

# 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 February 21, 2023

### CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Atlantic County Board of County Commissioners was called to order by Chairman John Risley 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, Chairman Risley 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 Parker followed by the flag salute led by Chairman Risley.

### ROLL CALL

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

### MINUTES OF MEETING February 7, 2023

Commissioner Coursey moved and Commissioner Gatto seconded a motion to adopt and dispense with the reading of the February 7, 2023 minutes.

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

### ORDINANCE NO. 1 FINAL READING Ordinance amending County Code Chapter 97 entitled Parks concerning John F. Gaffney Green Tree Golf Course

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Parker seconded a motion to adopt on final reading Ordinance No. 1-2023 amending County Code Chapter 97 entitled Parks concerning John F. Gaffney Green Tree Golf Course.

Chairman Risley opened the public hearing for comments at 4:05 p.m. There being no comments, the meeting was closed to the public at 4:05 p.m.

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

### ORDINANCE NO. 2 FIRST READING Ordinance establishing mid-block crosswalks in the Township of Hamilton

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Kern seconded a motion to introduce on first reading Ordinance No. 2-2023 establishing mid-block crosswalks on Somers Point-Mays Landing Road a.k.a River Road (County Route 617) and Farragut Avenue (County Route 660) in the Township of Hamilton.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 74**  
**Amending Resolution No. 329**  
**(6-21-22), a grant application for**  
**the FFY-22 Emergency**  
**Management Performance Grant**  
**(EMPG) – Emergency**  
**Management Agency Assistance**  
**(EMAA)**

Commissioner Kern moved and Commissioner Dase seconded a motion amending Resolution No. 329 adopted on June 21, 2022, a grant application to the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management Performance/Federal Emergency Management Agency for the FFY-22 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) – Emergency Management Agency Assistance (EMAA) for funding in the amount of \$55,000.00, a County in-kind match of \$55,000.00 and a total program amount not to exceed \$110,000.00 for the period from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 75**  
**Grant application and**  
**acceptance for the SFY 2023 Law**  
**Enforcement Officers Training**  
**and Equipment Fund (LEOTEF)**

Commissioner Kern moved and Commissioner Balles seconded a motion authorizing a grant application and acceptance from the State of New Jersey, Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General for the SFY 2023 Law Enforcement Officers Training and Equipment Fund (LEOTEF) for an amount not to exceed \$11,962.00.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 76**  
**Grant application and**  
**acceptance for the 2023 Atlantic**  
**County Click It or Ticket**  
**Campaign**

Commissioner Bertino moved and Commissioner Kern seconded a motion authorizing a grant application and acceptance from the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety for the 2023 Atlantic County Click It or Ticket Campaign for an amount not to exceed \$63,000.00 for the period commencing May 23, 2023 and terminating June 23, 2023.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 77**  
**Grant application and**  
**acceptance for the 2023 Atlantic**  
**County Distracted Driving**  
**Campaign**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Kern seconded a motion authorizing a grant application and acceptance from the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety for the 2023 Atlantic County Distracted Driving Campaign for an amount not to exceed \$68,000.00 for the period commencing April 1, 2023 and terminating May 30, 2023.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 78**  
**Grant application and**  
**acceptance for the salary of a**  
**fellow to identify and advance**  
**shared service opportunities**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Parker seconded a motion authorizing a grant application and acceptance from the State of New Jersey, Department of Community Affairs through the Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP) County Coordinator Fellowship Grant to be used for the salary of a fellow to identify and advance shared service opportunities for a funded amount of \$75,000.00, plus a County in-kind match of \$49,500.00 and a total program amount of \$124,500.00 for a term commencing July 1, 2023 and terminating June 30, 2024.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 79**  
**Cost reimbursement subaward agreement for use of the Hope One Mobile Recovery Unit for mobile COVID-19 vaccination events**

Commissioner Kern moved and Commissioner Gatto seconded a motion authorizing a cost reimbursement subaward agreement with Rowan University for funding from the COVID-19 Vaccination Program Grant for use of the Hope One Mobile Recovery Unit for mobile COVID-19 vaccination events for an amount not to exceed \$60,000.00 for the period commencing November 1, 2022 to October 31, 2023.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 80**  
**Amending Resolution No. 638 (12-15-20), a professional services agreement to provide engineering and inspection services associated with the resurfacing of Tilton Road, Section 5 (CR 563) and Washington Avenue, Section 3 (CR 608) in Egg Harbor Township**

Commissioner Parker moved and Commissioner Gatto seconded a motion amending Resolution No. 638 adopted on December 15, 2020, a professional services agreement with Pennoni Associates, Inc. to provide engineering and inspection services associated with the resurfacing of Tilton Road, Section 5 (CR 563) and Washington Avenue, Section 3 (CR 608) in Egg Harbor Township to extend the term of the contract until December 15, 2023 at no additional cost.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 81**  
**Professional services agreement to provide substance abuse services for the 12 Hour and 48 Hour Intoxicated Driver Resource Center (IDRC)**

Commissioner Kern moved and Commissioner Gatto seconded a motion authorizing a professional services agreement with various counselors and nurses to provide substance abuse services for the 12 Hour and 48 Hour Intoxicated Driver Resource Center (IDRC) for an amount not to exceed \$39,152.00 for the term commencing January 1, 2023 and terminating December 31, 2023.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 82**  
**Professional services agreement to operate a recovery center**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Kern seconded a motion authorizing a professional services agreement with John Brooks Recovery Center to operate a recovery center for an amount not to exceed \$60,000.00 for the term commencing January 1, 2023 and terminating September 29, 2023, with an option to renew for additional funding from September 30, 2023 to September 29, 2024.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 83**  
**Professional services agreement for alcohol and drug prevention education and treatment services**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Kern seconded a motion authorizing a professional services agreement with various vendors for alcohol and drug prevention education and treatment services for an amount not to exceed \$583,001.00 for the period commencing January 1, 2023 and terminating December 31, 2023.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 84**  
**Amending Resolution No. 74 (2-15-22), a competitive contract for the provision of auditing services**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Kern seconded a motion amending Resolution No. 74 adopted on February 15, 2022, a competitive contract with Mercadien, P.C. for the provision of auditing services for a net increase of \$9,000.00 and a total amendatory amount of \$178,100.00 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, Kern, Parker and Risley. NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION NO. 85**  
**Renewal bid contract to furnish and deliver kitchen and catering supplies to the Atlantic County Cooperative**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Kern seconded a motion authorizing a renewal bid contract with various vendors to furnish and deliver kitchen and catering supplies to the Atlantic County Cooperative for an amount not to exceed \$100,025.13 for the term commencing on April 1, 2023 and terminating on September 30, 2023.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 86**  
**Bid contract to furnish and deliver food requirements to the Department of Human Services**

Commissioner Kern moved and Commissioner Bertino seconded a motion authorizing a bid contract with various vendors to furnish and deliver food requirements to the Department of Human Services for an amount not to exceed \$346,085.70 for the period commencing on March 16, 2023 and terminating on March 15, 2024.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 87**  
**Bid contract for the resurfacing of Zion Road (CR 615), Section 4 (Cedar Bridge EH-10 to Mill Road CR 662) in the City of Northfield**

Commissioner Parker moved and Commissioner Gatto seconded a motion authorizing a bid contract with South State, Inc. for the resurfacing of Zion Road (CR 615), Section 4 (Cedar Bridge EH-10 to Mill Road CR 662) in the City of Northfield for an amount not to exceed \$2,005,000.00 for the period commencing from notice of award and terminating on December 31, 2023.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 88**  
**Bid contract for concrete sidewalk installation at the Atlantic County Stillwater Building and a two-year maintenance and repair contract**

Commissioner Kern moved and Commissioner Gatto seconded a motion authorizing a bid contract with Ocean Construction, LLC for concrete sidewalk installation at the Atlantic County Stillwater Building and a two-year maintenance and repair contract for an amount not to exceed \$117,900.00 for the period commencing from January 1, 2023 and terminating on December 31, 2024 with an option to renew for an additional year.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 89**  
**Bid contract to provide installation of fencing at Estell Manor Park and a two-year miscellaneous maintenance and repair contract**

Commissioner Parker moved and Commissioner Gatto seconded a motion authorizing a bid contract with All Vinyl Fencing to provide installation of fencing at Estell Manor Park and a two-year miscellaneous maintenance and repair contract for an amount not to exceed \$109,607.50 for the period commencing April 1, 2023 and terminating March 31, 2025.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 90**  
**Change order no. 1, a contract**  
**for the resurfacing of Old Tilton**  
**Road (CR 687) in Egg Harbor**  
**Township and the City of**  
**Pleasantville**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Parker seconded a motion authorizing change order no. 1, a contract with Think Pavers Hardscaping, LLC for the resurfacing of Old Tilton Road (CR 687) in Egg Harbor Township and the City of Pleasantville to extend the term date until December 31, 2023 at no additional cost.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 91**  
**Amending Resolution No. 570**  
**(10-18-22), a funding agreement**  
**between Atlantic City Electric**  
**Company (ACE) and the Atlantic**  
**County Workforce Development**  
**Board (ACWBD)**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Kern seconded a motion amending Resolution No. 570 adopted on October 18, 2022, a funding agreement between Atlantic City Electric Company (ACE) and the Atlantic County Workforce Development Board (ACWBD) for a no-cost scope of work amendment.

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

**MOTION TO COMBINE AND**  
**ADOPT RESOLUTION NOS.**  
**92 TO 96**

Commissioner Coursey moved and Commissioner Gatto seconded a motion to combine and adopt Resolution Nos. 92 to 96.

**RESOLUTION NO. 92**  
**Appointment to the Atlantic**  
**County Parks and Environment**  
**Advisory Board**

Appointment of Emma L. Witt to the Atlantic County Parks and Environment Advisory Board for a term to expire on July 1, 2026.

**RESOLUTION NO. 93**  
**Appointment to the Atlantic**  
**County Emergency Management**  
**Advisory Board**

Appointment of Stephen E. Cope, Jr. to the Atlantic County Emergency Management Advisory Board in a mandated position.

**RESOLUTION NO. 94**  
**Appointment to the Atlantic**  
**County Emergency Management**  
**Advisory Board**

Appointment of Patrick F. Snyder to the Atlantic County Emergency Management Advisory Board to fill an unexpired term to expire on May 1, 2023.

**RESOLUTION NO. 95**  
**Appointment to the Atlantic**  
**County Library Advisory**  
**Commission**

Appointment of Peter L. Hagen to the Atlantic County Library Advisory Commission for a term to expire on January 1, 2026.

**RESOLUTION NO. 96**  
**Appointment to the Atlantic**  
**County Youth Services**  
**Commission**

Appointment of Yvonne Flyn to the Atlantic County Youth Services Commission in a mandated position.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 97**  
**Roadway solicitation event in**  
**Absecon**

Commissioner Kern moved and Commissioner Gatto seconded a motion authorizing consent for a roadway solicitation event by Absecon VFW 9462 at the intersection of Mill Road (CR 651) and New Jersey Avenue (CR 601) in the City of Absecon on Saturday, May 20, 2023 from 8 am to 2 pm.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 98**  
**Resolution in support of Senate**  
**Bill 3423 seeking to extend the**  
**mandatory retirement age for**  
**New Jersey judges from 70 to 75**

Commissioner Coursey moved and Commissioner Kern seconded a motion supporting Senate Bill 3423 seeking to extend the mandatory retirement age for New Jersey judges from 70 to 75 (Sponsor: Ernest D. Coursey).

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 99**  
**Resolution in support of an**  
**immediate 90 day moratorium on**  
**offshore wind development**  
**projects pending an investigation**

Commissioner Balles moved and Commissioner Dase seconded a motion supporting an immediate 90 day moratorium on offshore wind development projects pending an investigation (Sponsors: Richard R. Dase and Frank X. Balles).

Chairman Risley opened the public hearing for comments at 4:52 p.m.

Senator Vince Polistina stated Atlantic Shores has been completing sonar studies and Orsted has been drilling since January. The Federal government has granted incidental take authorization that allows the disruption of marine mammal habitats. He has requested a pause on the project.

Brigantine Mayor Vince Sera presented a letter calling for a moratorium on all offshore wind activity and stated the project needs to be done correctly. There needs to be answers to why marine mammals are being harmed.

Keith Moore, resident of Brigantine, is against this project and feels it was too rushed.

Roseanne Serowatka, resident of Ocean City, was onboard of stopping the project before any of the whale deaths. Some green energy ideas just don't work, industrializing the ocean is one of them.

Toni Groet, Marine Biologist from Atlantic City and Clean Ocean Action Coordinator is raising awareness of the project's harmfulness to the marine habitats.

Debbie Dombrowski, resident of Longport, reported the scope of the project has significantly changed since the beginning specifications. Many animals will be harmed with the project.

George Platenyk, resident of Point Pleasant Borough, expressed that the industrialization of the ocean will affect the fishing industries, small businesses and restaurants.

Marianne Ford, resident of Brigantine, stated federal and state executive orders are personally offensive to the people and the wind turbines will affect tourism.

Keith Gallagher, Environmental Scientist at Stockton University, suggested the impact of windmill maintenance needs to be considered.

Anne Phillips, resident of Brigantine, supports the moratorium because the windmill projects are harmful to the environment.

Linda Cicarelli, resident of Long Beach Island, reported many environmental organizations have accepted donations from offshore wind companies and wants the whale necropsies to be unbiased.

John Lavery, resident of Brigantine, questioned if the project was oil drilling, would the Board oppose the moratorium?

Virginia Hauck, resident of Brigantine, asked if there were any town hall meetings prior to the project beginning? Commercial and sport fishing industries will be affected.

Jack Martin, resident of Absecon, is in favor of the moratorium and is solely concerned of the whale deaths.

Peggy Dennison, resident of Brigantine and member of Defend Brigantine Beach, is shocked to learn that scientific organizations performing the studies on whale deaths have accepted donations, sponsorships, and grants from offshore wind energy companies.

Brooks Garrison, resident of Brigantine, believes the proposed offshore wind project represents an environmental catastrophe.

Tim (unknown last name), believes there are more efficient ways to create energy and supports a moratorium on offshore wind projects.

Claire Myers, vacations in Long Beach Island, supports the moratorium and investigation.

Stacy Daly, vacations in Long Beach Island, is in favor of wind turbines and curious if the wind turbines will cool the waters.

Patrick Armstrong, resident of Longport, reported the Navy has released a study that sonar pings have caused death of whales.

Cindy Pekarick, resident of Brigantine and member of Defend Brigantine Beach, believes the offshore wind projects are not clean and not green.

Eileen Barker, resident of Atlantic City, spoke regarding a study in Israel that reported about the negative impacts from wind turbines on birds and bats.

Steve Stokes, resident of Galloway, emphasized amending the resolution by adding an end date on the moratorium.

Ron Meischker, resident of Milmay and Somers Point, agreed that an end date should be added to the resolution. Offshore wind projects will not have a negative impact on commercial fisheries. These projects will provide good paying careers for local residents.

Nancy Pino, resident of Brigantine, announced sub bottom profiling has a correlation to the whale deaths since 2016 and an investigation is worth looking into to fight for the whales.

Elizabeth Tinnon, resident of New Jersey, agrees that a pause on the projects should be done and it is very important to have faith in political leaders.

Lisa Bonanno, resident of Linwood, announced fossil fuels have environmental impacts and forward-thinking policies should concern all residents.

Lori Goldsmith, resident of Brigantine, believes ocean mapping is the cause of whale deaths and supports an investigation.

Deputy Mayor Karen Bew of Brigantine thanked the Board for listening to the concerned citizens.

Marina Raimont, resident of Brigantine, stated the wind turbines will turn the ocean into an environmental dump.

Suzanne Moore, resident of Brigantine, provided a map of the proposed wind farms showing the Atlantic County coast will have 400 windmills only nine miles off the coast.

Chairman Risley closed the public hearing of comments at 6:20 p.m.

Commissioner Balles moved and Commissioner Gatto seconded a motion to amend the resolution by adding “90 day” moratorium into the language.

The above-mentioned motion to amend the resolution was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Balles, Bertino, Dase, Gatto, Kern, Parker and Risley. NAYS: Coursey and Fitzpatrick.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted as amended by the following roll call: AYES: Balles, Bertino, Dase, Gatto, Kern, Parker and Risley. NAYS: Coursey and Fitzpatrick.

**REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

There were no reports of special committees.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Commissioner Fitzpatrick received the report on public relations and had a productive conversation with Lauren Moore of the Atlantic County Economic Alliance.

Mr. DelRosso provided an update on the flashing fire signals in Egg Harbor Township.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS**

Written communications and petitions were received by this office from February 8, 2023 to February 21, 2023.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Risley opened the public hearing for comments at 6:30 p.m. There being no comments, Chairman Risley closed the public portion at 6:30 p.m.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Chairman Risley offered those in attendance who did not get to speak to contact the Commissioners with comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Risley entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Parker seconded a motion to adjourn the Commissioners meeting. The motion was unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Submitted by,

Tara Silipena  
Clerk of the Board