TOWNSHIP OF DENVILLE
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MEETING

September 11, 2018

The Meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Council President Gabel. The Salute to the Flag was recited. The Council observed a moment of silence for those lost in the 9-11 attacks. Municipal Clerk Kathryn Bowditch-Leon read the Notice of Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act and noted that this is a non-smoking facility. The Municipal Clerk requested that all electronics be silenced at this time.

ROLL CALL:
Present: Murphy, Buie, Witte, Bergen, Lyden, Borowiec, President Gabel
Absent: None

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:
Thomas W. Andes, Mayor; Steven Ward, Administrator

OPEN PUBLIC PORTION

Jeff Dickerson (FoodTown, 559 East Main St) presented the Mayor and Council with plans from the 1996 Gardner Field Playground renovation, which he recently found while cleaning. Mr. Dickerson then announced that, after much consideration, he has decided to close FoodTown. He explained that it was an economic/business decision and thanked the Mayor for the Key to the City which he was presented with last year. He then explained that the front façade of the building will be updated and he introduced the Project Manager and Architect who will be assisting with the renovations to the Council. He expressed that he will continue to be involved in the community and looks forward to good things ahead.

President Gabel thanked Mr. Dickerson for everything he and his family have done for the community and stated that he will be missed.

CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION

PRESENTATIONS & DISCUSSIONS

Discussion on Proposed Amendments to Ordinance Regulating Individual Sewage Disposal Systems

Administrator Ward discussed the proposed changes to the Individual Sewage Disposal Systems (Chapter 15) ordinance by reviewing the red-line version of the Ordinance provided to the Council. He reviewed that the water regulations were originally adopted in 1971 and the individual sewer disposal system ordinance was added in 1990. He added that in 1992 and 2012, the NJ DEP completely revised their septic code which caused the Township’s ordinance to be inconsistent with the State regulations.

Mr. Ward stated that approximately 15% of Denville homes have septic systems and that the Health Department averages approximately 20 septic application reviews per year.

Mr. Ward then explained that §15-1, Water Regulations and §15-11, Public Non-Community and Non-Public Water Systems, should be repealed in their entirety as they are now regulated by the State and that §15-10.12, Septic Tank Requirements, should be repealed as no centralized registry of metal septic tanks exists and septic tanks are regulated by the NJDEP. He explained that all fees would be moved to Chapter 2A, Fees, Rates and Charges, and pointed out that a few of the revisions that are being requested for administrative purposes – i.e. the increase in the number of days to review the permits and the increase in the number of hours for notice to start work.

Mr. Ward explicated that §15-10.3g(4) was added in order to prevent a licensed engineer from designing and approving a septic system while at the same time being the contractor for construction of that same septic system. Councilman Buie asked if this is defendable, to which Mr. Ward replied that the Township Attorney believes it is. He further stated that this is being added for the protection of the residents and that other municipalities have similar provisions.
Mr. Ward stated that §15-10.7, Soil Logs, would be amended so as to reference the State Administrative Code, which lists the specific requirements. He then explained that in §15-10.11, Septic System Installer’s License, the Township would require that septic system installers licenses be renewed every 5 years in order to ensure that the installers keep up with current septic code requirements. He explained that many municipalities require septic system installers licenses, but they are not a State requirement. Councilman Murphy asked how septic plans are reviewed, to which Mr. Ward responded the plans are reviewed by the Township’s engineering firm and added that the Township is requesting an increase in the review fees due to the costs related to the time it takes to review the plans.

Mr. Ward stated that the changes proposed under §15-10.11e, Revocation of License, are to establish specific standards for revocation of an installer’s license. Mr. Ward then addressed the proposed changes to the fees, which include an increase in the design review fee, the addition of a charge to review revisions to the plan and the removal of the inspection of abandoned septic and septic cleaning permit fees. Councilwoman Witte asked about the fee for “any septic reinspection”, to which Mr. Ward stated he will confirm whether it should remain. Councilman Buie asked if cesspools are no longer permitted, to which Mr. Ward stated that if a cesspool still exists it would have to be brought up to code eventually.

MOTION TO ADJOURN
MOVED BY MEMBER WITTE, SECONDED BY MEMBER BUIE
AYES: UNANIMOUS
NAYS: NONE

The Meeting adjourned at 8:11 P.M.

Kathryn Bowditch-Leon, RMC
Municipal Clerk