

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

**DATE & TIME:** April 14, 2022 – 5:30 PM  
**LOCATION:** Powered by Zoom Meetings, Meeting ID: 890 5691 8410  
By Phone (646) 558-8656  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Chairman Heppner  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk  
**PRESENT:** Legislators Gavaris, Levine, Roberts, & Ronk (left 5:36 PM)  
**ABSENT:** None  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislative Counsel Ragucci, Minority Counsel Pascale, Commissioners Dittus & Quigley – Board of Elections

Chairman Heppner called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM

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**Motion No. 1:** **Moved to APPROVE Minutes of the March 10<sup>th</sup> Regular and March 16<sup>th</sup> Special Meetings**

**Motion By:** Legislator Ronk  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Roberts

**Discussion:** See transcript

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Gavaris, Heppner, Levine, Roberts & Ronk  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 5  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Minutes APPROVED**

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Resolutions for the April 19, 2022 Session of the Legislature

**Resolution No. 14:** Authorizing The Termination Of A Lease Agreement With CPR Kingston, LLC Bank For Space Used By The Board Of Elections

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution authorizes the Chair to mail written notice of termination of the lease agreement with CPR Kingston, LLC effective April 30, 2022 for office space currently occupied by the Board of Elections located at 284 Wall Street, Kingston.

**Motion No. 2:** **MOTION TO POSTPONE Resolution No. 14**  
**Motion By:** Legislator Ronk  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Roberts

**Discussion:** See transcript

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Gavaris, Heppner, Levine, Roberts & Ronk  
**Voting Against:** None

**Votes in Favor:** 5  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution POSTPONED**

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**Resolution No. 195:** Reappointing – Commissioner Of Elections

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution reappoints Ashley Dittus to the position of Board of Elections Commissioner for a term to commence January 1, 2023 and terminating on December 31, 2024

**Resolution No. 196:** Reappointing – Commissioner Of Elections

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution reappoints John Quigley to the position of Board of Elections Commissioner for a term to commence January 1, 2023 and terminating on December 31, 2024

**Motion No. 3:** **MOVED TO BLOCK Resolution Nos. 195 & 196**  
**Motion By:** Legislator Ronk  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Roberts

**Discussion:** See transcript

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Gavaris, Heppner, Levine, Roberts & Ronk  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 5  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolutions BLOCKED**

**Discussion:** See transcript

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Gavaris, Heppner, Levine, Roberts & Ronk  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 5  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolutions ADOPTED**

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**Resolution No. 197:** Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Sign Agreements With Various School Districts In Ulster County For The Use Of Polling Equipment And Material – Ulster County Board Of Elections

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution authorizes the Chair to sign agreements with the Highland, Kingston, Onteora, New Paltz, Marlborough, Rondout & Saugerties School Districts for use of polling equipment and election materials for their May 17<sup>th</sup> elections at a total estimated revenue of \$12,063.

**Motion No. 5:** **Resolution No. 197 MOVED FOR DISCUSSION**  
**Motion By:** Legislator Ronk  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Roberts

**Discussion:** See transcript

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Gavaris, Heppner, Levine, Roberts & Ronk  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 5  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution ADOPTED**

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**Resolution No. 198:** Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 5 Of 2022, A Local Law Amending Various Sections Of The Ulster County Charter And Ulster County Administrative Code To Reduce The Ulster County Legislature To 17 Members, To Be Held On Tuesday, May 17, 2022 At 7:15 PM

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution sets a public hearing on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 7:15 PM to provide members of the public the opportunity to offer comments on Proposed Local Law No. 5 of 2022.

**Motion No. 6:** **MOTION TO POSTPONE Resolution No. 198**  
**Motion By:** Legislator Ronk  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Gavaris

**Discussion:** See transcript

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Gavaris, Heppner, Levine, Roberts & Ronk  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 5  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution ADOPTED**

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**Resolution No. 199:** Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 6 Of 2022, A Local Law Amending Section C-101 B. Of The Ulster County Charter, Section A30-2 B. Of The Ulster County Administrative Code, And Section 216-5 Of The Code Of The County Of Ulster In Relation To Appointments To The Commission Of Human Rights, To Be Held On Tuesday, May 17, 2022 At 7:20 PM

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution sets a public hearing on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 7:20 PM to provide members of the public the opportunity to offer comments on Proposed Local Law No. 6 of 2022.

**Motion No. 7:** **Resolution No. 199 MOVED FOR DISCUSSION**  
**Motion By:** Legislator Roberts  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Gavaris

**Discussion:** See transcript

**Motion No. 8:** **MOTION TO POSTPONE Resolution No. 199**  
**Motion By:** Legislator Heppner  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Roberts

**Discussion:** See transcript

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Gavaris, Heppner, Levine & Roberts  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 4  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution POSTPONED**

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**Resolution No. 202:** Designating June 19th As “Juneteenth,” An Annual Public Holiday

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution designates June 19<sup>th</sup> of each year as “Juneteenth” in Ulster County and further provides that it will be an annual holiday for Ulster County employees.

**Motion No. 9:** **Resolution No. 202 MOVED FOR DISCUSSION**  
**Motion By:** Legislator Roberts  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Gavaris

**Discussion:** See transcript

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Gavaris, Heppner, Levine & Roberts  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 4  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution ADOPTED**

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Chairman Heppner moved on to the Forthcoming Local Laws portion of the agenda and advised the members of the three resolutions that were held in other committees.

He reminded the members that the public hearing for Proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2022 – Ethics Law was being held immediately proceeding next week’s Legislative Session.

See transcript.

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Chairman Heppner asked if there was any old or new business. See transcript.

### **Adjournment**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Levine  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Roberts

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 4  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**TIME:** 5:40 PM

**Respectfully submitted:** Deputy Clerk Mahler  
**Minutes Approved:** May 12, 2022

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Regular Meeting Transcript**

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**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Chairman Heppner  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Deputy Clerk Mahler, Deputy Clerk  
**PRESENT:** Legislators Gavaris, Levine, Roberts, & Ronk (left 5:36 PM)  
**ABSENT:** None  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislative Counsel Ragucci, Minority Counsel Pascale, Commissioners Dittus & Quigley – Board of Elections

Chairman Heppner called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM

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**Chairman Heppner**

I'd like to call the April 14 2022 meeting of the Laws, Rules and Government Services Committee. Clerk Mahler, can you please take attendance?

**Deputy Clerk Mahler**

Chair Heppner

**Chairman Heppner**

Here

**Deputy Clerk Mahler**

Deputy Chair Roberts

**Legislator Roberts**

Here

**Deputy Clerk Mahler**

Legislator Gavaris

**Legislator Gavaris**

Present

**Deputy Clerk Mahler**

Legislator Levine

**Legislator Levine**

Here

**Deputy Clerk Mahler**

and Legislator Ronk

**Legislator Ronk**

Present.

**Deputy Clerk Mahler**

You have five members present, zero absent.

**Chairman Heppner**

Thank you and can I get a motion for approval of the March 10th Regular and March 16th Special meeting minutes?

**Legislator Ronk**

So moved

**Legislator Roberts**

Second.

**Chairman Heppner**

All in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye

**Chairman Heppner**

Thank you. With that we'll move into the resolutions. Starting with resolution number 14 authorizing the termination of a lease agreement with CPR Kingston LLC bank for space used by the board of elections.

**Legislator Ronk**

I'll move that we postpone it for a month but I'd like my name added to it please.

**Legislator Gavaris**

Second for postponement

**Chairman Heppner**

On the postponement. All in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye

**Chairman Heppner**

Motion is postponed. Resolution number 195 reappointing Ashley Dittus as Commissioner of Elections

**Legislator Ronk**

I move we take 195 and 196 as a block.

**Chairman Heppner**

Can I get a second on the block.

**Legislator Roberts**

Second

**Legislator Ronk**

All in favor of the block.

**Committee Members**

Aye

**Chairman Heppner**

The resolutions as blocked for both Commissioner Dittus' and Quigley's reappointment to the board of elections.  
All in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye.

**Chairman Heppner**

So carried. Resolution number 197 authorizing the chair of the Ulster County legislature to sign agreements with various school districts in Ulster County for the use of polling equipment and material through the Ulster County Board of Elections.

**Legislator Ronk**

I'll move it

**Chairman Heppner**

Second

**Legislator Roberts**

I'll second it.

**Chairman Heppner**

On the resolution, any comments or discussion or questions for the commissioners while we have them?

**Legislator Roberts**

You know, Jay had brought up to me, I'm sorry for interrupting, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman Heppner**

No, please go ahead

**Legislator Roberts**

That Wallkill was not part of this, any reason why?

**Legislator Ronk**

I believe that they choose not to be

**Commissioner Dittus**

Orange County does their elections. So they use orange county board of elections.

**Legislator Roberts**

Thank you.

**Commissioner Dittus**

Yep

**Chairman Heppner**

Any further discussion? On the resolution, all in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye.

**Chairman Heppner**

Any opposed. So moved. Resolution number 198 Setting a public hearing on proposed local law number five a local law amending various sections of the Ulster County Charter and Ulster County Administrative Code to reduce the Ulster County Legislature to 17 members to be held on Tuesday, May 17th at 7:15. Can I have a motion for discussion.

**Legislator Ronk**

I make a motion that we postpone.

**Chairman Heppner**

Yep. I mean, I didn't get, wasn't able to get back to him right before the meeting. But I did get a voicemail from Legislator Maloney, who understood that this would be postponed, so move right ahead with that. Second on the postponement

**Legislator Gavaris**

I'll second it

**Chairman Heppner**

Seconded by Legislator Gavaris, all in favor of the postponement



**Committee Members**

Aye

**Legislator Ronk**

I have to, I have to be going that, they're playing my song down at the ambulance corps

**Chairman Heppner**

Good luck. Be safe.

**Legislator Ronk**

Thank you.

**Chairman Heppner**

Alright, moving right along to resolution 199 Setting a public hearing on proposed local law number six, a local law amending section C 101-B of the Ulster County charter section A30-2 B of the Ulster County Administrative Code and section 216.-5 of the Code of the County of Ulster in relation to appointments to the Commission of Human Rights to be held on Tuesday, May 17. I don't, can I get a motion for discussion.

**Legislator Roberts**

I'll make that Jonathan.

**Chairman Heppner**

Can I get a second. I don't see Legislator Petit here. I know Legislator Erner is still away dealing with the unfortunate passing of his father. So I'll make a motion that we postpone this for when they're able to come have a further discussion with the committee. If that sounds alright.

**Legislator Roberts**

Second.

**Chairman Heppner**

All in favor of the postponement

**Committee Members**

Aye.

**Chairman Heppner**

Opposed. All right, moving on to resolution number 202. Designating June 19 as Juneteenth an annual public holiday that will follow suit with the federal and state holiday. Can I have a motion?

**Legislator Roberts**

I'll make that

**Legislator Gavaris**

Second

**Chairman Heppner**

Legislator Levine

**Legislator Levine**

Yes. Thank, Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just had a technical question in terms of how this would, differentiates from the resolution that we adopted at I think it was the our Tuesday or excuse me, our, our February Legislative session, declaring Juneteenth a holiday. I just wanted to know what the differentiation on this was.

**Legislator Ronk**

Was there such a resolution? Because it, my first time hearing about it was at this month's chair's meeting.

**Legislator Levine**

Was it not carried by Legislator Criswell?

**Legislator Ronk**

No, that was related to Sojourner Truth.

**Legislator Levine**

Oh, excuse me. Yes. My apologies. Thank you.

**Chairman Heppner**

Okay, all in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye.

**Chairman Heppner**

Opposed? Seeing no further resolutions, just please do take note of the forthcoming resolutions and local laws where no action was taken in other previous committees. There's three resolutions noted. And the only additional old business I have is just to remind folks that the public hearing for proposed local law number two, the ethics law is set to be held on session night, April 19. And as of now session is being held in person, livestreamed as always, and the call in studio option for the public hearing and for the public comment periods will again be offered. Any other new or old business from the committee? Seeing none, I'll take a motion to adjourn.

**Legislator Levine**

I'll make the motion.

**Legislator Roberts**

Second that

**Chairman Heppner**

All in favor of a adjournment.

**Committee Members**

Aye

**Chairman Heppner**

Thank you. It's been a pleasure.

**Legislator Roberts**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Legislator Levine**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.