



HISTORIC
FRANKLIN
TENNESSEE

ITEM #12
BOMA
08/24/2010

MEMORANDUM

August 18, 2010

TO: Board of Mayor and Aldermen

FROM: Eric Stuckey, City Administrator
Vernon Gerth, ACA Community Development
Chris Bridgewater, Plumbing/Mechanical Plans Examiner

SUBJECT: Septic System Certification Program

Purpose

To finalize the City of Franklin Septic System Certification Program.

Background

In 2009, the Board of Mayor and Alderman adopted Ordinance 2009-31 that allows property owners, served by private septic systems, to continue their use after the public sanitary sewer becomes available so long as the septic systems are inspected every three years and determined to be functioning properly. Upon approval of Ordinance 2009-31 staff collaborated with County Health Department staff to develop an inspection program and process based on an "inspect and pump" process and the three (3) year inspection cycle.

After considerable discussion with the BOMA, staff developed a certification program that requires property owners to hire a city-certified sewage hauler to pump and inspect septic system tanks every five (5) years. The Building and Neighborhood Services Department would administer the certification program and charge a small administrative fee.

Financial Impact

Staff proposes a \$35 administrative fee for the "pump only" certification program. The estimated cost to the homeowner to have their septic system pumped for the required tank inspection is between \$200-\$300.

Recommendation

Staff recommends the "pump" only program that includes a "pump and tank inspection" cycle of every five (5) years and, an administrative fee of \$35.

Enclosures

Ordinance 2010-60
Resolution 2010-35
Septic System Certification Manual

ORDINANCE 2010-60

TO BE ENTITLED: "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE 18, CHAPTER 2, SECTION 18-204(5) OF THE FRANKLIN MUNICIPAL CODE TO REVISE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR CONNECTION TO THE PUBLIC SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM."

WHEREAS, in 2009 the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Franklin, Tennessee, amended Section 18-204(5) of the City of Franklin Municipal Code extending the time limit for property owners served by a private sewerage system to connect to City of Franklin facilities from one hundred eighty (180) days from the date the public sanitary sewer system became available to indefinitely, provided the existing private sewage disposal system remained in good working condition; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Franklin, Tennessee, initially desired to ensure existing private sanitary sewerage systems were maintained by requiring the periodic pumping and inspection of septic tanks every three (3) years and has determined every five (5) years to be sufficient to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE:

SECTION I: BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, Tennessee, that 18-204(5)(b) and (c) are hereby deleted and rewritten to read as follows:

(5) Use of Septic System where public sewers are provided.

* * *

- (b) **Septic System Certification.** To ensure existing septic systems in the City are functioning properly, property owners with active systems shall have their septic tank(s) pumped and inspected. The pumping and inspection shall be conducted by a septic hauling company licensed by the State of Tennessee and certified by the City of Franklin to perform these services. The initial pumping and inspection shall be conducted upon receipt of a notification letter from the City, and at five (5) year intervals thereafter. The cost of pumping the septic system tank and administrative fee shall be the responsibility of the property owner. The amount of the administrative fees and penalties shall be specified in Title 22 – Comprehensive Fees and Penalties.

- (c) Upon pumping and inspection of the septic system tank(s), if it is determined a septic system is functioning properly according to applicable Williamson County Board of Health regulations or with Tenn. Code Ann. § 68-221-401 *et seq.* the property may defer connection to the public sanitary sewer system for an additional five (5) years. If at any time a septic system is determined to be malfunctioning, the certification shall be revoked and the property owner shall be required to connect at the homeowner's expense to public sanitary sewer within thirty (30) days.

SECTION II. BE IT FINALLY ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, Tennessee, that this Ordinance shall take effect from and after its passage on second and final reading, the public health, safety and welfare requiring it.

ATTEST:

CITY OF FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE

BY: _____
ERIC S. STUCKEY
City Recorder/Administrator

BY: _____
JOHN C. SCHROER
Mayor

PASSED FIRST READING

PASSED SECOND READING
