

**BENSALEM TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday
April 28th, 2025**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joseph Knowles, Council President
Michelle Benitez, Council Secretary
Stacey Champion, Council Member
Joseph Pilieri, Council Member

SUPPORTING STAFF PRESENT:

Debora McBreen, Council Clerk/Recording Secretary
Ken Ferris, 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Solicitor Ferris indicated there was an Executive Session to discuss matters of potential litigation commencing at 6:00pm and concluding approximately at 7:02pm. In attendance were Mayor DiGirolamo, Council President Knowles, Council Secretary Benitez, Councilwoman Champion and the Director of Building and Planning, Mr. Ken Farrall.

2. INTRODUCTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS, MAYOR AND STAFF:

Council President Knowles introduced the Supporting Staff and Council Members.

4. **OFFICER OF THE YEAR:**

Mr. William McVey, Director of Public Safety, indicated that this is a difficult choice that the Command Staff and the Supervisors make annually. A lot goes into making the decision and they evaluate what the officers do every single day. Also, the jobs they have of significance that really keep Bensalem safer and make the Department proud as police officers. It is a selection process where they had a unanimous decision this year. Director McVey read the following statement:



Over the course of 2024, Officer Christian Martinka proved to be an invaluable member of our police department. On a daily basis, Christian provided stability and proactivity for his squad. His proactive approach to police work led to the seizure of numerous firearms, countless narcotics, and multiple stolen vehicles last year.

Throughout 2024, Officer Christian Martinka conducted 416 traffic stops, made 74 criminal arrests and documented 831 incident reports. He has maintained an exceptional level of performance in all his duties. Officer Martinka always leads by example and has become an informal leader among his peers. This is why he was selected as a field training officer. In addition to his patrol duties, Officer Martinka also contributes to the Police Athletic League (PAL) throughout the year, serving as a coach to the youth in our community, and recently winning the Juniors boys' basketball championship.

Remarkably, Officer Martinka received seven official commendations last year. These included "Officer of the Quarter," a Unit Citation, and five separate awards for the recovery of illegally possessed guns on traffic stops. There is no way to measure how many violent gun crimes were prevented by his actions.

Officer Martinka, due to your dedication, work ethic, intelligent police service and brilliant execution of police skills, you are hereby awarded the Bensalem Township Police Officer of the Year for 2024.

The Mayor and Council presented Officer Martinka a certificate commending his outstanding police skills.

Director McVey thanked the Mayor and Council for all of their support. The Police Department is truly blessed to have the support and backing to enable the Police Department and First Responders to do the job that they have to do. It is a great TEAM effort.

Council President Knowles stated that the Police Department did an excellent job on the selection of picking an officer and who has only been with the Bensalem Police Department for 2 years.

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.

5. **APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES:**

Council Secretary Benitez motioned to approve the Council Meeting Minutes from March 10th, 2025 as presented. **Councilwoman Champion** seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

6. **CONSIDERATION OF A LOT LINE CHANGE:**

Applicant:	850 Highland, LLC
Location:	863 Bristol Pike & 850 Highland Avenue
Proposed Use:	Residential and Commercial
Zoning Classification:	GC – General Commercial
Tax Parcel:	02-029-279, 02-029-084 & 02-029-278

Mike Meginniss, Begley Carlin, Solicitor on behalf of the applicant 850 Highland, LLC along with James Oakes, PLS with Tri State Engineers. Also in attendance is the owner of SERVPRO of Langhorne/Bensalem, Mr. Michael Paparone.

This is a Lot Line Change relating to three parcels which are operated presently by 850 Highland, LLC. The total in the aggregate is just under one and a half acres. This is one of the homes of the former Andalusia Supply property in the Township. Then on the other end, two of the parcels are improved by residential dwellings. The current condition is a bit of a mess. There are three parcels, they bear absolutely no resemblance to the existing improvements on the site. The applicant is not proposing any development with the application. They are not creating any additional lots.

If you were on Highland Avenue looking into the parcel, it has been improved by a large industrial building. As you go in deeper into the site plan, you have two detached residential structures. The property lines bear absolutely no semblance to what has just been described. There are three parcels, they have multiple uses on each of the properties. What the applicant is attempting to do is to correct the situation. There are three parcels and they each resemble the use. You would end up with a property that the industrial property, the Andalusia Supply property which is not occupied by SERVPRO will be its own parcel. Each of the two residential structures will be on their own parcel as well.

Instead of the current situation where you have two uses on one parcel, you have a parcel to the plan southeast which has nothing on it; and then you have an elongated parcel as well behind it. You would end up with what looks like something that resembles common sense planning.

The applicant is here to rectify a long-standing issue without modifying any of the uses or creating any additional lots. The Lot Line Change application was submitted and the result of the Lot Line Change application was a letter that was supplied by the Township Engineer’s team that had zero subdivision land development comments. The Zoning comments have all been addressed and are compliant. Everything has been complied with and there are no outstanding items with the Subdivision Development Ordinance,

Council President Knowles asked what the two structures along Bristol Pike were zoned at now and which one is residential.

Solicitor Meginniss indicated that they are all zoned GC – General Commercial. The two structures on Bristol Pike are both residential. The property that is closer to Highland Avenue is the commercial property that's occupied by SERVPRO. The left portion of the plan you can see the existing conditions. There's a small, what looks like a rectangular parcel which has absolutely nothing on it but pavement, there are no improvements there other than pavement. To the left is a building which was previously occupied by Andalusia Supply, which is currently occupied by SERVPRO. That is on a parcel that extends all the way out to Bristol Pike where there is another structure on it which has nothing to do with the commercial business that is in that building.

Then you have an elongated parcel which also has a portion of the parking field that is being utilized by SERVPRO and the residential structure that fronts on Bristol Pike as well. There are three parcels, one has no structures on it. One has two structures on it, one of which is a business and one of which isn't. Then there is an elongated parcel which is improved by the parking lot in part for the SERVPRO building and has a dwelling which fronts Bristol Pike. What the applicant is looking to do is depicted on the lot line change on the right of the screen. The result of that is if it's approved would have one larger property, which is around an acre which would just before the SERVPRO building. And then you eliminate, visually, the weird little parcel that is on the plan southeast. Then there would be two parcels fronting on Bristol Pike which just have the two separate structures.

The end result of this would be three parcels with three buildings on each and the parking lot that was utilized for Andalusia Supply and is utilized by SERVPRO now will all be contained on one property instead of spilling into three separate properties.

Council President Knowles asked who owned the properties and would they be able to sell off the front properties? What would the frontage properties be zoned? What about the houses on Bristol Pike?

Solicitor Meginniss indicated that the same owner owns all three parcels and they would be able to sell off the front properties. The frontage properties that would be under this scenario to SERVPRO is an ongoing use that is permitted and would remain moving forward. The houses on Bristol Pike are existing non-conforming uses which would continue regardless of what happens with the lot line change.

Council Secretary Benitez indicated that the current uses are residential and asked how many units and are they single family or are they multi-unit residents? Would there be any cutting in of parking?

Solicitor Meginniss indicated that the house on the left is a single-family unit and believes the property on the right is also but is not 100% sure and would have to confirm that. The applicant is not modifying the parking the properties are not being touched in anyway. Nobody who is residing in those structures is parking on the commercial property to the rear.

Councilman Pilieri indicated that what the applicant is doing is going to clean up this property. It will end all of the problems that the Township has had for the last 15 or 20 years and still make it useable. It will be something that's going to make it easier for the Township to handle and the Township to keep control of and make sure the Township doesn't have another Andalusia Supply. It will be a positive!

Solicitor Meginniss indicated that the applicant was in front of the Zoning Hearing Board and was denied a few years ago because his client was leasing the commercial property to Riggs Distler and they were running an operation repairing PECO lines and the like. The Townships determination with that use was that it was not conforming with the GC District.

Historically this property has had some issues on the Townships end. The applicant has for many months leased the property to SERVPRO with the intent, should the lot line go through, for Mr. Paparone to purchase the property. It is a great business that the applicant has in Bensalem and has been successful enough to move from leasing to purchasing his own property.

Councilwoman Champion asked if in the future that this property could potentially have another Riggs Distler and is there something that could reduce the ability to have such a business?

Solicitor Meginniss indicated that the Riggs operation was not permitted in the GC District. By having the lot line change go through, which would allow the conveyance to SERVPRO and would eliminate that option for the distant future. Mr. Paparone is not buying this property with the intent to vacate it a year from now. There is certainty attached with the lot line change in a way that wouldn't exist if it didn't occur.

Solicitor Meginniss indicated that they are aware and it's been made abundantly clear over his multiple appearances at the Zoning Hearing Board on this property that there are residential homes and any use going into this property is going to have to navigate the fact that it is immediately abutting residential properties and it is zoned General Commercial. One of the concerns that existed with Riggs Distler was the size of the trucks that were there. There were boom trucks, they were large and they went over the fence. The hours of operation were problematic.

Solicitor Meginniss indicated that the thing that was appetizing and appealing to my client is that particular commercial use and the nature of the vehicles and other things is a better fit. Understanding that probably nothing that's going to go in there will ever be entirely in keeping with the residential uses. This use is a more palatable use than many of the historic uses that have been at this property. This should finally give the Township some certainty regarding what this property is going to be over the next ten to fifteen years.

Councilwoman Champion commented that the property owner take pride in keeping the property clean.

Council President Knowles asked if there was anyone in the audience who would like to speak for or against this applicant.

David, 847 Bristol Pike indicated he has an issue accessing the back.

Council President Knowles indicated that he would be going over someone else's property to access the back.

David indicated that when he bought the property, he wanted to maintain the back portion and was not sure what the new property line would eliminate him from doing to maintain that portion.

A discussion between Councilwoman Champion and Council President Knowles regarding where and how “David” was entering the portion of property in the back.

Council President Knowles indicated that “David” was using access that was owned by someone else.

Solicitor Meginniss indicated the simplest answer and they can discuss his client’s going to continue ownership of these properties and would be happy to discuss this with “David” afterwards. The plan west property boundary is not changing. They are not moving this line left or right, this is the exact same property boundary between 847 Bristol Pike now as it will be next week. The applicant is taking the one elongated property and creating a property line.

A discussion pursued regarding on how 847 Bristol Pike was going to access an area crossing over private property.

Solicitor Ferris indicated that Council does not have the power to grant anybody property rights in another property. Council is here to discuss the lot line change and make a deliberation and decision as to that.

Councilman Pilieri asked Solicitor Meginniss if his client, Director Farrall and 847 Bristol Pike could work together so that 847 Bristol Pike can access that area to maintain the patch of grass.

Lawrence Grace, 918 Tennis Avenue, is there no changing of zoning? Mr. Grace’s property resides on a district boundary line.

Council President Knowles indicated that the applicant is not changing any zoning. The Township “went to bat” for Mr. Grace when it was Andalusia Supply and those tractor trailers that were choking up the area. The Township made the situation a lot better for Mr. Grace.

Solicitor Ferris addressed Mr. Grace and indicated that the Public Comment is about the agenda item and not what may of happened in the past.

Council President Knowles explained to Mr. Grace that the only thing that the applicant was requesting was to correct the property line. No zoning is being changed or the requirements of the zoning.

Solicitor Ferris asked Mr. Grace to express an opinion as to the matter for consideration.

Council Secretary Benitez indicated that she understood Mr. Grace’s concerns, but that is not what Council is discussing regarding Agenda Item #6, a simple lot line change. Nothing else is being changed during this process.

Seeing no one else come forward the public comment portion was closed.

Councilwoman Champion motioned to approve 863 Bristol Pike & 850 Highland, LLC Tax Parcel 02-029-279, 02-029-084 & 02-029-278 for a lot line change as presented. Councilwoman Champion amended her motion to include Mr. Meginniss and the owner of 847 Bristol Pike will work together to find some sort of easement access to the back of their property. **Councilman Pilieri** seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

7. **CONSIDERATION OF A MINOR SUBDIVISION:**

Applicant: Creative Construction and Design, Inc.
Location: 2866 Wine Avenue
Proposed Use: Single Family Residential
Zoning Classification: R-2 – Residential District
Tax Parcel: 02-039-086

Lawrence Byrne, P.E., Eastern Chadrow Assoc., Engineer on behalf of the applicant, Jason Keper, Owner, Creative Construction and Design, Inc. The proposal is for a Minor Subdivision of 2866 Wine Avenue. The applicant had obtained a building permit from the Township to construct the house to the far left on the plan. The applicant had potential to subdivide the property after placing the house to the far left of the property as noted on the plan which enabled the applicant to apply for a subdivision of the lot.

Council President Knowles indicated that the problem, when looking at the plan, there was one single house on the lot. The first time the applicant came into the Township he didn't ask for a subdivision. He built the first house to the far left of the lot, consisting of the 7,500 sq. ft. required to build a home. The sliver of property in the back is considered a corner yard to get 7,500 sq. ft. The applicant did not think of it afterwards he planned it ahead of time.

Mr. Keper indicated that he didn't think of it afterwards. The neighbor that resides in that property is actually using that property. He is over the property line. The applicant did not realize this until the pins were set when they did the division for the first house that he was actually utilizing more his property that he didn't own. That's when the applicant figured it out, they actually own that and that's where that can be utilized for another house if that's the case. When the applicant had the discussion with that property owner, they said that they had it surveyed and it was a discrepancy, but the pin was set. The applicant asked them to provide that, but they haven't provided it yet. This is when the applicant realized the sliver was there and figured since they own that could they utilize it for a second half?

Council President Knowles asked the applicant if they got a survey to resolve that dispute?

Mr. Keper indicated that the survey is the survey, the applicant owns that property. The neighbor is using it and does not realize it is not his.

Council President Knowles asked if the neighbor realizes it now?

Mr. Keper indicated that the neighbor does realize it now. The applicant told him the pins are there.

Council President Knowles asked the applicant if they would supply the adjacent property owners notifications to the Township Solicitor.

Mr. Byrne indicated that he agreed the property line is kind of irregular. But does comply with the zoning in regards to having the minimum frontage here for this lot of 75 ft. and then also it complies with all the other dimensional criteria for building cover setbacks and so forth.

Councilwoman Champion asked how wide does the house have to be conforming?

Mr. Byrne indicated 75. The proposed property line is set at exactly 75 ft. because that is the minimum width required by the zoning for the R2 Zoning District. The area that is leftover complies with the 7,500 sq. ft. If the applicant didn't have enough area for the second house he would not be here.

Council President Knowles indicated that the only reason the applicant has the area is because they left the strip out of the other subdivision.

Councilwoman Champion indicated that she understood that it was part of the original lot and that the applicant is trying to subdivide.

Mr. Keper indicated that he didn't realize it was there because the neighbors were using it.

Mr. Byrne traced the original property line and indicated that all they were doing is putting one line down the middle to have two conforming lots.

Council President Knowles asked Mr. Byrne if they added that line to build the first house?

Mr. Byrne indicated that they did not add the line to build the first house. The house that was being built was based on a building permit plan that encompassed the whole site.

Councilwoman Champion indicated that the applicant was coming in for a second time.

Mr. Byrne indicated yes. They came in for a building permit plan and then his client built the house. In order for his client to sell the house they will need a subdivision so that the applicant can build a second house on that one.

Council President Knowles indicated that the person who buys the house on the corner. You have two front yards that have to be 25 ft. off the corners. That will give the applicant no backyard. There is no yard between the new line and the new house.

Council Secretary Benitez asked what is the side yard setback footage requirement?

Mr. Byrne indicated that it was a 9 ft. minimum with a 20 ft. aggregate.

Council President Knowles indicated to Council Secretary Benitez that he talked to Director Farrall about the specifics of this application and because it is a corner lot, they consider it two front yards and they are 25 ft. The applicant has a 25 ft. off, but because it is a corner it also allows the applicant to say there is really no backyard. Otherwise, he would have a backyard, which is considered two side yards. The applicant can get away with saying it has to be at least 9 ft., but he cannot build a deck on the back of the house and he cannot put a patio there either.

Councilwoman Champion indicated when looking at the plan had asked if that was the Stormwater Management in that spot and then there is a drywell at the front? What is the circle right behind the back in page 3?

Mr. Byrne indicated that it was part of the construction plan for the erosion control. That is just a temporary stockpile of topsoil when they are digging a basement.

Councilwoman Champion asked the applicant where is the Stormwater Management going?

Mr. Byrne indicated that there was a drywell.

Councilwoman Champion indicated that the drywell is in an area that if the homeowner can really utilize on the front, right?

Mr. Byrne showed on the plan where the drywells were located. The drywells are underground basins or underground stone pits. The applicant was in receipt of the Engineers letters and had a Zoom meeting last week with the representatives from the Township Engineers office. There were minor comments which the applicant will comply to all.

Council President Knowles indicated that the Engineers letter dated March 14th is an all will comply under Subdivision and the Stormwater Management comments.

Mr. Byrne, yes. Also, the other item that's on the Agenda for this project is the 537 Sewage Facilities Planning Module that is comment 2b under Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance Comments of the Engineers letter dated March 14th.

Councilwoman Champion indicated that the only way this applicant was able to submit this application was to create a flag lot in the back in order to not need any zoning relief for either size or frontage.

Mr. Byrne indicated that the plan was put together to comply with the zoning ordinance. They didn't want to have to go for a zoning variance which the applicant would not necessarily be entitled to for a smaller lot size.

Councilman Pilieri asked the applicant, when you bought this property if they had it surveyed and have the pins put in? Mr. Keper said no. You didn't know where all the marks were, what the size of the property was, where the pins were for everything. In other words, this was setup this way so you could build another house on this lot.

Mr. Keper indicated that Councilman Pilieri was assuming and accusing based upon previous experiences. When Mr. Keper purchased this property, he was not going to spend money on a survey of land on a property he didn't own yet. He was provided whatever information from the previous owner who also was before Council trying to do a similar situation years prior.

Councilman Pilieri indicated that Mr. Keper purchased the property and never had it surveyed and did not have the monuments put in.

Mr. Keper indicated that he did have the property surveyed and submitted plans to build the first house and asked Mr. Byrne if there was any room there. When Mr. Byrne prepared the plans, Mr. Keper indicated that there was a pin there that looks like to be about 15 ft. onto this guy's other property.

Council President Knowles indicated that on Wine Avenue Mr. Keper happened to have put that house to the left of that lot.

Mr. Keper indicated that the existing driveway was over there. The house is 51 ft. long, and meant to be built on a narrow lot, for Mr. Keper to change the design of the house.

Council President Knowles asked Mr. Keper why he did not move the house to the center of the lot.

Mr. Keper indicated that it would have been too close to that property line.

Councilwoman Champion indicated that when Mr. Keper went to do all the permitting, he had the land surveyed. And at that point Mr. Keper would have had the house plans drawn up.

Council President Knowles asked Mr. Byrne what was the size of the second lot. Mr. Byrne indicated that the lot was 7,554 sq. ft. A Builder is allowed to have 7,500 sq. ft. and just by coincidence Mr. Keper's second lot is 7,554 sq. ft. A short conversation continued on decks, sheds and the like.

Mr. Byrne indicated that they would pay a fee in lieu of the curbs and sidewalk installation because the topography of the property is extremely flat and no pitch along the road.

Councilman Pilieri indicated that the applicant was also asking not to have to show any of the existing features within 200 ft. of the property

Mr. Byrne indicated that is just a topographic issue and could supply information with just an aerial image.

Councilwoman Champion indicated that she is frustrated that the Township continually has people that do this type of thing and can't think of a way to stop it.

Mr. Keper apologized to Councilwoman Champion for having felt as though he was taking advantage of the Township. Mr. Keper grew up in this area and is a graduate of Bucks County Technical School High School in 2004. Mr. Keper is only trying to survive and live life as well.

Council President Knowles asked Mr. Keper if he was going to advise the new owner on that corner there is limitations to how much they can build in the back of their house.

Mr. Keper replied yes because he has to provide the new owners with the details of that pit.

Council Secretary Benitez indicated that Mr. Keper said that the other owner was maintaining this strip and asked where's the fence?

Mr. Byrne indicated that the strip doesn't existing until the plan is approved.

Council Secretary Benitez and **Councilwoman Champion** both asked where is the fence on the property?

Mr. Keper indicated that it was down the lot and encroaching onto the other property. Mr. Keper will have to notify the owner that they will have to move that fence.

Council President Knowles asked the Township Engineer, Mr. Phil Wursta, if the applicant meets all the requirements for having a buildable lot on that corner.

Council President Knowles asked Mr. Keper what type of house he was going to put on the corner?

Mr. Keper indicated he was going to do a similar 51 ft. same build as what exists now.

Council President Knowles asked if there was anyone in the audience who would like to speak for or against this applicant. Seeing no one come forward, the public comment portion was closed.

1:12:19 Council took a short recess.

1:21:52 Council reconvened.

Council Secretary Benitez indicated that she did not like what the applicant was proposing. Mr. Keper is coming from a background in construction, and she is not comfortable with how it all happens. But she understands that it is a way the applicant can get what he wants. She cannot deny a property owner something that she feels is in their right to do so.

Councilwoman Champion indicated that she applauded Mr. Keper for making a living for his family but she is also trying to do the right thing for her Township.

Councilwoman Benitez motioned to approve applicant Creative Construction and Design, Inc., located at 2866 Wine Avenue, parcel 02-039-086 as discussed and as presented. **Council President Knowles** seconded and the motion carried 3-1. **Council Secretary Benitez** amended her motion to include the waiver of curbs and sidewalks and to pay a fee in lieu of and not to be required to show all existing features within 200 ft. of the property. **Council President Knowles** amended his second to include the waivers and the amendment carried 3-1.

7A. **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION FOR ACT NO. 537, PA SEWAGE FACILITIES ACT, PLAN REVISION FOR NEW LAND DEVELOPMENT OF A PARCEL OF LAND IDENTIFIED AS 2866 WINE AVENUE:**

Council Secretary Benitez motioned to approve the Act 537 Processing Form for Tax Parcel 02-039-086, 2866 Wine Avenue. **Councilwoman Champion** seconded and the motioned carried 3-1.

8. **CONSIDERATION AND SIGNING OF AGREEMENTS FOR:**

Applicant:	Everstory Partners – Resurrection Cemetery
Location:	5201 Hulmeville Road
Proposed Use:	Mausoleum
Zoning Classification:	IN _ Institutional
Tax Parcel:	02-046-037

Councilwoman Champion motioned to approve Everstory Partners – Resurrection Cemetery located at 5201 Hulmeville Road, Tax Parcel 02-046-037 items A. Land Development Agreement and B. Stormwater Best Management Practices Operations and Maintenance Agreement as presented. **Councilman Pilieri** seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

9. **CONSIDERATION AN ESCROW RELEASE:**

Developers Request:	Federation Housing – Release #6
Location:	4695 Somerton Road
Tax Parcel:	02-003-006-003
Amount:	\$52,135.00

Township Engineer Wursta indicated that construction is going smoothly and recommended Council release the funds. All requested items have been satisfactorily completed except as noted on the attached tabulation.

Councilwoman Champion motioned to approve the Escrow Release for Federation Housing, located at 4695 Somerton Road in the amount of \$52,135.00 subject to an audit by the Finance Department. **Council Secretary Benitez** seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

10. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Council President Knowles asked if there was anyone in the audience who would like to speak. The following constituent came forward:

Anthony Zampiri, 4348 Grove Avenue indicated that he had a nice conversation with Director Farrall to resolve some of the issues he was having regarding the never-ending cycle of permits. Mr. Zampiri will be meeting with Mr. Farrall to resolve these issues.

Council President Knowles indicated that he would follow up with Director Farrall to see how the situation is progressing.

Seeing no one else come forward, the second Public Comment was closed.

12. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Mayor indicated that on May 19th is the Police Memorial where the Township remembers Police Officer Armstrong and Police Officer Yezzi who were killed in the line of duty. Also, there is a lot of construction going on throughout the Township. Updates on those closures and detours are on the PennDOT website. The Mayor is hosting a free mini concert with a start of 8:00pm followed by fireworks at 9:00pm on May 23rd to honor our Veterans as an unofficial kick-off to the summer concert season. The band that will be performing is called “The Decades” which plays all generational music. The Mayor indicated that all of the information was on the Township website. The Township Summer Concert series kicks-off on May 28th with The Ultimate Michael Jackson Experience. Gates open at 5:30pm for Season Pass holders and then at 6:00pm for all other concert goers. The Township Electronic Recycling event will be held in October and the Township Shredding Event will be in October as well.

Councilwoman Champion indicated that it was Spring and April showers bring May flowers. Wished everyone a fruitful gardening in the next few weeks. Spring sports are in full force, baseball, softball, lacrosse, soccer, track and field, and extended her wishes for an enjoyable season.

Council Secretary Benítez congratulated the Officer of the Year, Christian Martinka. Loves our Police Department. They are number one in her heart. Bensalem Police Department was recognized, for a third time, for the department’s prestigious international accreditation through CALEA. B3T did a great job this passed weekend with their Drug Take Back and indicated that there is a permanent drop box at the Township’s Police Station. Congratulated Nick Altimara and Nick McCool on their promotion with the Bensalem Fire Department and is very proud to call them friends. **GO PHILLIES!!**

Council President Knowles appreciates everyone’s time and reiterated the Bensalem Police Memorial on May 19th. Officer Armstrong and Officer Yezzi were killed in the line of duty. Their family members attend every year, even though it has been decades since their passing. The Police Memorial also honors the Township’s current Police Force. The “We Support the Bensalem Police Department” signs are now available here at the Township building. The signs can be picked up here at the Township building in the lobby or at the Police Station.

Council Secretary Benitez indicated that when she was watching the Mayor’s Show, Director McVey indicated that those signs on the lawns of the residents show that we are united in our community around our Police Department. Not only is it showing our love for our Police Department but it is also showing the bad guys that we back our Police Department.

13. **ADJOURNMENT:**

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

The Bensalem Township Council Meeting of April 28th, 2025 can be viewed in its entirety at the following websites:

www.bensalempa.gov

or

www.youtube.com

Respectfully Submitted,

Debora F. McBreen
Recording Secretary