

**BENSALEM TOWNSHIP COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday  
February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**SUPPORTING STAFF PRESENT:**

Debora McBreen, Council Clerk/Recording Secretary  
Joseph Pizzo, Township Solicitor  
Philip Wursta, Township 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. OPENING OF THE MEETING:**

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

**2. INTRODUCTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS, MAYOR AND STAFF:**

**Council President Knowles** introduced the Supporting Staff and Council Members.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Council President Knowles** indicated the Public Comment will be heard at the time the agenda item is heard. Seeing no one come forward the first of two Public Comments was closed.

4. **APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES:**

**Councilwoman Champion** motioned to approve the Council Meeting Minutes from January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025 as presented. **Council Secretary Benitez** seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

5. **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE ANNUAL COMPENSATION OF THE TOWNSHIP TREASURER:**

**Solicitor Pizzo** indicated that since the time that the Township changed the form of government back in 1990, the Township went from an elected Tax Collector to an elected Treasurer. At that time the salary of the elected Treasurer was set at \$21,000.00. The Treasurer has made a request that Council entertain an increase to that salary in the amount of \$4,000.00, from \$21,000.00 to \$25,000.00. It would be the first increase in the salary of that position since it was created.

If Council acts favorably on that request, it does not affect the current elected Treasurer. The Resolution would have the compensation increase go into effect for the term of the next elected Treasurer which would begin in January of 2026. A similar request was made to the School District and the School District acted favorably on the request at their last Action Meeting at the end of January.

**Council Vice President Kisselback** asked the Solicitor what the date was when the \$21,000.00 salary was initiated?

**Solicitor Pizzo** indicated that he believes at the creation of the position in January of 1990.

**Council President Knowles** indicated that Council did some research and in comparison, to other municipalities and their Treasurers, the Township's Treasurer is woefully underpaid compared to the populations like Middletown or Northampton Township.

**Council President Knowles** asked if there was anyone in the audience that would like to speak for or against the Resolution. Seeing no one come forward the Public Comment was closed.

**Solicitor Pizzo** indicated that the law requires if Council were to entertain it for the term beginning in 2026, it needed to be acted on before February 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Council Vice President Kisselback** motioned to approve the Resolution as presented. **Council Secretary Benitez** seconded and the motioned carried 4-0.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Council President Knowles** asked if there was anyone in the audience who would like to speak. Seeing no one come forward the second Public Comment was closed.

7. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Solicitor Pizzo** – **GO BIRDS!!!** 1972 was his first trip to an **Eagles** game.

**Engineer Wursta** – 1967 Franklin Field was his first trip to an **Eagles** game. **GO BIRDS!!!** It is 12 days to the first **Spring Training** game.

**Councilwoman Champion** – **The Super Bowl** was very exciting, a lot of good commercials. Looking forward to **Spring Training**. Hopefully the rest of the **Sixers** and **Flyers** season goes well and have some great games too. Congratulated the St. Ephrem's JV Basketball Team who won Region 19 Championship. Sent her condolences to all the families affected by the plane crash in Philadelphia.

**Council Secretary Benítez** congratulated the **Eagles**, **GO BIRDS!!!** Can't wait to watch the **Phillies!**

**Council Vice President Kisselback** wished everyone a **Happy Valentine's Day!** Congratulated the **Eagles** on winning the Super Bowl and kicking the Kansas City Chief's butt! The **Eagles** Defense was unbelievable!!

**Council President Knowles** congratulated the **Eagles** on winning the Super Bowl! He will have to check the year but he also attended an **Eagles** Monday Night Football game at Franklin Field.

8. **ADJOURNMENT:**

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

The Bensalem Township Council Meeting of February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 can be viewed in its entirety at the following websites:

[www.bensalempa.gov](http://www.bensalempa.gov)

or

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Debora F. McBreen**  
**Recording Secretary**