

**BENSALEM TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday
January 6th, 2020**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joseph Knowles
Ed Kisselback
Joseph Pilieri
Jesse Sloane
Ed Tokmajian

ALSO PRESENT:

Mayor Joseph DiGirolamo
Debora McBreen
Joseph Pizzo, Township Solicitor
Judge Joseph Falcone
Judge Mike Gallagher

PLEASE NOTE:

The minutes are not verbatim but rather a synopsis of what transpired during the meeting, and while I do my best to attribute remarks and questions to the correct individual, there may be mistakes or omissions because of the “back and forth” dialogue and the lack of the use of the microphones.

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING:

Mayor Joseph DiGirolamo started the meeting with the swearing in of the elected officials and they are as follows:

Ed Kisselback, Jr.	-	Councilman
Joseph Knowles	-	Councilman
Ryan McMullin	-	Auditor

Mayor DiGirolamo asked for a moment of silence and to keep Olivia Adelman, the young girl struck by a car on Bensalem Boulevard who is currently in the hospital and Mike Fitzpatrick, former Congressman who passed away today, in their prayers, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mayor Joseph DiGirolamo invited Public Comment on Agenda items, but no one came forward and the first of two public portions was closed.

3. **ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT:**

Mayor DiGirolamo called for nominations for **Council President, Councilman Sloane** nominated **Ed Kisselback**, **Councilman Pilieri** seconded. The Mayor asked if there were any other nominations, hearing no other nominations the vote carried 5-0.

4. **ELECTION OF COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT:**

Council President Kisselback asked to move Agenda Item 24, the swearing in of the Veterans Advisory Board to be the first Board to be sworn in after the appointments of Council Vice President and Township Secretary. **Councilman Pilieri** motioned to approve and **Councilman Tokmajian** seconded, the motion carried 5-0. **Councilman Sloane** asked **Council President Kisselback** if they could do a similar change for Agenda Item 22, the Senior Citizens Advisory Board, **Council President Kisselback** agreed and asked for a motion to approve the change, **Councilman Sloane** motioned to approve and **Councilman Tokmajian** seconded, the vote carried 5-0.

Council President Kisselback thanked his wife, Kathy, for letting him go through the rigors of his campaign and thanked the voters for coming out to vote. **Council President Kisselback** extended his condolences, along with **Council**, to the Fitzpatrick family and the Adleman family in regards to their daughter, Olivia, who was struck by a car.

Council President Kisselback called for nominations for **Council Vice President, Councilman Knowles** nominated **Joseph Pilieri**, **Council President Kisselback** seconded. **Council President Kisselback** asked if there were any other nominations and **Councilman Tokmajian** nominated **Jesse Sloane**, **Councilman Sloane** seconded. **Council President Kisselback** called for the vote on the first nomination of **Joseph Pilieri** and the vote carried 3-2. **Council President Kisselback** called for the vote on the second nomination of **Jesse Sloane** and the vote carried 2-3. **Joseph Pilieri** received the most votes and will serve as Council Vice President for 2020.

5. **ELECTION OF TOWNSHIP SECRETARY:**

Council President Kisselback called for nominations for **Township Secretary. Council Vice President Pilieri** nominated **Joseph Knowles**, **Council President Kisselback** seconded. **Council President Kisselback** asked if there were any other nominations and **Councilman Sloane** nominated **Ed Tokmajian**, **Councilman Tokmajian** seconded. **Council President Kisselback** called for the vote on the first nomination of **Joseph Knowles** and the vote carried 3-2. **Council President Kisselback** called for the vote on the second nomination of **Ed**

Tokmajian and the vote carried 2-3. *Joseph Knowles* received the most votes and will serve as Township Secretary for 2020.

Council President Kisselback reiterated the move of Agenda Item 22, the Senior Advisory Board and Agenda Item 24 the Veterans Advisory Board with a motion from **Councilman Sloane**, **Council Vice President Pilieri** seconded and the motion carried 5-0

22. SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD:

The **Mayor** recommended *Buzz Ebner, Robert Gale Alice Gresko, Barbara Ziedler and Frank Ziedler*. **Council Vice President Pilieri** motioned to approve, **Council Secretary Knowles** seconded and the vote carried 5-0. Five (5) members were sworn in by **Judge Gallagher**.

24. VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD:

The **Mayor** recommended *Raymond Bates, Richard Clift, Patrick Jones, Jim Pinto, Bruce Siemers, Joe Slemmer and Joe Trucks*. **Council Member Sloane** motioned to approve, **Council Secretary Knowles** seconded and the vote carried 5-0. Seven (7) members were sworn in by **Judge Falcone**.

6 ELECTION OF THE ASSISTANT TOWNSHIP SECRETARY:

Council President Kisselback asked the **Mayor** if there was a recommendation for the **Assistant Township Secretary** and the **Mayor** recommended *Debbie McBreen*. **Council Vice President Pilieri** motioned to approve the Mayors recommendation as presented, **Council Member Sloane** seconded and the vote carried 5-0.

7. APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL CLERK:

Council President Kisselback asked the **Mayor** if he had a recommendation for the **Municipal Clerk** pursuant to Section 2-26 of the Code. The **Mayor** recommended *Debbie McBreen*. **Council Vice President Pilieri** motioned to approve the Mayors recommendation as presented, **Council Member Tokmajian** seconded and the vote carried 5-0.

8. APPOINTMENT OF TOWNSHIP CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS:

Council President Kisselback asked the **Mayor** if he had a recommendation for the **Township Certified Public Accountant**. The **Mayor** recommended *Maillie, LLP of Mont Clare, PA*. **Council Vice President Pilieri** motioned to approve as presented, **Council Secretary Knowles** seconded and the vote carried 5-0.

9. DESIGNATION OF AN OFFICAL DEPOSITORY FOR TOWNSHIP FUNDS:

Council President Kisselback asked the **Mayor** if he had a recommendation for the depository of Township funds. The **Mayor** recommend *Penn Community Bank* for the Township funds during 2020, **Council Vice President Pilieri** motioned to approve as presented, **Council Member Tokmajian** seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

10. DESIGNATION OF BENSLEM TOWNSHIP'S NEWS MEDIA FOR LEGAL ADVERTISING DURING 2020:

Council President Kisselback asked the **Mayor** if he had a recommendation for the Township's News Media and the **Mayor** recommended the *Bucks County Courier Times*. **Council Member Sloane** motioned to approve and **Council Secretary Knowles** seconded, the vote carried 5-0.

11. DESIGNATION OF MONTHLY MEETING DATES DURING 2020:

Council President Kisselback asked for a motion to approve the meeting dates as presented, **Council Vice President Pilieri** motioned to approve and **Council Member Tokmajian** seconded. **Council Member Sloane** asked for March 9th's date to be moved to Tuesday, March 10th as March 9th is the Jewish holiday Purim. **Council President Kisselback** agreed, **Council Vice President Pilieri** amended his motion to approve the date of March 10th, **Council Member Tokmajian** seconded and the vote carried 5-0.

12. CODE OF APPEALS BOARD:

The **Mayor** recommended *Nancy McCarty* for a three (3) year term. **Council Vice President Pilieri** motioned to approve and **Council Secretary Knowles** seconded, the vote carried 5-0. One (1) member was sworn in by **Judge Gallagher**.

13. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD:

The **Mayor** recommended *Paul Giordano, Ernesto Veneziale* and *Marc Winokur* to a one (1) year term. **Council Vice President Pilieri** motioned to approve and **Council Secretary Knowles** seconded, The vote carried 5-0. No members were in attendance.

14. DISABLED ADVISORY BOARD:

The **Mayor** recommended *Loreen Cimino, Matt Neiman, Joelle Pilieri, Phyllis Pisch, Nick Quattrone, Teddy Walker* and *James Wright* to a one (1) year term. **Council Vice President Pilieri** motioned to approve and **Council Member Tokmajian** seconded, the vote carried 5-0. No members were in attendance.

15. DRUG AND ALCOHOL ADVISORY BOARD:

The Mayor recommended *Rosemarie Angle, William Cook, Lisa Diasio, Nicholas Diasio, Julianna Johnson, Emmanuel Jones, Wayne Lewis, Beverly Pawlowski, Frank Schilling, George Seymour, and Rita D'Angelo*. Council Member Tokmajian motioned to approve, Council Secretary Pilieri seconded, and the vote carried 5-0. Five (5) members were sworn in by Judge Falcone.

16. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:

The Mayor recommended *John Costello, Matt Etzrodt, Dave Fackler, Al Gougler, James Humphreys, John Meyer and Bob Norkus*. Council Vice President Pilieri motioned to approve and Council Secretary Knowles seconded, the vote carried 5-0. Two (2) members were sworn in by Judge Gallagher.

17. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD:

The Mayor recommended *Don Anderson, John Chaykowski, Ken Farrall, Fred Harran, Ron Harris, Lance Morell, Joseph Pilieri, Robert Race, Michael Richey, Robert Sponheimer, Kurt Stolzenberger and Tom Topley*. Council Vice President Pilieri motioned to approve, Council Secretary Knowles seconded and the vote carried 5-0. Seven (7) members were sworn in by Judge Falcone.

18. ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD:

The Mayor recommended *Tony Stallworth*. Council member Tokmajian motioned to approve, Council Secretary Knowles seconded and the vote carried 5-0. Member was not in attendance.

19. GAMING ADVISORY BOARD:

The Mayor recommended *Walter Arch, Joanne Fields, Mary Ann Griffin, Donna Patti, Ankit Parikh, Sunny Patel and Peter Waitze*. Council Sloane motioned to approve, Council Vice Secretary Knowles seconded and the vote carried unanimously. Four (4) members were sworn in by Judge Gallagher.

20. IMPACT FEE ADVISORY BOARD:

The Mayor recommended *Stacey Champion, Mary Ellen Cook, Deepak Dhawan, Tom Nevrotski, Frank Paine, and Ramesh Patel*. Council Vice President Pilieri motioned to approve, Council Secretary Knowles seconded and the vote carried 5-0. Two (2) members were sworn in by Judge Falcone.

21. PLANNING COMMISSION:

The **Mayor** recommended *Will Walker*. **Council Vice President Pilieri** motioned to approve, **Council Member Sloane** seconded and the vote carried 5-0. Member was not in attendance.

23. VACANT PROPERTY ADVISORY BOARD:

The **Mayor** recommended *William Cmorey, Jeffrey Darwak and Al Gougler*. **Council Vice President Pilieri** motioned to approve, **Council Member Tokmajian** seconded and the vote carried 5-0. No members were in attendance.

25. ZONING HEARING BOARD:

The **Mayor** recommended *Mike Brill* for a five year term and *Harry Kramer* to fill out the balance of Marc Bourne's term which ends in 2022. **Council Vice President Pilieri** motioned to approve, **Council Secretary Knowles** seconded and the vote carried 5-0. Two (2) members were sworn in by **Judge Gallagher**.

26. SUPPORT PERSONNEL:

Council President Kisselback: Thanked Judge Falcone and Judge Gallagher for their time.

Solicitor Pizzo: Wished everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Mayor DiGirolamo: Wished everyone a Happy New Year and congratulated the newly elected officials and thanked all the volunteers who give their time to be on the boards. Please keep in your prayers the Adleman family and the Fitzpatrick family. The Mayor indicated Judge Gallagher swore in his nephew, Gene DiGirolamo, as Commissioner this afternoon in Doylestown which was a proud moment for the family.

Council Member Sloane: Wished everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year and thanked all the volunteers on the advisory boards, especially the Veterans Advisory Board that is near and dear to his heart.

Council Vice President Pilieri: Wished everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year and thanked all of the volunteers for their time and service to their community. Please pray for the Philadelphia Flyers because for some reason they forgot how to play hockey.

Council Secretary Knowles: Wished everyone a Happy New year and sends his condolences to the Fitzpatrick family. Pray for a quick recovery of the young girl who was struck on Bensalem Boulevard. Thanked the community of Bensalem for allowing him to serve four more years on the Bensalem Council which is an honor and privilege to serve.

Council Member Tokmajian: Reiterated the well wishes for the Adleman family and condolences to the Fitzpatrick family. Thanked all the volunteers on the advisory boards. Council Member Tokmajian requested Directors Farrall at the first Council Business meeting to discuss the issues in Andalusia. Wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Council President Kisselback: Indicated the volunteers for the advisory boards are the lifeline to the community and invited those members to any of the council meetings. Condolences to the Fitzpatrick family and prayers to the Adleman family.

27. PUBLIC COMMENT;

Alice Gresko announced the Senior Center has a new name, it is now called Bensalem Center for Active Adults.

John Meyer, member of the Economic Development Corporation thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to serve on this board.

28. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to conduct, **Council Vice President Pilieri** motioned to adjourn, **Council Secretary Knowles** seconded.

The Bensalem Township Reorganization Council Meeting of January 6th, 2020 can be viewed in its entirety at the following websites:

www.bensalempa.gov or www.youtube.com

Respectfully submitted,

Debora F. McBreen
Recording Secretary