

## Ulster County Charter Revision Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

**Date/Time:** March 9, 2023 at 5:00 PM

**Location:** Ulster County Legislative Chambers  
244 Fair Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Kingston, New York 12401

**Present:** Kathleen Mihm (Chairperson)  
David Donaldson\*  
Thomas Kadgen\*\*  
Scott McCarthy  
Shannon Harris  
Fawn Tantillo  
D. Mici Simonofsky  
Brian Woltman  
LeShawn Parker

*\* via videoconference with a physical address of 1250 Penbrook Club Dr.,  
Venice, FL 34285*

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

**Absent** Hector Rodriguez  
Frank Cardinale

**Quorum:** Yes

**Other Attendees:** Christopher Kelley, Deputy County Executive  
March Gallagher, Comptroller  
Alicia DeMarco, Deputy Comptroller  
Tyrone Wilson, Commissioner, Ulster County Human Rights Commission  
Kathleen Harrison, Human Rights Commission  
Mike Baden, Supervisor, Town of Rochester  
Tim Rogers, Mayor, Village of New Paltz  
James Quigley, Supervisor, Town of Ulster  
Melinda McKnight, Supervisor, Town of Hurley  
Patricia Doxsey, Daily Freeman  
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 5:01 PM.

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**Motion No. 1: Motion to Approve the March 2, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Motion made by: Commission Member Fawn Tantillo

Seconded by: Commission Member Scott McCarthy

Discussion: None.

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

Voting against: None

**Disposition: Motion No. 1 passed 9-0.**

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**Public Comment:** None

Chair Mihm recognized Mike Baden, Town of Rochester Supervisor, who made a PowerPoint presentation on behalf of the Ulster County Association of Town Supervisors and Mayors which proposed amending Article II of the Charter to revert to a County Board of Supervisors. James Quigley, Town of Ulster Supervisor, and Tim Rogers, Village of New Paltz Mayor, both spoke in favor of the proposal.

Commission Members Simonofsky and Woltman questioned the presenters about the proposal. Commission Member Donaldson expressed concerns about the proposal and took the position that the Commission should not pursue it. Commission Member Tantillo expressed concerns about the proposal and took the position that the proposal is beyond the scope of the Commission. Commission Member Harris took the position that the Commission should explore the proposal further.

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**Motion No. 2: Motion to Create a Subcommittee to Consider the Proposal to Revert to a County Board of Supervisors**

Motion made by: Commission Member Shannon Harris

Seconded by: Commission Member Scott McCarthy

Discussion: Commission Members McCarthy and Simonofsky requested to serve on the subcommittee. Commission Member Tantillo expressed concerns about timing. Commission Members discussed issuing a report to the Legislature in May and continuing to meet and consider the Board of Supervisors proposal until September. Commission Member Kadgen noted that the Charter states that once the report is issued, the Commission is dissolved. Assistant County Attorney Williams advised the Commission that once the report is issued, the Commission is dissolved. Chair Mihm stated that if the Commission submits a report to the Legislature in May,

then the Commission is done. Commission Member Harris withdrew the motion pending clarity on the meaning of the Charter.

**Disposition: WITHDRAWN**

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Chair Mihm recognized Deputy County Executive Chris Kelly who spoke (1) to withdraw the County Executive's support of the proposal to raise the legislative contract amount to \$100,000, and (2) in support of the Comptroller's proposal regarding departmental estimates.

Chair Mihm recognized Comptroller March Gallagher who spoke in support of her proposal on departmental estimates (Sections C-6 and C-33 of the Charter).

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**Motion No. 3: Motion to Accept Comptroller's Proposed Changes to Sections C-6 and C-33 of the Charter relating to Departmental Estimates**

Motion made by: Commission Member Scott McCarthy

Seconded by: Commission Member Dave Donaldson

Discussion: None.

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

Voting against: None

**Disposition: Motion No. 3 passed 9-0.**

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Commission Member Tom Kadgen spoke in support of his proposal to add a residency requirement to Section C-23 of the Charter relating to the County Executive. Commission Members Tantillo and Woltman expressed concerns about its legality. The Commission requested an opinion from the County Attorney's Office.

Chair Mihm recognized Tyrone Wilson, Human Rights Commissioner, who expressed concerns about the Charter sections relating to the Human Rights Commission and its Commissioner. Chair Mihm requested that Commissioner Wilson submit his proposed Charter revisions to the Commission. Commission Member Tantillo requested that the County Executive's Office also weighs in.

The Commission reviewed and discussed the Matrix and Charter Sections C-41 through C-52.

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**Motion No. 4: Motion to Accept Proposed Revision to Section C-50**

Motion made by: Commission Member Scott McCarthy  
Seconded by: Commission Member Dave Donaldson  
Discussion: None.  
Voting in favor: Commission Members Mihm (Chair), Simonofsky, Woltman, Kadgen, McCarthy, Donaldson, Tantillo, Parker, Harris  
Voting against: None

**Disposition: Motion No. 4 passed 9-0.**

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Commission Member Harris read aloud Section C-52 and spoke in support of strengthening the County’s Comprehensive Plan. Commission Member Harris requested that the Commission send a memo to the Planning Department regarding the Comprehensive Plan.

Commission Member Shannon Harris left the meeting at 6:47 pm.

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**Motion No. 5: Motion to Adjourn the Meeting**

Motion made by: Commission Member Mici Simonofsky  
Seconded by: Commission Member Brian Woltman  
Discussion: None.  
Voting in favor: Commission Members Mihm (Chair), Simonofsky, Woltman, Kadgen, McCarthy, Donaldson, Tantillo, Parker  
Voting against: None

**Disposition: Motion No. 5 passed 8-0.**

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Meeting adjourned at 6:47 PM.  
Meeting minutes prepared by Assistant County Attorney Dante De Leo