

**BENSALEM TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday
February 12, 2018**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Mayor Joseph DiGirolamo
Joseph Pizzo, Township Solicitor
Lauren Gallagher, Township Solicitor
Ron Gans, Township Engineer
Debora McBreen, Council Clerk/Recording Secretary
Cindy Terlecki, Recording Secretary (absent)

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Council President Pilieri asked **Solicitor Pizzo** if there were any changes to the agenda this evening. **Solicitor Pizzo** indicated that Agenda item #4 which is the public hearing on an Ordinance for the Division 7 Street Road Corridor Town Center Overlay District, the administration would ask that council table this until the second meeting in May. **Council Vice President Knowles** tabled to a date certain of May 29, 2018, **Council Member Tokmajian** seconded, motion carried 5-0.

Solicitor Pizzo said that item #5 on the agenda which is the rezoning of tax parcels 2-60-15 and 2-30-115, the administration would ask that council table this to a date certain of March 12, 2018, **Council Secretary Kisselback** motioned to table and **Council Member Sloane** seconded, motion carried 5-0.

Solicitor Pizzo indicated item #9 on this evening's agenda, which is a Minor Land Development for Brown's Superstore, was contacted by the representatives representing both Brown and the adjacent property owner, Korman. Council is aware that there are some issues back and forth in regard to the approval of this Land Development project, the attorneys representing each amenity seemed to have worked through those issues, at least in principal, so they have asked if Council could table this item to a date certain of March 12, 2018. **Council Vice President Knowles** motioned to table and **Council Member Tokmajian** seconded, motion carried 5-0.

Council President Pilieri asked if anyone from the audience wanted to come forward to comment on the agenda items, no one came forward; the public comment on agenda items was closed.

Council Secretary Kisselback motioned to table item #10 of the agenda, Lot Line Change applicant Carl Schneider to be tabled to a date certain of March 26, 2018, **Council Vice President Knowles** seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

3. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES:

Council Secretary Kisselback indicated that it was consistent through the board recommendations that **Council President Pilieri** recommend the board members when in all actuality it was the **Mayor** who recommended these members.

Council Vice President Knowles mentioned that agenda item #28, Other Business, I stated that the Bensalem High was the fourth ranked diversity in the state not in the state of diversity.

Council Member Tokmajian asked to please correct the spelling of his name on page 3. Also, on page 5, agenda item #26, would like it mentioned as to who noted that discrepancy, which was **Member Tokmajian**. Page 6, under Public Comment where it is mentioned that nine more people spoke, **Council Member Tokmajian** would like those names listed and their addresses as he believes that there were more Bensalem residents that spoke instead of just generically stating a number.

Council Vice President Knowles motioned to approve the minutes as amended, of January 22, 2018 and **Council Member Tokmajian** seconded, motion carried 5-0.

Council President Pilieri indicated an amendment to the agenda regarding a Re-signing and Re-approval of a Record Plan for Paramount Reality to 14A of the agenda. **Council Vice President Knowles** motioned to amend the agenda, **Council Secretary Kisselback** seconded, the motion carried 5-0.

4. CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE:

“Division 7: Street Road Corridor Town Center Overlay District”

This was tabled to a date certain of 5/29/18

5. PROPOSED ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT:

“Re-zone and Re-classify Tax Map Parcels 2-6-15 and 2-30-115”

This was tabled to a date certain of 3/12/18

6. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION:

Solicitor Pizzo indicated to council that before them was a copy of the Municipal Grant Program contract between the Redevelopment Authority and the township for contract 2017-12 which is a municipal grant that has been awarded to the township by the Redevelopment Authority in the amount of \$500,000.00 for the Bensalem Fire and EMS upgrade. All this is consistent of what has been previously approved by council in the way of submission of the grant and acceptance of the grant, the approval of the contract is the next step in the process in order for the township to receive the funds then to pass them on to the Fire and EMS. The administration recommends its approval and ask for the same this evening. **Council Vice President Knowles** motioned to approve, **Council Secretary Kisselback** seconded. **Council Secretary Kisselback** asked **Solicitor Pizzo** if it was the same amount delegated to each firehouse. **Solicitor Pizzo** indicated that it was split equally among the six firehouses and EMS. **Council Vice President Knowles** motioned to approve, **Council Secretary Kisselback** seconded, and motion carried 5-0.

7. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION:

Solicitor Pizzo indicated that everything he just said in reference to the last contract would also be applicable to contract 2017-02 which is a similar contract with the Redevelopment Authority this was for a grant the township applied for and received in the amount of \$165,000.00 to help with the funding of the Towns Against Graffiti program. As council is aware, Bensalem is the lead municipality in T.A.G. and therefore we are the entity that applies for this grant each year. It is funded in the amount of \$165,000.00 and this will help to offset the operating costs for both the T.A.G. graffiti program and the T.A.G. litter removal program. **Council Secretary Kisselback** motioned to approve, **Council Vice President Knowles** seconded. **Council Member Sloane** asked if this just covered the operating costs. **Solicitor Pizzo** indicated that this grant covered costs involved such as salaries, chemicals and other amenities need for the graffiti and litter programs, the motion carried 5-0.

8. CONSIDERATION OF SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS:

Applicant:	C. Morelli Building and General Contracting
Location:	876 Mill Road
Proposed Use:	Warehouse & Offices
Zoning Classification:	LI (Light Industrial)
Tax Parcel:	2-33-94

Solicitor Pizzo explained that council previously approved back in 2017 a land development application for a one story masonry building, warehouse and offices at 876 Mill Road. As it is called for over the MPC and under township ordinances the developer has now posted with the township his land development improvements agreement for Stormwater Best Management Practices and Operations and Maintenance Agreement and has funded the escrows and the other monies required with the Township. The agreements are in a form acceptable for your consideration and approval this evening and the administration recommends that you please do the same.

Council Vice President Knowles made a motion to approve the Land Development Extension as presented, **Council Secretary Kisselback** seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

9. CONSIDERATION OF A MINOR LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN:

Applicant: Brown's Superstore, Inc. c/o David Deets
Location: 1837 Street Road
Proposed Use: Store
Zoning Classification: GC – General Commercial
Tax Parcel: 2-43-305-1 and 2-43-305

This was tabled to a date certain of 3/12/18.

10. CONSIDERATION OF A LOT LINE CHANGE:

Applicant: Carl Schneider
Site Information: 968 & 962 Bristol Pike
Proposed Use: Commercial
Zoning Classification: G-C (General Commercial)
Tax Parcel: 2-29-112 and 2-29-113

This was tabled to a date certain of 3/26/18.

11. CONSIDERATION OF A LAND DEVELOPMENT EXTENSION AGREEMENT:

Applicant: Waterside Phase I, LLC
Location: Waterside Project
Tax Parcel: 2-65-22, 2-64-139 and 2-64-138

Solicitor Pizzo indicated that in the council's last action they had approved the Land Development Agreement and before council this evening is the Waterside Phase I Land Development Extension Agreement. As typical as council has asked from time to time when the developer for any number of reasons has not completed certain improvements associated with the land development project within the time set forth under the land development agreement, the developer will approach the township with a request for a land development extension agreement. In this case the developer from the Waterside project, down along the Delaware River has requested that their Developer's Agreement, which is set to expire in March of 2018, be extended for an additional 2 years to a date of March 24, 2020. The request has been reviewed by the township engineer and by the Building and Planning department and has been determined to be in order. The Developer's Extension Agreement is therefore before council this evening for their consideration and approval. If council is inclined to do so, it is requested that you do so with the condition that an audit be performed of the public improvement funds currently escrowed with the Township that would be performed by the Finance department and township engineer to make sure that adequate funds do remain in place for the completion for the project for the time set forth under the Developers agreement.

Council Vice President Knowles motioned to approve, **Council Secretary Kisselback** seconded.

Council President Pilieri asked if there were any questions regarding the motion and **Council Member Tokmajian** asked if **Solicitor Pizzo** could advise him of the public improvements of Waterside and **Solicitor Pizzo** recommended that **Engineer Gans** would be in a better position to advise of those improvements. **Solicitor Pizzo** did indicate that the streets are not being dedicated. **Engineer Gans** agreed that the streets would not be dedicated to the township. **Solicitor Pizzo** said that street lights, Stormwater management facilities, sidewalks, the improvements along the riverfront for the public access, State Road public improvements all would be escrowed. **Council Member Sloane** asked what remains to be completed at this point. **Engineer Gans** indicated that they are in Phase I and that Phase I would have to be completed right now. **Council Member Sloane** asked what of Phase I still had to be completed. **Engineer Gans** indicated that he would be able to get **Council Member Sloane** how many units are still required, if that is what you need. **Council Member Sloane** indicated that this was a 2 year extension, it seems a lot. **Engineer Gans** said that it was not that ambitious, it is generally 1 year, but they are being conservative going for 2 years. **Council Member Sloane** asked if it was more than half of the scope that needs to be delayed 2 years. **Engineer Gans** said that they have done more than half of Phase I. **Council Member Sloane** asked **Engineer Gans** if this was just limited to Phase I, **Engineer Gans** indicated that there would be all new agreements for a new phase. **Council Member Sloane** asked do they need a 2 year extension or is a 1 year extension more appropriate given the remaining scope, **Engineer Gans** said if you are more comfortable with a 1 year, we can go with that. **Solicitor Pizzo** indicated that a 2 year extension would be more realistic, as **Engineer Gans** indicated the units are more than half sold. **Solicitor Pizzo** stated that based on the point of time that they received their initial approvals from the township, it was just about the same time that the economy, particularly the housing market, went into a steep decline. This project and all projects is the reason why we have developers agreements and the escrows to make sure that if a developer should ever encounter any problems in completing their obligations to the township under the developer agreements that the funds are there so that the township can step in and make sure that what was promised to be done is done. Unless there is an over-riding reason, the township allows this developer and most developers to proceed at their pace with their projects particularly one as large as Waterside with 600 units, Waterside still has a long way to go. **Council President Pilieri** indicated that council has approved 2 year extensions in the past for projects of this magnitude. **Council President Pilieri** asked if there were any more comments and **Council Member Tokmajian** commented that if he was living in that neighborhood he

would not appreciate this developer extending their project for 2 years. **Solicitor Pizzo** indicated that from the townships perspective, while we certainly want to see the riverfront amenities completed at the earliest possible date, it is nonetheless an ongoing construction site and anyone who buys a home in the development that isn't finished buys a home where there is an ongoing construction. **Solicitor Pizzo** explained that there are certain concerns about inviting the public into an ongoing construction site while construction is ongoing. **Council Member Sloane** indicated that large construction projects have contractual completion dates for which they must be finished for the end users and if this is being delayed, then in my experience, a 2 year extension on this project is an enormous amount of time. I think it is more appropriate for a 1 year extension at this time.

Council Member Sloane wanted to put a new motion on the floor, but **Council President Pilieri** indicated that the motion was already brought forward and that the discussion that just pursued was regarding the motion, as stated, when Council Pilieri asked if there were any questions regarding the motion.

The motion, which was previously approved before the discussion of the motion, carried with a 3-2-0 vote.

12. REQUEST FOR A WAIVER OF CURBS AND SIDEWALKS:

Applicant: Harold Richard Garten
Site Information: 2617 Knights Road
Tax Parcel: 2-36-264

Engineer Gans recommended a waiver for curbs and sidewalks and a fee in lieu of, **Council Vice President Knowles** motioned to approve and **Council Member Sloane** seconded, motion carried 5-0.

13. CONSIDERATION OF A REDUCTION OF PERMIT FEES:

Solicitor Pizzo indicated a permit fee from Libertae, Inc. was before council this evening **Solicitor Pizzo** explained that it is a standard request that council receives from non-profit organizations for such a reduction, in this case the reduction would be for 50% of the Zoning & Hearing Board Fee Application. The requests appears to be in order and acceptable for council's consideration. **Council President Pilieri** asked **Solicitor Pizzo** if this is something that we have done in the past regarding the Zoning & Hearing Board Application Fee.

Solicitor Pizzo indicated that he believes it is, or at least it is something that is provided for on the Reduced Permit Fee worksheet, therefore it would fall in the category of a fee that would be within the realm if council would consider a reduction for. **Council Vice President** made a motion to accept the 50% waiver of fees. **Council President Pilieri** asked if there were any questions regarding the motion and **Council Secretary Kisselback** asked “does this or would this cost the Township any money to perform the duties and services of the Zoning & Hearing Board?” **Solicitor Pizzo** said that he could only answer the question in a general form, the \$1,500.00 fee, as the **Solicitor** understands it would include, among it, certain out of pocket costs that the township spend in relation to the zoning application, being that of the cost of the court reporter, cost of advertising the hearing in the local newspaper. Whether those in the aggregate would amount to in excess of \$750.00, that, the **Solicitor** did not know. **Council Secretary Kisselback**, explained that while he would like to help Libertae out with all the good that they do for the community, but would like to have an idea or an example of granting that relief of the Zoning & Hearing Board fee. **Council Secretary Kisselback** suggested to table this agenda item until council received additional information regarding the 50% fee waiver. **Council President Pilieri** agreed and asked for a motion and **Council Vice President Knowles** withdrew his original motion and motioned to table this item to a date certain of February 26th, **Council Secretary Kisselback** seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

14. CONSIDERATION OF ESCROW RELEASE:

Developers Request:	Heritage Management Group, Inc. – Release #1 - Revised
Location:	1528 Bristol Pike
Tax Parcel:	2-30-11
Amount:	\$ 452,263.92

Engineer Gans recommended release subject to an audit by the Finance Department, **Council Member Sloane** made a motion to approve, **Council Vice President Knowles** seconded.

Council President Pilieri asked if there were any questions on the motion. **Council Member Tokmajian** asked **Engineer Gans** about numbers 11 and 14 and the reasoning for the full release of funds. **Engineer Gans** responded that it was for the storm sewer system, and that they just wanted to make sure they installed them as required on the plans, we believe they are but we are waiting on the confirmation letter certifying they were installed. The motion carried 5-0.

14A. RE-APPROVAL AND SIGNING OF RECORD PLANS:

Applicant: Paramount Reality
Site Information: Marketplace @ Neshaminy Subdivision Plan
Tax Parcel: 2-1-37

Engineer Gans indicated that there were two small drafting errors on the previously approved sub-division plans. The first error was that there was .21 acres of ground behind Target that was not included in the overall lot. The second was a typographical error. **Engineer Gans** recommended that council approve this plan because the 90 day period has elapsed. **Council Secretary Kisselback** motion to approve, **Council Vice President Knowles** second, motion carried 5-0

15. CONSIDERATION OF ESCROW RELEASE:

Developers Request: Waterside Phase 1 & 1A – Release #14
Location: State Road
Tax Parcel: 2-64-138, 2-64-139 and 2-65-22
Amount: \$ 31,576.25

Engineer Gans recommended release subject to an audit by the Finance Department, **Council Secretary Kisselback** made a motion to approve, **Council Vice President Knowles** seconded, motion carried 5-0.

16. CONSIDERATION OF ESCROW RELEASE:

Developers Request: The Reserve
Location: State Road
Tax Parcel: 2-64-138, 2-64-139 and 2-65-22
Amount: \$ 31,576.25

Engineer Gans recommended release subject to an audit by the Finance Department, **Council Secretary Kisselback** made a motion to approve, **Council Member Tokmajian** seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

17. PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

Melanie Goldstein, 4419 E. Yates Rd., Bensalem, PA. Thank you for the privilege of allowing me to speak to you. I continue to admire your willingness to serve your community and the sacrifice it entails. Mayor, I am glad to hear that Mary is home and on the mend and I hope the two of you share many more healthy years together. Two weeks ago, I was one of many who spoke to council expressing strong feelings against 287G. One of the speakers even provided council with an information packet. We shared our concerns about the emotional and financial strain 287G would have on many members of our community and their families. Concerns of the financial burden on our already drained budget and concern for the negative message it sends to the public about our community. A community once designated as peace loving, accepting and not a place for hate. You were patient and respectful for which I would like to thank you. At what we were told I thought was the end of the meeting, council president said that a lot of information had been shared and would certainly be given thought and consideration. So, did you read the information packet or did you just listen to what Fred Harran said when he was invited up to comment after the so called end of the meeting. Director Harran used his time, used this special opportunity to discredit the comments of concerned citizens who spoke against 287G. To Director Harran I say, tell us, what lies did we share? You said you had plenty of examples with our names next to our mistakes. Let us hear our wrongs and enlighten us as to your sources. And by the way, no one said that undocumented immigrants, if found guilty, of a serious crime, should be given a pass. Council, if you really did consider our comments, information and concerns, how do you feel about your community allowing that snake of hatred to rear its ugly head and peek out from under the tent. And, while you may not have the authority over this issue, you sure as hell have influence. You can show you care about those at risk, those who are potential targets of hatred and racial profiling those in search of freedom from persecution like many of your ancestors. You can show your concerns by manning up and applying pressure to those who do have the power to bring 287 and its horrors to our community. For after hearing what was said two weeks ago, I can't imagine that you lack humanity and compassion not to be concerned. I find it hard to believe that, as stated two weeks ago, that council has no authority over this issue. If not you, than who? Fred Harran? The Mayor? How could something so capable of changing the very principals upon which this community was founded. Something that affects the lifestyle, the pride and commerce of the entire community be decided by one person. That's what happened in "Hitler's Germany". Thanks what's happening in North Korea, too. That's not what should happen in "My America", that is not what should happen in "My Bensalem". Fred Harran was not elected to represent me, he was appointed, and the Mayor is his boss. So to the Mayor I say, you were elected to represent this community, not elected to represent some, but elected to

Page 11
Council Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2018

represent all. Let me remind you that you won by a mere 287 votes. So if being the ethical man you claim, you are obligated to represent all citizens of Bensalem. Mayor, is 287G what you want to remember about you as our Mayor? Director Harran may become 287G's enforcer, but 287G will become your legacy. A son of immigrants, an employer of migrant worker who worked your farm and a Mayor of immigrants, how can you turn your back on those seeking freedom, safety and a better life for their family. So, I come to you two weeks after to beg and to tell you it time, it's time for you, Mayor and council to be among the brave, brave enough to take a stand against 287G and the horrors it brings to our backyard. Thank you.

Edward Devenney, 5125 Bay Road, Bensalem, PA. I must say that the Mayors legacy will not be 287G. Your legacy will be building this community, educating this community, growing this community. My children live here, I have been a firemen for 34 years. On a safety issue, I have worked beside the men and women of the Bensalem Township Police department for 34 years and I have to tell you their level of professionalism, their level of education and their level of knowledge to protect and serve this community is the highest level that I have ever had the pleasure of working with in these past 34 years. Also, you talk about community policing, the program that the Township has is unbelievable, I stand beside the men and women of the fire companies, EMS and the police department. We attend community services throughout this township. For every group, for every church, for every community we attend these services. It is important because we are a team in this community. Bensalem Township is a "TEAM", a fair team and a fair and honest community. Director Harran is the top law enforcer here in Bensalem Township, yes he does report to the Mayor, but he is the top enforcer of the law, with communication with the Mayor and Council. The men and women of the police department should be given the top funding, the highest technology and the highest intelligence information that possible can be given to a police department, not only here in Bucks County, not only in Pennsylvania, but in this United States of America. What is not taken into consideration is that these men and women protect us, our families, so I want them to go home to theirs. That's the difference when you talk about intelligence information and safety and funding and technology. Thank you.

Tony Belfield, 2475 Greenland Court, Bensalem, PA I guess it is a symptom of our country. I never thought I would see, here in Bensalem, the swamp down in D.C. and the malaise out in Harrisburg. This council and this township has always served an honorable position. I served on this council for 8 years. I never had to face or see the likes of what I saw at the last meeting where we were inundated with individuals, the majority of those people were not from Bensalem Township, who were more than willing to accuse everyone in this township, from the Mayor, the Director of Public Safety and every policemen in this township of some bigotry or some racism with no understanding, no history with this township, nothing to back it up. A comment was made earlier about what mistakes were made in error. I sat out in this crowd, with other residents, and quietly and respectfully listened to those who spoke. Many did bring

Page 12
Council Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2018

up issues I did not hear before, I wasn't quite sure it was true or not. The one comment was made that, there is no need for this type of program that the director of public health and safety is advocating, because it only works that way through the county, it is the same exact program. That is not true, the county program allows the township to refer individuals to the county who then go through to I.C.E. and that's the end of the story. The program that was being talked about, as it was stated, officers from the township would go off and receive additional training so that when they are interviewing individuals who have committed crimes, or have been arrested for a crime, and suspicion of a crime, they would check their background to see if there are any open warrants on that individual. This would give them an opportunity to question them as to their legal status here in this country. As Director Harran pointed out, there are cases where they were able to detain an individual on that basis alone, while they developed an underlying case for a more underlying crime. Basic criminal procedure. I heard people come forward and call every policemen in this township a racists. I heard people get up and say I don't want to live in this country if you are going to look at these types of things. I heard people refer us to Nazi Germany, come on people, this is Bensalem, we are proud of who we are and what we are and if anyone thinks that this Mayor, or this council would ever support anything that would have that detrimental effect to our citizens, then they are not from Bensalem and have no clue. I worked for this township for 8 years and I can tell you every member up there is an honorable man. The mayor is an honorable man and would never allow that to happen. So I take great offense when people, who no nothing of what they are talking about, come in here and make a show for the cameras and make a show for politics and score some cheap political points and at the same time dragging down good men and the good name of Bensalem. This is something that this council should not stand for, this is something that every member of this council should object to. We built a wonderful community here in Bensalem. We work hard at keeping Bensalem a great community, we can't allow people to come in here and tear it down. For what, political point, points that may mean something in Harrisburg and may mean something in D.C. and it may mean something at a larger level, but at the end of the day mean little here in Bensalem. Thank you.

Frank Schilling 6202 Hulmeville Road, Bensalem PA, I have lived here for 25 years and have got to meet a lot of really nice people. I'm a straight shooter. I meet both Ed Tokmajian and Jesse Sloane and I extend my congratulations, I know you have hearts and souls so do the right thing. Don't stir the pot and don't make it worse than it already is, be a team player. Stand strong as 5 into 1 for our town. **Frank Schilling** handed Council Member Tokmajian a piece of paper to read what was written on it from Unity Week. Council Member Tokmajian read the following: Building a Better Bensalem Together Coalition, MLK Day is a great time to reinforce the strength and diversity with our Bensalem community. We look forward to sharing this experience with you while we continue to learn about our diverse community. **Mr. Schilling** continued to say that he met council Member Tokmajian at the Indian function and **Council Member Sloane** at his synagogue, I get what you guys are doing. Stand strong, listen to your hearts and do what you have to do for the town. We got a lot of things in place, we

Page 13
Council Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2018

aren't ranked number 46 for no reason, and we earned that title. As for the Mayor, I don't care if he is 105 and still sitting right there, I will stand strong behind him. Color doesn't matter in this town. It takes seven colors to make a rainbow, and we have the rainbow right here in our backyard.

Joyce Hadley, 2921 Sussex Road, Trevoise, PA, I was here 2 weeks ago at the last council meeting and I'm here again because actually, Mr. Mayor, I would like to know what your opinion is of 287G because we haven't heard you express anything about it and I would just like to know your opinion. **Mayor** replied, first of all, I cannot believe what is happening in this community. I never thought I would see the day this community would be divided. The Mayor sated that 287G doesn't exist. We never joined them, we are not part of 287G. We do not enforce 287G, just not there. What we do here, and to my grave, that if someone breaks the law, including Joe DiGirolamo, they have to be prosecuted, no matter who it is. Don't bring race into it, don't bring immigrants into it, it is about our police protecting our community. I have raised my right hand 7 times in Council chamber as I was being sworn in, to the safety and welfare of the community, that is where my heart is and that is where my soul is. If I thought for one minute that our police were doing anything that they weren't supposed to be doing, like stopping people for race or whatever, I will be the first one standing where you are. The comment that was made tonight that I won by 287 votes, isn't that ironic? 287G and I won by 287 votes. You know me better than that, you personally do, and I would never say anything to hurt any person in this community. If they break the law, I can't stand between that. If you break the law, commit a crime, you will be processed, that is the procedure. I am not out there to divide this community, I implore everybody to come together and stop the nonsense. Let's talk about it in a sensible way. People want to come up and make political issues, I understand that, I really do. But if you really, really care about this community, if your heart and soul is really in this community, then let's come together. Come into my office and let's talk about it. My heart is broke Joyce. I've been in Bensalem all my life. My parents are immigrants, they came to America, and my parents became citizens of the United States of America. I am grateful that my parents had the opportunity to have what they had and give us what we had. I am appalled, I really am. We worked hard to be a No Place for Hate community, and all the different houses of worship that will attend their services during Unity Week. We start with Martin Luther King's birthday, a man that we all honor, a man that we know what he went through. Don't bring that to Bensalem streets. What are we talking about here? We want everybody to understand, stop the nonsense. My legacy. I don't care about a legacy, I'm going to do the right thing. As a community leader I implore you let's come together. You want to meet, 10, 20 or more want to get together, let's meet, let's talk, but let's stop the nonsense. Teams win. Joyce Hadley went on to say they we all need to set and talk rational, get the facts correctly, talk intelligently and the most important thing is the love here in Bensalem. Bensalem is a unique and special place, we all should be together, not divided. Thank you Mr. Mayor for bringing your sentiments this evening. The Mayor ended it on a lighter note with

Page 14
Council Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2018

saying, they say I won by 287 votes, The Eagles won by 8 and they got a parade...much laughter.

Barbara Stakes, 4352 Linden Ave, Oakford, PA I just wanted to make sure I was clear on this, you said there is no 287G, correct? The Mayor said yes, that is correct. **Mrs. Stakes** indicating that the issue was that we don't want Mr. Harran to apply for it. Mr. Harran Plans on applying for this right? **Mr. Harran** stated that he did give the history of 287G two weeks ago at that council meeting. **Mr. Harran** indicated that we applied for it in 2009 and it was dead in the water, we didn't hear anything until the end of 2017. In 2009 we began to work with immigration to the tune of 741 people that we had reported to I.C.E. that we had arrested for crimes. At the end of January 2017 all we did was get a call from I.C.E. asking if we were still interested in 287G and I said, will are still interested and the next thing I know we are here. So there is no application, they are not even ready to move forward with 287G for local law enforcement. But still, as the Mayor said, we are still going ahead....was cut off by **Mrs. Stakes** who said that wasn't true and there were some in the nation that applied for it. Mr. Harran schooled **Mrs. Stakes** by saying that in the northeast United States, sheriffs are different, in the southern part and the west sheriffs are actually law enforcement officers. So they also work our jails in the southern portion of the states and the west coast. So the jail model is in effect. The taskforce local law enforcement model is not in effect. I spoke to I.C.E. about a week or two ago. They have no plans in the immediate future that will be in effect. So what you are reading in the paper is just different language being used throughout the country. Remember there are 50 states and everybody acts independently. **Mrs. Stakes** asked where is the newspaper getting there information from. **Mr. Harran** said if you could answer that question it would be easy to know. **Mrs. Stakes** seemed confused about the recent information and appreciated the Mayor's offer to make an appointment to come in and talk about 287G.

The **Mayor** reiterated his last statement with saying that we do not have 287G in Bensalem, we haven't applied for anything, we haven't signed an agreement with anybody, and we haven't done anything. **Mrs. Stakes** asked if the township plans on applying, would you let the public know in plenty of time. The Mayor responded by saying yes, it would be in the newspaper.

Megan Krevolin, 29 Bunker Hill Ct., Bensalem, PA I'm not here to make any statements of give any facts, just to offer some thoughts. I was here at the last meeting and no one said that Bensalem should become a Sanctuary city. No one said that criminals should get a free pass, no one said that immigrants should never be checked. No one said that we don't support the Bensalem Police, which she repeated. However, no matter where you sit on this issue you have to be able to recognize how divisive this is, and this is where I call on you, personally, Mayor, we look to you. Bensalem follows your lead. We trust your judgement and respect your decisions. What I think you need to do is take a stand. Not necessarily how you feel, but I think you need to remind some of the people in this community, maybe on both sides of the aisle, that cruelty, unkindness is never acceptable. In order to make a better Bensalem, we need to

treat each other with dignity regardless of where we were born, regardless of how long we have been here, or how we got here. I think that you should remind people who particularly look to you that it is unacceptable to respond to anyone who is a resident in this community in such fashion.

No other members of the audience came forward so the public comment portion of the meeting was closed.

11. OTHER BUSINESS:

Engineer Gans reminded everyone of Valentine's Day, and to treat their better half kindly.

Mayor please let's come together. Let's keep Bensalem the great community that it is and let's keep working at it. I love Bensalem, let's make it right if something is wrong.

Council Member Tokmajian indicated that he hopes to see an increase in the support of Unity Week going forward. Council Member Tokmajian indicated that Council Member Sloane had recently been honorably discharged from the Navy and asked everyone to please join in and congratulate Council Member Sloane and thanked him for his service.

Council Secretary Kisselback said that there is a difference between politics and government. Two weeks ago we had politics in Bensalem, tonight every speaker that spoke made excellent points to bring together Bensalem Township and that is what we are all about. We thank you for being here and as the Mayor said, we are a community living together, being together and loving together. God Bless everyone for being here tonight.

Council Vice President Knowles asked everyone keep our township in your prayers, Mother Katherine Drexel's body will be removed from the chapel on her feast day, March 3rd. Mother Katherine Drexel started the unity and tolerance in our community in which it still continues today.

Council President Pilieri congratulated Council Member Sloane and thanked him for his service. Veterans are very important and we have a lot in our community. It really means a lot to this community having veterans, who have served, living here. We had a parade, the Eagles brought home the Lombardi trophy. Our Flyers are one point out of second place, maybe we will have another parade. Happy Valentine's Day. Thank you for coming out tonight. Next meeting is 2/26/18.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no other business to discuss **Council Member Sloane** made a motion to adjourn, **Council Member Tokmajian** seconded, and the vote carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debra F. McBreen