

BOROUGH OF BUENA  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
OCTOBER 25, 2021  
PAGE 1

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 7:00 P.M.  
MEETING ADJOURNED: 7:43 P.M.

THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF BUENA WAS HELD MONDAY OCTOBER 25, 2021 COMMENCING AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE BOROUGH HALL WITH MAYOR ZAPPARIELLO PRESIDING. MAYOR ZAPPARIELLO CALLED FOR A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY COVID-19 AND 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, THE DAILY JOURNAL AND THE ATLANTIC COUNTY RECORD ON DECEMBER 1, 2020 AS WELL AS BEING POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN BOROUGH HALL

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE:

Council Member	Present	Absent
WALKER	X	
D’ALESSANDRO	X	
BAKER	X	
MANCUSO		X
ALVAREZ	X	

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:

Mayor Zappariello acknowledged that questions concerning the LOSAP program from the previous meeting should be addressed and asked that Brian Ewan give an overview. Brian Ewan, Fire District 2, reviewed a letter from the DCA concerning LOSAP financial statement benefits and funds would be distributed to those LOSAP members. Councilman Alvarez asked that the letter to be available for the public. Ewan stated it would.

PUBLIC PORTION OF THE MEETING:

Council Member	By	2nd	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
WALKER			X				
D’ALESSANDRO			X				
BAKER	X		X				
MANCUSO						X	
ALVAREZ		X	X				

BOROUGH OF BUENA  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
OCTOBER 25, 2021  
PAGE 2

Jenna Baruffi-Talarico stated her concerns over decisions made by Mayor and Council members of Fire District#1. Prepared notes are follows:

Jenna Baruffi-Talarico, Minotola resident

Greetings Mayor and Council, after attending last week's first in person council meeting, I must admit that I came in with expectations of the governing body to address the elephant in the room. Plainly speaking a very controversial decision was made which caused such a major rift in the Boro, a rift that is clearly still present. While I understand that making tough and sometimes unpopular decisions comes with the territory; what I and many others take issue with is when such decisions and plans are made with no dialogue between the elected officials and the people they serve.

I do not envy the positions you are in and know first hand being a representative of the people is not an easy task. However, I am here tonight to express how truly disheartened and disappointed with how things have been handled in the Boro, specifically these past 6 months or so. As a lifelong Minotola resident, I've never seen such turmoil, angst, and sadness amongst Boro residents. Will you appease every single resident you serve? Absolutely not, and I am not that naive to think that would be the reality. Be that as it may, much of this could have been avoided with a transparent governing body. When a proposal of a dissolution regarding a 99 year old volunteer fire company is not so much spoken about or advertised until the moment it is posted on an agenda, a can of worms was opened. When you make a special meeting in person only giving residents 48 hours notice to attend, not inviting or extending due time for the certain fire company that is being ripped opened and scrutinized, while at the same time having a 100+ slideshow given by OEM that must have taken some time to prepare, the disparity in treatment is clear. Not only to the fire company but the residents you serve. If this governing body cared enough about making sure their residents were well informed, surely you would have given the public more than 48 hours to attend such an important meeting? Writing this I tried to keep the thought of "moving forward" in mind, however, I'm afraid that in order to move forward, we need to properly address the not so distant past. There's many questions that need to be answered, a list of checks and balances that keeps piling up and furthers the fact that much has not made sense. Why was a plan of dissolution discussed before the state came in and cited the violations? **\*Mayor responded "Not at this time."** When the state came in after all violations were abated— how can a current ordinance be passed stating that the dissolution is due to current health and safety concerns? For the wording of the ordinance to ring true, wouldn't the violations which the state cleared have to be present at the time of the reading and adoption of the ordinance? Let it be clear that the state came in and passed the fire company with flying colors over a month before both readings of the ordinance.

At last week's meeting, Mr. Romeo read a statement regarding the problems with Minotola Fire Dept. LOSAP, their acct. being frozen due to "mismanagement of funds." Mayor, you responded to Mr. Romeo that you were not aware of such an issue. A few weeks ago on September 28th at a Minotola Fire Commissioners meeting, one in which the minutes state councilman Dallesandro was present at the request of mayor and council where much was said about LOSAP issues, specifically the "funds". This included an attorney speaking for a former Minotola Fire Commissioner, and a discussion ensued. Councilman D'Allesandro, either you did not relay the contents of this meeting to Mayor and council? Or you were indeed aware of that last week Mayor? I can't wrap my head what an absolute mess of a transitory period this is. I would have assumed that the Mayor and Councilman D'Allesandro, being Public Safety Director and OEM (Office of Emergency Management), would have ensured WAY BEFORE the dissolution process was even considered, that everything would be as kosher as possible. Feelings set aside, all the good and all the bad now fall on one company, the responsibilities doubling. This is a reflection of the way this administration has handled the dissolution. As a resident, it seems once you made that ordinance pass— Minotola Fire Dept. is left to try on their own accord to clean up the mess, publicly. The Boro is as divided as ever, and it is clear that they are not in a place to do so. If as a Mayor and Council, you insert yourself in the fire districts, dissolving one and the other absorbing all, I don't understand how you aren't staying proactive in the transition. So I circle back to, how is this serving the Boro and it's residents?

Lastly, in regards to the vacant seat on council since May, how and when is that being filled? **\*Mayor responded that due to the council persons' resignation, legal advice was being sought in regards on how to fill it.**

BOROUGH OF BUENA  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
OCTOBER 25, 2021  
PAGE 3

Were you not aware you had to notify the county of the vacant seat on council, and it should have been on this years election ballot as on unexpired term. **\*Mayor responded “No I did not know that.”** Does it now need a special election? There are currently 4 people who serve on the Republican Club Committee and are responsible for nominating candidates to fill seats in an event of a resignation or run for council. Would you be able to name those 4 people? **\*Mayor responded, “No not at this time.”** I reached out to the county to see what 4 names they had currently on file, 1 of those names unfortunately is deceased and passed away approximately March of this year. **\*Mayor responded, “Yes that is correct.”**

Thank you Mayor and Council for giving me the opportunity to come here and speak. I hope moving forward, we can all keep and build upon an open dialogue.

Ms. Talarico then inquired of the vacant council’s seat and an election to fill the vacancy.

Bill Beatie, Landisville, asked about the LOSAP freeze and responsibility., Mayor answered it is the responsibility of the district not the Borough. Solicitor Costigan then stated that LOSAP funds have not been frozen or are there any irregularities of the funds. Beatie thanked the Solicitor for the clarification.

Paul Lucchese, Vineland, stated he had been a Volunteer of the Landisville Fire Company for 45 years, and had been proud of the Chairmanship he serviced. Mr. Lucchese stated that emails to Mayor and Council concerning the current situation concerning the Landisville Fire Company had not been answered. Mayor Zappariello congratulated Mr. Lucchese on his years of service.

Pat Andolora, Landisville, mentioned the current Covid situation and inquired of any Covid clinics with the County.

CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE MEETING:

Council Member	By	2nd	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
WALKER			X				
D’ALESSANDRO			X				
BAKER	X		X				
MANCUSO						X	
ALVAREZ	X		X				

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RESOLUTION 92-21      A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BUENA  
ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF ELIZABETH S.  
PICARDI AS EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN  
FOR THE BOROUGH OF BUENA, WITH REGRETS.

Council Member	By	2nd	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
WALKER			X				
D’ALESSANDRO			X				
BAKER	X		X				
MANCUSO						X	
ALVAREZ		X	X				

BOROUGH OF BUENA  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
OCTOBER 25, 2021  
PAGE 4

**WHEREAS**, ELIZABETH S. PICARDI has served the Borough of Buena in the capacity of Emergency Medical Technician; and

**WHEREAS**, during her tenure, ELIZABETH S. PICARDI has provided effective and compassionate representation to the Borough while serving as Emergency Medical Technician; and

**WHEREAS**, ELIZABETH S. PICARDI has resigned her position, effective immediately.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Borough of Buena that the resignation of ELIZABETH S. PICARDI be regretfully accepted effective immediately.

**RESOLUTION 93-21      A RESOLUTION URGING THE LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR TO      ENACT A LAW BANNING SINGLE USE PLASTIC AND PAPER BAGS**

Council Member	By	2nd	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
WALKER							
D’ALESSANDRO	TABLED						
BAKER							
MANCUSO							
ALVAREZ							

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that a person will use five hundred single use disposable bags per year; and

**WHEREAS**, over four billion single use bags are used annually in the State of New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, single use plastic bags pose an environmental hazard to the local, state, and global environment as they are often improperly discarded and end up in waterways or on land where they are mistaken as food by marine and land-based animals; and

**WHEREAS**, single use plastic bags have a low percentage rate of recycling; and

**WHEREAS**, single use paper bags also have a negative environmental impact and are a contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, paper bag manufacturing is a resource-intensive process whose

BOROUGH OF BUENA  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
OCTOBER 25, 2021  
PAGE 5

overall carbon footprint is comparable to, or more significant than, plastic bag manufacturing when one factors in water and air pollutants, energy use, deforestation, diesel emissions and solid waste disposal; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the weight and volume of single use paper bags, it requires seven times the resources to transport paper bags as compared to plastic bags; and

**WHEREAS**, paper bags do not decompose in landfills and it takes a significant amount of energy and chemicals to properly recycle paper bags; and

**WHEREAS**, some municipal governments across New Jersey are enacting competing ordinances to address consumer reliance on single use plastic and paper bags; and

**WHEREAS**, this municipal action has created a patchwork of regulations across the state which has made it difficult and confusing for consumers to shop and businesses to operate in multiple municipalities; and

**WHEREAS**, other states including California, New York, and Connecticut have adopted laws regarding the regulation of plastic and paper bags;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Buena, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey

1. That it does hereby support the enactment of state legislation to create a law across all municipalities that bans single use plastic and paper bags, with certain uniform exemptions, thereby encouraging consumers to utilize reusable bags.
2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Office of the Governor, the President of the New Jersey State Senate, the Speaker of the New Jersey General Assembly, and our State Legislators.

**RESOLUTION 94-21      CYBER RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
CYBER INCIDENT RESPONSE PLAN**

Council Member	By	2nd	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
WALKER							
D’ALESSANDRO							
BAKER							
MANCUSO							
ALVAREZ							

**WHEREAS**, the Atlantic County Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund requires all municipalities in their fund, to have a Cyber

BOROUGH OF BUENA  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
OCTOBER 25, 2021  
PAGE 6

Risk Management Program & Cyber Incident Response Plan in place; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Buena has updated their policies to be compliant with the Atlantic County Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund Cyber Risk Management Program; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cyber Risk Management Program & Cyber Incident Response Plan be adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Buena, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey.

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (COUNCILMAN MANCUSO)** In Councilman's absence Mayor Zappariello stated that a meeting with the Atlantic Alliance to be held November 4th.

**ROADS/RECYCLING: (COUNCILMAN WALKER)** Councilman Walker report;

Boro Hall:

Daily Cleaning continues

Inspections completed with the State Fire Inspector.

Recycling:

Received \$683.20 from American Recycling from the container at the Convenience Center.

South Boulevard Project:

South Jersey Gas had been contacted and the issues were resolved.

Permit had been sent in and approved.

Brunini Pool Demolition:

3 bids had been received and will apply for CBG funding for the Demo.

Road Dept:

Truck#2 body was installed, the frame painted and the truck has been serviced.

Atlantic Street project will be finalized with Millings.

**RECREATION: (COUNCILWOMAN Baker)** Councilwoman Baker reported that the Minotola Fire company will be having a Hot Roast Beed Sandwich Fundraiser on Saturday, October 30th from 11:00 a.m. Until 2:00 p.m.

TRICK OR TREAT will be held 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Rain or Shine.

**FINANCE: (COUNCILMAN ALVAREZ)** Councilman Alvarez reported that a budget meeting will be scheduled to discuss the next year's budget. Alvarez added his Thanks for Mr. Luchese's service.

**PUBLIC SAFETY/STREET LIGHTS: (COUNCILMAN D'ALESSANDRO)** Councilman D'Alessandro report as follows:

1. As of: 10/25/2021 18:00
2. October 25, 2021
  - a. 6,019,878 residents are fully vaccinated.

BOROUGH OF BUENA  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
OCTOBER 25, 2021  
PAGE 7

- b. 12,244,787 total doses administered
- c. Borough of Buena – 54% of residents fully vaccinated (96% of 65 and older have been)
  - i. 60% have received at least one dose

3. Borough of Buena Cases: 554

May 24	June 28	August 9	September 27	October 25
21	1	8	29	24

- a. Borough of Buena Deaths: 11
- b. Atlantic County Cases: 34,562
- c. Atlantic County Deaths: 747
- d. New Cases: PCR Test 829 Probable Cases 188
- e. NJ Transmission Rate: 0.82
- f. NJ Cases Total: 1,035,316
- g. NJ Confirmed Deaths Total: 25,049
- h. United States: 45,454,555 (2,512,399 last 28 Days)
- i. United States Deaths: 736,069 (47,045 last 28 days)
- j. Global Cases: 243,869,795
- k. Global Deaths: 4,951,744

4. NJ total hospitalizations are at 818 South: 342

5. Ventilators 132 South: 54

6. Intensive/Critical Care Beds 231 South: 101

7. Long-term Care Facilities Statewide:

- a. Facilities with Active Outbreaks: 162
- b. Active Resident Cases: 720
- c. Active Staff Cases: 646
- d. Cumulative Resident Deaths: 8,607
- e. Cumulative Staff Deaths: 145

8. Buena OEM continues to review Emergency Operations Plan to confirm compliance.

9. Buena OEM has been operating the Emergency Operations Center in Borough Hall both remotely.

10. Buena OEM has been updating Borough residents through social media outlets and website.

11. Maintaining COVID-19 webpage for Borough's website

12. Maintaining up-to-date inventory of PPE

13. Daily Calls with Chief Ciraolo to stay updated on EMS call volume, PPE levels, readiness and personnel.

14. Franklin PD September 2021 Report Update

- a. Stolen Property: \$0.00 reported in September 2021 YTD: \$53,886.00

Arrests	Tickets	MV Stops	DWI	MVC	CDS	DV	GP
18	52	113	2	9	2	1	17

15. Buena EMS – September 101 Calls for Service

a. Location of Calls

- i. 74 Borough
- ii. 11 BVT
- iii. 13 Vineland
- iv. 3 Dorothy

b. Types of Calls

- i. 10 Cardiac Emergencies

BOROUGH OF BUENA  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
OCTOBER 25, 2021  
PAGE 8

- ii. 1 Suicide
- iii. 7 Respiratory
- iv. 9 Psychological
- v. 5 MVCs
- vi. 5 Unconscious Person
- vii. 1 Cardiac Arrest

16. Minotola Fire Company

a. Operations

- i. The Minotola FC has had 124 calls for service year to date.

1. In October MFC had 9 calls for service

- a. Alarm systems - 6
- b. MVC – 3

2. Upcoming Events

- a. October 29: The Minotola Fire Co. will participate in "Trunk or Treat" festivities hosted by Cleary School PTO. from 6:30pm-7:30pm at Cleary School.
- b. October 30: The Minotola Fire Co. will hold our annual Hot Roast Beef Sandwich Sale which will be held at the Minotola Fire Co. located at 255 Wheat Rd Minotola NJ 08341 from 11:00am-2:00pm. Tickets are \$12, each ticket gets you 2 hot roast beef sandwiches with potato chips. This is a drive thru event, as always, your participation and support is always welcome.
  - i. Immediately following the Fundraiser, the Minotola Fire Co. will perform our annual trick or treat drive through the borough with candy for the trick or treaters, and we will end the day at the EMS building for a Trunk or Treat event hosted by Buena EMS from 5pm-7pm
- c. November 7: There will be a Atlantic County TTF (Tender Task Force) Drill in Buena Boro taking place at Cleary School. The scope of this drill is for the task force to demonstrate the ability to successfully obtain, deliver, and maintain a constant, and sufficient flow of water for fire suppression services using natural and manmade resources without use of the Boroughs hydrant system. The drill will be conducted and monitored by a representative from the Atlantic County Fire Coordinators office and the results of this drill will be kept on file in the coordinators' office in the event an ISO (Insurance Services Office) inspection requests this information. Attendees of this drill will also be served lunch at our station while a debriefing of the drill takes place.
- d. November 20: The Minotola Fire Co. will be at the Ronald Martinelli Training Academy for required annual live fire training from 08:00am-12:00pm. During this time the Minotola Fire Co. will be covered by members who have already completed this training, and extra support will be given by the East Vineland Fire Co. Sta. 12-2 and the Forest Grove Fire Co. Sta. 43-5 until the members who need to complete this training return to the district.

17. Fire District #2 Report By Commissioner Brian Ewan



BOROUGH OF BUENA  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
OCTOBER 25, 2021  
PAGE 9

Brian Ewan reported the stated of the Arbor Ave. property and that the electrical unities had been disrupted and will be reconnected for the upcoming election. Files have not been available for the LOSAP funds to be distributed. Ewan also reported on the Minolta Fire District meeting pervious held.

**BLDGS/GROUNDS/IMPROVEMENTS: (COUNCILWOMAN BAKER)** Councilwoman Baker reported that 3 New tenant inspections were held during the month of September. Code Enforcement reported that the court had issued additional time to abate the violations and Order to Clear Notices had been given to the road department.

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS: NONE**

**BILLS PAID AS LISTED:**

Council Member	By	2nd	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
WALKER		X	X				
D’ALESSANDRO			X				
BAKER	X		X				
MANCUSO						X	
ALVAREZ			X				

**NEXT MEETING: November 8, 2021**

**MEETING ADJOURNED: M/Baker S/Alvarez RCVU**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Pamela Johnston**  
**Clerk 1**