

**BOROUGH OF BUENA
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
January 25, 2024
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MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 5:58 P.M.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 6:28 P.M.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE:

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Acting Clerk Pamela Johnston, Administrator Maryann Coraluzzo

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 January 17, 2024, as well as having been posted on the bulletin board at Borough Hall.

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:

MOTION: ADAMS

SECOND: ANDALORO

RCV

Council Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
GIOVINAZZI	X				
ALVAREZ	X				
ADAMS	X				
BARSUGLIA	X				
ANDALORO	X				
DESTEFANO	X				

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Susan Dortu and Courtney Price of Allen Associates presented to Borough council health benefits their firm offers described as the Coastal Health Insurance Fund. Ms. Dortu noted that the Fund is open solely to public entities such as school districts, municipalities, or county government. Ms. Dortu explained that the program is governed by the Department of Banking and Insurance therefore, they must answer to the State of New Jersey. Ms. Dortu gave an overview of her office and how they contribute to the Fund and explained in detail the coverage it provides including cost to employer and employees.

MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION:

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

RESOLUTION NO. 41-24

**A RESOLUTION TO TERMINATE ALL PARTICIPATION UNDER THE SHBP AND SEHBP
(INCLUDING PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN AND/OR DENTAL PLAN COVERAGE).**

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

BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The Borough of Buena hereby resolves to terminate its participation in the Program (Medical Plan, Prescription Drug Plan, and/or Dental Plan coverage) thereby canceling coverage provided by the SHBP and/or SEHBP (N.J.S.A. 52:14-17.25 et seq.) for all its active and retired employees.
 2. We shall notify all active employees of the date of their termination of coverage under the Program.
 3. We understand that the New Jersey Division of Pensions & Benefits (NJDPB) will notify retired employees of the cancellation of their coverage.
 4. We understand that all COBRA participants will be notified by the NJDPB and advised to contact our office concerning a possible alternative health, prescription drug, and dental insurance plan.
 5. We understand that this resolution shall take effect the first of the month following a 60-day period beginning with the receipt of the resolution by the State Health Benefits Commission or School Employees' Health Benefits Commission.
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RESOLUTION NO. 42-24

SOUTHERN COASTAL REGIONAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND RESOLUTION TO JOIN

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

WHEREAS, a number of public entities in the State of New Jersey have joined together to form the **Southern Coastal Regional Employee Benefits Fund**, hereafter referred to as "FUND", as permitted by N.J.S.A. 11:15-3, 17:1-8.1, and 40A:10-36 et seq., and;

WHEREAS, the FUND was approved to become operational by the Departments of Insurance and Community Affairs and has been operational since that date, and;

WHEREAS, the statutes and regulations governing the creation and operation of a joint insurance fund, contain certain elaborate restrictions and safeguards concerning the safe and efficient administration of the public interest entrusted to such a FUND;

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Borough of Buena, hereinafter referred to as "LOCAL UNIT" has determined that membership in the FUND is in the best interest of the LOCAL UNIT.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the governing body of the LOCAL UNIT hereby agrees as follows:

- i. Become a member of the FUND for the period outlined in the LOCAL UNIT's Indemnity and Trust Agreements.
- ii. Will participate in the following type (s) of coverage (s):
 - a.) Health Insurance as defined pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17B:17-4, the FUND's Bylaws, and Plan of Risk Management.
- iii. Adopts and approves the FUND's Bylaws.
- iv. Execute an application for membership and any accompanying certification

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governing body of the LOCAL UNIT is authorized and directed to execute the Indemnity and Trust Agreement and such other documents signifying membership in the FUND as required by the FUND's Bylaws, and to deliver these documents to the FUND's Executive Director with the express reservation that these documents shall become effective only upon:

- i. Approval of the LOCAL UNIT by the FUND.
- ii. Receipt from the LOCAL UNIT of a Resolution accepting assessment.
- iii. Approval by the New Jersey Department of Insurance and Department of Community Affairs.

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WHEREAS, when a vacancy occurs in the office of the Municipal Clerk, NJAC 5:32-5.3 permits the governing body to appoint an Acting Municipal Clerk from the date of the vacancy to serve as acting municipal clerk for a period not to exceed one year and for an additional two years with the approval of the Director of New Jersey Local Government Services; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of Buena appointed Pamela Johnston to the position off Acting Municipal Clerk on January 18, 2022 for term of one year; and (appointed in June 2023)

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of has decided to reappoint Pamela Johnston to the position of Acting Clerk for a final term.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Buena as follows:

1. Pamela Johnston is hereby appointed as Acting Municipal Clerk for a term commencing January 1, 2024 contingent upon the approval of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

Mayor Baruffi thanked Ms. Dortu and Ms. Price for presenting to the employees of Buena Borough and to Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 43-24

A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING PAMELA JOHNSTON AS FULL TIME ACTING MUNICIPAL CLERK

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

WHEREAS, when a vacancy occurs in the office of the Municipal Clerk, NJAC 5:32-5.3 permits the governing body to appoint an Acting Municipal Clerk from the date of the vacancy to serve as acting municipal clerk for a period not to exceed one year and for an additional two years with the approval of the Director of New Jersey Local Government Services; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of Buena appointed Pamela Johnston to the position of Acting Municipal Clerk on June 26, 2023 for term ending December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of has decided to reappoint Pamela Johnston to the position of Acting Clerk for a final term.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Buena as follows:

1. Pamela Johnston is hereby appointed as Acting Municipal Clerk for a final term of one year, retroactive to January 1, 2024, contingent upon the approval of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

MEETING ADJOURNED: M/ ALVAREZ S/ BARSUGLIA RVC

Pamela Johnston
Pamela Johnston, Acting Borough Clerk