

TO: Lisa Duffner, Board Secretary
Atlantic County Utilities Authority

FROM: Honorable Dennis Levinson, Atlantic County Executive

RE: Minutes of Meeting – February 19, 2026

I. The Minutes of the above referenced meeting were submitted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:41A-37 et seq. on February 20, 2026,

- (a) by the end of the fifth business day following the meeting.
- (b) as soon as practicable following the meeting where emergency action has been taken.
- (c) beyond the statutory period for submission.

II. I hereby return the Minutes of the above referenced meeting to the Authority and to the Board of County Commissioners, on the date set forth above, which is


- (a) within ten days of delivery.
- (b) within twenty-four (24) hours of delivery where the action at the meeting was deemed by the Authority to be in response to an emergency situation.

III. The following action is taken on the Minutes:

- (a) Approved in all respects.
- (b) Vetoed in all respects. A written explanation of the reasons for the veto is attached.
- (c) Approved in part and vetoed in part.
The specific items which are vetoed and a written explanation of the reasons for the veto or vetoes is attached.



Dennis Levinson
Atlantic County Executive



Arthur J. Murray, Assistant County Counsel
Approved as to Form and Entry

Date: 2/25/26
cc: Tara Silipena, Clerk to the Atlantic County Board of County Commissioners
ATTACHMENTS: Minutes
 Veto Message

ATLANTIC COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY
February 19, 2026 – 3:00 PM
6700 Delilah Road, Egg Harbor Township, NJ

PRESENT FOR THE AUTHORITY

Marvin Embry	Chair
Fred Akers	Member
Laura Pfrommer	Member
Judy Ward	Member
Maria Mento	Member
Alex Marino	Member
Matthew DeNafio	President
Joseph Pantalone	Vice President of Wastewater
Greg Seher	Vice President of Solid Waste
Linda Bazemore	Vice President of Administration & Finance/CFO
James Rocco	Vice President of Centralized Maintenance & Asset Management
Thomas Ganard	Chief Engineer
Emil Bobev	Project Analyst
Brittany Poplawski	Senior Systems Analyst
Fredy Flores	Computer Analyst
Lisa Duffner	Executive Assistant/Board Secretary
Sonia Chowdhury	Executive Assistant/Asst. Board Secretary

ALSO PRESENT

Keith Davis, Esq.	Nehmad, Davis & Goldstein
Stephanie E. Farrell, Esq.	Nehmad, Davis & Goldstein - Zoom
Kaitlynn Flynn, Esq.	Atlantic County Law Department
Christopher Gibson, Esq.	Archer & Greiner

James Bertino, Liaison Atlantic County Board of Commissioners - absent

Chairman Embry called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and announced that the notice of the 2025-2026 Meeting Schedule was mailed to the Atlantic City Press, The Daily Journal, the Clerk of Atlantic County, and the Clerk of the Atlantic County Board of Commissioners on February 25, 2025, in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-6, *et seq.* and it was posted on the bulletin board of the Atlantic County Utilities Authority in the administration building and Notice of Live Streaming of this meeting was mailed to the Atlantic City Press, The Star Ledger, the Clerk of Atlantic County, and the Clerk of the Atlantic County Board of Commissioners on February 2, 2026, and both notices were posted on the bulletin board of the Atlantic County Utilities Authority in the administration building.

Flag Salute

Roll call was taken by Lisa Duffner which reflected a quorum was present.

Chairman Embry	present
Fred Akers	present
Laura Pfrommer	present
Judy Ward	present - Zoom
Maria Mento	present
Alex Marino	present
Mickey Pullia	absent

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 15, 2026, MEETING – voted on and approved by all members.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

BOARD COMMENT: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Chairman Embry stated that the Board would be going into an Executive Session to discuss the current status of the litigation regarding The Gatherings at Bel Aire Lakes Homeowners Association and individual residents. A motion was made by Chairman Embry, and seconded by Mr. Marino, to enter into an Executive Session. By a roll-call vote of 6-0-0, the Board unanimously agreed to enter into an Executive Session at 3:03 p.m.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 4:02p.m.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

ALL RESOLUTIONS APPROVED.

RESOLUTION COMMENTS:

Resolution 26-2-21: Electing Chair of the Atlantic County Utilities Authority.

Mr. Akers made a motion to nominate Marvin Embry for Chairman of the ACUA Board, and Mr. Marino seconded the motion. Chairman Embry accepted the nomination and thanked the Board. On behalf of the Board, Ms. Mento thanked Chairman Embry for his many years of dedicated service.

Resolution 26-2-22: Electing Vice Chair of the Atlantic County Utilities Authority.

Chairman Embry made a motion to nominate Fred Akers as Vice-Chairman of the ACUA Board, and Ms. Mento seconded the motion. Mr. Akers accepted the nomination and thanked the Board.

Resolution 26-2-23: Appointing Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer of the Atlantic County Utilities Authority.

Ms. Pfrommer made a motion to nominate Ms. Mento as Treasurer of the ACUA Board, and Chairman Embry seconded the motion. Ms. Mento accepted the nomination and thanked the Board.

Ms. Mento made a motion to nominate Ms. Pfrommer as Assistant Treasurer to the ACUA Board, and Chairman Embry seconded the motion. Ms. Pfrommer accepted the nomination and thanked the Board.

Resolution 26-2-29: Authorizing award of an Alternate Method Contract for Professional Legal Services-General Counsel to Nehmad, Davis & Goldstein, P.C. Amount is not to exceed \$110,000.00, for the contract term March 1, 2026, to February 28, 2027.

Explanation: Annual agreement for General Counsel Services.

Mr. Davis thanked the ACUA Board of Commissioners.

Resolution 26-2-50: Authorizing a Shared Services Agreement between Stockton University and the Atlantic County Utilities Authority for Routine Maintenance and Repairs to Stockton's Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Vehicle for the contract term March 1, 2026, to February 28, 2027. Estimated revenue to the Authority is \$1,400.00.

Explanation: Annual maintenance contract renewal for Stockton's CNG vehicle.

Mr. Marino recused himself from the vote.

Resolution 26-2-64: Amending 2026 Salary Guide.

Explanation: Approves a 4% increase for all Non-Union Employees, retroactive as of January 1, 2026, and adding the title Assistant Solid Waste Manager.

Ms. Mento recused herself from the vote.

Resolution 26-2-66: Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Boys & Girls Club of Atlantic City regarding the ACUA Blue Collar Track Curriculum-Integrated Wastewater Workforce Cohort Program. Contract term is March 19, 2026, to May 28, 2026, at no cost to the Authority.

Explanation: This is a 9-week workforce development program, which will serve 10 to 12 high-school juniors and seniors from the Boys & Girls Club of Atlantic City. Participants will have the opportunity to apply for onsite or future employment with the ACUA, subject to eligibility and availability.

Mr. Marino commented that this is a very good program. He asked if the ACUA will be presenting a certificate to those students who completed the program. Mrs. Bazemore responded that there will be a graduation.

Mrs. Ward asked how the schools and students are selected for this workforce development program. Mr. Marino responded, stating that the students are Atlantic City residents, and he does not believe students are pooled from any surrounding communities currently. Chairman Embry added that students who are chosen would need to be members of the Boys & Girls Club of Atlantic City. Mrs. Ward asked if, in the future, there could be students from other organizations that could take part in this program. Mr. DeNafo agreed and said he will look into the ACUA expanding the program to pool students from other schools, like Pleasantville. He said that the Boys & Girls Club of Atlantic City presented the program to the ACUA. If a similar program—one initiated by the ACUA—is offered in the future, he sees no reason why students from other schools would not be considered.

Resolution 26-2-68: Amending the Atlantic County Utilities Authority's Policy and Benefits Manual.

Explanation: Amends Employee Policy Benefits Manual by providing clarity and incorporating revisions to certain policies.

Ms. Mento abstained from the vote.

Resolution 26-2-77: Authorizing payment of certain expenditures: \$7,741,795.00

Ms. Mento recused herself from the vote.

Mr. DeNafo gave a brief summary regarding the status of the ACUA's landfill expansion. He said the first introduction was on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at the Atlantic County Board of Commissioners' Meeting, and they approved the landfill expansion unanimously. The ACUA's second presentation before the Atlantic County Board of Commissioners will be held on March 3, 2026.

Chairman Embry thanked everyone for attending and participating in the meeting. He asked if there were any further questions or comments. Since there were none, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Lisa Duffner, Board Secretary