

**BENSALEM TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday
May 26th, 2020**

Zoom – Virtual Public Meeting

VIRTUAL COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHER VIRTUAL PRESENCE BY:

Mayor Joseph DiGirolamo
Joseph Pizzo, Township Solicitor
Russell Benner, Township Engineer
Debora McBreen, Council Clerk/Recording Secretary

PLEASE NOTE:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and all of the orders and declarations from the Federal, State, and County governments, the Bensalem Township Council held its' regular monthly meeting as a virtual public meeting utilizing the Zoom Meetings platform.

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 Kisselback dedicated the Council meeting to our “Fallen Heroes” and their “Gold Star Families”. During the month of May Bensalem honors our “Fallen Police Officers” with a Memorial Ceremony. Officer Yezzi and Officer Armstrong are two of Bensalem’s Officers who gave their lives in the line of duty. Unfortunately, this ceremony did not take place this year due to COVID-19 and Bucks County being in the ▼ “Red Phase” ▼ which is the most stringent phase and implemented social restrictions, large gatherings prohibited and stay-at-home-orders.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

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

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

publiccomments@bensalempa.gov

Council President Kisselback asked **Solicitor Pizzo** if there were any questions from the public. **Solicitor Pizzo** indicated there was one comment which was not related to any agenda items and could wait until the end of the meeting.

3. **APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES:**

Council Member Sloane asked if the Township needed any further extensions on applications that were previously filed and items that were previously tabled. **Solicitor Pizzo** indicated he had not had that specific conversation with Director Farrall. As Council was briefed during the conference call last week, the Township is in the process of scheduling a Planning Commission meeting for the month of June and two Zoning Hearing Board meetings for the month of June so as to start to address those items that were tabled or put off during the first three months since the Declaration was filed. **Solicitor Pizzo** indicated he trust the Township was diligent in continuing to secure those extensions of time and will verify with Director Farrall that this has been the ongoing process.

After corrections were noted to the Minutes of April 27th, 2020, **Council Member Sloane** motioned to approve as corrected, **Council Member Tokmajian** seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

4. **CONSIDERATION AND PUBLIC HEARING ON AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE REQUEST OF ROUND ONE ENTERTAINMENT, INC. TO TRANSFER LIQUOR LICENSE NO. R-17205, REPEALING ALL INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES, AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREFOR:**

Solicitor Pizzo indicated this is something Council has been asked to do routinely since the change in the liquor laws several years ago. This is a hearing for the potential inter-municipal transfer of a liquor license from a community within Bucks County but outside of Bensalem to a facility inside of Bensalem. In this case the application is being made by Round One Entertainment, Inc., they are leasing the old Sears building in the Neshaminy Mall and are seeking to have the liquor license transferred contingent upon everything else happening that they need to be put into place for that business to start operation. They are hopeful to be up

and running sometime in the spring of 2021. The attorney representing the applicant this is **Gregory Szallar, Esq.** with the law firm Flaherty & O'Hara, PC.

Mr. Szallar introduced the following people:

Steven Takeuchi, Construction & Compliance Senior Manager
Mia Fleming, Business Development
Jacob Snow, District Manager

Mr. Szallar presented Exhibit A, which is the Application for the Inter-Municipal Transfer of the Liquor License submitted to the Township Building and Planning department with the various exhibits. Exhibit B which is a copy of the notification letters which were sent via regular and certified mail to each of the adjacent property owners. **Solicitor Pizzo** indicated those notices were previously supplied to the Township, they were reviewed and appear to be in order. **Mr. Szallar** provided a background regarding Round One which currently operates 148 multi-entertainment facilities that provide food and alcoholic beverage services throughout Japan and the United States, 107 of those facilities are located in Japan and 41 facilities located in the United States. Round One's concept is a state-of-the-art, family friendly, multi-entertainment facility offering hundreds of arcade games, bowling, ping-pong, darts and billiards. **Mr. Szallar** went into length as to the location of each amenity. Exhibit C consisted of the exterior/interior photos. Exhibit D contained the full floor plan along with the highlighted licensed areas and mall location. Hours of operation will be 10:00am to 2:00am, 7 days a week. Alcohol service will cease at 1:30am with all patrons out by 2:00am. Food service will be provided until 1:00am, 7 days a week. Specific information supplied included investment, seating, number of employees, RAMP training and Security personnel. Exhibit E was submitted into record regarding "House Rules".

Council Member Tokmajian indicated he noticed on the application there was a prior violation of RAMP training and asked **Mr. Szallar** how he could assure the Township he would remain up to code as far as the training is required for the sale and distribution of alcohol. **Mr. Szallar** explained the RAMP training is something they are doing internally and their intent is to get them certified before the opening. **Mr. Szallar** indicated the PLCB (Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board) will not allow it prior to the final inspection.

Council Member Sloane asked **Mr. Szallar** to provide more specific information regarding the violation that was noted in the application regarding the failure of the manager who had not completed the RAMP training. **Council Member Sloane** indicated **Mr. Szallar** just said it was a requirement and needed to be completed prior to inspection yet there appears this was not the case. **Mr. Szallar** explained it was an Administrative oversight and the problem has been addressed so moving forward, the managers will be getting their training prior to the opening. **Council Member Sloane** asked **Mr. Szallar** when they planned to be open. **Mr. Szallar** explained if construction started this October they would try to be opened in July or August of 2021, that time frame is dependent on the PLCB approval and arrange for the construction may put that time-frame back a little further. **Council Member Sloane** asked **Mr. Szallar** if he was affected by the state of affairs with the pandemic and the delayed start of construction if that was an issue and if that was the cause or was it strictly due to the Liquor Control Board. **Mr. Szallar** explained it is basically the COVID-19 situation and the PLCB working with a skeleton crew. **Council Member Sloane** asked **Mr. Szallar** to give some

insight as to how this model compares to some of the other locations. **Mr. Szallar** turned this portion of the meeting over to **Steven Takeuchi**, Construction & Compliance Senior Manager, who referred to this facility as being a new concept for Round One which is a sports challenge complex (SPO-CHA) that you get to enjoy multiple miniature versions of basketball, in-line skating rink, batting cages and golf cages. This facility typically requires over 62,000 feet whereas the traditional facilities require 55,000 feet. **Council Member Sloane** asked how security was going to work with there being more than three entrances to the anchor store and with only the three security guards spoke of during the presentation. **Steven Takeuchi** explained there are two entrances to the facility, the Mall entrance and the left parking lot entrance as indicated on the layout. The Mall entrance will close when the Mall closes leaving the only other access to the facility will be from the parking lot for the remainder of the evening. **Council Member Sloane** indicated after seeing the one violation he was looking for a concrete answer of how Round One is going to assure they are going to be a responsible member of this community assuring the safety and well-being of its patrons. **Mr. Szallar** explained prior to opening, they will show that the managers are RAMP trained and certified.

Council Vice President Pilieri asked **Solicitor Pizzo** if this information will be available to view through our Building and Planning department regarding all that is required being up to code and then it can be reported back to Council. **Solicitor Pizzo** indicated the final say for this Liquor License transfer goes with the Liquor Control Board, they have the final say whether this applicant gets their liquor license for this location or not. The LCB is the entity charged with making sure that any liquor license holder within the Commonwealth and any liquor license holder in Bensalem Township is complying with state LCB laws, that's where the jurisdiction lies, not with the Township. Whatever the cause for the prior flagging for this particular applicant they will have to be compliant with the LCB in order to operate.

Council Secretary Knowles reiterated the statement that the Liquor Control Board will make sure Round One is compliant. And there will be other security on the premises besides the three security guards which will be part of the management team, **Mr. Szallar** agreed. **Council Secretary Knowles** indicated that it looked like it would take extensive construction to rehab the Sears building, which is abandoned and asked when the construction will start. **Steven Takeuchi** stated Round One would start construction sometime in October.

Council Member Tokmajian asked if there was any shared ownership interests. **Steven Takeuchi** indicated Round One, Inc. is the sole proprietor. **Council Member Tokmajian** questioned the hours of operation. **Mr. Szallar** indicated at the time the application was filled out they were looking at starting a new concept as to going to 5:00am, that decision has been tabled for the time being for this location. **Council Member Tokmajian** deferred to **Solicitor Pizzo** and asked if this establishment would be able to stay open until 5:00am. **Solicitor Pizzo** was not sure if they could or couldn't stay open until 5:00am but the applicant did place on the record the fact that this particular establishment does not intend to be open past 2:00am, it is what their liquor license application says and they have amended their application orally this evening through their attorney. **Solicitor Pizzo** told **Council Member Tokmajian** he could get the information to him for his own edification, but as for this application, this business will be serving liquor until 1:30am and will be closing at 2:00am. **Mr. Szallar** stated under the liquor code, in order for the establishment to be open until 5:00am no alcohol would be allowed to be served after 2:00am and they would have to get an "Extended Hours" to permit the people to be on the licensed premises between the hours of 2:00am and 7:00am. **Council**

Member Tokmajian asked **Solicitor Pizzo** if Round One decided to expand their location further out into the mall would they have to submit for an extension of this license or get a new license. **Solicitor Pizzo** stated the license can always be modified but as to this particular applicant, Round One is applying for a liquor license for premises identified as 707 Neshaminy Mall, that is the location to which the liquor licenses is being assigned. If Round One were to expand their space in the Mall it would not require them to re-submit their paperwork with the Township or the PLCB. If Round One were to move to a different location, then yes, they would have to resubmit their paperwork to the PLCB. **Mr. Szallar** stated if Round One were to extend out further into the Mall they would have to file an “Extension of Premises” application with the PLCB.

Council Member Tokmajian asked the applicant how he would limit the alcohol usage between the restaurant and the SPO-CHA Center. **Steven Takeuchi** explained there will be a gate at the entrance to the SPO-CHA Center with two staff attending that area.

Council Secretary Knowles asked the applicant how many employees Round One will be hiring. **Steven Takeuchi** indicated 10 full-time employees and 50 part-time employees.

Solicitor Pizzo indicated to allow the record to reflect prior to the meeting and during the course of the hearing, the Township received no comment by way of either regular mail or by email in regards to this application,

Council President Kisselback asked for a roll call on the motion and the results are as follows:

- Council Vice President Pilieri voted Aye
- Council Secretary Knowles voted Aye
- Council Member Sloane voted Aye
- Council Member Tokmajian voted Aye
- Council President Kisselback voted Aye

The vote was unanimous, 5-0.

5. **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF ALL REQUIRED FORMS AND DOCUMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE ROBERT. T. STAFFORD DISASTER RELIEF AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ACT (PUBLIC LAW 93-288 AS AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 100-707):**

Solicitor Pizzo stated, as Council was previously briefed, with Council’s approval the Resolution will be submitted to FEMA to help the Township get reimbursed for funds that have been expended in reference to the Declaration of Emergency that started in March of this year obviously related to the COVID-19 crisis that the Township is still engaged in. The Resolution would allow the Township to recoup from FEMA, some portion, if not all of the cost that has been expended thus far in any aspect of the crisis. The **Mayor** explained that he signed an extension to the Emergency to continue the limitations that the Township can receive for all of the expenses incurred during the pandemic. **Fred Harran, Director of Public Safety,** indicated this Resolution will take the Township to the end of April. There will be

additional forms as the Township goes forward. Governor Wolf signed a Declaration of Disaster on March 6th, 2020, The Mayor signed on March 11th, 2020 and the President of the United States signed on March 13th, 2020. This will enable the Township to get funds that were spent from FEMA back to the Township. This only goes until April 30th, 2020 so there will be another Resolution whenever this pandemic ends.

Council Member Sloane asked how much will the Township recover to the end of April. **Director Harran** indicated approximately \$100,000.00, this encompasses \$60,000.00 for Township Administration, Police and Fire and \$40,000.00 for EMS. **Council Member Sloane** asked **Director Harran** to breakdown the amounts. Director Harran indicated on March 11th, the Township started purchasing PPE for the Emergency Responders, masks, dividers which were installed at workstations throughout the Township building to ensure social distancing. **Council Member Sloane** asked **Director Harran** if he had any idea as to how much money the Township will attempt to recover. Director Harran indicated the Township has a lot of the PPE stockpiled for Emergency Services, the money has also been used to professionally clean equipment and to clean cells and police vans, which is an ongoing expense. **Director Harran** did not have the breakdown of these expenses but indicated the bulk of the Township expense, unless something happens in September or October where the virus comes back stronger than it did at the onset he could not predict any costs at this time, but did not foresee another \$100,000.00 being spent.

Council Vice President Pilieri asked the **Mayor** if there will be any opportunity to recover any of the monies it cost to have the employees through the stay at home order. **The Mayor** explained how through the stay at home order all employees were still working from home. The Township did not lay-off or furlough any employees. **Council Secretary Knowles** indicated the Payment Protection Program did not include any Municipalities, but Phase II, if they ever get around to passing something else, may help the Townships and Municipalities for keeping employees on during the stay at home order. **Director Harran** explained that he is in constant contact, online, multiple times during the week with meetings and assured Council if there are any monies available that would benefit the Township he would be sure to address it at that time. **Council Member Tokmajian** indicated assuming Phase II does go through and they allot monies for local governments, **Council Member Tokmajian** would be open to the idea with a letter from all of Council and the Mayor to whomever is administering that at the State level or County level to see to it that the Township gets a portion of those funds.

Council Member Tokmajian asked **Director Harran** if the Resolution was simply an application and is the Township guaranteed these funds once submitted. **Director Harran** indicated the Township already submitted the preliminary budget request through the County and through FEMA with this Resolution Director Harran is able to act on behalf of the Township. FEMA will not process any kind of requests without a Resolution. **Director Harran** indicated the monies they are looking to recoup there seems to be no problem in receiving what has been requested. The estimated time of receipt of those funds is around 12 to 18 months.

Council Member Tokmajian motioned to approve as presented, **Council Vice President Pilieri** seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT EMAILS:

Council President Kisselback asked **Solicitor Pizzo** if there were any Public Comment Emails that needed to be addressed.

Solicitor Pizzo read the first Public Comment from Joseph Connolly, 568 Bristol Pike, who asked for an update on the removal of the dirt pile behind his house. Mr. Connolly wanted to make Council aware that he has received \$7,000.00 in fines for illegal vehicles on his property. Also, building a retaining wall by Lafayette Gardens Apartments that he did not construct. Trash and debris and water run-off that washes out the land that comes from his neighbor's property. Mr. Connolly states he is receiving these fines because the water is running through his property onto the Lafayette Gardens Apartment property. Mr. Connolly indicated he hired a new Land Surveyor Engineer to give him an ALTA certified survey in the ongoing dispute with the neighbor property owner over the location of the property line and whether the neighboring property encroaches. His neighbor had his storm water management fail according to Mr. Nearon and would like to know what is going to happen with that because he is tired of getting fines.

Solicitor Pizzo indicated **Quinton Nearon, Township Principal Inspector**, is on the call to address those things the Township can and at the outset, **Solicitor Pizzo** made Council aware, Mr. Connolly has not been fined anything. Mr. Connolly has received citations and if found guilty on those charges, could reach fines in the amount of \$7,000.00. Mr. Connolly has only been cited. Mr. Popli, neighboring property owner, has also been cited. Mr. Connolly and Mr. Popli have both been scheduled to go to court and to the extent any number of these items do fall within the purview of what now is litigation involving Mr. Connolly, Mr. Popli and the Township. **Solicitor Pizzo** asked **Principal Inspector Nearon** to give the status on Mr. Popli's Stormwater Management situation. **Principal Inspector Nearon** indicated on a visit several months ago to Mr. Popli's property, noticed the recharge pit that was installed was leaking at the lower end and assumed that when they did not have an inspector present during the installation, the water was releasing it was only dug 2 foot deep on a slope. The bottom of the recharge pit has to be on level ground so all the water stays in so that when it does release, it will release over the entire area. Instead, what was installed, was a 2 foot trench 25 feet wide on the existing grade which does not hold back the stormwater run-off that is required. **Council Member Sloane** asked who would have been the Inspector for the installation. **Principal Inspector Nearon** indicated the Inspector would have been from the Township Building and Planning Office and indicated the Township received no calls for inspection. The last time a Township Inspector was called to Mr. Popli's property is when he initially started to do the paving, a lot of the work was down after-the-fact without any Inspectors from the Township's Building and Planning office. **Council Secretary Knowles** asked if Mr. Popli received a permit for this project. **Principal Inspector Nearon** indicated Mr. Popli did receive permits but did not have an Inspector present before they filled the hole with the recharge stone and the fabric. **Principal Inspector Nearon** spoke to Mr. Popli about that and if he digs the stone out he can have an Inspector verify the subgrade is level and he can re-install the stone. **Principal Inspector Nearon** spoke to **Inspector Savage** who indicated the court hearing is scheduled for June 18th or June 22nd, **Principal Inspector Nearon** reiterated the recharge pit is part of the issue. **Council Vice President Pilieri** asked if the dirt pile was included. **Principal Inspector Nearon** replied, yes. **Council Vice President Pilieri** asked if the slats were put up in the

fence. **Principal Inspector Nearon** did not know if the slats were put in but indicated there was damage to the fence. **Council Member Sloane** asked **Solicitor Pizzo** if there was anything the Township could do or would the Township have to wait until after the court date. **Council President Kisselback** explained, in addition to these private lawsuits against each other, the Township would be involved from the Townships end of it and pursue whatever had to be corrected independently from the lawsuits. **Solicitor Pizzo** explained as **Principal Inspector Nearon** indicated there are a number of citations that have been issued to Mr. Connolly and a number of citations issued to Mr. Popli as a result of the on-going and seemingly never-ending issues between the two property owners. In the early part of when the pandemic struck, the Township Building and Planning department had filed citations against both property owners involving matters discussed this evening and previously as well. As the County starts to re-open through the phases set in place by the governor, both parties will be in court in June.

Solicitor Pizzo indicated there was a second email from Eileen Keefe. Thanked all of Council and everything they do for Bensalem. Her first question is, did Fishers Restaurant obtain a permit to cover all of the grass with concrete? They covered all the impervious surface surrounding the property, not happy with the way it looks, believes it may be unsafe for pedestrians at that intersection. **Solicitor Pizzo** asked **Principal Inspector Nearon** if he had any insight on that particular action by Fishers. **Principal Inspector Nearon** indicated about a year ago they were doing the same thing at another location and the Township issued a “Stop Work Order”. A few months back Fishers did concrete the area at the intersection of Hulmeville and Street Road, again, the Township Building and Planning department went out and there were other areas Fishers was doing construction without permits, Fishers was issued a “Stop Work Order” **Principal Inspector Nearon** is not sure of the status of that situation but has not seen anything come through the Township Building and Planning department and is assuming the permit applications have not been applied for to date and the “Stop Work Order” is still in effect. **Council President Kisselback** stated there is no impervious surface left, everything is covered in concrete. **Principal Inspector Nearon** indicated Fishers would need a Variance or remove the concrete. **Principal Inspector Nearon** explained to the owner of Fishers, last year, that the area along Virginia Avenue at Hulmeville Road there was an area where they had taken bushes out could replace with mulch. **Principal Inspector Nearon** explained to the owner that according to the Township Code if an establishment has parking they would need a buffer, which had been one of the complaints the Township Building and Planning department received. **Principal Inspector Nearon** stated when the “Notice of Violation” is mailed out the Township will be able address all the issues under one notice. The Mayor asked **Principal Inspector Nearon** to look into the complaint. A further discussion ensued regarding the complaint.

Second part of Ms. Keefe’s complaint is regarding the curved curbs in Eddington and Cornwells and believes those direct stormwater are not decorative as previously mentioned. The company that worked on installing the new stormwater system in Eddington damaged the curved curbs at Forrest and Rosalie Avenues in the Spring and Summer of 2018. Every curved curb was ultimately replaced except for the two at Rosalie and Forrest Avenues. **Principal Inspector Nearon** indicated Gilmore and Associates were the inspectors on that project, they have, thus far, not gotten involved. **Solicitor Pizzo** indicated to the extent those curbs may or may not have been damaged, it wasn’t something the Township could ultimately turn back to the contractor. As far as going back to the contractor to have them fix the curbs, the contractor

said he didn't do it so it seems based on photos taken prior to the construction that the damage that is there now is consistent with the damage that existed before the job was done. **Solicitor Pizzo** asked **Principal Inspector Nearon** if that was a correct assumption. **Principal Inspector Nearon** indicated that would be correct. **Solicitor Pizzo** indicated at least as to getting a contractor to replace the curb, that ship has sailed. The Township has no bases to replace the curb. **Council Secretary Knowles** asked about the curbing around the storm drains. The Mayor indicated he visited the site along with **Principal Inspector Nearon**, and investigated the history of the placement of the curbs which took place sometime in the 1970's. The **Mayor** explained how the information that was conveyed back to him, by the Township Engineers regarding the responsibility of the curbs was that of the property owner. **Council Member Tokmajian** asked **Principal Inspector Nearon** if the blacktop curbs were beneficial and the reason they were installed. **Principal Inspector Nearon** did not know the reason they were installed but explained there is a 20 foot radius of curb, therefore you have a curbed corner basically with an inlet off of that curbed line at that location. They are all over Eddington, some of the sections have them and some of them don't. Curbing does not help unless it is along the entire property to actually channel the water into those drains. The Mayor reiterated **Principal Inspector Nearon's** explanation on the curbing and it how it does not have to be placed at the storm drain and how Mrs. Keefe is stating it needs to be repaired because it is causing a problem. **Principal Inspector Nearon** explained there are 30 intersections in Eddington, 20 of those intersections have curb on four sides. Some of those locations the curbing might be beneficial, others it may not. Each case would have to be looked at individually. The **Mayor** asked **Principal Inspector Nearon** to look into each case individually. **Council Vice President Pilieri** offered his involvement to the Mayor's directive for **Principal Inspector Nearon** to look into curved curbing.

7. OTHER BUSINESS:

Mayor Joseph DiGirolamo indicated the Township is looking into opening up the playgrounds but did not have a firm date. The Summer Rec Program does not look promising, as soon as a decision has been made Council will be notified. The Summer Concert Series for the month of June has been postponed. The remainder of the concert season will be discussed sometime mid-June and a decision will be made as to whether or not to cancel the rest of the concert season. All employees have been working, wearing masks and practicing social distancing. Barriers have been placed to protect employees. Kudos to all employees for following these guidelines. Bensalem High School students will be graduating at Parx Casino, on June 12th, 2020, where each individual graduate will come across the big screen as their parents watch from their cars in the parking lot. The Building and Planning department is very busy receiving applications for permits for swimming pools.

Fred Harran, Director of Public Safety, reported Public Safety is still at full operation. There are 235 active cases of Coronavirus in Bensalem with a total of 29 deaths and 19 of those deaths being from assisted living facilities. Police, Fire and EMS are in full masks when answering a call when permissible. The next phase for the Township Building opening up to the public will be by appointment only. They will have to wear masks and have their temperature taken before entering the Township building. There has been an increase in retail theft, if you commit a crime in Bucks County, you commit a crime in Bensalem you will be arrested. Domestic Violence has increased by 31%, mental health calls have increased and

overdoses have increased by 14% but not related to COVID, overdoses have been increasing before the pandemic arrived.

Council Vice President Pilieri commented how sad it was that the Township was unable to pay homage to our “Fallen Heroes” as they have done in years past due to the pandemic. The Police Memorial, which is a beautiful and solemn event, was another occasion where the Township could not gather. These events dedicated to our heroes need to be held near and dear to our hearts. When you see a Police Officer or a Veteran today thank them for their service. On a lighter note, the Philadelphia Flyers are in the Playoffs, the Phillies are looking to start their season sometime soon and enjoyed watching his first Car Race. Thank the **Mayor** and his staff for doing a fantastic job. Thank Fred Harran, Director of Public Safety, and his staff for doing a fantastic job.

Council Secretary Knowles congratulated all the graduates of 2020 and reiterated the sadness he felt missing the Police Memorial and the Memorial Day Parade. Thanked the Mayor and his Administration along with Public Safety Director Fred Harran for keeping the communication line open to him and his fellow Councilmen up to date on the daily progress of the Township and stay safe and God Bless.

Council Member Sloane reiterated everyone’s thoughts on the Police Memorial as well as the Memorial Day Parade. Even though you were unable to attend a parade, the VFW did a little service on line which was very nice. Reminded everyone Tuesday, June 2nd, 2020 is Primary Election Day. Talked about the Township moving into the ▼“Yellow Phase”▼ and urged everyone to be cautious and to adhere to all the guidelines being posted by the State and assumed the Township will obviously post any necessary precautions on the Township Website www.bensalempa.gov. Thanked everyone out on the frontlines, first responders, healthcare workers and all the essential businesses that have stayed open such as the grocery workers and pharmacies. Thanked all the teachers as this marks the end of a very bittersweet year and congratulated all the students who are graduating this year.

Council Member Tokmajian recognized the service for our Veterans and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Emphasized we are still under the “stay-at-home” orders and thanked all the frontline workers and essential personnel. Recognized all the teachers in Bensalem who took on the challenge of virtual teaching and successfully adapting to continuing giving our children a top notch education. Congratulated the Bensalem High School Seniors and noted how all the students from all the schools in Bensalem have accepted the challenges of virtual classes and online schooling.

Township Engineer Russell Benner followed up on a few of the Mayors comments regarding the drainage project that will be starting June and two additional drainage projects that will be going out for bidding in June. **Engineer Benner** explained how they have been keeping up with the permits because of the Townships IT department setting everyone up remotely. **Engineer Benner** explained he shares an office with **Principal Inspector Nearon** and how they have worked out an arrangement so they can “socially distance” and be processing more permits. **Engineer Benner** mentioned out of the 20 permits processed last Friday, 6 of those permits were for pools.

Council President Kisselback indicated all of Council covered it very well, and reiterated **Council Member Sloane's** comment regarding the Primary Election being held on Tuesday, June 2nd, 2020. God Bless.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

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

The Bensalem Township Council Meeting of May 26th, 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**