

ATLANTIC COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Stillwater Building
201 Shore Road, Northfield, New Jersey 08225
and via Cisco Webex Video Conferencing

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Minutes of Meeting

March 15, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Atlantic County Board of County Commissioners was called to order by Chairwoman Maureen Kern at 4:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, on the above-mentioned date, in the Stillwater Building located at 201 Shore Road, Northfield, NJ and via Cisco Webex Video.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

Statement of Open Public Meeting Compliance: Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, Chairwoman Kern announced that adequate notice of this meeting, as required by said Act, has been published in *The Press of Atlantic City*, and mailed to *The Current* and *The Hammonton Gazette*; posted on the bulletin boards at 1333 Atlantic Avenue, Atlantic City, the Stillwater Building, 201 Shore Road, Northfield and the County Clerk's Office in Mays Landing.

PRAYER, MOMENT OF SILENCE AND FLAG SALUTE

The prayer was offered by Commissioner Bertino. A moment of silence was held in honor of Anne Edmonds, a long-time County employee who worked in juvenile services and for the plight of the people in the Ukraine. The flag salute was led by Chairwoman Kern.

ROLL CALL

The following roll call was recorded: PRESENT: Balles, Bertino, Coursey, Dase (Arrived at 4:04pm via Webex), Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Parker, Risley and Kern. ABSENT: None.

MINUTES OF MEETING March 1, 2022

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Balles seconded a motion to adopt and dispense with the reading of the March 1, 2022 minutes.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Balles, Bertino, Coursey, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Parker, Risley and Kern. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Dase.

PRESENTATION

Resolution honoring Te'Jean Florestal for winning the 2021 Congressional App Challenge for the 2nd District of New Jersey.

RESOLUTION NO. 125* Resolution honoring the winner of the 2021 Congressional App Challenge for the 2nd District of NJ

Commissioner Bertino moved and Commissioner Parker seconded a motion honoring Te'Jean Florestal for winning the 2021 Congressional App Challenge for the Second District of New Jersey (Sponsor: Maureen Kern).

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Balles, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Parker, Risley and Kern. NAYS: None.

PRESENTATION

Resolution honoring Tamar LaSure-Owens for her contributions to teaching and contributions to the community.

RESOLUTION NO. 126* Resolution honoring contributions to teaching and contributions to the community

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Fitzpatrick seconded a motion honoring Tamar LaSure-Owens for her contributions to teaching and contributions to the community (Sponsors: Caren L. Fitzpatrick and Ernest D. Coursey).

*Not in numerical order

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Balles, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Parker, Risley and Kern. NAYS: None.

**BOND ORDINANCE NO. 1
FIRST READING
Bond Ordinance for various
improvements to County
libraries and authorizing the
issuance of \$2,163,886.50
bonds**

Commissioner Parker moved and Commissioner Gatto seconded a motion to introduce on first reading Bond Ordinance No. 1-2022 providing for various improvements to County libraries in the County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey; appropriating \$4,327,773 therefor (including grants received or expected to be received from the New Jersey State Library Construction Bond Act Program) and authorizing the issuance of \$2,163,886.50 bonds or notes to finance part of the cost thereof.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Balles, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Parker, Risley and Kern. NAYS: None.

**ORDINANCE NO 2
FIRST READING
Ordinance establishing
salary ranges and annual cost
of living adjustments**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Parker seconded a motion to introduce on first reading Ordinance No. 2-2022, an ordinance establishing salary ranges and annual for various county government officials and employees and establishing annual cost of living adjustments.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Balles, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Parker, Risley and Kern. NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION NO. 103
Grant application and
acceptance for the Violence
Against Women Act (VAWA)
Grant Program**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Bertino seconded a motion authorizing a grant application and acceptance from the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General, Division of Criminal Justice for the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant Program in the amount up to \$83,515.00 of which \$58,031.00 is the funded amount and \$25,484.00 is the County in-kind match for a term commencing July 1, 2021 and terminating June 30, 2022.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Parker, Risley and Kern. NAYS: None. ABSTAINED: Balles

**RESOLUTION NO. 104
Cost reimbursement
subaward agreement for costs
associated with Rowan
Medicine's mobile COVID-19
Vaccination Program**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Coursey seconded a motion authorizing a cost reimbursement subaward agreement with Rowan University for funding from the COVID-19 Vaccination Program Activity B 2022 Grant for the costs associated with Rowan Medicine's mobile COVID-19 Vaccination Program for an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 for the period commencing November 1, 2021, to October 31, 2022.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Balles, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Parker, Risley and Kern. NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION NO. 105
Amending Resolution No. 130
(3-2-21), a professional
services agreement to provide
post offer pre-employment
physicals and diagnostic
testing to prospective
employees for designated
positions**

Commissioner Coursey moved and Commissioner Gatto seconded a motion amending Resolution No. 130 adopted on March 2, 2021, a professional services agreement with AtlantiCare Physician Group and Health Med Associates, PC dba as Health Med Urgent Care to provide post offer pre-employment physicals and associated diagnostic testing to prospective employees for designated positions for an amount not to exceed \$34,225.00 for the period commencing April 1, 2021 and ending March 31, 2022.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Balles, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Parker, Risley and Kern. NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION NO. 106
Professional services
agreement to provide post
offer pre-employment
physicals and associated
diagnostic testing to
prospective employees for
designated positions**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Coursey seconded a motion to authorize a professional services agreement with AtlantiCare Physician Group, PA and Health Med Associates, PC dba Health Med Urgent Care to provide post offer pre-employment physicals and associated diagnostic testing to prospective employees for designated positions for the total amount not to exceed \$45,070.00 for the period commencing April 1, 2022 and ending March 31, 2023.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Balles, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Parker, Risley and Kern. NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION NO. 107
Competitive contract for
election ballot services for
2022 elections**

Commissioner Balles moved and Commissioner Bertino seconded a motion to authorize a renewal competitive contract with Royal Printing Service for the provision of election ballot services for 2022 elections for a total amount not to exceed \$447,000.00 for the period commencing January 1, 2022 and terminating December 31, 2022.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Balles, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Parker, Risley and Kern. NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION NO. 108
Change order for roadway
improvements to Central
Avenue, Phase II in Buena
Borough**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Risley seconded a motion to authorize change order no. 1 and final, contract with South State, Inc. for roadway improvements to Central Avenue, Phase II in Buena Borough for a net increase of \$44,234.70 and a total amendatory amount of \$880,073.64.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Balles, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Parker, Risley and Kern. NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION NO. 109
Amending Resolution No. 29
(1-18-22), an emergency
contract for the lease of three
vehicles to be used by the
Sherriff's Office for the
Community COVID-19
Response 2021-2022 Program**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Bertino seconded a motion to amend Resolution No. 29 adopted on January 18, 2022, an emergency contract with Matt Blatt Kia for the lease of three vehicles to be used by the Sheriff's Office for the Community COVID-19 Response 2021-2022 Program for a down payment of \$6,758.96 and lease payments of \$38,996.65 for an amount not to exceed \$45,755.60 for a term commencing on December 1, 2021 and terminating on December 1, 2024.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Balles, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Parker, Risley and Kern. NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION NO. 110
Affiliation agreement for an
internship program with
various County departments**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Coursey seconded a motion to authorize an affiliation agreement with Stockton University for an internship program with various Atlantic County departments at no cost for a three-year period commencing February 18, 2022 and terminating February 18, 2025.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Balles, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Parker, Risley and Kern. NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION NO. 111
Shared services agreement for
the provision of community
shuttle services along the
Route 40 and Route 54
corridors**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Parker seconded a motion authorizing a shared services agreement with the South Jersey Transportation Authority for the provision of community shuttle services along the Route 40 and Route 54 corridors for an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00 for the term commencing January 1, 2022, and terminating December 31, 2022.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Balles, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Parker, Risley and Kern. NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION NO. 112
Business associate agreement
to be included with the
2022/2023 State Health
Insurance Assistance
Program Grant**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Fitzpatrick seconded a motion to authorize a business associate agreement with the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division on Aging Services and the Atlantic County Office on Aging to be included with the 2022/2023 State Health Insurance Assistance Program Grant.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Balles, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Parker, Risley and Kern. NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION NO. 113
Standardized resolution to be
filed with the 2022/2023 State
Health Insurance Assistance
Program grant**

Commissioner Bertino and Commissioner Gatto seconded a motion to authorize a standardized resolution to be filed with the 2022/2023 State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) Grant by the Atlantic County Office on Aging.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Balles, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Parker, Risley and Kern. NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION NO. 114
Resolution for transfer in the
2021 budget**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Balles seconded a motion to authorize a transfer in the 2021 budget in accordance with the provision of N.J.S. 40A:4-58.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Balles, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Parker, Risley and Kern. NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION NO. 115
Resolution authorizing the
temporary FY 2022 Capital
Budget**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Bertino seconded a motion authorizing the temporary FY 2022 Capital Budget.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Balles, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Parker, Risley and Kern. NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION NO. 116
Resolution supporting shared
services and School District
Consolidation Study and
Implementation grant funds**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Coursey seconded a motion authorizing support of Ventnor's application to the State of New Jersey for shared services and School District Consolidation Study and Implementation Grant Funds at no cost to the county.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Balles, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Parker, Risley and Kern. NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION NO. 117
Amending Resolution No. 403
(8-3-21), a grant application
for the Community
Development Block Grant
Program and the Home
Investment Partnership
Program**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Bertino seconded a motion to amend Resolution No. 403 adopted on August 3, 2021, a grant application to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Atlantic County FY 2021 to FY 2025 Consolidated Plan and the FY 2021 Annual Action Plan to the Community Development Block Grant Program and the HOME Investment Partnership Program for an amount not to exceed \$4,285,530.00.

Lee Diamond, resident of Margate, asked do the police refer the homeless to resources.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Balles, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Parker, Risley and Kern. NAYS: None.

**MOTION TO COMBINE
AND ADOPT RESOLUTION
NOS. 118 TO 124**

Commissioner Parker moved and Commissioner Gatto seconded a motion to combine and adopt Resolution Nos. 118 to 124.

**RESOLUTION NO. 118
Appointment to the Atlantic
County Veterans Advisory
Board**

Appointment of Inga Y. Jones-Sullivan to the Atlantic County Veterans Advisory Board for a term to expire January 1, 2025.

**RESOLUTION NO. 119
Appointment as first alternate
to the Atlantic County Senior
Citizens Advisory Board**

Appointment of Roxanne E. Terramagra as first alternate to the Atlantic County Senior Citizens Advisory Board for a term to expire January 31, 2024.

**RESOLUTION NO. 120
Appointment of a full
membership to the Atlantic
County Senior Citizens
Advisory Board**

Appointment of Carolyn Peterson to a full membership to the Atlantic County Senior Citizens Advisory Board for a term to expire on January 31, 2025.

**RESOLUTION NO. 121
Appointment as second
alternate to the Atlantic
County Senior Citizens
Advisory Board**

Appointment of Mary Jo Bernardo as second alternate to the Atlantic County Senior Citizens Advisory Board for a term to expire on January 31, 2025.

**RESOLUTION NO. 122
Appointment to the Atlantic
County Advisory Commission
on Women**

Appointment of Mona C. Tally to the Atlantic County Advisory Commission on Women for a term to expire on February 28, 2025.

**RESOLUTION NO. 123
Reappointments to the
Atlantic County Workforce
Development Board**

Reappointments of Maryann McGhee, Nandini Singh and Torrie T. Garvin, Sr. to the Atlantic County Workforce Development Board for a term to expire on June 30, 2025.

**RESOLUTION NO. 124
Reappointments to the
Atlantic County Fire Training
Advisory Board**

Reappointments of Dave Buzby, Mike Corbo, Vincent J. Jones, III, Howard Berchtold, Jr., Daniel Adams, Russell Fenton, Nicholas L. LaRotonda, Eugene Sharpe, Chris Tilley, Joseph Ward, Robert Winkler and Gilbert Zonge to the Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board for a term to expire on March 1, 2023.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Balles, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Parker, Risley and Kern. NAYS: None.

RESOLUTION NO. 125
Resolution honoring the
winner of the 2021
Congressional App Challenge
for the 2nd District of NJ

Moved to the top of the agenda. Commissioner Bertino moved and Commissioner Parker seconded a motion honoring Te’Jean Florestal for winning the 2021 Congressional App Challenge for the Second District of New Jersey (Sponsor: Maureen Kern).

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Balles, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Parker, Risley and Kern. NAYS: None.

RESOLUTION NO. 126
Resolution honoring
contributions to teaching and
contributions to the
community

Moved to the top of the agenda. Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Fitzpatrick seconded a motion honoring Tamar LaSure-Owens for her contributions to teaching and contributions to the community (Sponsors: Caren L. Fitzpatrick and Ernest D. Coursey).

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Balles, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Parker, Risley and Kern. NAYS: None.

MOTION TO REMOVE
RESOLUTION NO. 127
FROM THE TABLE

Commissioner Parker moved and Commissioner Coursey seconded a motion to remove Resolution No. 127 from the table.

The above-mentioned motion to remove Resolution No. 127 from the table was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Balles, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Parker, Risley and Kern. NAYS: None.

RESOLUTION NO. 127
Authorizing an investigative
inquiry concerning of the
ACUA

Commissioner Parker moved and Commissioner Coursey seconded a motion authorizing an investigative inquiry concerning the Atlantic County Utilities Authority (Sponsor: Caren L. Fitzpatrick {Tabled 3-1-22}).

Bertino recused and left the dais.

Rick Dovey, ACUA President, answered questions posed by the Board.

Sharon Hine, ACUA Human Resource Director and resident of Pleasantville, stated that Mr. Dovey has held various meetings to provide information and would hold employees accountable that are spreading false information.

Jason Howell, resident of Mullica Township, commended the ACUA and the information they provide.

Irving Rodriguez, resident of Pleasantville, expressed his opposition to the transfer station in Pleasantville.

David Callaway, resident of Pleasantville, suggested the Board rescind the resolution regarding the transfer station.

Kathleen Spathe, resident of Linwood, stated the service provided by ACUA is excellent.

Lee Diamond, resident of Margate, expressed that ACUA is a very good organization.

First name (indiscernible) Rodriguez, resident of Pleasantville, stated if it wasn’t for Mr. Dovey, he would not have been aware of the transfer station.

Mary Belle, resident of Linwood, learned of the transfer station through a newsletter and not sure if it's a positive or negative thing.

Creed Pogue, resident of Estell Manor, clarified the OPRA request he presented at an ACUA Meeting and the issue of ACUA's campaign opposing the transfer station.

Michele Post, reporter from The Press, defended the article she wrote regarding the transfer station.

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Fitzpatrick seconded a motion to withdraw Resolution No. 127.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Balles, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Parker, Risley and Kern. NAYS: None.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Commissioner Gatto reported that she presented Vikki Phillips, Executive Director at the Mental Health Association, a proclamation in recognition of her 40 years with the Association. She also recognized Congressman Van Drew for his efforts in maintaining the independence of the FAA.

Commissioner Fitzpatrick provided an overview of the Public Health Emergency Task Force meeting she attended last Friday. She also reported the Senior Citizens Advisory Board met and the 2022-2024 Area Plan for Older Americans Act is final.

Commissioner Parker reported he attended the Parks and Environment Advisory Board Meeting on March 2, 2022 and announced the various projects that were discussed. Commissioner Parker also described the major projects being performed throughout the library system.

Commissioner Bertino reported the Roads and Bridges Committee recently met and discussed the Green Bank Bridge and the replacement of the Eight Street Bridge in Folsom. Also, the Central Municipal Court Personnel Committee met and additional staff were selected.

Commissioner Balles reported, regarding the Veterans Advisory Board, that this Thursday at 11:00 a.m. the Board will present a proclamation to Sport Hyundai for their donations towards homeless Veterans.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Fitzpatrick stated this Friday at the Atlantic County League of Municipalities Meeting, Atlantic City Councilman Kaleem Shabazz will provide The Center for Climate Integrity presentation for anyone that may be attending.

Commissioner Balles proposed preparing a resolution to suspend the gas tax to make gas more affordable for the people of New Jersey.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Written communications and petitions were received by this office from March 2, 2022, to March 15, 2022.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairwoman Kern opened the meeting to the public at 6:16 p.m.

Ulissa (indiscernible), resident of Galloway Township, requested workers receive hazard pay. She believes it is a race issue.

Blanche Todd, Egg Harbor Township, stated why there is a fight to receive hazard pay.

Melanie Griffin, President of AFCME Local No. 2302 and resident of Pleasantville, stated she was upset by comments by the County Administrator and edits from the last meeting video.

Umar Saladine, resident of Atlantic City, appealing to the Board to pay workers to avoid illegal activities to make ends meet.

David Callaway, resident of Pleasantville, thanked the Commissioners for the resolution adopted regarding the molestation case and asked if there has been any response.

Jaclyn Farmer, resident of Somers Point, stated the workers in Atlantic County are the lowest paid in New Jersey. The salaries are too high for assistance and too low to live stress free.

Kathleen Spathe, resident of Linwood, requested clarification regarding Resolution No. 731-2021.

Domina Smith, resident of Hammonton and employee of Meadowview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, stated that everyone that entered the building deserves the hazard pay.

William McClean, County employee and resident of Pleasantville, stated he supports the union tremendously.

There being no further comments, Chairwoman Kern closed the public portion at 6:41 p.m.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Commissioner Risley acknowledged the ACUA and the great job they have performed for the residents of Atlantic County for many years.

Chairwoman Kern wished everyone an early St. Patrick’s Day and announced the new COVID-19 vaccinations which are on the County’s website.

Commissioner Parker acknowledged March as Women’s History Month.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairwoman Kern entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Risley moved and Commissioner Gatto seconded a motion to adjourn the Commissioners meeting. The motion was unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Submitted by,

Sonya G. Harris
Clerk of the Board