

Laws and Rules, Governmental Services Committee

Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: May 18, 2015 – 6:30PM
LOCATION: Karen L. Binder Library, 6th Floor, COB, Kingston, NY
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman Richard Parete
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn A. Tantillo, Sr. Legislative Employee
PRESENT: Legislators David Donaldson, Manna Jo Greene, Kevin Roberts and Kenneth Ronk, Jr.
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes
OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Chris Allen; Legislative Counsel Cappy Weiner and Erica Guerin; Tom Kadgen, League of Women Voters

Legislator R. Parete called the meeting to order at 6: 31 PM.

Motion No. 1: The minutes of April 20, 2015 and April 28, 2015 were approved as distributed.

Motion Made By: Legislator Greene
Motion Seconded By: Legislator R. Donaldson

Discussion: Legislator Greene wanted to clarify that in the discussion about limiting public comment at the Legislative Session. While the minutes are correct that there was a discussion, she wanted to clarify that she has serious concerns about limiting public comment and suggested perhaps allowing speakers but limiting time from three minutes to one or two.

Roll Call Vote: No
Voting In Favor: Legislators R. Parete, Donaldson, Greene, and Ronk
Voting Against: Roberts
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Minutes Approved

Motion No. 2: Late Resolution No. 229 - Approving Home Rule Request For Senate Bill No. S5301 And Assembly Bill No. A7480 Authorizing Ulster County To Regulate The Registration And Licensing Of Taxicabs, Limousines, And Livery Vehicles

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Greene

Discussion: Legislator Ronk explained this Home Rule Request would allow Ulster County to establish a Taxi and Limousine Commission. Currently livery, limos and taxis can only make trips into the New York City metropolitan area for something described in State Law as a continuous trip. He gave the example of an airport run if it is for the same rider in a 24 hour period.

He briefly explained why the Resolution passed last year did not make it through the state legislature and the justification for it being “late”.

Chairman R. Parete wanted to insure this would not interfere with the preexisting City of Kingston Taxi Commission.

Legislator Greene was concerned that the Legislature had not heard from local companies.

Legislator Ronk assured the members of the committee that many local vendors had requested this and reminded them a similar resolution was passed unanimously last year. Details establishing the actual Commission would be discussed after this authorization is granted by the State of New York. He noted that reciprocity with New York City was not guaranteed and would still need to be established.

Legislator Ronk explained that if and when the State approves this measure it will simply give the county the ability to require a license and form a commission. Ulster County will not be required to move forward with this if the county cannot establish reciprocity with the City or local companies don't want it.

Roll Call Vote: No
Voting In Favor: Legislators R. Parete, Greene, Ronk
Voting Against: Legislator Roberts
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 1
Disposition: Passed

Motion No. 3: Resolution No. 182- Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 4 of 2015 (A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 10 Of 2008 (A Local Law Adopting An Administrative Code For The County Of Ulster, State Of New York), Pertaining To Change Orders And/Or Amendments To Contracts Equal To Or Exceeding \$50,000.00 In Aggregate) To Be Held On Tuesday, June 16, 2015 At 6:05 PM – as amended.

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator R. Parete

Discussion: Legislator Ronk reviewed the amendments to Proposed Local Law No. 4 that were discussed and approved at the special meeting on April 28th.

Roll Call Vote: No
Voting In Favor: Legislators R. Parete, Donaldson, Greene, Roberts, Ronk
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Passed

Motion No. 4: Resolution No. 183 - Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 5 of 2015, A Local Law Amending The Ulster County Charter, (Local Law No. 2 Of 2006), ~~To Modify Various Provisions~~ To Clarify The Powers And Duties Of The Audit Committee Of The Ulster County Charter, To Be Held On Tuesday, June 16, 2015 At 6:05 PM – as amended.

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator R. Parete

Discussion: Legislator Ronk reviewed the amended Proposed Local Law No. 5 that removed the sections addressing the terms of the Legislative Chairman and Clerk. He noted that at the special meeting on April 28 they discussed adding term limits for other County Officials but he did not want to add that to this resolution.

There was a lengthy discussion about Legislative terms and term of office. At one point Legislator Ronk asked how many committee members would support these sections of the proposal and realized these sections did not have the support of the committee.

Legislator Ronk was disappointed that the sections on terms and term limits did not seem to have support but felt the changes to insure the powers and duties of the Audit Committee was

the most important part of the change. He offered to remove everything up to the sections that address the powers and duties of the Audit committee.

There was a discussion about the need for the Mandatory Ballot Question to be more specific so voters will know what they are voting for or against.

There was a discussion about the time line required to get this proposed local law on the ballot for this September, allowing for public hearings, time for the County Executive to sign or veto, time to override a potential veto, etc. The committee members agreed on the proposed changes/amendment but were not comfortable passing this proposal without seeing the amendments in writing.

On the amendments

Roll Call Vote:	No
Voting In Favor:	Legislators R. Parete, Donaldson, Greene, Roberts, Ronk
Voting Against:	None
No. of Votes in Favor:	5
No. of Votes Against:	0
Disposition:	Amendments Passed

The committee members agreed on the proposed amendment but were not comfortable passing this proposal as amended without seeing the changes in writing. They agreed to hold another meeting after Ways and Means on May 19, 2015.

Resolution No. 184 - Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 6 of 2015, A Local Law Amending The Ulster County Charter, (Local Law No. 2 Of 2006), To Amend The Terms Of The Ulster County Legislature, To Be Held On Tuesday, June 16, 2015 At 6:15 PM – was withdrawn by Legislator Greene, the sponsor.

There being no further business before the Committee, a motion was made by Legislator Roberts, seconded by Legislator Greene and carried to adjourn the meeting at 5:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted this 20th day of May, 2015
Fawn A. Tantillo, Senior Legislative Employee
Minutes Approved on June 15, 2015