

**Ways & Means Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: August 15, 2023 – 5:00 PM
LOCATION: KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Gavaris
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Natalie Kelder, Legislative Financial Analyst
PRESENT: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Criswell, Roberts, & Ronk
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Bowen, Erner, Fabiano, Greene, Hansut, Litts, Maloney, Nolan, Petit, & Uchitelle, Legislative Counsel Gordon, Pascale & Ragucci, Deputy County Executive Contreras, & LaValle – UC Executive’s Office, Comptroller Gallagher & Deputy Comptroller DeMarco – UC Comptroller’s Office, Director Doyle – Planning Department, Director Juras – Budget & Innovation Department, Joe McDonald – Human Rights Commissioner nominee, Rokosz Most – Hudson Valley One, Jacki Brownstein, Susan Denton, Tom Denton, Tom Rocco – Ulster Activists, Craig Kelly – UC Resident

Chair Gavaris called the meeting to order at 5:04 PM

Resolutions for the August 15, 2023 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 461: Confirming Appointment Of Joe McDonald As Ulster County Commissioner Of Human Rights

Resolution Summary: This Resolution confirms the appointment of Joe McDonald as the Commissioner of Human Rights with an annual salary of \$77,386.

Motion No. 1: MOTION TO APPROVE Resolution No. 461
Motion By: Legislator Criswell
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Cahill

Discussion: Joe McDonald, the County Executive nominee for Ulster County Commissioner of Human Rights introduced himself and provided a brief background, informing the committee of his lifelong career of helping others, love for working with and in the community and his local roots.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Criswell, Gavaris, Roberts, & Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution ADOPTED

Resolution No. 486 of 2022: Adopting The Ulster County Information Services/ Information Technology Security Policy – Department Of Information Services

Resolution Summary: This Resolution adopts the Ulster County Information Services / Information Technology Security Policy.

Motion No. 2: MOTION TO POSTPONE Resolution No. 486 OF 2022
Motion By: Legislator Criswell
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Roberts

Discussion: Hearing none, Chair Gavaris called the question.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Criswell, Gavaris, Roberts, & Ronk

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 6

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution POSTPONED

Resolution No. 330: Dedicating Funding To Housing Affordability, Establishing A Policy For Its Use, And Authorizing The Release Of A Notice Of Funding Availability (NOFA) For 2023 – Department Of Planning

Resolution Summary: This Resolution establishes an Ulster County Housing Action Fund and assigns \$15 Million of unassigned fund balance to support the construction, development, and redevelopment of affordable housing.

Motion No. 3: MOTION TO APPROVE Resolution No. 330, AS PRESENTED
Motion By: Legislator Cahill
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Roberts

Discussion: Legislator Cahill noted that changes have been made over the last few days and wanted to ensure the current version is explained.

Legislator Uchitelle, sponsor of the Resolution, explained that the composition of the committee has been changed, language was updated to highlight the requirements, and language clarifying future funding sources have been addressed.

Legislative Chair Bartels noted that up to \$3 Million is to be made available in the next four months and expressed concern with the short timeline.

Legislator Uchitelle stressed that it will be a lengthy process to actually spend the funds, however the public notice of funding availability is important.

Discussion ensued on the timeline of noticing funds, and Legislator Cahill clarified with Legislator Uchitelle that the anticipation is for the oversight committee to be in place within the first month.

Legislator Cahill expressed concern that no permanent funding stream is in place.

Planning Director Doyle stressed the importance of having a dollar value associated with the available funds.

Legislator Roberts expressed concern providing developers with county funds and suggested adding a maximum allowable amount to the fund.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Criswell, Gavaris, & Ronk
Voting Against: Legislator Roberts
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 1
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED, AS PRESENTED**

Resolution No. 369: Establishing A Policy To Provide Legislators With Restricted Access To The New World Financial Management System

Resolution Summary: This Resolution provides access and training at the request of an Ulster County Legislator to the New World financial management system on a County-issued laptop device for the purpose of performing their fiscal duties.

Motion No. 4: **MOTION TO DISCUSS Resolution No. 369**
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Criswell

Discussion: Legislator Maloney requested a meeting to review the New World Financial Management system as a group.

Legislator Criswell requested more clarification around what training would look like.

The committee discussed a potential amendment, suggested by Comptroller Gallagher, which would limit legislator access to budget performance reports and contracts, while requiring New World and cyber security training.

The committee decided to postpone and allow for more time for legislators to see the system.

Motion No. 5: **MOTION TO POSTPONE Resolution No. 369**
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Cahill

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Criswell, Gavaris, Roberts, & Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution POSTPONED**

Resolution No. 370: Authorizing Legislative Review Of Certain Non-Commodity Draft Bid Documents

Resolution Summary: This Resolution directs an electronic copy of any Request for Proposal, Request for Quote, and/or non-commodity bid to be forwarded to the Legislative Clerk for distribution to the legislative body.

Motion No. 6: MOTION TO APPROVE Resolution No. 370, AS PRESENTED
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bartels

Discussion: The committee confirmed that the amendments from Legislator Maloney and Legislator Petit were included.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Criswell, Gavaris, Roberts, & Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution ADOPTED, AS PRESENTED

Resolution No. 382: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute Various Agreements To Fulfill Requirements For Grant Funding Through The New York State Climate Smart Communities Program For Renewable Energy Equipment At The Golden Hill Housing Site – Department Of Planning

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to execute various agreements to fulfill requirements for grant funding for renewable energy equipment at the Golden Hill Housing Site.

Motion No. 7: MOTION TO APPROVE Resolution No. 382, AS PRESENTED
Motion By: Legislator Roberts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion: Planning Director Doyle explained that this grant will go to the Golden Hill Developer Limited Liability Corporation (LLC).

Legislator Maloney stressed that he has not yet received the answer as to who are the members of the LLC.

Legislator Cahill requested a high-level overview of the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) and status of the project. Director Doyle explained that the PILOT was approved by the Kingston Common Council and has been sent to the mayor for final negotiations. Discussion ensued on PILOTS and the potential effects.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Criswell, Gavaris, Roberts, & Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution ADOPTED

Resolution No. 439: Authorizing The Execution Of Sub-Lease Agreement With The Ulster County Economic Development Alliance, Inc. For Space At The Work Force Innovation Center Located At iPark87 In The Town Of Ulster – Department Of Public Works (Buildings & Grounds)

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the execution of a sub-lease agreement with the Ulster County Economic Development Alliance, Inc. for space at the Work Force Innovation Center in the Town of Ulster.

Motion No. 8: MOTION TO APPROVE Resolution No. 439
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Cahill

Discussion: Chairman Gavaris stated concern that there is no cancellation clause, as is normal with county leases.

Legislator Maloney stated that he is not in favor of this Resolution and expressed concern that the county would be the only tenant in the building.

Legislative Chair Bartels echoed the concerns of Chairman Gavaris and stressed that the county is responsible for these funds but is acting in faith based upon the letters of intent that were submitted. Legislative Chair Bartels also noted the success of iPark in similar locations.

Legislator Cahill informed the committee that there is activity on the site, money has been invested, improvements have been made, there is an active business operating on the site and others are awaiting site plan approvals from the Town of Ulster, in addition to potential housing projects awaiting approvals.

Legislator Maloney explained that the county is not allowed to directly enter a ten-year lease and that is why the Ulster County Economic Development Alliance (UCEDA) is involved. Legislator Maloney questioned the status of the space study. Deputy County Executive LaValle explained that a draft is currently with the Department of Public Works.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Criswell, Gavaris, Roberts, & Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution ADOPTED

Resolution No. 450: Authorizing Embankment Stabilization, In And For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$325,000.00, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$325,000.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes bonds for Capital Project No. 676, various embankment repairs, in the amount of \$325,000.

Resolution No. 453: Authorizing The Issuance Of An Additional \$361,600.00 Bonds Of The County Of Ulster, New York, To Pay Part Of The Cost Of The Hall Of Records Rooftop Solar Array Project, In And For Said County

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes bonds for Capital Project No. 653, Hall of Records Rooftop Solar Array Project, in the amount of \$361,000.

Resolution No. 455: Authorizing The Purchase Of Axon Body Cameras For County Jail Use, For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$440,753.00, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$440,753.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes bonds for Capital Project No. 675, Jail Axon Body Cameras, in the amount of \$440,753.

Motion No. 9: MOTION TO BLOCK Resolution Nos. 450, 453, & 455

Motion By: Legislator Ronk

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Cahill

Discussion: Hearing none, Chairman Gavaris called the question.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Criswell, Gavaris, Roberts, & Ronk

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 6

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolutions BLOCKED

Motion No. 10: MOTION TO APPROVE Resolution Nos. 450, 453, & 455

Motion By: Legislator Ronk

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Cahill

Discussion: Hearing none, Chairman Gavaris called the question.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Criswell, Gavaris, Roberts, & Ronk

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 6

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolutions ADOPTED

Resolution No. 465: Establishing A Policy To Record Electronically All County Public Meetings

Resolution Summary: This Resolution establishes a policy to electronically record all county public meetings and video and / or audio recordings shall be kept publicly accessible.

Motion No. 11: MOTION TO APPROVE Resolution No. 465

Motion By: Legislator Ronk

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bartels

Discussion: Hearing none, Chairman Gavaris called the question.
Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Criswell, Gavaris, Roberts, & Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Chairman Gavaris moved on to the Forthcoming Local Laws portion of the agenda.

Forthcoming Resolutions / Local Laws:

Resolution No. 126 – Dedicating Funding To Housing Justice
(No Action in Health, Human Services, & Housing Committee on 8/1/2023)

Resolution No. 127 - Establishing A Policy To Prioritize Meals For Ulster County Residents Living In Emergency Housing
(No Action in Health, Human Services, & Housing Committee on 8/1/2023)

Resolution No. 309 - Placing A Spending Cap Of \$XX,XXX,XXX.00 On All Costs Related To The Proposed Government Operations Center At Paradies Lane In New Paltz
(No Action in Law Enforcement & Public Safety Committee on 8/3/2023)

Resolution No. 337 - Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Intermunicipal Agreement With The City Of Kingston, Where The County Is A Subrecipient Of The City’s ARPA-SLFRF Funds, For The Renovation Of Elizabeth Manor, Department Of Finance, Division Of Recovery And Resilience
(Postponed for one month in Ways & Means Committee on 8/8/2023)

Resolution No. 364 - Establishing A Restricted Capital Reserve Fund For The Government Operations Center Of The County Of Ulster Under Section 6-C Of The New York State General Municipal Law
(No Action in Law Enforcement & Public Safety Committee on 8/3/2023)

Resolution No. 372 - Requesting The New York State Legislature Introduce, And The Governor Sign, An Amendment To Article 31 Of The New York State Tax Law To Permit The County Of Ulster To Adopt A Local Law To Impose, Collect And Retain A Tax On Real Estate Transfers
(Postponed for one month in Ways & Means Committee on 8/8/2023)

Resolution No. 423 - Establishing A Policy To Reform Social Services – Temporary Assistance – Housing
(Postponed in Health, Human Services, & Housing Committee on 8/1/2023)

Resolution No. 427 - Establishing A Policy To Set Minimum Frequencies And To Prevent Gaps On Fixed-Route Public Transportation Services
(Postponed in Public Works, Capital Projects, & Transportation Committee on 8/7/2023)

Resolution No. 428 - Establishing A Policy To Provide Public Transportation In All Municipalities And Census Designated Places
(Postponed in Public Works, Capital Projects, & Transportation Committee on 8/7/2023)

Resolution No. 429 - Establishing A Policy To Have Express And Local Fixed-Route Public-Transportation Service
(Postponed in Public Works, Capital Projects, & Transportation Committee on 8/7/2023)

Resolution No. 447 - Abandonment Of Portion Of Albany Post Road, County Road Number 79, Town Of Gardiner, To Adjoining Property Owner, Authorizing The Chair To Sign Agreement With The Adjoining Property Owner
(No Action in Public Works, Capital Projects, & Transportation Committee on 8/7/2023)

Resolution No. 464 - Establishing A Policy To Provide Public Transportation In Relation To County Facilities And Sessions Of The Ulster County Legislature
(Postponed in Public Works, Capital Projects, & Transportation Committee on 8/7/2023)

Resolution No. 468 - Amending The 2023 - 2028 Capital Improvement Program - Amending Capital Project No. 645 – Renovation Of 21 Elizabeth Street – Elizabeth Manor Emergency Housing
(Postponed in Health, Human Services, & Housing Committee on 8/1/2023)

Resolution No. 469 - Authorizing Commencement Of The Process Of Direct Sale Of The Property Located At 21 Elizabeth Street, City Of Kingston
(Postponed in Health, Human Services, & Housing Committee on 8/1/2023)

Resolution No. 432: A Policy Requiring Venders To Comply With All Applicable Ulster County Policies

Resolution Summary: This Resolution creates a policy requiring vendors to comply with all other applicable Ulster County Policies.

Motion No. 12: MOTION TO RECONSIDER Resolution No. 432
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Criswell

Discussion: Hearing none, Chairman Gavaris called the question.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Criswell, Gavaris, Roberts & Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution RECONSIDERED

Motion No. 13: MOTION TO POSTPONE Resolution No. 432
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bartels

Discussion: Hearing none, Chairman Gavaris called the question.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Criswell, Gavaris, Roberts, & Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0

Disposition:

Resolution POSTPONED

Comptroller Gallagher stated that the Comptroller’s Office has launched an audit of the self-insurance program. The Solar PILOT audit is out to management for comment, Real Property Testing is in process, and the CARES II Audit was released. Comptroller Gallagher explained that sales tax is now up 1.64% over last year and the Q4 2022 report cannot be completed because the 2022 county financials are not yet complete. Additionally, investment revenues are up and an additional \$3.3 Million has been accrued, however better investment opportunities are available, and diversification should be reviewed.

Legislator Criswell informed the committee that ARPA has expanded rules for spending, including two new categories, and will provide a more thorough update at future meeting.

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bartels

No. of Votes in Favor: 6
No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 6:36 PM

Respectfully submitted: Natalie Kelder
Minutes Approved: September 12, 2023