

**BENSALEM TOWNSHIP  
REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES**

**January 2, 2018**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ed Kisselback (via speaker phone)  
Joe Pilieri  
Joe Knowles  
Ed Tokmajian  
Jesse Sloane

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Mayor Joseph DiGirolamo  
Joseph Pizzo  
Ron Gans  
Debora McBreen  
Cindy Terlecki, Recording Secretary  
Judge Joe Falcone  
Judge Mike Gallagher

1. 2017 Council Vice President **Joe Pilieri** called the meeting to order and introduced Judges **Mike Gallagher** and **Joe Falcone**, and noted that they were on hand to swear in the newly elected and/or re-elected local officials.

**Mayor Joseph DiGirolamo** was sworn in by Judge Gallagher  
Councilman **Joe Pilieri** was sworn in by Judge Falcone.  
Councilman **Jesse Sloane** was sworn in by Judge Gallagher.  
Councilman **Ed Tokmajian** was sworn in by Judge Falcone.  
Treasurer **Ray Wall** was sworn in by Judge Gallagher.  
Auditor **Kathy Constantini** was sworn in by Judge Falcone.

**Pizzo** announced that Councilman **Kisselback** was not present at the meeting because he is stranded in Texas due to weather. However, he is with us on speaker phone and **Pizzo** stated this is allowed by law. **Kisselback** congratulated all elected officials and said he is participating in the Council Meeting.

**Kisselback** then turned the meeting over to **Mayor Joseph DiGirolamo** who presided over the meeting until a new Council President was elected.

**Mayor DiGirolamo** called the meeting to order with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance

2. **Public Comment:**

The **Mayor** then invited Public Comment on agenda items but no one came forward and the public portion was closed.

3. **Election of Council President:**

The **Mayor** asked for a nomination of Council President, **Knowles** nominated **Pileri** and **Kisselback** seconded, the motion carried, with no other names put forward, the vote was called and **Pileri** was elected unanimously 5-0 to serve as Council President for 2018.

4. **Election of Vice President:**

**Pileri** called for a motion to nominate Vice President of Council and **Tokmajian** nominated **Sloane**, and **Sloane** seconded, **Kisselback** nominated **Knowles** and **Pileri** seconded, **Pileri** called for roll call and **Kisselback**, **Pileri** and **Knowles** voted yes and **Tokmajian** and **Sloane** voted no, the vote carried for **Knowles** for Council Vice President 3-2.

5. **Election of the Township Secretary:**

**Knowles** nominated **Kisselback** for Township Secretary and **Pileri** seconded, the vote was called and **Kisselback** was elected unanimously 5-0, to serve as Council Secretary for 2018.

6. **Election of the Assistant Township Secretary:**

**Kisselback** nominated **Debbie McBreen** to continue serving as the Assistant Secretary for 2018, **Knowles** seconded, the vote was called and **Debbie McBreen** was elected unanimously.

7. **Appointment of a Court Stenographer:**

**Knowles** nominated **Kimberly A. Bursner RPR, NJ.CCR.** **Kisselback** seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

8. **Appointment of the Municipal Clerk:**

**Knowles** recommended **Debbie McBreen** to continue serving as the Municipal Clerk. **Kisselback** seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

9. **Appointment of Township Solicitor:**

**Mayor DiGirolamo** recommended **Joseph Pizzo** to continue as Township Solicitor for 2018, **Sloane** asked for the rates and **Pizzo** said the hourly rate is \$200. **Knowles** motioned to approve and **Kisselback** seconded, the motion carried 3-2 with **Sloane** and **Tokmajian** abstaining.

**10. Appointment of Township Engineer:**

The **Mayor** asked for the reappointment of O'Donnell and Naccarato for the Township Engineer, **Tokmajian** asked for their rates and **Ron Gans** said he did not have the rates at that time, but can provide them. **Knowles** motioned to approve the appointment and **Kisselback** seconded, motion carried 3-2 with **Tokmajian** and **Sloane** abstaining.

**11. Appointment of Department Directors:**

The **Mayor** recommended that all current Directors continue in their current positions.

William Cmorey – Director of Administration  
Matt Takita – Director of Building and Planning  
Jim Bogan – Director of Golf Operations  
Chuck McMullin – Director of Parks and Recreation  
Fred Harran – Director of Public Safety  
Jim Ryan – Director of Public Works

**Sloane** asked that the directors be appointed individually instead of all together and **Pilieri** asked why, **Sloane** said that he did not approve of **Fred Harran**, Director of Public Safety because during the recent election, he had concerns because the lack of faith in **Harran's** ability as Director of Public Safety in keeping the people in Bensalem safe. **Kisselback** said that we have the best police department in the state thanks to **Harran**. **Pilieri** said that all the directors would be voted on and **Kisselback** motioned to approve and **Knowles** seconded, the motion to approve all directors carried 3-2 with **Tokmajian** and **Sloane** voting no.

**12. Appointment of Township News Media:**

**Tokmajian** motioned to approve the reappointment of the Bucks County Courier Times, **Kisselback** seconded, motion carried 5-0

**13. Designation of Monthly Meeting Dates for 2018:**

**Pilieri** said they would vote on the next meeting date only since he needs to review the dates for the year, some of the meeting dates would conflict with holidays, **Knowles** motioned to approve 1/8/18 as the next Council Meeting date and **Sloane** seconded, motion carried 5-0

**Pizzo** asked for a brief recess.

**Pilieri** called the meeting back to order, **Pizzo** said that because of the communication between **Kisselback** and Council is not ideal, all business by law has been accomplished, he suggested to recess the meeting, reconvene this meeting on 1/8/18 and that time finish the remainder of the Reorganization Meeting. **Knowles** motioned to approve and **Tokmajian** seconded, motion carried 5-0.

The **Mayor** said he wanted to defend **Fred Harran** the Director of Public Safety that he does an incredible job and gets his vote of confidence.

**Pilieri** continued the meeting until Monday, January 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

**14. ADJOURNMENT:**

The next scheduled meeting is January 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Cindy Terlecki**