



NAME

12-16-220 UCIDA Board Meeting part one <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jO9-zLE4cOM>

DATE

May 4, 2021

DURATION

10m 5s

7 SPEAKERS

James Malcolm
Dave Donaldson
Rose Woodworth
Richard Jones
Faye Storms
All
Daniel Savona

START OF TRANSCRIPT

[00:00:00] James Malcolm

Job opportunities, general prosperity and long term economic vitality of Ulster County residents by targeting tax incentives, bonding and other assistance to force the creation and attraction of new business and the retention expansion of existing businesses. OK. Before I get into the meat of the order here, I am going to, I'm going to take a hop out of the normal agenda and as a courtesy and based on time, I'd like to give the chair of our legislature, Dave Donaldson, an opportunity, had a couple of comments and he's pressed for time. So, Mr. Chairman, if you would.

[00:00:37] Dave Donaldson

Well, thank you, Malcolm, I appreciate that (inaudable). You can hear me, I'm all right.

[00:00:45] Rose Woodworth

You're good.

[00:00:46] Dave Donaldson

OK, very good. I thank you for allowing me to speak and I thank all of you for the service that you do for the county. As you know, you are appointed by the legislative body, but we appoint you because we want independence. And that's basically what it is and that's what you do. Anyway, I have a point of information. I do want to say a little bit about the Kingstonian. I am a lifelong resident of the city of Kingston. I might have ran away a couple of times, but I always came back. I just turned 70 on Friday. And I've seen a number of things happening in this city and many of them are wonderful, some not so wonderful, shall we say. But anyway, this is the third attempt at doing something in that area, that piece of property and the other two attempts fell through. This is the first attempt being done by local developers. And as you know, the mayor requested we went out to request for proposals for something to be done in that property, particularly for parking means. And it came back the Kingstonian by a local developer, someone that I've known for quite a while, that's done a great deal of wonderful things for the City of Kingston. And in fact, the last very major thing that was done in the City of Kingston was the plaza in Kingston. And I think that was back in the early 80s and that changed somewhat shopping for the City of Kingston. Anyway, the mayor put out this proposal and they the council had it for about two months. They went back and forth. They ended up making some slight changes that they wanted and then they passed it unanimously and then went before the legislature. And we had it for just about two months or more, actually. And then the executive decided to bring in an independent analysis, and that independent analysis came up with certain ideas and they felt that they were going to make an adjustment to the IDA's a PILOT was made with your assistance. The school board then was given this and won one or two of the members and spoke out basically against the Kingstonian and very early before they even seen any proposals. And the one member was also involved in a citizen group that has been fighting any kind of development anywhere. And unless it wins, unless it's affordable housing. And the problem here, of course, is that only one quarter of the school board actually listened to what this development was going to deliver. The others were all through heresy or a little bit of reading here or there. And then they voted against it to say six to three vote against it. I find that, you know, I don't know if I want to say interesting, but I find it troublesome in that, you know, I could not imagine as the chairman of the legislature, me expecting one quarter or less of my members to get a real understanding of a project and then expecting them to vote on it. Anybody knows the county legislature, we deliberate and then we deliberate a little more and then we deliberate a little more. And if that's not enough, we'll have some more questions. We work in slow, mysterious ways sometimes. But the legislature did pass it. It was a, I believe, votes of 17 to 6. And, you know, a lot of it was the people that voted against it typically vote against PILOTS in general. I typically have a problem with PILOTS, but on the other hand, that's the way we do business in New York and in other places, for that matter. So what I just want to impress upon everyone that I mean, I support this project and I support it because I think it will be transformative for the City of Kingston something that it needs, something transformative. (inaudible). People turn around and say to me, oh, it is changing. It's going to be you know, they're going to put something up there anyway. I don't know how many times I've heard that in my 70 years. I've heard that again and again and again and again. This is something that I believe will be transformative for the City of Kingston in a very positive way. And so therefore, that's what I want to do, speak about. I did have a conversation with the minority leader yesterday, and he whole heartedly supports this project also. So I and of course, as you know, the county executive does. So I would applaud the IDA. I think, you know, I believe that you should deliberate and make those decisions. But the very purpose of the legislative body chose each and every one of these members that are on your IDA is we expect you to be independent. They expect you to weigh the facts and make a decision. And I really I do understand why you want input from the taxing jurisdictions. It makes sense to get input from them. And that's about. But having said that, I think it's still the decision and you need to make.

[00:06:56] James Malcolm

Well, thank you, Mr. Chair. I mean, it's always it's always nice to get some input from, kind of like an unofficial checks and balances. And we would be foolish if we didn't sit and listen to all the taxing jurisdictions and positions on things, because there's nothing better than a clear pair of eyes. I want to thank you for taking the time this morning, as I've told you, and maybe fifteen hundred other people who've asked me what's going to happen here. What we're going to do as a group is we're going to sit down and take a look at all our options and where we're at and with good discussion with council and our very competent CEO. We're going to, we'll be able to shed more light on it in the coming months. So, again, thank you for reinforcing your support for this group. That means a lot. And I don't know, does anyone else have anything else? But I don't want to debate this whole thing right now. I'm telling you that this is not what this is for. Anyone? Thank you, sir.

[00:08:06] Dave Donaldson

Thank you and I have to go back to my grandchildren with their in school zoom or whatever they call it, but I have a five and seven year old so that sometimes I'd rather stick needles in my eyes. But that's OK. Thank you very much, James, and I appreciate it.

[00:08:25] James Malcolm

Thank you, sir. Enjoy your holiday.

[00:08:27] Dave Donaldson

Thank you.

[00:08:28] James Malcolm

OK, we'll get back on track here. You all have a copy of the minutes from our November meeting. Would you take a minute to minutes whatever to review them if you haven't, and then I'll ask for a concurrence to pass them as presented or if there were any potential changes.

[00:09:13] Richard Jones

Chair, I'll make a motion to approve the minutes as contained (inaudible).

[00:09:18] James Malcolm

I have a motion by Rick James to accept Rick Jones, to accept this as presented to have a second?

[00:09:24] Faye Storms

I'll second.

[00:09:24] James Malcolm

Thank you Faye. Anyone on the question. All those in favor.

[00:09:30] All

Aye.

[00:09:32] James Malcolm

Opposed. Thank you. At this time, we're going to go into executive session for approximately 30 minutes. And what do we normally say before we go in Rose?

[00:09:43] Rose Woodworth

So we'll need a motion to go in. But the but it's for the advice of counsel for this one.

[00:09:48] James Malcolm

So I need a motion for concurrence with that motion.

[00:09:52] Daniel Savona

I'll make a motion.

[00:09:52] James Malcolm

OK, can I have a second.

[00:09:56] Richard Jones

I'll Second.

[00:09:57] James Malcolm

Thank you, Rick. All those in favor.

[00:10:01] All

Aye.

[00:10:02] James Malcolm

Carried. Thank you.

[00:10:03] Rose Woodworth

So anybody joining?

END OF TRANSCRIPT



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