

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

JOHN R. PARETE, Chairman
DAVID B. DONALDSON, Vice Chairman
DONALD J. GREGORIUS, Majority Leader
KENNETH J. RONK, JR., Minority Leader
VICTORIA A. FABELLA, Clerk



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MINUTES

AUGUST 12, 2015

PUBLIC HEARINGS

6:00 PM

FIRST PUBLIC HEARING CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN: 6:26 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: Led by Chairman John R. Parete

MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRE EVACUATION PLAN

PLEASE NOTE THAT IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT HAS REQUESTED THAT LEGISLATORS AND ALL OTHERS MOVE AT LEAST ONE BLOCK AWAY FROM THE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING IN ORDER NOT TO IMPEDE THE FIREFIGHTERS IN THEIR DUTIES

CELL PHONES

Please silence cell phones and refrain from texting for the duration of the Public Hearings.

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ROLL CALL: Present: 20 Absent: 3 (Fabiano, Roberts, Wawro)

6:28 PM - CALL OF THE 1ST PUBLIC HEARING BY CLERK: Proposed Local Law No. 7 of 2015, (A Local Law Amending The Ulster County Charter, (Local Law No. 2 Of 2006), And Amending The Administrative Code For The County Of Ulster, (Local Law No. 10 Of 2008), To Modify The Term Of The Chairman And The Clerk Of The Legislature)

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no speakers signed up for public comment.

Minority Leader Ronk motioned, seconded by Majority Whip Briggs to adjourn.

PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED: 6:28 PM

6:28 PM - CALL OF THE 2ND PUBLIC HEARING BY CLERK: Proposed Local Law No. 10 of 2015 (A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 5 of 2015, A Local Law Establishing An Automatic Re-Canvassing Procedure In And For The County Of Ulster, State Of New York)

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no speakers signed up for public comment.

Minority Leader Ronk motioned, seconded by Legislator Briggs to adjourn.

PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED: 6:28 PM

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6:29 PM - CALL OF THE 3RD PUBLIC HEARING BY CLERK: Amended 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

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no speakers signed up for public comment.

Minority Leader Ronk motioned, seconded by Legislator Briggs to adjourn.

PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED: 6:29 PM

6:30 PM - CALL OF THE 4TH PUBLIC HEARING BY CLERK: Proposed Local Law No. 11 of 2015 (A Local Law Establishing The Ulster County Animal Abuse Registry)

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were (9) speakers signed up for public comment, however (2) speakers selected not to speak when called upon.

1. Merle Borenstein: Ms. Borenstein spoke in support of Proposed Local Law Nos. 11 & 12 of 2015. Ms. Borenstein noted 71% of battered women will not leave their home out of concern/fear of abuse for their animals.
2. Ira H. Margolis: Mr. Margolis also spoke in favor of Proposed Local Law Nos. 11 & 12 of 2015. Mr. Margolis shared compassion as an animal lover / companion - especially at this time in his life.
3. Dr. Kevin Smith: Dr. Smith signed up for public comment however was not present when called upon.
4. Lucy Muller: Ms. Muller writes a pet column for the Shawangunk Journal in Ellenville. Ms. Muller spoke in favor of Proposed Local Law No. 11 of 2015. She expressed when people are released from prison the public has the right to know who and where they are. Ms. Muller thanked the Legislative sponsors of the resolution.
5. Donna Rosnberg: Ms. Rosnberg chose not to speak when called upon.

6. Gina Carbonari: Ms. Carbonari is a board member for the Ulster County SPCA and a certified canine training and behavioral specialist. Ms. Carbonari spoke in support of Proposed Local Law Nos. 11 & 12 of 2015. Ms. Carbonari equated animal feelings to human feelings, both physically and cognitively. It takes time for an animal to heal when exposed to abuse and neglect.
7. Adam Saunders: Mr. Saunders is currently the Executive Director of the Ulster County SPCA who spoke in favor of Proposed Local Law Nos. 11 & 12 of 2015. These laws will allow greater exposure/teeth, to defend and protect animals from abuse. Mr. Saunders noted his past experience dealing with domestic and animal abuse as a law investigator.
8. Jean C. Jacobs: Ms. Jacobs is a lifelong resident born and raised in Kingston, NY. Ms. Jacobs has been a community animal activist for over 35 years noting family is the root of the learning process when caring for and respecting animals.
9. Julie Dunham: Ms. Dunham came before the committee as an animal lover and taxpayer who spoke in support of Proposed Local Law Nos. 11 & 12 of 2015. Ms. Dunham treats her animals as children/family and grieves when they are gone.

Minority Leader Ronk motioned, seconded by Legislator Briggs to adjourn.

PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED: 6:47 PM

Please Note: Complete content of the public comment period can be heard on the Ulster County Legislative website.

6:47 PM - CALL OF THE 5TH PUBLIC HEARING BY CLERK: Proposed Local Law No. 12 of 2015 (A Local Law Of The County Of Ulster For The Regulation Of Pet Sellers)

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were (11) speakers signed up for public comment, however (4) speakers selected not to speak when called upon.

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1. Merle Borenstein: Ms. Borenstein reiterated her support for both Proposed Local Law Nos. 11 & 12 of 2015, and stating the inspection of resident's homes will expose bad breeders and abusers who breed animals to fight.
2. Libby Post: Ms. Post is the Executive Director of the New York State Animal Protection Federation. The Federation represents all the humane societies, spca's, municipal and non-profit animal shelters, and numbers of animal welfare organizations throughout the state. Ms. Post spoke in support of Proposed Local Law No. 12 of 2015, noting this is exactly the outcome her organization was hoping for when Governor Cuomo signed a bill into law in 2013, allowing lower level governments the authority to put in place laws controlling and protecting the rights of animals. Ms. Post noted Ulster County would be the 4th county to create such legislation.
3. Lucy Muller: Ms. Muller again spoke in support of Proposed Local Law No. 12 of 2015 and asked the Legislature for their support.
4. Tom Delaney, Saugerties: Mr. Delaney formerly President of the Samoyed Club of America and Delegate to the American Kennel Club. He currently is President of the Shawangunk Kennel Club who fully supports the intent of the proposed local law, however very concerned it doesn't exclude residential breeders, and in fact feels it will put them out of business. Mr. Delaney actively shows his dogs – competing in the Westminster and AKC dog shows. Mr. Delaney went on to say it will take the people who are focused on making the highest quality animal and put them out of business. Mr. Delaney noted the law as proposed will create a tremendous and undue burden on small residential breeders who plan each litter carefully with the intent to provide the highest quality show dogs and pets to the public. He expressed SPCA's should be held to the same standards. Mr. Delaney is deeply concerned having inspections by non-government officials allowed in his home. Mr. Delaney for the record provided the Clerk with detailed literature on residential breeding.
5. Beverly Delay: Ms. Delay chose not to speak when not called upon.
6. Lynda Doughty, SKC Member: Ms. Doughty chose not to speak when not called upon.
7. Lori Curran, Saugerties: Ms. Curran chose not to speak when not called upon.
8. Gina Carbonari: Ms. Carbonari chose not to speak when not called upon.
9. Jean C. Jacobs: Ms. Jacobs again spoke supporting local control and enforcement to protect children and animals.

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10. Brian Shapiro: Mr. Shapiro is a past Ulster County Legislator and current New York State Director for the Humane Society of the United States who participated in the creation of this legislation. This legislation being a main stream effort is well written and crafted, and he fully supports its passage. The USDA and the Department of Ag and Markets can't possibly regulate local pet dealers. Mr. Shapiro thanked the sponsors of this legislation for bringing it forward.

11. Jolie Durham: Ms. Durham yielded her time to the first speaker, Merle Borenstein.

Minority Leader Ronk motioned, seconded by Legislator Litts to adjourn.

Please Note: Complete content of the public comment period can be heard on the Ulster County Legislative website.

PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED: 7:07 PM

NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Meeting of the Ulster County Legislature will be held next **Tuesday, August 18, 2015 at 7:00 PM** in the Legislative Chambers, Sixth Floor, Ulster County Office Building, 244 Fair Street, Kingston, New York.