

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
**AUGUST 12, 2019**

Mayor Chegwidden Called the Meeting to Order

Mayor Chegwidden read the Open Public Meeting Statement

Mayor Chegwidden requested Roll Call:

Council President Corbett- Present  
Councilman Binkoski- Present  
Councilwoman Hayes- Present  
Councilwoman Veres- Present  
Councilwoman Wickenheisser- Present  
Councilman Yeager- Present

Also in attendance were Administrator Jon Rheinhardt, Borough Clerk Gabrielle Evangelista, and Attorney Roman Hirniak.

**Flag Salute**

Mayor Chegwidden led those in attendance with the salute to the American Flag.

**Swearing in of Officer**

Officer Baracaldo was sworn in. Congratulations were offered by everyone in attendance.

**Presentation**

Linda Bayliss on behalf of Wharton Girl Scout Troop 96100 presented the Mayor and Council with an idea for a program in honor of fallen soldiers and their memorial flags. The program would give families a chance to honor those veterans by inviting town residents to have their loved one's flag flown at one of our town parks on Memorial Day. They would like to call the project "Soaring Eagle," and think it would be a great way to pay tribute to their heroes. Mayor Chegwidden loved the idea and advised that we will find a way to set this up.

**Open to the Public**

In accordance with Local Ordinance O-18-03, "Persons making public comment at the first public portion shall be limited to five (5) minutes. During the second public portion repetitive, irrelevant or excessive public comment in the interest of permitting all members of the public time to speak on any governmental issue and completing the public business within a reasonable period of time."

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

**Paul Breda, 6 Potter Lane:** Mr. Breda had some questions about the recent tax bill and the letter relating to taxes that was issued. His tax bill went up \$765 and best that he can tell \$535 is from the re-assessment and he is wondering if he should expect that every 5 years due to the rolling re-assessment program. Mr. Rheinhardt advised that 1/5 of the town is inspected every year and based on that inspection and on current market sales it reprises the entire town every year, not every 5 years. This makes the entire town roughly 100% market to assessed ratio every year. Mr. Breda then asked about a statement in the letter that the Borough realized the potential negative impact on the residents and minimized the municipal tax increase to .92. He asked if isn't adjusting the tax rate, not the increase on the tax levy the way to offset potential negative impact. Mr. Rheinhardt advised that the rate is a function of taxes being raised divided by the total ratable base. The Borough doesn't set the rate, we set the amount that is taxed. More discussion about taxes and

property values followed. Mr. Breda will follow up with Mr. Rheinhardt so that he can look at his specific property.

No one else wishing to be heard, Mayor Chegwidden closed the meeting to the public.

**Consent Agenda**

The following items are considered to be routine and non-controversial by the Mayor and Council and will be approved by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a council member or citizen so requests, in which case, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in a normal sequence on the agenda.

**Approval of Bills: All bills referred to the Finance Committee to be paid if found correct.**

**Approval of Minutes from 7/15/19**

- Resolutions:**
- R-128-19: Approve Alliance Agreement with KV Carriage**
  - R-129-19: Authorize Alliance FY2020 Contract**
  - R-130-19: Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2018-006**
  - R-131-19: Renew Membership Morris County JIF**
  - R-132-19: Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2018-004**
  - R-133-19: Award Bid Iron Mountain Trail System**
  - R-134-19: Authorize Mayor to Sign Modification to Federal Aid Agreement**

**Approve Recreation Application for WALL for 8/23-11/2**

**Appoint Clifford Rollins as an Alternate Crossing Guard for the remainder of a one-year term to expire 12/31/19**

**A motion was made by Council President Corbett and was seconded by Councilman Binkoski to approve all items listed on the Consent Agenda.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-6 NAY-0 ABSENT-0 ABSTAIN-0**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Correspondence**

- **Notices of Ordinances from Randolph and Roxbury**
- **Notice of Resolutions from Pequannock**
- **RVRSA Meeting Minutes**
- **Morris County Planning Board Minutes**
- **Monthly Report Clerk and Construction**

**Council Reports**

**Council President Corbett: He attended the executive committee meeting of the RVRSA on 7/30 and an infrastructure meeting and regular meeting of the RVRSA on 8/8.**

**Councilman Binkoski: No Report**

**Councilwoman Hayes: No Report**

**Councilwoman Veres: The Library is hosting a murder mystery event on 8/26 which should be a good event. The Summer Reading Program concluded last Thursday and it was another successful year. On Thursday they had a party and on Friday gave out awards, where over 30 children received certificates. The Library Board is meeting next week.**

**Councilwoman Wickenheisser:** She'd like to remind everyone about Canal Day on 8/24. In observance of National Overdose Awareness Day on 8/31 between 8-10 there will be a butterfly release in Rockaway by the CARES program. If anyone has any names that they would like to add to that list just let her know.

**Councilman Yeager:** No Report

**Mayor Chegwidden's Report:** Mr. Hutchins has informed him that the seating for the dog park will be in next week. He's glad to see a lot of people using that park already. He attended a seminar on the 2% Arbitration CAP and the need for the Legislature to bring it back. Mr. Rheinhardt advised that there has never before been a letter that was signed by the League of Municipalities, Association of Counties, Conference of Mayors, Government Finance Officers, Municipal Managers, and County Administrators and they all signed one in support of bringing the CAP back and sent it to the Governor, Senate President, and Assembly Speaker. Mayor Chegwidden continued that he would like to address the amount of roadwork that is going on. If we don't fix our infrastructure, we can't have the growth that is happening in town. Once the County finishes with Dewey and Main Street, there is still more coming. The road next to Memorial Park will be worked on in the fall. Orange, St. Mary's and the streets in that area are also being worked on and will be paved in the fall. Also being worked on in the fall is Sterling. There is a lot going on in town, which he believes is part of the reason why so many people want to move here. Prior to tonight's meeting they had a ceremony at the Library recognizing the Mayor and Council who were in office when the Library was built. Over the years the Library has developed into more of a community center. He was surprised when they told him it cost over \$400,000, which was a lot of money in the 1970s. Since then, they've done a lot including putting in the elevator, fixing the roof numerous times, the air conditioning, and now we're doing the bathrooms in the basement and putting in new carpet in the basement. They have formed a committee to look into putting in a splash pad in town. He has added Councilwoman Hayes and Councilwoman Wickenheisser to the committee along with a lot of volunteers. They will meet and come back to the Council with a report.

**Open to the Public**

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

**Fred Willis, Blueberry Lane Mine Hill:** Mr. Willis asked about parking at the dog park. Mayor Chegwidden advised that they are going to be adding more parking spaces along the fence.

No one else wishing to be heard, Mayor Chegwidden closed the meeting to the public.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Council President Corbett and was seconded by Councilman Binkoski to close this meeting.

August 12, 2019

ATTEST:

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Gabrielle Evangelista,  
Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

\_\_\_\_\_  
WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,  
MAYOR