various Provisions Legislator Ronk motioned, seconded by Legislator Litts, to refer the resolution back to the Laws, Rules and Government Services Committee. MOTION DEFEATED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE: AYES: 11 NOES: 10 (Ayes: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Hansut, Hewitt, Litts, Maloney, Petit, Roberts, Ronk, Stewart and Uchitelle) (Absent: Legislators Fabiano and Lopez)

762	<p>Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 19 Of 2023, A Local Law Amending Article III Hotel And Motel Room Occupancy Tax Of The Code Of The County Of Ulster</p> <p>Legislator Ronk motioned, seconded by Legislator Litts, to accept Version 3 of the Local Law containing the words “short-term rental” and amending the schedule utilized to determine the percentage of the total charge to be apportioned to rent subject to the tax.</p> <p>MOTION DEFEATED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 10 NOES: 11 (Ayes: Legislators Corcoran, Hansut, Hewitt, Litts, Maloney, Nolan, Petit, Roberts, Ronk, Stewart) (Absent: Legislators Fabiano and Lopez)</p> <p>Legislator Ronk motioned, seconded by Legislator Nolan, to accept Version 2 of the Local Law containing the words “short-term rental.”</p> <p>MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 18 NOES: 3 (Ayes: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, and Heppner) (Absent: Legislators Fabiano and Lopez)</p>
------------	---

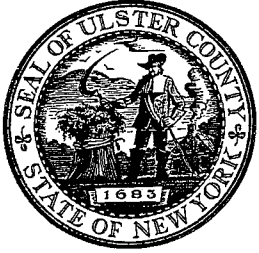
PUBLIC COMMENT (on subjects *not* currently before the Legislature): NONE

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:34 PM

Motion Made by Legislator Litts
Seconded by Majority Leader Heppner

NEXT MEETING:

The Organizational Meeting of the Ulster County Legislature will be held on **Thursday, January 4, 2023 at 6:30 PM** in the Legislative Chambers, Sixth Floor, Ulster County Office Building, 244 Fair Street, Kingston, New York.



ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

PUBLIC COMMENT: (ON SUBJECTS CURRENTLY BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2023

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	CONTACT	TOPIC(S) TO BE DISCUSSED
1. ✓ Dave DONALDSON	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: EMAIL:	
2. ✓ MIKE BADEN	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: EMAIL:	
3. ✓ Steve TURK	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: EMAIL:	
4. ✓ Samantha TURK	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: EMAIL:	
5. ✓ Tom SMILEY	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: EMAIL:	
6.	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: EMAIL:	

Ladies and Gentlemen and Ken Ronk

I compliment the chair in getting many needed changes to the charter as expressed by the a charter Revision Commission in this legislation. The commission gave this body a redline copy or complete side by side comparison of changes.

My problem as a commission member, like that of the towns and planning board is the non transparent changes snuck in that the commission, towns and planning board were opposed to and not having the side by side comparisons.

Doing that while rank & file legislators were distracted with the budget might actually be down right sneaky.

There is no need to change the way our county chooses the planning director. I know this was amended since I last spoke but that change was putting lipstick on a pig, it doesn't return it to the original intent of small d democracy that has worked very well for over ½ a century. Amend this to return it to its original form other than the mundane gender neutral language changes recommended.

I also have serious concerns with the idea that a person cannot serve as Executive unless they have been a qualified voter in County for 4 years. I can't see it holding up in court once challenged. This could be burdensome to renters that may want to run as well as veterans. Despite what some say, many veterans register to vote where they are stationed. This also seems sort of xenophobic.

In regard to the planner, Don't insult our local municipalities and the planing board members you appointed by weaken their position in regard to planning and don't insult the Charter Revision Commission who's members spent upwards of 100 hours of time on this issue.

On another issue, I say it's absurd that our comptroller, the elected watchdog had to go to court to get the findings of an executive investigation that cost upwards of \$50,000 and the idea that only one county legislator Joe Maloney stood up to demand the same. You are the appropriating body and should know how money is spent. That is your number one job.