

**BENSALEM TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday
June 10, 2019**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joseph Knowles, President
Ed Kisselback, Vice President
Joseph Pilieri, Secretary
Jesse Sloane, Member
Ed Tokmajian, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

Lauren Gallagher, Township Solicitor
Harold Gans, Township Engineer
Debora McBreen, Council Clerk/Recording Secretary

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

2. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT:

Director of Public Safety, Fred Harran, introduced **Frank Schilling** and **Frank Curran** active board members with the *Bensalem Township Drug and Alcohol Board*. Each year the board sponsors a **Middle School Button Contest** and an **Elementary School Poster Contest** to promote awareness of the dangers of substance abuse. The following is a list of this year's recipients:

DARE Poster Contest Winners:

1st Place:	Kaylena McClain	Samuel K. Faust Elementary School
2nd Place:	Natalie Baisden	Cornwells Elementary School
3rd Place:	Olivia Pachucki	School Lane Charter School
4th Place:	Joey Dougherty	Samuel K. Faust Elementary School
5th Place:	Brianna Baeza-Ramirez	Samuel K. Faust Elementary School

DARE Button Contest Winners:

1st Place:	Scott Blickley	Cecelia Snyder Middle School
2nd Place:	Rebecca Lynn	Robert K. Schaefer Middle School
3rd Place:	Benjamin Factor	Cecelia Snyder Middle School
4th Place:	Mouli Borsha	Robert K. Shafer Middle School

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Council President Knowles invited Public Comment on Agenda items, but no one came forward and the first of two public portions was closed.

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.

Council President Knowles asked **Solicitor Gallagher** if there were any amendments or changes to the agenda. **Solicitor Gallagher** indicated there was a walk-in item requested by **Engineer Gans** regarding the re-approval and signing of the plans for Summit Lane indicating the change from “iron pins” to “concrete monuments”, **Council Secretary Pilieri** made a motion to add the re-approval and signing of the plans for Summit Lane to the agenda (6A), **Council Member Sloane** seconded and the motion carried 5-0. **Solicitor Gallagher** stated with regards to agenda item 6 pertaining to the “Street Road Corridor” primarily Mechanicsville Road through Hulmeville Road, although it does extend beyond that, Phase I is just related to Mechanicsville Road through Hulmeville Road. The solicitors office, along with township staff, over the past several months, have worked together to review and revise this ordinance to prepare it in an adoptable form. There have been significant changes which would incorporate the comments made by council during the Armstrong meeting and would require re-advertising. **Solicitor Gallagher** suggested tabling the item to no certain date

4. **APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES:**

Council Member Sloane suggested the Minutes of May 28th be tabled so that the minutes can be revised to indicate the discussion and comments regarding the Lot Line Change for the applicant Thomas Snyder. **Council Member Tokmajian** motioned to table the Minutes of May 28th, **Council Member Sloane** seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

5. **CONSIDERATION OF THE 2019 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AS PROPOSED BY MAYOR JOSEPH DIGIROLAMO:**

Solicitor Gallagher indicated as outlined in the Mayor’s memorandum, this Grant has to do with the HUD funds that come into the Township. Bensalem and Bristol Township are the only two municipalities in Bucks County that are granted their own HUD funds. The Township is required to approve the allocation of funds as outlined in the memorandum. All other municipalities deal directly through the county and have to compete for funds so Bensalem is fortunate enough to allocate those funds as the township sees fit. The memorandum does outline the projected use of the funds divided between the Housing Rehabilitation Program, the Senior Center Rehabilitation, the Family Support Services, Homeless Shelter and the Program Administration. **Council Member Sloane** asked if the Township had received any bids or estimates to rehabilitate the Senior Center building, including HVAC, fire alarm system, and electrical improvements. **Solicitor Gallagher** stated, to her knowledge, they were just estimates only and it had not gone out to bid until the funds have been allocated. **Council**

Member Sloane asked if for some reason the funds exceed the allocation, what happens then. Solicitor Gallagher indicated that this was just a preliminary allocation and the Director of Administration is the administer of this program so funds can be reallocated amongst these various projects as necessary. **Council Member Tokmajian** asked, what if the funds run short. **Solicitor Gallagher** explained the Homeless Shelter is run by the Family Services so that is a contribution the township makes. The Program Administration is funding allocated for things such as portions of the Finance Manager and the Director of Administrations salaries for portions of their job that are allocated to this program. The balance of the funding is allocated to the Housing Rehabilitation Program so those funds can be shifted. **Council Member Sloane** asked what portion of the Director of Administration and the Finance Managers salaries are covered by the Program Administration projected use of funds. **Solicitor Gallagher** was not sure of the specifics but stated that it was a portion of their salary because they do work on this program and there were other administrative costs in there and the Director of Administration would have those figures.

Council Secretary Pilieri made a motion to approve, **Council Vice President Kisselback** seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

6. **CONSIDERATION AND PUBLIC HEARING ON AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PART II CHAPTER 232 OF THE TOWNSHIP'S CODE, "ZONING", TO ADD A NEW OVERLAY ZONING DISTRICT IN ARTICLE VI, KNOWN AS "DIVISION 7: STREET ROAD CORRIDOR TOWN CENTER OVERLY DISTRICT" AND TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP.**

Tabled indefinitely.

6A. **REAPPROVAL AND SIGNING OF THE SUMMIT LANE RECORD PLAN:**

Council Secretary Pilieri motioned to approve, **Council Vice President Kisselback** seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Council President Knowles invited Public Comment and the following people came forward:

Michael Zaneski, 2731 Ogden Avenue, indicated that from his property down to the end of the road nothing has been done and asked if there were plans to finish the project of new drains and curbing along that portion of the road. Mr. Zaneski was instructed by council for the Township Senior Inspector, Quinton Nearon, to look into Mr. Zaneski's concerns.

Seeing no one else come forward, the second of two public comments was closed.

8. OTHER BUSINESS:

Council Member Sloane indicated that he received complaints regarding the paving project in the Neshaminy Valley area, regarding curbs and driveway aprons being damaged. Quinton Nearon, Township Senior Inspector, indicated all the repairs will be handled when the paving work is done. There is a crew on stand-by to fix the damages.

Council Member Sloane congratulated all the students on the last day of school and a special congratulations to the Graduates.

Council Secretary Pilieri stated that the Phillies were losing 4-3.....

Council Member Tokmajian indicated “blighted” properties and would like a list of the properties from county that we are pursuing and would like to see what the townships follow-up is pertaining to the blighted properties. **Solicitor Gallagher** indicated that individual property discussions are best done in an Executive Session. There are a number of methods used to deal with blighted properties, one is working closely with the RDA which enables the township to use county funds to take care of some of the properties and are generally able to lien the properties. The solicitor’s office meets regularly with the township code enforcement department. **Council Member Tokmajian** asked about the K-Mart property and where it stands with ShopRite. **Solicitor Gallagher** indicated that ShopRite decided to go elsewhere since both parties could not come to an agreement.

Council Member Tokmajian congratulated the D.A.R.E. students along with all of the graduates from the Bensalem School District.

Council Vice President Kisselback announced June 21st was the first day of summer. The school children are out of school so please drive a little more careful.

Council President Knowles reiterated **Council Vice President Kisselback’s** statement to drive carefully now that school is out and congratulated all the graduates. He also wished all the Fathers a “Happy Father’s Day”.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no other business to discuss **Council Member Tokmajian** made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debora F. McBreen
Recording Secretary