

**BOROUGH OF BUENA
WORKSHOP AGENDA
SEPTEMBER 10, 2018
PAGE 1**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: P.M.
MEETING ADJOURNED: P.M.**

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Flag Salute

ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE:

	AYE:	NAY:	ABSTAIN:	ABSENT:
MAROLDA				
WALKER				
BAKER				
MANCUSO				
ALVAREZ				
MCAVADDY				

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, The Daily Journal and The Atlantic County Record on November 16, 2017, as well as having been posted on the bulletin board at Borough Hall.

MAYOR'S REPORT: First order of business.

DISCUSSION:

RESOLUTION 90-18 RESOLUTION OBJECTING TO NJ TRANSIT SHUTDOWN OF ATLANTIC CITY RAIL LINE

WHEREAS, The Atlantic City Line has been operated by NJ Transit since 1995, after Amtrak bowed out on a joint operation it had with NJ Transit since 1989; and

WHEREAS, NJ Transit plans to shut down the Atlantic City Line for four months starting Tuesday, September 4, according to a memo sent Friday, August 3, 2018, from Richard Green Jr., NJ Transit Director of Rail Operations obtained by NJ Advance Media; and

WHEREAS, NJ Transit officials stated the shutdown is necessary to install federally mandated Positive Train Control (PTC) equipment which uses computers and radios to stop a train if the operator fails to obey signals or speed limits; and

WHEREAS, according to an article in Progressive Railroading, in the past three months NJ Transit's PTC project completion percentage has increased from 13 percent to 52 percent, according to Executive Director Kevin Corbett, without the shutdown of any rail line thus far; and

WHEREAS, the installation of PTC equipment has sidelined an average of 30 to 40 locomotives and cab cars a month as NJ Transit tries to meet a Dec. 31, 2018 deadline to have all the hardware installed; and

WHEREAS, so far, NJ Transit hasn't installed enough equipment to satisfy the Federal Railroad Administration and qualify for a two-year extension of the PTC to 2020;and

**BOROUGH OF BUENA
WORKSHOP AGENDA
SEPTEMBER 10, 2018
PAGE 2**

WHEREAS, the memo of August 3, 2018 comes as NJ Transit canceled 18 rush- hour trains that Friday morning, blaming it on crew and equipment shortages and a shortage of rail cars and locomotives resulting in trains that are missing one or two cars, causing severe overcrowding and complaints from commuters; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of Buena is concerned that NJ Transit may be stripping South Jersey, and specifically Atlantic County, of vital services at a critical time in our economic renaissance; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of Buena echoes the sentiments of our State representative, Senator Chris Brown, in his letter August 9, 2018 letter to John Del Colle, Senior Director, Legislative Relations, NJ Transit, wherein -he stated:

"In particular, I believe completely shutting down and re-deploying equipment and personnel from the Atlantic City Rail Line to other parts of the State is unfair to the local, working families I represent.

NJ TRANSIT'S plan to replace the train service with bus service provides no relief for families traveling from Atlantic County.

Those traveling from Atlantic County have to take the non-express No. 554 Bus, extending commutes up to two hours, without access to a restroom. Further, many commuters tell me they will not benefit from the 25% ticket discount since they are being forced to make more transfers.

As I shared with you in our conversation, when NJ TRANSIT performed signal and track repairs between April and June 2018, it continued a morning and evening commuter schedule. I question why NJ TRANSIT cannot provide train service on the same schedule it did between April and June 2018 while it installs advance positive train controls. Completely shutting down the Atlantic City Rail Line so that NJ TRANSIT can transfer rail resources to other parts of the State at the expense of our local families is completely unacceptable.

If there are legitimate safety reasons why NJ TRANSIT cannot run rail service in the morning and in the evening, then I believe it is only appropriate NJ TRANSIT provides express bus service from the Atlantic City, Absecon, Egg Harbor City, Hammonton, and Alco train stations, particularly during the morning and evening commute hours, to Lindenwold. Providing access to express bus service in Atlantic County only makes sense given the circumstances.

In order to make sure the express bus line for Atlantic County families is implemented, NJ TRANSIT should work with the South Jersey Transportation Authority. As you know, the SJTA has buses and shuttles that can be used to ease the burden on Atlantic County commuters.

**BOROUGH OF BUENA
WORKSHOP AGENDA
SEPTEMBER 10, 2018
PAGE 3**

Atlantic County families deserve the same level of service, resources, and accommodations you are providing to other counties"; and

WHEREAS, Bob McDevitt, President of Unite Here Local 54, which represents 10,000 casino hotel workers in Atlantic City, reported to The Philadelphia Inquirer that casino workers living in western Atlantic County and Camden County still rely on the rail line. He also commented that "There's no way a local bus can get you from Lindenwold to Atlantic City in the same time a train can"; and

WHEREAS, a petition on change.org, started by Nick Pittman on August 7, 2018, entitled "Stop NJ Transit from suspending the Atlantic City Rail Line" has already reached over 2,400 signatures as of the drafting of this resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the Borough of Buena joins Senator Chris Brown and Bob McDevitt of Local 54, and their constituents and members, in vigorously opposing NJ Transit's shut down of the Atlantic City Rail Line on September 4, 2018 and hereby requests that NJ Transit prepare a plan to accommodate its rail passengers in our region - workers and visitors supporting our local tourism alike - by continuing service while implementing the necessary PTC equipment over the approved 2 year extension period; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the Borough of Buena demands that the Board meet with John Del Colle, Senior Director, Legislative Relations, NJ Transit, to discuss the shutdown and other alternatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be distributed to all elected officials representing residents in Atlantic County from the municipal level up through the Office of the Governor; NJ DOT; SJTA; ACEA; Kevin Corbett, Executive Director, NJ Transit; John Del Colle, Senior Director, Legislative Relations, NJ Transit; Bob McDevitt, President of Unite Here Local 54; and the leadership of the AFL-CIO Central Labor Council; encouraging them all to sign the petition and join the fight against this rail shut down.

DISCUSSION: ORDER FOR REVALUATION FROM THE ATLANTIC COUNTY BOARD OF TAXATION.

REVIEW: REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

DISCUSSION:

- Agreement with MUA for Louis Drive repaving
- Mobile Home Park Fees
- Convenience Center Ordinance - hours and fees
- CDBG funds
- Bakery update
- Master Plan Committee
- Basket Factory at 701 Central Avenue
- Sale of properties owned by the Borough

BOROUGH OF BUENA
WORKSHOP AGENDA
SEPTEMBER 10, 2018
PAGE 4

PUBLIC PORTION OF THE MEETING:

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

Meeting adjourned: M _____ S _____

	AYE:	NAY:	ABSTAIN:	ABSENT:
MAROLDA				
WALKER				
BAKER				
MANCUSO				
ALVAREZ				
MCAVADDY				