

**BOROUGH OF BUENA  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES  
JULY 10, 2023  
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**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 7:03 P.M.  
MEETING ADJOURNED: 7:42 P.M.**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER: FLAG SALUTE**

**ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE:**

<b>Council Member</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
MERIGHI	<b>X</b>	
ALVAREZ		<b>X</b>
ADAMS	<b>X</b>	
BARSUGLIA	<b>X</b>	
ANDALORO	<b>X</b>	
FABRIZIO	<b>X</b>	

**ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE: Acting Clerk Johnston, Solicitor Tonetta, Administrator Coraluzzo, Road Supervisor Nimohay, Engineer Mohnack.**

THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF BUENA WAS HELD MONDAY, JULY 10, 2023, COMMENCING AT 6:30 P.M. AT THE BOROUGH HALL WITH MAYOR ZAPPARIELLO PRESIDING. MAYOR ZAPPARIELLO ANNOUNCED THAT THIS MEETING WAS 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 18, 2022 AS WELL AS BEING POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN BOROUGH HALL

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS.

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

**PUBLIC PORTION OF THE MEETING:**

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; HE/SHE CANNOT YIELD TIME TO ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL; HE/SHE 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 OPENED:**

<b>Council Member</b>	<b>By</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Recuse</b>
MERIGHI			X				
ALVAREZ						X	
ADAMS			X				
BARSUGLIA		X	X				
ANDALORO	X		X				
FABRIZIO			X				

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**No one spoke.**

**PUBLIC PORTION CLOSED:**

<b>Council Member</b>	<b>By</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Recuse</b>
MERIGHI	X		X				
ALVAREZ						X	
ADAMS			X				
BARSUGLIA		X	X				
ANDALORO			X				
FABRIZIO			X				

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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 NO. 120-23 A RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE GRACE PERIOD FOR THE PAYMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAXES IN THE BOROUGH OF BUENA FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2023.
- RESOLUTION NO. 121-23 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING HIRING OF AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS  
Erika Pitzker  
Allen Remley
- RESOLUTION NO. 122-23 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF A PORTION OF CENTRAL AVENUE (CR 627), TO THROUGH TRAFFIC ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2023, FROM 12:00 P.M. TO 1:00 P.M. AND DIRECTING THE BOROUGH OF BUENA RECREATION COMMISSION TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE ATLANTIC COUNTY ENGINEER FOR A PERMIT APPROVING SAID TEMPORARY CLOSURE.
- RESOLUTION NO. 123-23 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BUENA AWARDING A CONTRACT TO DEBLAISO & ASSOCIATES FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS CDBG PROJECT MUNICIPAL BUILDING ADA COMPLIANCE.
- RESOLUTION NO. 124-23 GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL AUDIT
- MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 22, 2023.

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- MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING OF JUNE 12, 2023
- MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 12, 2023
- MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 26, 2023
- MINUTES OF THE CLOSED SESSION MEETING OF JUNE 26, 2023
- BILLS PAID AS LISTED

<b>Council Member</b>	<b>By</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Recuse</b>
MERIGHI			X				
ALVAREZ						X	
ADAMS	X		X				
BARSUGLIA		X	X				
ANDALORO			X				
FABRIZIO			X				

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**ENGINEER' S REPORT :**

Marc DeBlasio, P.E., P.P., C.M.E., Borough Engineer

**Grant Applications**

1. FY2023 NJDCA Local Recreation Improvement Grant (LRIG)
  - Our office completed and submitted the concept site plan and engineer's estimate to the Aubrey Group on January 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - It is our understanding that the Aubrey Group has submitted the grant application to the NJDCA which is currently under review.

**Capital Projects**

1. FY2022 and FY2023 NJDOT Municipal Aid - Reconstruction of E. Flower Street and South Boulevard
  - The Borough has been notified by the NJDOT that \$285,000.00 in FY2022 Grant funds have been awarded for the reconstruction of E. Flower Street, E. Summer Road and South Boulevard.
  - The Borough has been notified by the NJDOT that \$261,640.00 in FY2023 Grant funds have been awarded for the reconstruction of E. Flower Street, E. Summer Road and South Boulevard.
  - Due to the fact that the project costs exceed the combined grant amounts and there appears to be a potential sanitary sewer pipe collapse on E. Summer Road, the Borough has decided to proceed with just South Boulevard and E. Flower Street.
  - The design phase is complete and we have uploaded the contract documents to NJDOT online for project concurrence. We expect an answer in 1-2 weeks and will be ready to advertise for bidding in July.

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**SOLICITOR'S REPORT: (SOLICITOR TONETTA) No additional report.**

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**PERMITS/INSPECTIONS/TAX OFFICES: (CHAIRMAN, DOUGLAS ADAMS)**

Council President Adams reported that the tax collection rate for the Borough is at 96.57%.

**PUBLIC SAFETY/STREET LIGHTS/ANIMAL CONTROL: (CHAIRMAN, DOUGLAS ADAMS)**

Council President Adams read reports from Animal Control, Police, and EMS.

- Adams stated that the Franklinville Police will be hiring a Crossing Guard for the Cleary School, contact [mdecesari@franklintownship.com](mailto:mdecesari@franklintownship.com) for more details.
- National Night out Tuesday, August 1, at 6 p.m. held on Pennsylvania Ave in Franklin Township ending with a fireworks display sponsored by Newfield National Bank.

**FINANCE: (CHAIRMAN, JORGE ALVAREZ) No Report**

**PUBLIC BLDGS/GROUNDS/IMPROVEMENTS: (CHAIRWOMAN PATRICIA ANDALORO)**

Councilwoman Andaloro, reported the road depart is preparing the Joe Dale pavilion area for the upcoming concert events.

- Signs for No Hunting are being added at the Blackwater Pond property.
- Installing swing set in park.
- Shrubs are being removed at 40 and Blvd.

**RECREATION/SPECIAL EVENTS: (CHAIRWOMAN, MARINA BARSUGLIA)**

Councilwoman reported that the concerts are to begin on July 20<sup>th</sup> with the Gene Ianetta Band, Roadhouse on August 17<sup>th</sup>.

- Activities are being planned for the 1<sup>st</sup> Patriot Day Celebration for Sept 10<sup>th</sup> with the Rowan College band performing from 2:30-4:30. More information will follow.
- Brick sales program has been extended thru the month of August.
- Blackwater pond still under construction and park area should be opening in the fall.

**ROADS/RECYCLING: (CHAIRMAN JOSEPH FABRIZIO)**

Councilman Fabrizio reviewed the grants for the areas being completed in the Borough. Fabrizio added that closing season for the softball leagues.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (CHAIRMAN, ERNEST MERIGHI) No Report.**

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Council President Adams stated that a Narcan training will be held at the Senior Center July 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm and training is available to everyone. Also, Adams added that the Cannabis RFP's opening was held and the review committee will be submitting scoresheets on Thursday for a possible recommendation at the next meeting. Solicitor Tonetta reviewed the process timeline.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Councilman Merighi stated that flooding is occurring at Laurel and Flower. A discussion ensued with Road Supervisor Nimohay and Councilman Fabrizio on flooding situations in the Borough.

**NEXT MEETING:** WORKSHOP AND REGULAR, AUGUST 7, 2023

**MEETING ADJOURNED:**        **m/ BARSUGLIA s/ANDALORO RCVU**

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**RESOLUTION NO. 120-23**

**A RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE GRACE PERIOD FOR THE PAYMENT OF REAL  
PROPERTY TAXES IN THE BOROUGH OF BUENA FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF  
2023.**

**WHEREAS**, the tax rate for the Borough of Buena has not been certified by the Atlantic County Board of Taxation; and

**WHEREAS**, the tax bills have not been received by the Tax Collector; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the Borough of Buena, in order to provide adequate notice to property owners of the amount of taxes owed for the third quarter of 2023, believe that the grace period for the payment of taxes should be extended.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Borough of Buena that the grace period for the payment of property taxes in the Borough of Buena for the third quarter of 2023 be and the same is hereby extended to twenty-five days after the mailing of the tax bills.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that interest shall only be charged on third quarter property taxes by the Tax Collector for payments received after the twenty-five days grace period.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 121-23**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING HIRING OF AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Buena Emergency Medical Services Department operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year; and

**WHEREAS**, appropriate staffing is required for the department to operate effectively and efficiently; and

**WHEREAS**, the Emergency Medical Services Chief of the Borough of Buena requests the authorization from Council to approve the hiring of the following candidates to replace the Emergency Service Technicians who have left the department:

Erika Pitzker  
Allen Remley

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Council of the Borough of Buena, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, hereby approves the hiring of aforementioned candidates as per-diem Emergency Service Technicians based on qualifications with a start date as soon as possible and conditioned upon the successful completion of the hiring phases set forth in the Policy and Procedures of the Borough of Buena.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 122-23**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF A PORTION OF CENTRAL AVENUE (CR 627), TO THROUGH TRAFFIC ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2023, FROM 12:00 P.M. TO 1:00 P.M. AND DIRECTING THE BOROUGH OF BUENA RECREATION COMMISSION TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE ATLANTIC COUNTY ENGINEER FOR A PERMIT APPROVING SAID TEMPORARY CLOSURE.**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Buena Recreation Commission has scheduled a parade and picnic; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Buena Recreation Commission have requested a portion of Central Avenue be closed during the parade to minimize the possibility of injury to person or property during the parade; and

**WHEREAS**, the Franklin Township Police Department has reviewed this request and has recommended that Central Avenue, from Dr. J.P. Cleary School located at 1501 S. Central Avenue, to the Buena Borough Municipal Building, 616 Central Avenue, be closed to through traffic during the parade for public safety reasons.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Borough of Buena that Central Avenue, from Dr. J.P. Cleary School located at 1501 S. Central Avenue to the Buena Borough Municipal Building, 616 Central Avenue, be temporarily be closed on September 10, 2023, from 12:00 P.M. to 1:00 P.M.

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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the temporary closure of the above streets shall affect through traffic only and shall not unduly impede the ingress or egress of residents of Central Avenue, and their guests or visitors to and from their respective properties.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that notice of this temporary closure shall be given to property owners along Central who are affected by same, immediately upon adoption of this Resolution.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 123 - 23**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BUENA AWARDED A CONTRACT TO DEBLAISO & ASSOCIATES FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS CDBG PROJECT MUNICIPAL BUILDING ADA COMPLIANCE.**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Buena has awarded a bid of \$22,000.00 to DeBlasio & Associates;

**WHEREAS**, certain engineering services need be provided for Municipal Buildings ADA Compliance Services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Engineer's DeBlasio, have presented a proposal to complete said services in the amount of \$22,000.00; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Buena that the engineer is hereby retained for CDBG Engineering Services for Municipal Building ADA Compliance.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the award is contingent upon the receipt of a Certificate of Availability of Funds from the Chief Financial Officer.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 124-23**

**GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL AUDIT**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-4 requires the governing body of every local unit to have made an annual audit of its books, accounts and financial transactions, and

**WHEREAS**, the Annual Report of Audit for the year 2022 has been filed by a Registered Municipal Accountant with the *Municipal Clerk* pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:5-6, and a copy has been received by each member of the governing body; and,

**WHEREAS**, R.S. 52:27BB-34 authorizes the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey to prescribe reports pertaining to the local fiscal affairs; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Local Finance Board has promulgated N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5, a regulation requiring that the governing body of each municipality shall by resolution certify to the Local Finance Board of the State of

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New Jersey that all members of the governing body have reviewed, as a minimum, the sections of the annual audit entitled "Comments and Recommendations, and,

**WHEREAS**, the members of the governing body have personally reviewed as a minimum the Annual Report of Audit, and specifically the sections of the Annual Audit entitled "Comments and Recommendations, as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body attached hereto; and,

**WHEREAS**, such resolution of certification shall be adopted by the Governing Body no later than forty-five days after the receipt of the annual audit, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5; and,

**WHEREAS**, all members of the governing body have received and have familiarized themselves with, at least, the minimum requirements of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey, as stated aforesaid and have subscribed to the affidavit, as provided by the Local Finance Board, and

**WHEREAS**, failure to comply with the regulations of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey may subject the members of the local governing body to the penalty provisions of R.S. 52:27BB-52, to wit:

R.S. 52:27BB-52: A local officer or member of a local governing body who, after a date fixed for compliance, fails or refuses to obey an order of the director (Director of Local Government Services), under the provisions of this Article, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, may be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both, in addition shall forfeit his office.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Mayor and Council of the *Borough of Buena*, hereby states that it has complied with N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5 and does hereby submit a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to said Board to show evidence of said compliance.

*Pamela Johnston*

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Pamela Johnston  
Acting Borough Clerk