

TO: Lisa Duffner, Board Secretary
Atlantic County Utilities Authority

FROM: Honorable Dennis Levinson, Atlantic County Executive

RE: Minutes of Meeting – October 16, 2025

I. The Minutes of the above referenced meeting were submitted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:41A-37 et seq. on October 17, 2025.

- (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.

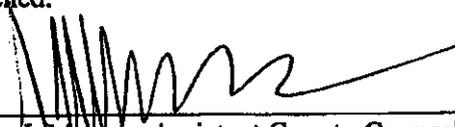
II. I hereby return the Minutes of the above referenced meeting to the Authority and to the Board of County Commissioners, on the date set forth above, which is

- (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: 10/22/2025

cc: Tara Silipena, Clerk to the Atlantic County Board of County Commissioners

ATTACHMENTS: Minutes
 Veto Message

ATLANTIC COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY
October 16, 2025 – 3:00 PM
6700 Delilah Road, Egg Harbor Township, NJ

PRESENT FOR THE AUTHORITY

Marvin Embry	Chair
Fred Akers	Member
Judy Ward	Member - Zoom
Laura Pfrommer	Member
Maria Mento	Member
Alex Marino	Member
Michael Pullia	Member
Matthew DeNafo	President
Joseph Pantalone	Vice President Wastewater
Gary Conover	Vice President of Solid Waste
Linda Bazemore	Vice President of Administration & Finance/CFO/Acting Board Secretary
Thomas Ganard	Chief Engineer
Oren Thomas	Procurement & Contracts Manager
Brittany Poplawski	Senior Systems Analyst
Lisa Duffner	Executive Assistant/Board Secretary
Sonia Chowdhury	Executive Assistant/Assistant Board Secretary

ALSO PRESENT

Keith Davis, Esq.	Nehmad, Davis & Goldstein
Stephanie E. Farrell, Esq.	Nehmad, Davis & Goldstein - Zoom
Arthur J. Murray, Esq.	County Counsel – Zoom
James Bertino, Liaison	Atlantic County Board of Commissioners - Zoom
T. Ninivaggi	Member of the Public

Chairman Embry called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and announced that the notice of the 2024-2025 Meeting Schedule was mailed to The Press of Atlantic City, 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 Press of Atlantic City, The Star Ledger, the Clerk of Atlantic County, and the Clerk of the Atlantic County Board of Commissioners on October 3, 2025, 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, Board Secretary, which reflected a quorum was present.

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2025 –
voted on and approved by all members.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

PRESENTATION BY POLYGONE: Chairman Embry next introduced Nathaniel Banks and Yidian Liu, Co-Founders of PolyGone, a company that has set up a system at the ACUA's Wastewater Treatment Plant to intercept, collect, and recycle microplastics. Chairman Embry stated that PolyGone successfully held a Microplastic Removal Grand Opening at the Wastewater Facility on September 12, 2024, with guests having the opportunity to see the complete pilot project and educational pavilion. Chairman Embry said he felt it was a good time to have a presentation today from PolyGone so they could update the Board on what is happening, but he first asked Mr. Pantalone to give the Board a synopsis of PolyGone's pilot program.

Mr. Pantalone stated that the relationship between the ACUA and PolyGone has been wonderful. He said the ACUA is very proud of what PolyGone has accomplished thus far. He added that the New Jersey Division of Environmental Protection may eventually have a regulation in place to remove microplastics from wastewater and the ACUA will be ahead of everyone in the industry. Mr. Banks agreed stating that it already is being regulated in some parts of Europe.

Mr. Pantalone said PolyGone is looking to make the system more automated and is trying to obtain a grant to do this. Chairman Embry asked who is giving the grant, and Mr. Pantalone replied the NJDEP, through the I-Bank. Mr. DeNafo added that the grant is for \$1 million. Chairman Embry asked Mr. Banks if PolyGone will need the grant to proceed in modernizing their system, and Mr. Banks responded, "Yes, in terms of financing it."

Mr. Banks thanked Mr. Pantalone and then made his presentation to the Board, explaining in detail how the PolyGone System works in removing microplastics from wastewater. He then asked if there were any questions. Ms. Pfrommer asked how often do the brushes that clean the microplastics from the wastewater need to be cleaned. Mr. Banks said it is currently done manually, so it takes some time, and he went on to explain how this is done. Ms. Mento asked how PolyGone's program will benefit the ACUA and what their ultimate goal is. Mr. Banks responded that the PolyGone System is specifically designed to remove microplastics from wastewater and then upcycle it, which would be of great benefit to the ACUA's Wastewater Treatment Plant. In addition, the microplastics will not be discharged into the ocean further improving the quality of the surrounding environment. Chairman Embry asked how the particles are counted. Mr. Banks said that PolyGone has their own dedicated lab that does this. Chairman Embry asked if there is anymore that the ACUA can do to help PolyGone. Mr. Banks replied that the ACUA has helped them tremendously, and Mr. Pantalone confirmed that the staff at the Wastewater Facility have been extremely helpful in assisting PolyGone and will continue to do so.

Mr. DeNafo stated that he and Mr. Pantalone were invited to sit on a panel during New York City's "Climate Week." There were many investors and people who were interested in what the ACUA and PolyGone are doing. He pointed out that once the removal of microplastics in wastewater is regulated, the ACUA already has figured this out and are the first to do something like this. Mr. DeNafo said the ACUA appreciates everything PolyGone has done and continues to do to help the ACUA be a leader in this type of innovation. He added that it is because of partners like PolyGone that make the ACUA a nationally recognized organization. Further, he said the ACUA has not dedicated any capital to this program. Mr. DeNafo mentioned that PolyGone has another pilot program with Veolia, which is a huge national wastewater, publically-traded company. He thanked Mr. Banks for making the presentation today and for answering questions, which have helped educate everyone in attendance.

On behalf of the Board, Chairman Embry also thanked Mr. Banks and Ms. Liu for attending the meeting and making the presentation. Mr. Banks replied that he and Ms. Liu were very appreciative of the opportunity and looked forward to continuing PolyGone's work with the ACUA.

PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

ALL RESOLUTIONS APPROVED.

RESOLUTION COMMENTS:

Resolution 25-10-229: Authorizing the Atlantic County Utilities Authority to Utilize Competitive Contracting for Stack Testing Services.

Explanation: To solicit Request for Proposals to identify vendors for stack testing services for 2026.

Chairman Embry asked why a resolution is needed for this. Mr. Thomas responded that there are a couple of extra steps that need to be taken in order to utilize the competitive contract process and one of them is a resolution to start initiating that process. Ms. Mento asked if this is required to be a competitive contract, and Mr. Thomas responded that no, the ACUA is utilizing it as an option. A discussion ensued. Mr. DeNafo said this allows the ACUA to evaluate not just the low bid, but to also look at the bidder's technical expertise and experience.

Resolution 25-10-231: Authorizing a Shared Services Agreement between Hamilton Township and the Atlantic County Utilities Authority for Certain Solid Waste, Bulky Waste, Yard Waste, and Recycling Collection Services for the contract term January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2030. Estimated annual revenue to the Authority is \$1,619,678.90 (not including tip fees and pull charges).

Ms. Mento asked if this went out to bid, and Mr. DeNafo responded that Hamilton Township did not wish to do that and wanted the ACUA to continue with their collection services.

Resolution 25-10-232: Authorizing a Rider to the agreement with Mazza Recycling Services, Ltd. for Hauling and Processing Single-Stream Recycling, at no cost to the Authority.

Explanation: Mazza Recycling Services, Ltd. will provide one (1) excavator for the ACUA's use rather than reimbursing the Authority for the rental expense.

Mr. Marino asked what happens if this excavator breaks. Mr. DeNafo explained that the ACUA was renting an excavator from HERC Rentals, and Mazza Recycling Services was reimbursing the ACUA for the cost. When the excavator went down, the ACUA would have to wait for HERC Rentals to come and fix it. Now, if the excavator from Mazza Recycling Services breaks, Mazza will send their own mechanic from Tinton Falls to fix it a lot sooner.

Resolution 25-10-240: Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding between the ACUA and Atlantic City Sewerage Company regarding ACUA contribution to the Great Island Pump Station and Chelsea Heights Pump Station Force Main Replacement Project. The ACUA will contribute an amount not to exceed \$142,000.00.

Chairman Embry asked if the Atlantic City Sewerage Company will need to pass a resolution as well, and Mr. Davis responded that they would need to.

Resolution 25-10-254: Authorizing payment of certain expenditures: \$9,454,081.10

Ms. Mento recused herself from the vote.

PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. DeNafo announced that there will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony regarding the new Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) Project, which will be held on Thursday, October 23, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., at the ACUA. He stated that the ACUA's public landfill is the first in New Jersey to use landfill gas to create renewable natural gas and then monetize it. The ACUA will see revenue coming into the organization, which will help offset costs for rate payers. The ACUA will also be reducing the impact on the environment and will see a reduction of about 95% when it comes to emissions at the ACUA's flare. Mr. DeNafo stated that this project was 7 to 8 years in the making and is a \$40 million investment by a private company. He also pointed out that not a dollar has come out of the ACUA's pocket for this project, and the ACUA will see the benefits of that and so will the local communities. He added that people will see the end result; however, what they haven't seen is all of the hard work from the dedicated ACUA staff who were involved in getting the final result. Mr. DeNafo said this is a testament to the ACUA organization and it is a testament to the people who work here, who do not accept "no" and who continue to push forward to get the job done.

Chairman Embry announced, since the ACUA has two new Board members, a group photo has been scheduled for Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., prior to the Board Meeting that day. Mrs. Ward said that the League of Municipalities is being held on November 20th, and she will be attending so she will be unable to participate in the group photo that day. Mr. DeNafo thanked Mrs. Ward for letting everyone know and said the group photo will need to be rescheduled because, in addition to Mrs. Ward, there will be other Board members who will be attending the League of Municipalities on November 20th.

Chairman Embry asked if anyone had any further questions and, since there were none, the meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Lisa Duffner, Board Secretary