

**ATLANTIC COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REORGANIZATION MEETING
Atlantic County Criminal Court Complex
Courtroom No. 5
4997 Unami Boulevard
Mays Landing, New Jersey 08330
and via Cisco Webex Video Conferencing**

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**Minutes of Meeting
January 2, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

The Annual Reorganization meeting of the Atlantic County Board of County Commissioners was called to order by Clerk Tara Silipena at 4:05 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, on the above-mentioned date, in Courtroom No. Five of the Atlantic County Criminal Court Complex, Mays Landing, NJ and via Cisco Webex Video conferencing.

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING
STATEMENT**

Statement of Open Public Meeting Compliance: Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, Clerk Tara Silipena 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 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 AND FLAG
SALUTE**

The prayer was led by Reverend Lou Strugala, Pastor of Church by the Bay in Galloway Township followed by the flag salute led by Clerk Silipena.

OATHS OF OFFICES

Sheriff Joseph O'Donoghue was administered the oath of office by the Honorable Michael J. Blee, Superior Court Assignment Judge.

Undersheriff Mario Suarez was administered the oath of office by the Honorable Michael J. Blee, Superior Court Assignment Judge.

Undersheriff Brian Lee was administered the oath of office by the Honorable Michael J. Blee, Superior Court Assignment Judge.

Commissioner John W. Risley, Jr. was administered the oath of office by the Honorable James Curcio, Atlantic County Surrogate.

Commissioner Andrew W. Parker, III was administered the oath of office by the Honorable Vince Polistina, New Jersey District Two Senator.

Commissioner-elect June Byrnes was administered the oath of office by the Honorable Claire Swift, New Jersey District Two Assemblywoman.

2024 ROLL CALL

The following roll call was recorded: PRESENT: Balles, Bertino, Byrnes, Coursey, Dase, Gatto, Kern, Parker and Risley. ABSENT: None.

A quorum was present.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1
Nomination of Chairperson to
the 2024 Atlantic County
Board of County
Commissioners**

Commissioner Risley moved and Commissioner Gatto seconded a motion to appoint Commissioner Maureen Kern as Chairperson to the Board of County Commissioners and to serve for the period from January 2, 2024 to December 31, 2024.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 2
Nomination of Vice
Chairperson to the 2024
Atlantic County Board of
County Commissioners**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Parker seconded a motion to appoint Commissioner James A. Bertino as Vice Chairperson to the Board of County Commissioners and to serve for the period from January 2, 2024 to December 31, 2024.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 3
Informing the media of the
2024 regular meetings of the
Atlantic County Board of
County Commissioners**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Balles seconded a motion informing the media of the 2024 regular meetings of the Atlantic County Board of County Commissioners.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 4
Appointment of Atlantic
County Representative to the
New Jersey Association of
Counties (NJAC)**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Balles seconded a motion to appoint Maureen Kern as the Atlantic County Representative to the New Jersey Association of Counties (NJAC).

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 5
Appointment of Atlantic
County First Alternate
Representative to the NJAC**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Risley seconded a motion to appoint John W. Risley, Jr. as the Atlantic County First Alternate Representative to the New Jersey Association of Counties (NJAC).

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 6
Appointment of Atlantic
County Second Alternate
Representative to the NJAC**

Commissioner Risley moved and Commissioner Gatto seconded a motion to appoint Andrew W. Parker, III as the Atlantic County Second Alternate Representative to the New Jersey Association of Counties (NJAC).

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 7
Appointment of County
Commissioners to serve on
various Atlantic County
Advisory Boards/
Commissions/Councils for
2024**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Parker seconded a motion to appoint County Commissioners to serve on various Atlantic County Advisory Boards/Commissions/Councils for 2024 pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:41a-37.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 8
Resolution to make annual reorganization appointments to serve on various Advisory Boards, Commissions and Committees**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Balles seconded a motion to make annual reorganization appointments to serve on various Advisory Boards, Commissions and Committees.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 9
2024 Temporary Budget**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Risley seconded a motion to approve the County 2024 temporary budget.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 10
Depositories and cash management plan for the County of Atlantic – 2024**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Dase seconded a motion designating the depositories and cash management plan for the County of Atlantic – 2024.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 11
Establishing petty cash funds for various Departments and Divisions of Atlantic County 2024**

Commissioner Parker moved and Commissioner Gatto seconded a motion establishing petty cash funds for various Departments and Divisions of Atlantic County – 2024.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 12
Resolution adopting the Governing Body's Certification of Compliance with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964"**

Commissioner Parker moved and Commissioner Gatto seconded a motion adopting the Governing Body's Certification of Compliance with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964".

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

REMARKS

Chairwoman Kern thanked the Board for electing her to Chair the Board this year. She thanked the Executive and Administration for making the County residents top priority. She acknowledged the dignitaries in attendance.

Commissioner Bertino thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as Vice Chairman and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Commissioner Coursey congratulated all the newly elected and re-elected officials and looks forward to serving the constituents. He recognized Linwood Municipal Clerk in attendance and offered sympathies on the recent passing of her father, former Freeholder Thomas Russo.

Commissioner Riskey congratulated the new Chair and Vice Chair. He looks forward to working with the legislators on important issues including centralized dispatch for fire/EMS and expanding the jail and Harborfields.

Chairwoman Kern read a statement from County Executive Dennis Levinson.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairwoman Kern opened the meeting to the public at 4:45 p.m.

Devon Parker, resident of EHT, congratulated the Board and Commissioner Parker. He wished everyone a Happy New Year.

There being no further comments, Chairwoman Kern closed the public portion at 4:46 p.m.

BENEDICTION

Reverend Lou Strugala offered the closing prayer.

Chairwoman Kern asked to keep the Gatto family in your prayers.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairwoman Kern entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Balles seconded a motion to adjourn the Commissioners' meeting. The motion was unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Submitted by,

Tara Silipena
Clerk of the Board