

**BOROUGH OF BUENA
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
JANUARY 27, 2025
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MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:00 **P.M.**
MEETING ADJOURNED: 6:39 **P.M.**

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: FLAG SALUTE
ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE:

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

ALSO PRESENT: Administrator and Borough Clerk, Coraluzzo, Deputy Clerk Johnston, Solicitor Tonetta, Road Supervisor Nimohay,

The special meeting of Mayor and Council of the Borough of Buena was held January 27, 2025 commencing at 6:00 P.M. at the Borough Hall with Mayor Baruffi presiding. Mayor Baruffi 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 January 17, 2024 as well as being posted on the bulletin board in Borough Hall.



Mayor Joseph Baruffi opened the meeting by expressing that it was both an honor and a privilege to honor and celebrate the legacy of Buena Borough's former mayors with the unveiling of the new “Wall of Mayors.”

BIAGIO “BUZZIE” TARQUINIO
1964-1965

Family members present: Charles Tarquinio, Louis Tarquinio, and daughter-in-law Connie Tarquinio.

Tonight, we are proud to honor the commitment of Biagio “Buzzie” Tarquinio, a man whose legacy is woven deeply into the fabric of this community. As we reflect on his remarkable journey, we remember not just the titles he held, but the character and devotion he brought to everything he did.

Born in Landisville and later a resident of Minotola, Buzzie’s life was one of service. Whether it was leading the charge as the mayor of Buena Borough or dedicating countless hours to the Minotola Fire Company and Rescue Squad—an organization he helped to found—Buzzie’s commitment to others was unwavering. He was a true public servant, always putting the needs of his neighbors and fellow citizens ahead of his own.

Buzzie’s leadership didn’t stop at the firehouse. As the owner of Buzzie’s Market in Minotola, he built a business that was more than just a store—it was a gathering place, a symbol of his generosity, and a testament to his belief in supporting local. His dedication to his community was recognized time and again, including his receipt of the Dr. J.P. Cleary Outstanding Citizen Award, a recognition of his tireless efforts to make Buena Borough and Buena Vista Township better places to live for all.

In addition to his local work, Buzzie’s contributions extended to his service in the United States Army during World War II. As a staff sergeant, he showed the same dedication, courage, and leadership that would define his entire life. After his military service, he continued to serve his community as a member of the American Legion post in Minotola, as well as through his involvement in St. Michael's Church.

But beyond all of his accomplishments, Buzzie was a man who truly cared about people. He was a family man, a friend, a mentor, and someone who made a difference in countless lives.

Today, as we remember Buzzie, we find comfort in knowing that his influence will live on in the many lives he touched. We remember his warmth, his commitment to service, and his dedication to making the world around him a better place. His spirit of generosity, community, and leadership will continue to inspire us, and his memory will remain forever in our hearts.

We are honored, Mayor Tarquinio, to welcome you to our newly unveiled Wall of Mayors.

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Thank you, Buzzie, for everything you gave to us. As a fellow mayor, I strive to follow your example.



LOUIS FERRUCCI

1966-1967

Family members in attendance: Louis' son Butchie and his wife, Kathy, their son Anthony and Louis' daughter Sharon.

Louis Ferrucci gave freely and generously to the Borough of Buena community. Setting down roots to locate his family and his business in the Borough in the mid-1950's, he quickly became involved in local organizations. He donated his time and energy tirelessly as a member of the Knights of Columbus, as Councilman, Director of Public Safety, and Chairman of the Buena Borough Municipal Utility Authority. He graciously accepted the role as Mayor of the Borough following the unexpected and untimely passing of former Mayor William B. Donini. He considered it a privilege to serve his community as an elected official. In both his public and private life, he sought to respect the best interests of all persons in the community. On several occasions, he quietly provided shoes and clothing for children in the Borough whose families came across difficult financial times, spent countless hours organizing events at the local playground, and donated time and funds to local churches. While never publicizing his good works, he strived to make people feel comfortable and at ease. During his tenure as mayor, he officiated several Civil wedding ceremonies. To give those events a personal touch, he welcomed the couples into his home, filling the living room with flowers and celebratory decorations to enhance the importance of the ceremonies.

We are honored, Mayor Ferrucci, to welcome you to our newly unveiled Wall of Mayors. Your spirit and legacy will live on in the hearts of all who were blessed to know you.



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JOSEPH A. PERELLA SR.
1984-1995

Family members present: son Joseph Jr. and his wife Lisa, sister Rose and in laws, Eddie and Mildred Walsch.

It is with deep respect and heartfelt remembrance that we honor Joseph A. Perella Sr. A man of integrity, devotion, and service, Joe's legacy continues to live on in the lives of all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Born in Philadelphia and a proud graduate of Vineland High School, Joe's life was marked by a commitment to his country, his family, and his community. After serving in the United States Air Force, he returned home to work in the family business, the El Rosa Bar & Restaurant, before transitioning into a long and successful career as a tax assessor for multiple municipalities. His dedication to public service culminated in his 25 years of service as the City of Vineland's Tax Assessor, where his integrity and commitment to his work earned him the respect of all those around him.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Joe was a deeply spiritual man. As an ordained Catholic Deacon in the Camden Diocese, he touched the lives of countless individuals in Buena Borough and Vineland with his compassionate service and unwavering faith. His calling to the Church was a testament to his deep love for others, and his work in both the sacred and secular realms exemplified the profound impact one person can have on their community.

Joe's dedication to public service extended beyond the office. He served as a former councilman and Mayor of Buena Borough, where his leadership and commitment to the welfare of the community were always evident. He embodied the principles of hard work, kindness, and humility, and those who knew him regarded him as a pillar of his community.

Joe's love for his family was unparalleled. He and his wife Joan, who he shared 47 years of marriage with, enjoyed many adventures together, traveling the East Coast in their RV and creating lasting memories. Above all, Joe cherished the time spent with his son and beloved grandchildren, who were truly the light of his life.

Joe leaves behind a legacy of service, love, and faith. His memory will continue to inspire those who knew him, and his impact on his family, friends, and community will never be forgotten.

We are honored, Mayor Perella, to welcome you to our newly unveiled Wall of Mayors.

Your spirit will live on in the hearts of all who were blessed to know you.



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GENE IANNETTE
1992-2001

Mayor Iannette was present with daughter, Kim and her husband Bobby

This evening, we come together to pay tribute to Gene Iannette, an exceptional individual whose dedication to public service spanned more than thirty-seven years, including a decade as Mayor of the Borough of Buena. His contributions to our community have been truly remarkable and will continue to resonate for many years to come.

Gene was a lifelong resident of our borough, calling Arctic Avenue in Minotola home for over 37 years. His unwavering commitment to public service and the positive changes he brought to our community are a testament to his character and work ethic.

During his time as mayor, Gene accomplished so much. He was instrumental in establishing the Environmental Commission, advancing the computerization of municipal offices, and introducing free summer concerts that brought the community together. His goal was always to create an efficient, high-performing government while keeping costs low for taxpayers. Thanks to his leadership, our borough saw the adoption of many new ordinances and received millions of dollars in grant funding.

In addition to his official responsibilities, Gene's passion for community service extended far beyond his work in government. Whether through his involvement in various local organizations or as a minister of hospitality at St. Michael's Church, Gene's contributions have left an enduring mark on our borough.

Gene's legacy is vast, and his vision, dedication, and tireless efforts have inspired countless others. We are profoundly grateful for all he has done to make our community a better place. To honor him, we proudly display his portrait on the Wall of Mayors, where it will forever remind us of his remarkable service.

We are honored, Mayor Iannette, to welcome you to our newly unveiled Wall of Mayors.

Thank you, Gene, for everything you've done. May your future be as bright and impactful as the legacy you've built here in our community.



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MAYOR JOSEPH BARUFFI

2001-2015

2024-

Council President Adams collaborated with Mayor Baruffi's family, the Borough Council, and Borough staff to commemorate Mayor Baruffi by displaying his portrait on the recently unveiled Mayor's Wall.

Family members present: wife Jill, daughter Jenna and her husband Justen, daughter Christa and her husband Nick, grandchildren Gianna and Gino, sister Vera and her husband Mike, sister Julia and her husband Mike nieces Lauren and Kelly, nephew Jeff, niece Elena, nephew Mike, and great-nieces Josephine and Cordilia.

It is both an honor and a privilege to stand before you today to celebrate a remarkable individual whose dedication to family, community, and public service has left an indelible mark on our town and our hearts—Joseph Baruffi.

Joseph Baruffi, or Joe as many of us know him, was born on May 1st, 1956, to Joseph Baruffi Sr. and Josephine Grandi Baruffi. He grew up in the Minotola section of the Borough of Buena with sisters Vera and Julia. Joe also spent much of his adolescence at the Grandi farm with his aunts and uncles in the Landisville section of Buena Borough. From the very beginning, his roots were deeply planted in this community, and it's no surprise that he has devoted his entire life to its service.

Joe's educational journey reflects not only his own commitment to growth but also his deep belief in the value of education. The importance of education was greatly instilled by both his parents who did not have the same educational opportunities. He graduated from Dr. JP Cleary Junior High School and Vineland Senior High School. He went on to earn degrees from Atlantic County Community College, Glassboro State College, and Rowan University, including a Master's in Student Personnel Services. His dedication to helping young minds and guiding students through their own educational paths speaks to the foundation of his career.

Joe's career as an educator and guidance counselor spanned several decades, from teaching at Dr. JP Cleary Middle School to serving as a guidance counselor in multiple schools across Millville. His work touched the lives of countless students, and in 1988, he was recognized as Teacher of the Year. For Joe, however, the award wasn't about the recognition—it was about the impact he made in the lives of the children he taught and guided.

Beyond the classroom, Joe has been an exemplary public servant. His service began in 1987, when he was appointed to the Borough Council. Over the years, Joe was elected to serve six terms, and his leadership as President of the Council and Director of Public Safety helped shape the future of Buena Borough. His time as Acting Mayor in 2001 was just a precursor to his continued public service.

Joe's legacy of service is not measured by titles alone, but by the tangible improvements he helped bring to Buena. Through his leadership, millions of dollars in grants were secured, resulting in developments like the Commerce Center in Landisville and major improvements to key areas of our town. Perhaps one of the most personal achievements of his tenure was his role in bringing the Buena Gardens Senior Apartments to life. This project, located on the former Minotola School site, holds deep personal significance for Joe, as it is a place where he attended school as a child, and now, a new chapter for seniors will begin.

Joe's public service goes beyond his work on the Council or as Mayor—it extends to his commitment to making a difference in the lives of his neighbors and fellow community members. His love for Buena is rooted in the values and morals passed down to him by his family, the Baruffis and the Grandis. These are the same values he now passes on to his own daughters, Christa and Jenna, and to his grandchildren, Gianna and Gino. Joe is first and foremost a family man. Time and time again, he will tell you— all of his accomplishments would never have been possible without the love of his life by his side, his beautiful bride,

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Jill Curley Baruffi. Joe has also been fortunate enough to have the love and support of his father-in-law, Harry Curley Sr. who also served his community for many years. The most important things in his life are his family and his faith. He loves the time he spends with his cherished family and his spiritual community, and that love extends into everything he does loves the time he spends with his cherished family and his spiritual community, and that love extends into everything he does.

He also finds joy in the company of his extended family and friends, and in his service to others—whether that’s as a lifelong member of St. Michael’s Church in Minotola, as a baseball umpire, or as a high school basketball official. Joe embodies the spirit of service, not for accolades or recognition, but because he genuinely believes in the power of community and in helping others.

And throughout it all, Joe remains deeply committed to the idea of *small-town pride*. This town, our town, is built on the foundation of relationships, values, and traditions—and Joe has worked tirelessly to preserve and enhance that legacy for future generations.

Joe, on behalf of everyone here and all those you’ve touched throughout your career and life, we want to thank you. Thank you for your tireless dedication, for your leadership, for your unwavering commitment to making Buena a better place. We are all better for having you in our lives. You have made a lasting impact on our community, and we are so proud to call you a friend, a mentor, and a leader.

Congratulations on all you’ve achieved, and thank you for all that you continue to do.

We are honored to add you to our newly unveiled Wall of Mayors.

Here’s to you, Mayor Baruffi!



MEETING ADJOURNED: M/BARSUGLIA S/ADAMS RCVU