

**BOROUGH OF BUENA
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 26, 2024
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MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:00 P.M.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 6:32 P.M.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: FLAG SALUTE

Council Member	Present	Absent
GIOVINAZZI	X	
ALVAREZ	X	
ADAMS	X	
BARSUGLIA	X	
ANDALORO	X	
DESTEFANO		X

ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE: Acting Clerk Pamela Johnston, Administrator Maryann Coraluzzo, Solicitor Rick Tonetta, Clerk 1 Nicole Koch, Road Supervisor Bill Nimohay.

Councilman DeStefano entered the dais at 6:25 P.M.

SUNSHINE LAW: This meeting 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 February 22, 2024, as well as having been posted on the bulletin board at Borough Hall.

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RESOLUTION 64-24 **A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BUENA, COUNTY OF ATLANTIC, RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE CITY OF VINELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT AND COMPANY NO. 4, FOREST GROVE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY AND EAST VINELAND VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY FOR THEIR FIREMATIC SERVICES TO THE BOROUGH OF BUENA**

	Council Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
MOTION: <u>ADAMS</u>	GIOVINAZZI	X				
	ALVAREZ	X				
SECOND: <u>ANDALORO</u>	ADAMS	X				
	BARSUGLIA	X				
	ANDALORO	X				
RCV	DESTEFANO			X		

WHEREAS, on December 18, 2023, all volunteer fire services for the Borough of Buena were discontinued leaving the Borrough residents without firefighting first responders placing life and property in jeopardy; and

WHEREAS, the Vineland Fire Department and Company No. 4, under Director R. Franchetta, Chief of the Department L. Tramontana and Dist. Chief Company No. 4, R. Sbrana; the Forest Grove Volunteer Fire Company, under Commissioner Chair A. Bellone and Chief D. Allonardo; and East Vineland Volunteer Fire Company under Commissioner Chair D. Ricci and Chief M. Corsiglia,(collectively Fire Fighters) began

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immediately providing volunteer emergent fire services to protect life and property of the Borough while the Borough was without fire protection; and

WHEREAS, the Borough retained the services of T.J.Cullenly to assist the Borough in its creation of a newly formed Buena Borough Volunteer Fire Department and began training, testing and certifying men, women and equipment to meet the stringent requirements of the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Fire Safety to assure the new department is ready and able to take up fire suppression and prevention services for the Borough and its residents, during which time the Fire Fighters selflessly continued to provide fire suppression services protecting life and property; and

WHEREAS, on February 26, 2024, the Buena Borough Volunteer Fire Department has been created and its members have been approved by the Division of Fire Safety to operate as a volunteer fire department on behalf of the Borough of Buena, which only could have been accomplished with the help and assistance of the Fire Fighters.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Buena that on behalf of the Mayor, Governing Body and residents of the Borough of Buena we extend our grateful and sincere appreciation for the services provided and assistance in creating the Buena Borough Volunteer Fire Department.

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PRESENTATION: Certificates of appreciation were presented to T.J.Cullenly, East Vineland Fire Department, Forest Grove Fire Department, Vineland Fire Department.

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Council President Adams acknowledged T.J. Cullenly's success in assisting the Borough with creating the fire department in adding that it could not have been accomplished without Mr. Cullenly's assistance. Mayor Baruffi thanked Mr. Cullenly for his devotion to the Borough.

Mayor Baruffi presented Council President Adams with a proclamation for Douglas Adams Day and personally thanked him for his hard work and dedication as a police chief and public safety director. Council President Adams thanked Mayor Baruffi and everyone in attendance. Council President Adams also noted that on February 26, 1961 the Borough formed Fire District #1 and Fire District #2.

PROCLAMATION: DOUGLAS ADAMS' DAY-FEBRUARY 26, 2024

WHEREAS, the Borough of Buena is a community served by public servants who work tirelessly every day to keep the town running smoothly. These dedicated individuals, often referred to as "unsung heroes," are the backbone of the community and are essential to its success. One such public servant is Douglas E. Adams, who served in the Borough of Buena's police department for over thirty years, rising from patrol officer to chief of police before retiring in 2010; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, Douglas Adams was elected to the Council of the Borough of Buena and was appointed public safety director. During his tenure, he faced many challenges, most notably lack of fire protection. However, his leadership, unwavering, dedication and commitment to the safety of the residents of the Borough of Buena led to the historic formation of the Buena Borough Fire Department on this 26th Day of February, 2024

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that I, Joseph Baruffi, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the Borough of Buena, in recognition of Councilman Adams' outstanding contributions, that I officially recognize February 26, 2024, as "*Douglas Adams' Day*" in the Borough of Buena.

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BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that all citizens are encouraged to thank Douglas Adams for his commitment to the health, safety, and wellbeing of the town's residents. The community applauds him for his dedicated service and his tireless efforts to make Buena Borough a safer and better place to live.

RESOLUTION 65-24 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BUENA, COUNTY OF ATLANTIC, APPOINTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS TO THE BOROUGH OF BUENA FIRE DEPARTMENT

	Council Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
MOTION: <u>ANDALORO</u>	GIOVINAZZI	X				
	ALVAREZ	X				
	ADAMS	X				
SECOND: <u>ALVAREZ</u>	BARSUGLIA	X				
	ANDALORO	X				
RCV	DESTEFANO			X		

Mayor Baruffi swore in fourteen new Buena Borough volunteer firefighters and Council President Adams presented them with a firefighter coin.

Council President Adams noted that as of 6 P.M. February 26, 2024 the Division of Fire Safety stated that Buena Borough Fire Department is officially in service.

Mr. Cullenly thanked everyone involved in the creation of the fire department, including the Division of Fire Safety. Mr. Cullenly personally thanked Mr. Barbagli for his assistance.

Council President Adams provided information on Mr. Cullenly’s professional background noting that he is the Deputy Chief of Atlantic City Fire Department, oversees and coordinates several departments including, but not limited to including safety, operations, repairs, finance. Mr. Adams also noted Mr. Cullenly is the Volunteer Fire Chief for Weekstown Fire Department and belongs to New Jersey Forest’s Fire Department. Mr. Adams thanked Mr. Barbagli for recommending Mr. Cullenly to the Borough.

WHEREAS, on December 18, 2023, all volunteer fire services for the Borough of Buena were discontinued leaving the Borough residents without firefighting first responders placing life and property in jeopardy; and

WHEREAS, the Borough retained the services of T.J. Cullenly to assist the Borough in its creation of a newly formed Buena Borough Volunteer Fire Department and began training, testing and certifying men, women and equipment to meet the stringent requirements of the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Fire Safety to assure the new department is ready and able to take up fire suppression and prevention services for the Borough and its residents; and

WHEREAS, on February 26, 2024, the Buena Borough Volunteer Fire Department was created and its members have been approved by the Division of Fire Safety to operate as a volunteer fire department on behalf of the Borough of Buena.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Buena that the following volunteers be appointed to serve as firefighters in the Buena Borough Volunteer Fire Department effective immediately:

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Robert J. Anderson
Kenneth Barbagli
Judith D'Annunzio
Brent Hopkins
Soren Hudyma
Raymond J. Jones
Glenda Martinelli
Frank Scancella
Wayne Shockey
Leonard Smith
Brandon Jones
Vincent Scarrione
William Mason

David Bauer- Honorary Member

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: <u>BARSUGLIA</u>	GIOVINAZZI	X				
	ALVAREZ	X				
	ADAMS	X				
SECOND: <u>ANDALORO</u>	BARSUGLIA	X				
	ANDALORO	X				
RCV	DESTEFANO	X				

Susan Romeo, Landisville, congratulated the Borough on the creation of the new fire department and the volunteers who had been sworn in.

Council President Adams and Councilman Alvarez recognized the retired firefighters in attendance who served in Landisville and Minotola and thanked them for their service to the community.

MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION:

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	Council Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
MOTION: <u>BARSUGLIA</u>	GIOVINAZZI	X				
	ALVAREZ	X				
	ADAMS	X				
SECOND: <u>ANDALORO</u>	BARSUGLIA	X				
	ANDALORO	X				
RCV	DESTEFANO	X				

MEETING ADJOURNED: M/ ANDALORO S/ BARSUGLIA RCVU

s/ *Pamela Johnston*
Pamela Johnston, Acting Borough Clerk