The Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Council President Golinski. The Salute to the Flag was recited, followed by an Invocation given by Councilman Fitzpatrick. The Notice of Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act was read by Municipal Clerk Kathryn Bowditch-Leon. The Clerk noted that this is a non-smoking facility and asked that all cell phones be silenced at this time.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Gabel, Witte, Kuser, Lyden, Fitzpatrick, Murphy, President Golinski
Absent: None

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Thomas Andes, Mayor; Steven Ward, Administrator; John Jansen, Township Attorney

President Golinski noted that, since the participants involved in both of tonight’s presentations are not yet available, the Agenda will be altered slightly and the next item to be called will be Liaison Reports.

LIAISON REPORTS:

Councilman Murphy reported that the Senior Citizens will be attending a luncheon at the Morris County Vo-Tech School. He said that on Friday Chief of Police Christopher Wagner will speak to the Senior Citizens at the Senior Center about scams and fraud.

Councilman Fitzpatrick noted that on Saturday, May 14th beginning at 9:00 a.m., the annual river cleanup will be held. He encouraged any volunteer, at any level, for any amount of time they can spare, to sign up and help. Mr. Fitzpatrick advised that there is a sign-up sheet on the Township web site as well as in the administration office. Mr. Fitzpatrick reported on the Chamber of Commerce awards presented at the joint Chamber/PRIDE Dinner on April 1st. He said that the winners were: Business Person of the Year – Melissa Cooke and the Chamber Volunteer of the Year - Robert Ott.

Councilwoman Lyden reported that she attended the Planning Board meeting last week. She said that an application for an addition to the group home on Morris Ave. was submitted and was denied. Mrs. Lyden noted that it has not been determined whether or not a new application will be submitted.

Councilman Gabel reported that the Mayor’s Council for People with Challenges will be participating in a continuation of Rid Litter Day this weekend since they were unavailable to attend the Rid Litter Day on April 9th. Mr. Gabel reminded the Council that there is still time to sign up for the Relay for Life and he encouraged them to do so. Councilman Gabel advised that he attended the Library Board meeting and everyone is anxious to welcome the new Director, who will begin her employment during the first week of May.

Councilwoman Witte noted that she did report on the PRIDE Dinner last week but reiterated that the Volunteer of the Year was Sue Banks of Faith & Begorra and Volunteer Group of the Year was the Mayor’s Council for People with Challenges. Ms. Witte reported that she went on the Land Use Bus Tour on Saturday and gained a good insight into what’s happening with the various properties in town. Councilwoman Witte commented that, since there is to be a presentation from the Beautification Committee this evening, she does not need to report on that Committee. Councilman Kuser had no report.

President Golinski reported that he attended the Recreation Committee meeting, worked at the Senior Social and on April 30th, will be attending the Fire Department anniversary dinner.
MAYOR’S REPORT:
Mayor Andes apologized for his tardiness. Mayor Andes advised that 5,000 new parking maps for the downtown area have been printed and will be distributed to the downtown businesses. He said that the maps are available in the administration office. The Mayor added that e-mail addresses of businesses that would like to be on the Township’s e-mail list will be collected in order to provide them with updates on the downtown improvement project. Mayor Andes noted that the signage in the parking lots is really good and makes it very clear as to what the time restrictions are in each of the aisles. He noted that currently only warnings are being issued but, in a short time, tickets will be issued. Mayor Andes advised that Saturday will be opening day for Denville softball and baseball.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:
Administrator Ward reported that a pre-construction meeting for the Downtown Streetscape project was held today. He said that representatives of the NJDOT, which provided the grant, and Zuccaro, the contractor to whom the bid was awarded were in attendance. Mr. Ward explained that the Township is waiting for an estimate as to when the light posts will be completed so the contractor cannot yet give an estimate of when he will begin the project. Mr. Ward said that there is a 120 day time limit to complete the project and the contractor is hopeful he will be able to commence work during the third or fourth week in May. He said that the contractor is planning to start at Diamond Spring Rd. and Broadway and work in 200’ increments per week.

The Administrator reported that the vehicle charging station was opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony last week and has been in use ever since. Administrator Ward gave a brief report on the lead that was found in the water supply by the Board of Education. He noted that Riverview, Lakeview and Valleyview Schools were tested for lead and, of 120 water fountains in the three schools, there were no elevated levels found in Lakeview, only 5 had elevated levels in Riverview and only 7 had elevated levels in Valleyview. Mr. Ward advised that all water fountains in Riverview and Valleyview were closed. He said that, although it is a Board of Education issue, the Township is lending a hand wherever it can and meetings are being held to develop a plan to deal with the situation. Mr. Ward stated that, as a precautionary measure, the Township is testing the town water but the last test indicated that the lead and copper levels were well within acceptable levels. Mr. Ward noted that Morris County Vo-Tech had their water tested and there were no elevated levels of lead found in their water.

CORRESPONDENCE: All correspondence has been copied and distributed to Council.

PROCLAMATION
The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards
Distinguished Finalist Shefali Kumar

Mayor Andes noted that he received a correspondence from The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Program advising him that one of our high school students, Shefali Kumar, was the recipient of this year’s award. He invited Ms. Kumar to explain what was involved in earning this award.

Ms. Kumar stated that she is an 11th grade student at the Academy for Math and Engineering at Morris Hills High School. She commented that she attended Lakeview and Valleyview Schools and loves Denville. Ms. Kumar advised that, while attending eighth grade, she started a non-profit service organization with three of her friends. She said that, to date, they have raised almost $40,000 for various charities and organizations around the world. Ms. Kumar noted that last year they raised more
than $10,000 for the National Parkinson’s Foundation. She stated that last year she held STEM classes for seventh and eighth grade students at the Library and volunteers at St. Clare’s Hospital. Mayor Andes read a Proclamation (a copy of which is attached to these minutes) and presented it to Ms. Kumar.

OPEN PUBLIC PORTION: No one wished to be heard.
CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

MATTERS OF OLD AND/OR NEW BUSINESS:
Councilman Fitzpatrick recommended that the Council hold a public session to inform the public about what is going on with COAH. He said that Attorney Buzak did such a great job of informing the Council so maybe he could attend. Mr. Fitzpatrick also suggested that there be a cordial invitation to the Board of Education and the Planning Board to that session.

Councilwoman Witte interjected that she had given a full presentation to the Board of Education on the subject.

President Golinski commented that Attorney Jansen had reminded him that the matter is in litigation and we have to be very careful about the information that we provide. He said that there may be information that can be disseminated but we must be very careful about it. President Golinski suggested that the Council ask Administration to check availability and consult with Attorney Buzak and Attorney Jansen to determine the appropriateness, and timing, of issuing information to the public.

After a brief discussion among the Council members, President Golinski said that he feels that the consensus of the Council is that they owe it to their constituents to provide them with as much information on the subject as is reasonably possible.

Councilman Kuser noted for the record that he does not feel it is a good time to give information to the public because we do not have any true numbers at this time. He said that he feels that all of the information that we can give to the public is in the Mayor’s memo.

After additional comments from the Council, it was decided that the Council should discuss the issue at a work session.

Mayor Andes stated that he understands the Council’s concern because there is a lot of confusion out there. He said that Administration wants to be open and transparent and that’s why the letter was written and posted. The Mayor advised that he would like to speak with Attorneys DeBona and Buzak and bring their recommendation back to the Council at the next meeting. He said that any presentation that is put together will be limited because we have to be very careful. The Mayor clarified that comment by saying that we can only talk about what we submitted, not about the litigation.

President Golinski suggested that the Council members have a copy of the Mayor’s memo handy when constituents ask questions because the memo is very clear and concise about what we can share.

President Golinski read the titles of the Consent Agenda resolutions into the record.

CONSENT: AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

R-16-107: Resolution Authorizing Agreement for Sewer Lateral Connection to Sewer System
R-16-108: Resolution Authorizing Refund of a COAH Development Fee in the Amount of $63.00
R-16-109: Resolution Endorsing the Submission of the 2015 Recycling Tonnage Grant Application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
R-16-110: Resolution Authorizing Reinstatement of the Original Sewer Assessment Installment Plan for Certain Properties in the Township of Denville
R-16-111: Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Money Due to the Redemption of a Tax Sale Certificate in the Amount of $40.00
R-16-112: Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Money Due to the Redemption of a Tax Sale Certificate in the Amount of $40.00
R-16-113: Resolution Refunding 2016 Utility Overpayment in the Amount of $357.81
R-16-114: Resolution Authorizing Raffle Licenses in the Township of Denville

President Golinski asked if anyone from the public or the Council would like to have anything removed from the Consent Agenda. No one responded.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA:
MOVED BY MEMBER MURPHY, SECONDED BY MEMBER GABEL
AYES: MURPHY, GABEL, WITTE, KUSER, LYDEN, FITZPATRICK, PRESIDENT GOLINSKI

NON-CONSENT RESOLUTIONS:
R-16-115: Resolution Rejecting Bids Received for Field and Lawn Maintenance and Granting Permission to Re-Bid
MOTION TO APPROVE R-16-115:
MOVED BY MEMBER GABEL, SECONDED BY MEMBER LYDEN
AYES: GABEL, LYDEN, WITTE, KUSER, FITZPATRICK, MURPHY, PRESIDENT GOLINSKI

R-16-116: Resolution Authorizing Settlement of Certain Tax Appeals
MOTION TO APPROVE R-16-116:
MOVED BY MEMBER FITZPATRICK, SECONDED BY MEMBER WITTE
Discussion: Councilman Kuser noted that he had e-mailed Administrator Ward regarding this matter. He asked Mr. Ward if he is comfortable with the settlements. Mr. Ward replied that he is because the settlement amounts are very close to the values established by the reval company. He said that there was one amount where the difference was larger, but Attorney Semrau advised that it is defensible.
AYES: FITZPATRICK, WITTE, GABEL, KUSER, LYDEN, MURPHY, PRESIDENT GOLINSKI

R-16-117: Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Money Due to the Redemption of a Tax Sale Certificate in the Amount of $11,964.88 Plus Premium
MOTION TO APPROVE R-16-117:
MOVED BY MEMBER LYDEN, SECONDED BY MEMBER FITZPATRICK
AYES: LYDEN, FITZPATRICK, GABEL, WITTE, KUSER, MURPHY, PRESIDENT GOLINSKI

R-16-118: Resolution Authorizing the Expenditure of an Additional $2,000 in Furtherance of the Purposes of the Municipal Shared Services Defense Agreement (‘MSSDA’)
MOTION TO APPROVE R-16-118:
MOVED BY MEMBER MURPHY, SECONDED BY MEMBER LYDEN
AYES: MURPHY, LYDEN, GABEL, WITTE, KUSER, FITZPATRICK, PRESIDENT GOLINSKI

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF 4/5/16 AND 4/12/16:
MOVED BY MEMBER GABEL, SECONDED BY MEMBER KUSER
AYES: GABEL, KUSER, WITTE, FITZPATRICK for 4/12/16, LYDEN, MURPHY, PRESIDENT GOLINSKI
ABSTAIN: FITZPATRICK for 4/5/16.

President Golinski asked if there is any update on the whereabouts of the Beautification Committee. There being no information available, President Golinski said that the Beautification Committee Presentation will be rescheduled.
MOTION TO ADJOURN:
    MOVED BY MEMBER WITTE, SECONDED BY MEMBER KUSER
AYES:       UNANIMOUS

The Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kathleen A. Costello
Deputy Municipal Clerk
Proclamation

However effective government may be in serving the needs of its citizens, the soul of our city and its vitality as a place to live and work depend on the relationship of families, friends and neighbors.

Strengthening those bonds is not as much in the hands of institutions or governments as it is in the hearts of people - individuals who volunteer to help people of all ages, races and religions cope with illnesses, overcome hardships and barriers, adjust to social changes, and fulfill their potential. These volunteers are the unrecognized, unsung heroes of our society.

Shefali Kumar, recently named as one of our state’s top honorees in The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, exemplifies the value of volunteer community service, and is a role model to other youth as well as adults in our community.

A surprising number of volunteers in communities across the nation are like Shefali, a student contributing time without expectation of reward, other than the gratification that comes from helping others. Some of those young people work in established groups; others seek new and unique ways to help others on their own.

Recognizing these young volunteers and encouraging others to follow their example is the aim of this nationwide program conducted by Prudential Financial and National Association of Secondary School Principals. Its aim is to reach into every community, in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, to identify and honor these unsung heroes locally, state-by-state, and then nationally, in the hopes that their recognition will serve to stimulate others to volunteer service.

As mayor of Denville, and on behalf of our town, I commend Shefali, our Prudential Spirit of Community Award honoree, for outstanding volunteer contribution to others and our community.

And, therefore, in honor of this achievement, I am proclaiming April 19, 2016 as the Shefali Kumar Prudential Spirit of Community Recognition Day in Denville.

Mayor Thomas W. Andes
April 19, 2016