

1 ATLANTIC CITY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
2 PUBLIC HEARING ON THE AUTHORITY'S PROPOSED 2018  
3 BUDGET AND PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE RULES, RATES  
4 AND REGULATIONS

5  
6  
7  
8 Tuesday, December 5, 2017

9  
10  
11 G. Bruce Ward, Executive Director

12 TAKEN BEFORE: JACQUELINE M. ZARRILLO,  
13 Certified Court Reporter of the State of New Jersey,  
14 License No. XI01786, at the ATLANTIC CITY MUNICIPAL  
15 UTILITIES AUTHORITY, 401 North Virginia Avenue,  
16 Atlantic City, New Jersey 08404, commencing  
17 at 10 a.m.

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22 -----  
23 JACQUELINE M. ZARRILLO, CCR  
24 CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER  
25 1724 TILTON ROAD  
NORTHFIELD, NEW JERSEY 08225  
(609) 287-2593

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I N D E X

PUBLIC

PAGE

(NO PUBLIC PRESENT.)

## ATLANTIC CITY MUA

1 MR. WARD: Good morning. My name is  
2 Bruce Ward. I'm the Executive Director of the  
3 Atlantic City Municipal Utilities Authority. Today  
4 is December the 5th, and today at 10 a.m., which it  
5 is, is the second of our Public Hearings to discuss  
6 the Proposed 2018 Budget. There are no members of  
7 the public in the room at this time. The meeting is  
8 being transcribed by a certified transcriber.

9 So I'm going to begin with a reading of  
10 the press release on the Budget. The Atlantic City  
11 Municipal Utilities Authority will hold Public  
12 Hearings on the Authority's Proposed 2018 Budget and  
13 Proposed Changes to the Rules, Rates and Regulations  
14 on Tuesday, November 28, 2017 and Tuesday, December  
15 5, 2017.

16 The November 28, 2017 and December 5,  
17 2017 hearings will be held in the Atlantic City  
18 Municipal Utilities Authority, located at 401 North  
19 Virginia Avenue, Atlantic City, New Jersey. Both  
20 hearings will begin at 10 a.m. The Budget is  
21 scheduled for adoption at the regularly scheduled  
22 Board meeting on December 20, 2017.

23 The MUA will also accept written  
24 comments. Comments received before the hearings will  
25 be read into the hearing record. Written comments

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1 not read at the hearings will be presented at the  
2 Board meeting. The Board meeting is open to the  
3 public.

4 The 2018 Proposed Budget is a fully  
5 funded budget, providing for the continuation of all  
6 of the Authority's major programs. The proposed  
7 appropriations for 2018 are anticipated to be  
8 approximately \$342,548 higher than the budgeted  
9 appropriations for 2017. The increase is primarily  
10 due to an increase in the 2018 Renewal and  
11 Replacement Reserve that approximated \$592,477. This  
12 additional reserve will be utilized to help fund the  
13 2018 Capital Budget. The Authority will recognize a  
14 50 percent increase in the amount of \$10,000 for  
15 Administration's Repairs and Maintenance account due  
16 to higher anticipated repairs to the Authority's  
17 administration building. The 16.8 percent increase  
18 for Operation's Outside Services/Professional  
19 Services are higher due to anticipated laboratory  
20 expenses as more sampling protocols (UCMR 4) are  
21 required by the State starting in 2018. Offsetting  
22 the increase is a decline in 2018 Debt Service  
23 Principals and Interest. The Authority's Debt  
24 Service Principals and Interest will be decreased in  
25 2018 by 29 percent in the amount of \$528,741 and by

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1 11 percent in the amount of \$43,499 respectively.

2 The 2018 rate increase was structured  
3 to ensure that the projected revenues would be  
4 sufficient to cover the anticipated appropriations  
5 for the year. The rate increase will also assist in  
6 the funding of scheduled projects as specified in the  
7 Authority's Capital Improvement Program. The  
8 Authority is anticipating an increase of two percent  
9 in flat and four percent in excess rates for all  
10 customers. The residential rates for residential  
11 customers will be increasing from the flat rate  
12 charge of \$50 a quarter to \$51 a quarter.

13 Residential customers that will exceed the allowed  
14 allotment will be subject to a four percent increase  
15 in the excess rate. The Authority anticipates that  
16 the average annual bill for residential customers  
17 will be \$310.25 in 2018 as compared to \$302.16 in  
18 2017, a net annual increase of \$8.09. The Authority  
19 is anticipating a 100 percent decline in other  
20 service charges as New Jersey American Water did not  
21 renew the contract that ended on November 22, 2016 or  
22 pursue an emergency interconnection agreement with  
23 the Authority. This reduction was also taken into  
24 consideration in developing the 2018 rate structure.

25 The Connection Fee rate will not

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1 increase. The City of Atlantic City has experienced  
2 a steady decline in annual new construction and  
3 development. As a result, the Authority has  
4 recognized a significant decline in Connection Fee  
5 income. In the past, the Connection Fee income has  
6 been utilized for capital projects recommended by the  
7 way of the Authority's Capital Improvement Program.  
8 This anticipated decline in income was considered in  
9 developing the 2018 rate structure, thus allowing for  
10 additional income to be generated for the use of  
11 capital projects.

12 State Law sets a formula mandating the  
13 specific calculation of Connection Fees. State Law  
14 further requires that Connection Fees be recalculated  
15 at the end of every calendar year, and that all Debt  
16 Service and Capital Expenditures be included in the  
17 new calculation.

18 The proposed Connection Fee for 2018 is  
19 15.4352 per gallon of average daily flow. This  
20 applies to new construction.

21 The MUA is also making changes to the  
22 Rules, Rates and Regulations. The full text of the  
23 changes is available by contacting MUA offices. It  
24 is also available on the MUA's website. That would  
25 be [www.acmua.org](http://www.acmua.org).

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1 I want to also read into the record a  
2 letter from our engineering firm, Buchar Horn, dated  
3 November 28, 2017, addressed to G. Bruce Ward,  
4 Executive Director, reference, Atlantic City  
5 Municipal Utilities Authority 2018 Annual Budget  
6 Review.

7 "Dear Mr. Ward:

8 "Buchar Horn has reviewed the Atlantic  
9 City Municipal Utilities Authority's (ACMUA's)  
10 proposed 2018 Budget and supporting information and  
11 schedules provided by the Authority, and confirms the  
12 following:"

13 One, "The appropriations indicated in  
14 the proposed budget are generally consistent with the  
15 recommendations made in the 2016 Annual Report, with  
16 our observations of the Authority's facilities during  
17 November 2017 inspections, and with the ACMUA's  
18 Master Plan. Major facilities or equipment  
19 identified for improvement are being addressed within  
20 the budget."

21 Two, "The capital appropriations  
22 indicated in the proposed budget appear to be  
23 sufficient to fund the projects scheduled for the  
24 2018 fiscal year."

25 Three, "Anticipated Revenues include an

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1 increase in the quarterly (flat) charge of \$1 per  
2 quarter, and a projected four percent increase in  
3 excess usage charges. No other increase in Revenue  
4 is needed due to a decrease in the Authority's Debt  
5 Service."

6 Four, "While reserve funds for  
7 emergency repairs and ongoing renewal and replacement  
8 of facilities are being increased, the Authority may  
9 still have to borrow additional funds to cover any  
10 major, unexpected expenses in 2018.

11 "Should you have any questions, please  
12 feel to contact the undersigned or Edward DiMond.

13 "Very Truly Yours,

14 "Buchart-Horn, Inc.

15 "Dennis Tracey, P.E." Professional  
16 Engineer and Project Manager.

17 I would like to point out that the  
18 Budget has been constructed to, for the most part,  
19 carry the Authority through its normal course of  
20 events under 2018. The State of New Jersey has  
21 instituted the New Jersey Water Quality  
22 Accountability Act, which provides for additional  
23 unfunded mandates against all water purveyors  
24 throughout the State of New Jersey. In this regard,  
25 it is anticipated for this Authority, as well as

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1 other similarly situated authorities, that we will  
2 have to seek bond funding from the New Jersey  
3 Environmental Interest Trust to support the  
4 additional asset management and cyber security  
5 responsibilities of the Water Quality Accountability  
6 Act. All of this is illustrated in the complexity  
7 where we have in 2017, 2016 the closing of the Taj  
8 Mahal, a major water customer of the Authority. And  
9 at the same time, the construction of Stockton  
10 University, as well as a Boraie apartment  
11 development, South Jersey Gas in a corporate center  
12 next to Stockton University, and the coming in of a  
13 brewery into Atlantic City.

14 So while we have constructed a Budget  
15 to reflect what would be the anticipated normal  
16 conditions for providing water to our customers,  
17 public would be mindful that the complexity of new  
18 installations changes the fact that we have some Debt  
19 Service reductions and at the same time the  
20 responsibilities of the New Jersey Water Quality Act.  
21 There is more of a turns and twists and ups and downs  
22 that the Authority will have to address and  
23 accommodate throughout the year.

24 We also have an employee work force  
25 that has had its contract provisions stalled for the

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1 past three years, and it's anticipated in 2018 that  
2 some movement to begin to negotiate with our unions  
3 will be permitted by the State of New Jersey.

4 And at this time it is 10:12 a.m.

5 There are no members of the public in the hearing.  
6 What I'm going to do is put the hearing on pause. I  
7 will be upstairs in my office and should any member  
8 of the public come in, we will come right down  
9 immediately and go back into Open Session. And the  
10 meeting will continue to remain available until  
11 12 p.m. today. So it is 10:12 a.m. and I'm going to  
12 sign off for a pause until next notice. Thank you.

13 (Whereupon the hearing paused  
14 from 10:12 a.m. to 12 p.m.)

15 MR. WARD: It is now 12 p.m. and this  
16 has been the Public Hearing of the Atlantic City  
17 Municipal Utilities Authority's 2018 Budget. We've  
18 now concluded our Open Session, and the meeting is  
19 now closed. Thank you.

20 (The hearing adjourned at 12 p.m.)  
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, JACQUELINE M. ZARRILLO, a Certified Court Reporter of the State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that I am neither a relative nor employee nor attorney nor counsel of any of the parties to this action, and that I am neither a relative nor employee of such attorney or counsel, and that I am not financially interested in the action.

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JACQUELINE M. ZARRILLO  
Certified Court Reporter  
License No. XI01786

DATED: December 6, 2017

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