

**Ways &  
Means Committee  
Special Meeting Minutes**

**DATE & TIME:** December 2, 2021 – 5:30  
**LOCATION:** Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing: 1-646-558-8656,  
Meeting ID: 844 0746 1037  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** John Gavaris, Chairman  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Natalie Kelder, Amber Feaster  
**PRESENT:** Legislators Kenneth J. Ronk, Jr., Lynn Archer, Tracey  
Bartels, Heidi Haynes, John Parete, and Eve Walter; and  
Legislative Chairman David B. Donaldson  
**ABSENT:** Legislator Mary Beth Maio  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes  
**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislator Jonathan Heppner; Legislative Counsel  
Christopher Ragucci; Minority Counsel Nicholas Pascale;  
Deputy County Executives John Milgrim, and Johanna  
Contreras; Comptroller March Gallagher; Deputy  
Comptroller Alicia DeMarco; Legislators-Elect Kathy  
Nolan and Joseph Maloney; Director of Economic  
Development Tim Weidemann

- **Chairman Gavaris called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM**

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**Motion No. 1: To approve Resolution No. 548** – Authorizing Acceptance Of Deeds In Lieu Of Foreclosure Of Certain Properties From AG Properties Of Kingston LLC And Techcity 22 23 & 24 LLC

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution authorizes the acceptance of deeds to the various properties included in satisfaction of the amounts of the County’s lien shown therein for each property.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Ronk  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Donaldson  
**Discussion:** None  
**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Gavaris, Ronk, Archer, Bartels, Haynes, Parete, and Walter;  
and Legislative Chairman Donaldson  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 8  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 2: To approve Resolution No. 549** – Setting A Public Hearing On The Transfer Of Certain Properties From Ulster County To The Ulster County Economic Development Alliance, Inc. To Be Held On Tuesday, December 21, 2021 At 6:30 PM

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution sets a public hearing on the transfer of certain properties from Ulster County to the Ulster County Economic Development Alliance, Inc. to be held on Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 6:30 PM.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Ronk  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Walter

**Discussion:** Comptroller March Gallgher applauded the movement of Tech City but expressed disappointment in the lack of discussion surrounding this transfer. Legislator Ronk commented that the Resolution is to approve a public hearing.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Gavaris, Ronk, Archer, Bartels, Haynes, Parete, and Walter; and Legislative Chairman Donaldson

**Voting Against:** None

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 8

**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** Approved

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**New Business:** None

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**Old Business:** Legislator Walter explained changes presented to Budget Amendment No. 25. Discussion pursued on this amendment.

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Chairman Gavaris asked the members if there was any other business, and hearing none;

### **Adjournment**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Donaldson

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Ronk

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 8

**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**Time:** 5:38 PM

**Respectfully submitted:** Amber Feaster

**Minutes Approved:** December 21, 2021

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**PRESENT:** Legislators Kenneth J. Ronk, Jr., Lynn Archer, Tracey Bartels, Heidi Haynes, John Parete, and Eve Walter; and Legislative Chairman David B. Donaldson  
**ABSENT:** Legislator Mary Beth Maio  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes  
**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislator Jonathan Heppner; Legislative Counsel Christopher Ragucci; Minority Counsel Nicholas Pascale; Deputy County Executives John Milgrim, and Johanna Contreras; Comptroller March Gallagher; Deputy Comptroller Alicia DeMarco; Legislators-Elect Kathy Nolan and Joseph Maloney; Director of Economic Development Tim Weidemann

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**Chairman Gavaris:** Ways & Means to Order. Alrighty.

Resolution 548: Authorizing acceptance of deed in lieu of foreclosure. Can I have a motion?

**Legislator Ronk:** I'll move it.

**Chairman Gavaris:** Second? Legislator Walter.

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** Seconded

**Chairman Gavaris:** Discussion? Leg, discussion? All right. All those in favor?

**Group:** Aye.

**Chairman Gavaris:** Opposed? So carried.

549: Setting a Public Hearing for transfer of certain properties. Can I have a motion?

**Legislator Ronk:** I'll move it.

**Chairman Gavaris:** Second, Legislator Walter. Discussion? All those in, Comptroller Gallagher.

**Comptroller Gallagher:** Thank you. Um, Listen, you guys, I applaud the movement of Tech City. But I have a lot of questions. And I am stunned to sit through Economic Development, and this meeting, and not hear any discussion. What are the plans for the property? What kind of jobs? Will there be a hotel, housing, industrial, retail? Will there be a public process? Will there be opportunity for public input? What is the timeframe for development? Which buildings does National Resource intend to demo, versus keep? Are there remediation plans for the property? What is the impact going forward on our tax revenue? Will there be special PILOTs in consideration? I understand all that's to come, I understand that. But this is the County Legislature giving its authority over those questions to a Local Development Corporation. Now, there's been no conversation here that I can see. And I, I need to point that out as the watchdog for the taxpayers of the county, there is no conversation happening. There have been a lot of discussions about Tech City, most of them with regard to Enterprise West, there is a comprehensive Generic Environmental Impact Statement, that is very old, that was done the account covers the East and West campus, that had a fully public process. And I need to point out to you guys, that you, you're doing something right now, that's a great, I mean, I look forward to seeing transition. But this is your opportunity for, for comment and for control. And I need to just pause as the watchdog and point that out. Thank you

**Chairman Gavaris:** Thank you. Legislator Ronk.

**Legislator Ronk:** Yeah, thanks Mr. Chairman, following all the things that the Comptroller just pointed out to this Legislature, let me be the first to point out to the Comptroller, that this is a Public Hearing. So, we're passing a resolution to set a Public Hearing so the public can actually come to us and weigh in on a potential transfer. So all those things that you just mentioned are great and I have answers to some of them. But it wouldn't be proper to bring them up right now. Because this is to set a Public Hearing.

**Comptroller Gallagher:** I tried to comment on the last resolution, but unfortunately, things are moving rather quickly.

**Legislator Ronk:** Okay.

**Chairman Gavaris:** Any other discussion? All those in favor?

**Group:** Aye.

**Chairman Gavaris:** Opposed? Legislator Walter, you're opposed? Okay. All right.

So budget amendment update. I don't have that Amber, can you? Do we have any updates? No, I don't think so.

**Deputy Clerk Feaster:** The, the only update is, I mean, you know, you guys have the freedom to bring something up or discuss something here now, that's the agenda item. But um, the everyone saw the updated amendment backup that was circulated that had three additional new ones, and then two changes. One, an amendment to an amendment and then a technical amendment. So if there's any questions.

**Chairman Gavaris:** Legislator Walter.

**Legislator Walter:** Thank you. I'll just, just to provide any clarification for the amendment to the amendment that I put in. This is on the Human Rights Commission, moving the position that's been, that's already in the budget for half-time to a full-time, hearing that there is a feeling of wanting to wait and see the impact of the helpline at the Human Rights Commission and, and really got have a better understanding of what the, the true administrative support needs are. I agree to put the amendment that made it to full-time that, that full time section, half, part of it into the contingency so that we can then regroup and look at it in the first quarter. So I just wanted you all to understand, so I wasn't taking it off the table completely, just pausing it.

**Chairman Gavaris:** Ronk.

**Legislator Ronk:** You said Ronk, sorry.

**Chairman Gavaris:** Yes.

**Legislator Ronk:** Okay. So, my I mean, I don't have a concern with that. I think it's really, you know, six one, half a dozen of the other. I just want to point out that, you know, when we earmark something in contingency, we're really just, you know, earmarking something that we would have to earmark later on anyway, because the only way things can come out of contingency is through a Resolution of the Legislature. So, even though I think it's a little silly to do that, I don't have a problem with it.

**Chairman Gavaris:** Walter.

**Legislator Walter:** Thanks. I appreciate, I understand it's not necessarily necessary, but I just felt like it, it informed the others of my intent, that I don't want it to go away. But I recognize that, you know, adding, we have a lot of added new, you know, new hires, raises all that. And so this might just be the time to put it aside without fully putting it aside, but I do understand completely what you're saying. I just made that decision just to make it clear where I was stand, where I stood.

**Chairman Gavaris:** Legislator Bartels.

**Legislator Bartels:** Thank you, and yeah, just, just for the record, I think I said it at the, the last meeting, I know that, um, Laws and Rules may not be the same makeup next, next year, but in terms of this, this Laws and Rules Committee, listened to the budget presentation and, and expressed an openness and an interest to, to reconsider the position in the, in the coming year as well. So, you know, I, I appreciate the, the earmark of it in terms of keeping, keeping our eye on it in, in the coming year.

**Chairman Gavaris:** If nothing else, can I have a motion to adjourn.

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** So moved.

**Chairman Gavaris:** Donaldson. Second? Ronk. All those in favor? Opposed? All right. Thank you all, see you in a little bit.