

**Laws & Rules, Governmental Services Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: September 18, 2017 – 6:30 PM
LOCATION: KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman Roberts
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
PRESENT: Legislators Donaldson (arrived at 6:34 PM), Lopez, Loughran, R. Parete and Ronk
ABSENT: Legislator Rodriguez
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Jennifer Clark – UC Attorney’s Office, Susan Holland, Karen Miller, Margaret Sellers, Vic Melville, Jean McGarry, Cindy Bell, Jackie Moriarty, John Moriarty – League of Women Voters

Chairman Roberts called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

Motion No. 1: Moved to **APPROVE** the Minutes of the August 14, 2017 meeting

Motion By: Legislator Lopez
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Loughran, R. Parete, Roberts & Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Minutes are **APPROVED**

Resolutions for the September 19, 2017 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 281 – Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 5 Of 2017, The Ulster County Comprehensive Campaign Finance Reform and Accountability Law, To Be Held On Tuesday, October 10, 2017 At 6:05

Resolution Summary: This resolution sets a Public Hearing on Tuesday, October 10 at 6:05 PM for the purpose of hearing public comment on Proposed Local Law No. 5 of 2017.

Motion No. 2: Moved **Resolution No. 281 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Loughran

Discussion:

Legislator R. Parete stated that he thought there was going to be a subcommittee formed to discuss the law and well as the previously introduced law. Legislator Donaldson said he was not pleased with the method the law was introduced and would like to see a subcommittee formed to look at the law closely. Legislator Loughran said he would be support postponing the law if a subcommittee was formed and scheduled a meeting to discuss it. Chairman Roberts stated that he would also like to see a subcommittee meet to comprehensively review the law before voting on it.

Chairman Roberts identified Legislators R. Parete, Loughran and Rodriguez as the members of the subcommittee. Chairman Ronk reminded the members that the representative from CSEA who had attended a previous meeting asked to be kept apprised of meeting on the law.

Chairman Roberts asked if anyone from the League of Women Voters in attendance would like to speak. Ms. McGarry asked for more information on the previously proposed campaign finance law. Ms. Sellers offered for the LWV to host a public meeting on the law is the members thought that would be helpful. Legislator Donaldson again expressed his displeasure with the way the law was introduced. Legislator R. Parete expressed his concern with the role of the Budget Director in the law. Legislator Loughran requested that the LWV identify one spokesperson for the organization to ensure the most productive meeting format.

Motion No. 3: Moved TO POSTPONE Resolution No. 281

Motion By: Legislator Lopez

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Donaldson, Lopez, Loughran, R. Parete, Roberts & Ronk

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 6

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution is POSTPONED**

Resolution No. 320: Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 15 Of 2016, (A Local Law Amending The Ulster County Charter Section C-101A And The Ulster County Administrative Code Section A 30-2A, To Amend The Powers And Duties Of The Ulster County Human Rights Commission)

Resolution Summary: This resolution adopts Proposed Local Law No. 15 of 2017

Motion No. 4: Moved Resolution No. 320 FOR DISCUSSION

Motion By: Legislator Loughran

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion:

Chairman Ronk stated that the committee had discussed having a special or subcommittee to discuss the numerous laws on the table regarding various groups that the legislature is seeking to extend protection from discrimination. He said that he felt it was important to consider the issue of Human Rights and protections as a whole instead of drafting laws to protect one group of individuals over

another. He added that he believed it was appropriate to bring community members and stakeholders to the table to evaluate the current proposed laws and to recommend a comprehensible and enforceable Human Rights Law. He advised the members that he introduced Resolution No. 371, also on their agenda, to create a Task Force to do just that.

Legislator Loughran stated that he would like to see something passed by the end of the year. Chairman Ronk stated that was his goal. Legislator Donaldson reminded the members that members of the Human Rights Commission spoke at the public hearing on Proposed Local Law 15 of 2016 and asked if there would be additional resources provided to the Commission to carry out the law.

Motion No. 5: **Moved TO POSTPONE Resolution No. 320**
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Loughran

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Donaldson, Lopez, Loughran, R. Parete, Roberts & Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution is POSTPONED**

Resolution No. 321: Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 16 Of 2016, (A Local Law Establishing A Comprehensive Ulster County Human Rights Law)

Resolution Summary: This resolution adopts Proposed Local Law No. 16 of 2017

Motion No. 6: **Moved Resolution No. 321 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Loughran

Discussion: None

Motion No. 7: **Moved TO POSTPONE Resolution No. 321**
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Loughran

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Donaldson, Lopez, Loughran, R. Parete, Roberts & Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution is POSTPONED**

Resolution No. 341: Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 7 Of 2017, Establishing The Ulster County Electrical Licensing Board And Providing For The Qualifications, Examination, Licensing And Regulation Of Electricians In Ulster County, New York, To Be Held On Tuesday, October 10, 2017 At 6:10 PM

Resolution Summary: This resolution sets a Public Hearing on Tuesday, October 10 at 6:10 PM for the purpose of hearing public comment on Proposed Local Law No. 7 of 2017.

Motion No. 8: Moved Resolution No 341 FOR DISCUSSION

Motion By: Legislator Ronk

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Loughran

Discussion:

Legislator Donaldson commented that he was not pleased with the way the proposed law was introduced. He said that he was not aware of local electricians, unions, the Chamber of Commerce or others being consulted before the law was introduced. He added that there is a license requirement in the City of Kingston and the qualifying criteria is incredible. Legislator Lopez asked if all the work of electricians is required to be inspected. He added that he would be more concerned about homeowners doing their own electrical work. Legislator R. Parete echoed Legislator Lopez's comments that electrical work is inspected and he felt that guaranteed the safety of the work. Chairman Ronk agreed and stated that the law was an unnecessary additional level of government that could be seen as a money grab. He stated that he would like to see a reciprocity clause in the law.

Legislator Lopez asked if there was a database or other record of the number of electrical hazards or fires that resulted from work completed by someone who was not licensed. The members agreed it was a good question and doubted a database existed. Legislator R. Parete asked what the justification was that the law was needed.

Motion No. 9: Moved to ADOPT Resolution No. 341

Motion By: Legislator Loughran

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislator Loughran

Voting Against: Legislators Donaldson, Lopez, Roberts, R. Parete & Ronk

Votes in Favor: 1

Votes Against: 5

Disposition: Resolution is DEFEATED

Resolution No. 371: Authorizing The Formation Of The Ulster County Human Rights Task Force

Resolution Summary: This resolution creates the Ulster County Human Rights Task Force which will consist of eight members appointed by the Chairman of the Legislature.

Motion No. 10: Moved to Resolution No. 371 FOR DISCUSSION
Motion By: Legislator R. Parete
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion:

Chairman Ronk said that he felt the issue of Human Rights should extend beyond a discussion of one group as has been the case over the past 14 months. He added that an independent group of stakeholders should be asked to evaluate whether a change is need to the Human Rights Commission. Legislator Donaldson commented that he would prefer to see complaints handled locally to ensure timely resolution. He added that he felts the current Human Rights Commission is probably the best group that has ever existed and complimented their work. Legislator Loughran stated that he would like to see participation from the state.

Motion No. 11: Moved to ADOPT Resolution No. 371
Motion By: Legislator R. Parete
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Donaldson, Lopez, Loughran, R. Parete, Roberts & Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution is ADOPTED

Resolution No. 373: Amending The Rules Of Order In Relation Appointing Authority Of Legislative Staff

Resolution Summary: This resolution amends the Rules of Order of the Legislature to empower the Clerk of the Legislature to make legislative staff appointments, except for the position of Confidential Secretary to the Chairman.

Motion No. 12: Moved Resolution No. 373 FOR DISCUSSION
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Loughran

Discussion:

Chairman Ronk stated that this was something he has been thinking about for a ong time and prior to becoming Chairman. He said the idea came up during Charter Revision conversations. He added that the staff of the Legislature works for the whole Legislature and now that the Clerk of the Legislature serves a two-year term she should have the authority over the staff. He complimented the staff and the nonpartisan way they conduct themselves. He said it was his intention to have the law passed before the November elections.

Legislator Donaldson commented that he suggested and supported changing the appointment of the Clerk from the Chairman's appointment to an appointment by the full body. He added that he recognized the value of continuity of staff. The members discussed making positions by contract or civil service.

Motion No. 13: **Moved to ADOPT Resolution No. 373**
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Loughran

Discussion:

Voting In Favor: Legislators Donaldson, Lopez, Loughran, R. Parete, Roberts & Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution is ADOPTED**

Chairman Roberts asked if there was any new or old business. Chairman Ronk advised the members that a Charter Revision Commission meeting would be taking place before the end of the month to resolve the authority to have a permissive referendum on redistricting lines. The members reviewed the makeup of the commission and complimented the process used to draw the district lines the last time.

Chairman Roberts asked if there was any other business, hearing none.

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Loughran
No. of Votes in Favor: 6
No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 7:27 PM

Respectfully submitted: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
Minutes Approved: October 16, 2017