

**BENSALEM TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday
April 25th, 2022**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joseph Knowles, Council President
Edward Kisselback, Council Vice President
Joseph Pilieri, Council Secretary
Michelle Benitez, Council Member
Stacey Champion, Council Member

SUPPORTING STAFF PRESENT:

Mayor Joseph DiGirolamo
Debora McBreen, Council Clerk/Recording Secretary
Joseph Pizzo, Township Solicitor
Phil Wursta, Township Engineer/Traffic Engineer

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 their microphone.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Solicitor Pizzo indicated Council met in an Executive Session immediately before this evenings Council meeting. The meeting lasted for approximately one hour and fifteen minutes. Present for the Executive Session were the five members of Council, Mayor DiGirolamo and Solicitor Pizzo. The matter discussed was one matter of litigation involving the Bensalem Masjid. No official action was taken during the Executive Session and no official action is required this evening as a result of the Executive Session.

Council President Knowles opened the meeting with a moment of silence and/or prayer which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

RECOGNITION AND PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES:

Councilwoman Champion thanked everyone for attending and expressed gratitude to all of the parents for their time and commitment.

Council President Knowles indicated three teams will be recognized this evening, they are as follows:

- St. Ephrem's Region 19 CYO High School Boys Basketball 1st Place Winner
- St. Ephrem's Region 19 CYO Junior Varsity Boys Basketball 1st Place Winner
- St. Charles Borromeo Region 19 CYO Junior Varsity Boys Basketball 2nd Place Winner

Mayor DiGirolamo presented the certificates to the coaches, at which time the coaches introduced the players of each team. Father Speziale, Pastor of St. Ephrem's Parish, said a few words regarding community and working together as a team and expressed how happy he is to be a part of the Bensalem Township community.

3. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES:

Council Vice President Kisselback motioned to approve the March 28th, 2022 Council Minutes as presented, **Council Secretary Pilieri** seconded and the vote carried 5-0.

4. CONSIDERATION OF A LAND DEVELOPMENT EXTENSION AGREEMENT FOR:

Applicant:	Lennar MPA, LLC
Location:	Waterside – Phase 3
Tax Parcel:	2-65-22-15

Solicitor Pizzo indicated the item was before council at their last meeting date of March 28th, 2022. At that time, it was tabled to afford the Township Engineer and the Township Building and Planning Department an opportunity to sit down with Lennar and go out and visit the site and address whatever issues might be outstanding.

Engineer Wursta indicated at the Mayors and Councils direction, he has been pounding them quite a bit with regard to the inspection forces. The results associated with the directive are as follows: Third Phase is under control, there will be a restriction on building units. The applicant will not get an approval until the footings are in place. The roads were recently paved. Memos are being sent on a weekly basis to the superintendent regarding the issues the Engineer is seeing from the inspections. The applicant has been diligent on addressing those issues and have been very cooperative. This process will be maintained throughout the phase.

Engineer Wursta and Director Farrall will meet with the applicant and lay down a red line as to when the State Road Project is to be completed. This project consists of the third lane which will extend from Camer Drive all the way to the Columbus Country Club, this will provide the center turning lane along that stretch of road. The goal is to get the trucks out of the way. The applicant indicated this project should be done by the summer of 2022, the Township Engineer is holding them to the completion date.

Council Vice President Kisselback asked if the applicant has addressed any of the issues on Phase I and Phase II as far as completing those projects.

Engineer Wursta indicated they have, but did not have the details associated with all of those issues. Mr. Wursta was aware of lighting and signing issues that were addressed. There may have been some mild things that may have languished because of the weather and his understanding Phase I and Phase II are pretty much in the rearview mirror.

Council Secretary Pilieri indicated he is still receiving calls about lighting and street signs. The applicant needs to finish Phase I and Phase II before the Township agrees to let them keep building.

Council Vice President Kisselback indicated it would be his decision to extend the agreement for six months, not a year. This would take it to October 31st which would give the Township all the construction months for the applicant to finish the project.

Council President Knowles indicated if any of the Council members receive complaints in reference to Phase I and Phase II they will forward them directly to either the Township Engineer or Director Farrall.

Council Vice President Kisselback motioned to extended the agreement to October 31st, 2022, **Councilwoman Benitez** seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Council President Knowles asked if there was anyone in the audience who would like to come forward, seeing no one come forward the second of two public comments was closed.

6. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Councilwoman Benítez indicated she had hoped everyone had enjoyed their holidays. Thanked Joe Szafran, the volunteers and Parx Casino for all of their hard work that goes into the preparation of the Tour of Honor Event. Building a Better Bensalem is doing a “Drug Take Back” event, which is nationwide, this Saturday April 30th from 10am to 2pm at the Bensalem Giant and the Walmart on Horizon Boulevard. The event involves used, unused and expired medications and sharps. Visit the Bucks County Drug and Alcohol site or the Building a Better Bensalem Facebook page for more information.

Councilwoman Champion thanked everyone for recognizing the young men this evening who won their basketball championships. Spoke of her father who went on the Tour of Honor and was one of the veterans welcomed home on Sunday.

Council Secretary Pilieri indicated Bensalem has a fantastic community, the churches and schools do a terrific job and you can’t ask for more as to what Parks and Rec does for the community. Bensalem is the best place to live.

Council Vice President Kisselback congratulated the young men who worked hard to achieve their victory in winning their basketball championship and even more impressive was the fact it was two Bensalem schools that won their championship.

Council President Knowles reiterated the congratulations to the teams honored this evening. Next meeting is May 9th, 2022.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

The Bensalem Township Council Meeting of March 28th, 2022 can be viewed in its entirety at the following websites:

www.bensalempa.gov

or

www.youtube.com

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra F. McBreen
Recording Secretary