

**Ways & Means Committee  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

**DATE & TIME:** November 14, 2023 at 4:30PM  
**LOCATION:** Legislative Chambers, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, County Office Building, Kingston  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Chair Gavaris  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Natalie Kelder, Legislative Financial Analyst  
**PRESENT:** Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Criswell, Roberts  
**ABSENT:**  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Fabiano, Greene, Hansut, Hewitt, Levine, Litts, Maloney, Nolan, Petit, Sperry, Stewart, Uchitelle, Legislative Counsel Ragucci, Comptroller March Gallagher, Deputy Comptroller Alicia DeMarco, Charles Dinstuhl, Sheriff Juan Figueroa, Deputy James Mullen, Deputy Connligotino, Deputy County Executive Johanna Contreras, Deputy County Executive Amanda LaValle, Personnel Director Dawn Spader, Information Services Director Alan Macaluso, Finance Commissioner Rosanne Daw, Deputy Finance Commissioner Max Cordella, Budget Director Ken Juras, Earl T. Redding

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Chair Gavaris called the meeting to order at 4:37PM.

Chair Gavaris gave the Floor to Director Spader to give a presentation on the FY2024 Budget for the Personnel Department.

Chair Gavaris gave the Floor to Director Macaluso to give a presentation on the FY2024 Budget for the Information Services Department.

Chair Gavaris gave the Floor to Director Juras to give a presentation on the FY 2024 Budget for the Budget Department.

Chair Gavaris gave the Floor to Sheriff Figueroa to speak on the 2024-29 Public Safety Capital Projects.

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**Resolutions for the November 14, 2023 Session of the Legislature**

**Resolution No. 596** - Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 13 Of 2023, A Local Law Amending The Administrative Code For The County Of Ulster, (Local Law No. 10 Of 2008), To Establish The Office Of Housing Counsel, To Be Held On Wednesday, December 6, 2023 At 6:05 PM

**Resolution Summary:** Setting a Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 13 of 2023.

**Motion No. 1**

**Motion By:**

**Motion Seconded By:**

**Discussion:**

**Moved Resolution for DISCUSSION**

Legislator Criswell

Legislator Roberts

Legislators expressed concerns about the setting a public hearing when not all information is available, and the Executive is not prepared to have a plan for this ready to go. Legislator Maloney stated that this warrants a Special Committee to determine recommendations on housing



**Resolution No. 658** – Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Lease Agreement With Astor Services For Children & Families For Office Space At The Golden Hill Office Building, Kingston –To Provide Family Mental Health Services To The Community – Department Of Public Works (Buildings & Grounds)

**Resolution Summary:** Leasing 2,080 square feet of office space at Golden Hill for \$24,936 per annum.

**Motion No. 5** **Moved Resolution for DISCUSSION**  
**Motion By:** Legislator Roberts  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Criswell  
**Discussion:** None.  
**Voting in Favor:** Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Criswell, Gavaris, Roberts  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 5  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution ADOPTED**

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**Resolution No. 660** – Authorizing The Issuance Of An Additional \$4,350,000.00 Bonds Of The County Of Ulster, New York, To Pay Part Of The Cost Of The Bridge Substructure Repairs, In And For Said County

**Resolution Summary:** Bond Resolution for Capital Project No. 585.

**Motion No. 6** **Moved Resolution For DISCUSSION**  
**Motion By:** Legislator Cahill  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Criswell  
**Discussion:** None.  
**Voting in Favor:** Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Criswell, Gavaris, Roberts  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 5  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution ADOPTED**

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**Resolution No. 664** – Authorizing The Issuance Of An Additional \$5,800,315.00 Bonds Of The County Of Ulster , New York, To Pay Part Of The Cost Of The Replacement Of The Galeville Bridge, In And For Said County

**Resolution Summary:** Bond Resolution for Capital Project No. 628.

**Motion No. 7** **Moved Resolution for DISCUSSION**  
**Motion By:** Legislator Cahill  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Criswell  
**Discussion:** None.  
**Voting in Favor:** Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Criswell, Gavaris, Roberts  
**Voting Against:** None

**Votes in Favor:** 5  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution ADOPTED**

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**Resolution No. 667** – Setting Additional Requirements In Relation To Capital Project No. 678, The Purchase And Acquisition Of Real Property Located At 1711-1715 Ulster Avenue For Warehouse, Storage, And Office Space, To Address Existing Single Family Occupied Dwelling

**Resolution Summary:** Setting the intention to subdivide 1711-1715 Ulster Avenue once purchased by the County.

**Motion No. 8**

**Moved Resolution for DISCUSSION**

**Motion By:**

Legislator Cahill

**Motion Seconded By:**

Legislator Criswell

**Discussion:**

Chair Bartels said she was not prepared to move on this at this time. Legislator Cahill agreed with Chair Bartels. Legislator Maloney stated this was merely clarifying the County's intention, and thanked the Republican caucus for prioritizing keeping the current tenants housed. Legislator Erner stated that they amended the Resolution to remove the requirement to sell the property. Legislator Maloney stated the irony in the Legislature prioritizing housing, yet seem to be set on evicting this family to use the property for office space. Chair Bartels reiterated that she was not prepared to move on the Resolution at this time.

**Motion No. 9**

**Moved to POSTPONE Resolution No. 667**

**Motion By:**

Legislator Bartels

**Seconded By:**

Legislator Cahill

**Discussion:**

None.

**Voting in Favor:**

Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Criswell, Gavaris

**Voting Against:**

Legislator Roberts

**Votes in Favor:**

4

**Votes Against:**

1

**Disposition:**

**Resolution POSTPONED**

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Legislator Roberts requested that the Committee go into Executive Session to discuss the ongoing litigation between the Comptroller and the County Executive.

**Motion No. 9:**

**Moved to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing ongoing litigation.**

**Motion By:**

Legislator Roberts

**Motion Seconded By:**

Legislator Gavaris

**Discussion:**

Legislator Roberts requested Executive Office Staff, Comptroller and her staff, their counsels, Legislators and Legislative staff and counsel remain. Legislator Cahill wanted to go on record that he believes this is inappropriate insertion of the Legislature into a legal proceeding. Chair Bartels stated that she has concerns about this and may vote to

leave Executive Session. Majority Leader Heppner stated he was concerned about outing a whistleblower in Executive Session.

**Voting in Favor:** Legislators Bartels, Gavaris, Roberts  
**Voting Against:** Legislators Cahill, Criswell  
**Votes in Favor:** 3  
**Votes Against:** 2  
**Disposition:** **The Committee has entered Executive Session**

Legislator Cahill left the meeting at 6:15PM.

No Votes were taken in Executive Session.

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**Adjournment:**

**Motion By:** Legislator Bartels  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Roberts  
**TIME:** 6:27 PM

**Respectfully Submitted By:** Natalie Kelder, Financial Analyst, Prepared by Michael Tierney,  
Senior Legislative Employee  
**Minutes Approved:** December 12, 2023