

Ulster County Charter Revision Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: February 2, 2023 at 5:00 PM

Location: Ulster County Legislative Chambers
244 Fair Street, 6th Floor, Kingston, New York 12401

Present: Kathleen Mihm (Chairperson)
Thomas Kadgen**
Scott McCarthy
Brian Woltman
LeShawn Parker
Shannon Harris
Hector Rodriguez
Fawn Tantillo

*** via videoconference due to extraordinary circumstances pursuant to
NYS Public Officers Law §103-A and Ulster County Local Law No. 8 of
2022*

Absent David Donaldson
Frank Cardinale

Quorum: Yes

Other Attendees: D. Mici Simonofsky, Commission Member (participating via Zoom)
Dr. Carol Smith, Commissioner, Ulster County Department of Health
Ashley Torres, Commissioner, Ulster County Board of Elections
John Quigley, Commissioner, Ulster County Board of Elections
Tracey Bartels, Chair, Ulster County Legislature
Joseph Maloney, Ulster County Legislator
Victoria Fabella, Clerk, Ulster County Legislature
Christopher Ragucci, Esq., Majority Counsel
David Gordon, Esq., Majority Counsel
March Gallagher, Ulster County Comptroller
Alicia DeMarco, Deputy Comptroller
Rokosz Most, Hudson Valley One
Kristin Gumaer, First Assistant County Attorney
Richie Williams, Assistant County Attorney
Dante De Leo, Assistant County Attorney

Chairperson Mihm called the meeting to order at 5:07 PM.

Motion No. 1: Motion to Approve the January 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion made by: Commission Member Scott McCarthy

Seconded by: Commission Member Shannon Harris

Discussion: None.

Voting in favor: Commission Members Mihm (Chair), McCarthy, Harris, Kadgen, Woltman, Parker, Rodriguez, Tantillo

Voting against: None

Disposition: Motion No. 1 passed 8-0.

Public Comment: Tracey Bartels, Chair, Ulster County Legislature, took the floor and spoke on several topics including: advising the Commission that the Legislature would be submitting a package of proposed revisions; speaking against the proposed revision to Section C-11(O) which would increase the amount set forth therein from \$50,000 to \$100,000; and speaking against the proposed revision to Section C-5(B) which would shorten the frequency with which the Commission must be convened from 10 years to 5.

Several Commission Members engaged in a discussion with Chair Bartels regarding her position on the change to C-11(O). Commission Member Woltman requested clarity on the original reason behind the \$50,000 figure. Commission Member Harris requested that the Legislature's forthcoming package contain proposed revisions relating to efficiency measures.

Joseph Maloney, Ulster County Legislator, took the floor and spoke on several topics, including: opposing the proposed revision to Section C-11(O) which would increase the amount set forth therein to \$100,000; supporting the proposed revision to Section C-5(B) which would shorten the frequency with which the Commission must be convened to 5 years; and urging the Commission to make recommendations to the Legislature within this legislative session.

Motion No. 2: Motion to Reconsider Motion No. 5 of the January 12, 2023 Meeting Regarding the Revision to Section C-11(O)

Motion made by: Commission Member Scott McCarthy

Seconded by: Commission Member LeShawn Parker

Discussion: The Commission Members discussed the varying positions that have been brought to their attention regarding the proposed revision.

Voting in favor: Commission Members Mihm (Chair), McCarthy, Parker, Kadgen, Woltman, Harris, Rodriguez, Tantillo

Voting against: None

Disposition: Motion No. 2 passed 8-0.

Chair Mihm recognized Ashley Torres and John Quigley, Commissioners of the Ulster County Board of Elections, who each spoke on various proposed revisions to the Charter. Chair Mihm requested that a written proposal be submitted by the Board of Elections.

Chair Mihm recognized Dr. Carol Smith, Commissioner, Ulster County Department of Health, who spoke against the Medical Examiner residency requirement set forth in the Administrative Code, Section A5-4, and who requested that the Commission not include such residency requirement in Section C-43 of the Charter. There was a discussion about whether revisions to the Code are within the scope of the Commission. Commission Member Harris requested that the Legislature submit proposed Code revisions to the Commission along with their forthcoming package of proposed Charter revisions.

Commission Member Shannon Harris left the meeting at 6:16 pm.

Chair Mihm recognized Ulster County Comptroller March Gallagher, who spoke about her proposed changes regarding the County’s budget process and “departmental estimates.” Chair Mihm recognized Tracey Bartels, Chair of the Legislature, who spoke in support of the Comptroller’s proposal. Several Commission Members discussed seeking input from the County Executive’s Office.

Commission Member Kadgen took the floor to discuss his proposed revision to Section C-10(E) of the Charter.

Motion No. 3: Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Motion made by: Commission Member Hector Rodriguez

Seconded by: Commission Member Brian Woltman

Discussion: None.

Voting in favor: Commission Members Mihm (Chair), Rodriguez, Woltman, Kadgen, McCarthy, Parker, Tantillo

Voting against: None

Disposition: Motion No. 3 passed 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 PM.

Meeting minutes prepared by Assistant County Attorney Dante De Leo