

**BOROUGH OF BUENA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
AGENDA
FEBRUARY 24, 2025
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MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: _____ **P.M.**
MEETING ADJOURNED: _____ **P.M.**

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE:

<u>Council Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
GIOVINAZZI	_____	_____
ALVAREZ	_____	_____
ADAMS	_____	_____
BARSUGLIA	_____	_____
ANDALORO	_____	_____
DESTEFANO	_____	_____

SUNSHINE LAW: This meeting of February 24, 2025 is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act and notices of this meeting have been provided, via email, to The Press of Atlantic City and The Daily Journal on November 9, 2024 as well as having been posted on the municipal bulletin board and website at www.buenaboro.org

MAYOR'S REPORT: FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS.

MAYOR: I appoint Kerri Belfi as a Member of the Recreation Commission to fill the unexpired term of Cynthia Holland.

MAYOR: I appoint Mary Donato as the Alternate I Member of the Recreation Commission to fill the unexpired term of Kerri Belfi.

MAYOR: PUBLIC COMMENT: OPPORTUNITY FOR ANYONE TO COMMENT WITH A LIMIT OF FIVE (5) MINUTES PER SPEAKER. PLEASE REFER TO THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

PUBLIC COMMENT PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO INFORM THE MAYOR AND GOVERNING BODY ABOUT THEIR VIEWS. THE MAYOR AND GOVERNING BODY PRESCRIBES TO COUNCIL'S BY-LAWS AND THE NEW JERSEY STATUTES ON OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS WHEN ENGAGING DURING PUBLIC COMMENT. AS SUCH, EACH INDIVIDUAL SHALL HAVE A 5 MINUTE LIMIT TO COMMENT; AN INDIVIDUAL CANNOT YIELD TIME TO ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL; AN INDIVIDUAL MAY ONLY APPROACH THE PODIUM ONCE DURING PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ANY ONE TOPIC; VULGAR OR OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE IS PROHIBITED AND MAYOR AND COUNCIL WILL NOT ENGAGE IN DIALOGUE WITH THE PUBLIC DURING THIS TIME. THE GOVERNING BODY MAINTAINS MODEL COURTESY AND RESPECT AND REQUIRES MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO DO THE SAME.

PUBLIC PORTION OF THE MEETING:

MOTION TO OPEN THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE MEETING:

	Council Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
MOTION: _____	GIOVINAZZI					
	ALVAREZ					
SECOND: _____	ADAMS					
	BARSUGLIA					
RCV	ANDALORO					
	DESTEFANO					

Anyone wishing to address Mayor and Council please step forward and state your name for the record.

MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION:

	Council Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
MOTION: _____	GIOVINAZZI					
	ALVAREZ					
SECOND: _____	ADAMS					
	BARSUGLIA					
RCV	ANDALORO					
	DESTEFANO					

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MOTION TO INTRODUCE AND PASS AT FIRST READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 764 **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE NO. 722-2023, ADOPTED ON FEBRUARY 27, 2023, BY THE BOROUGH OF BUENA, IN THE COUNTY OF ATLANTIC, NEW JERSEY, TO AMEND CERTAIN CAPITAL PURCHASES PREVIOUSLY SPECIFIED THEREIN, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE PURCHASE OF A BRUSH FIRE TRUCK FOR THE BOROUGH OF BUENA, ATLANTIC COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

	Council Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
MOTION: _____	GIOVINAZZI					
	ALVAREZ					
SECOND: _____	ADAMS					
	BARSUGLIA					
	ANDALORO					
RCV	DESTEFANO					

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MOTION TO INTRODUCE AND PASS AT FIRST READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 765 **AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF BUENA, COUNTY OF ATLANTIC, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING CERTAIN UNEXPENDED PROCEEDS OF THE SALE OF PREVIOUSLY ISSUED NOTES TO FINANCE THE COST OF AN ADDITIONAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND TAKING RELATED ACTIONS**

	Council Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
MOTION: _____	GIOVINAZZI					
	ALVAREZ					
SECOND: _____	ADAMS					
	BARSUGLIA					
	ANDALORO					
RCV	DESTEFANO					

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CONSENT AGENDA:

Consent Agenda includes items of business which are not controversial and do not require individual discussion. A Motion approving the Consent Agenda is moved, seconded and voted upon as one item by the Borough Council. If any discussion is requested on a Consent Agenda item, it is removed from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda

- **RESOLUTION 52-25** A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF THE APPROVAL OF ATLANTIC CITY ELECTRIC TO INCREASE RATES MORE THAN 17% IN JUNE AND A CALL ON THE NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES TO REJECT THE PROPOSED ADDITIONAL RATE OF 8%
- **RESOLUTION 53-25** A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF JASMINE STRICKLAND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN FROM BUENA EMS
- **RESOLUTION 54-25** A RESOLUTION APPROVING A 2025 EMERGENCY TEMPORARY BUDGET
- **BILLS PAID AS LISTED**
- **CLERK’S REPORT**
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 10, 2025

	Council Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
MOTION: _____	GIOVINAZZI					
	ALVAREZ					
SECOND: _____	ADAMS					
	BARSUGLIA					
	ANDALORO					
RCV	DESTEFANO					

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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

*PLANNING/ZONING/INSPECTIONS.....CHAIRMAN RICHARD GIOVINAZZI,
FRANK DESTEFANO, MAYOR BARUFFI*

*FINANCE/TAX COLLECTOR/ASSESSOR.....CHAIRMAN JORGE ALVAREZ,
DOUGLAS ADAMS, MAYOR BARUFFI*

*PUBLIC SAFETY/STREET LIGHTS.....CHAIRMAN DOUGLAS ADAMS
JORGE ALVAREZ, MAYOR BARUFFI*

*RECREATION.....CHAIRWOMAN MARINA BARSUGLIA,
PATRICIA ANDALORO, MAYOR BARUFFI*

*BLDGS/GROUNDS/IMPROVEMENTS.....CHAIRWOMAN PATRICIA ANDALORO
MARINA BARSUGLIA, MAYOR BARUFFI*

*ROADS/RECYCLING.....CHAIRMAN FRANK DESTEFANO
RICHARD GIOVINAZZI, MAYOR BARUFFI*

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

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NEXT MEETING: SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING 6:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING MARCH 10, 2025 6:30 P.M.

MEETING ADJOURNED: M/ _____ S/ _____ ALL IN FAVOR? ANY OPPOSED?

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RESOLUTION NO. 52-25

A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF THE APPROVAL OF ATLANTIC CITY ELECTRIC TO INCREASE RATES MORE THAN 17% IN JUNE 2025 AND A CALL ON THE NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES TO REJECT THE PROPOSED ADDITIONAL RATE OF 8%

WHEREAS, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJ BPU) approved rate increases for Atlantic City Electric, an Exelon Company, in June 2024 that averaged 4.6%;

WHEREAS, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJ BPU) announced on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 that residential electricity rates for Atlantic City Electric customers will again increase in June by more than 17%;

WHEREAS, Atlantic City Electric, an Exelon Company, has also requested a separate and additional 8% increase to pay for infrastructure upgrades, including investments in smart meters and reliability improvements that is expected to be heard by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJ BPU) in April 2025;

WHEREAS, the significant bill fluctuations and substantial increase in costs directly impacts the residents and businesses in the Borough of Buena; and

WHEREAS, the continuing rise in utility costs at rapid pace strains household budgets for families in the Borough of Buena;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Buena emphasizes the importance of public opposition to these substantial increases in rates by Atlantic City Electric, an Exelon Company, and urges residents and businesses to file a complaint with the NJ BPU via an online complaint form or by calling (800) 624-0241 and to contact the Office of the Governor of New Jersey by calling (609) 292-6000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution shall be sent to Governor Phil Murphy, Senator Vincent J. Polistina, Assemblywoman Claire Swift, Assemblyman Don Guardian, Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson, and the Atlantic County Board of Commissioners.

RESOLUTION NO. 53-25

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF JASMINE STRICKLAND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN FROM BUENA EMS

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Buena that the following resignation be regretfully accepted effective immediately: Jasmine Strickland

RESOLUTION NO. 54-25

BOROUGH OF BUENA 2025 EMERGENCY TEMPORARY BUDGET

WHEREAS, an emergent condition has arisen with respect to providing appropriation for expenditures and no adequate provision has been made in the 2025 temporary appropriations for the aforesaid purpose, and N.J.S. 40A:4-20 provides for the creation of an emergency temporary appropriation for the purpose above mentioned, and

WHEREAS, the total emergency temporary resolutions adopted in the year 2025 pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 96, P.L. 1951 (N.J.S.40A:4-20) including this resolution total **\$1,669,482.76**.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S. 40A:4-20:

1. Emergency temporary appropriations be and the same are hereby made for the attached list of line items.
2. That said emergency temporary appropriations will be provided for in 2025 municipal budget as adopted.
3. That one certified copy of this resolution be filed with the Director of Local Government Services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following appropriations shall constitute the Borough of Buena 2025 Temporary Budget:

General Government:	
Mayor and Council	
Other Expenses	1,000.00
Computer Operations	
Other Expenses	6,000.00
Assessment of Taxes	
Other Expenses	1,200.00
Tax Map	2,000.00
Engineering Services & Costs	
Other Expenses	10,000.00
Unclassified:	
Electric	16,000.00
Heating Fuel/Gas Heat	9,000.00
Street Lighting	25,000.00
Statutory Expenditures:	
PERS	102,513.00
PFRS	7,054.00