

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 9, 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.

Mayor Chegwidden asked that a moment of silence for the upcoming anniversary of 9/11 be observed.

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.

Colleen Cicchetti, W. Central Ave.: Ms. Cicchetti owns two properties on W. Central Ave. and along with some of her neighbors would like to ask the Mayor and Council for help with parking issues along that street. There are so many cars parked along the road that it is becoming hazardous. There are many homes that have driveways that the residents don't utilize causing many cars to be parked on the road. This causes issues for people getting in and out of their own driveways among other issues. She recently had a car parked entirely in front of her driveway for almost 12 hours. Mayor Chegwidden advised that he will ask the Police Department to do a survey and talk with the residents to see if they want to do away with parking on the street entirely since it's already only allowed on one side. Councilman Corbett advised that he recently had someone advise him that there may be some stacking going on in the area, which may be contributing to this issue. Councilman Binkoski advised that he will discuss the issue with the Police Chief as well and they can have the safety officer look into solutions such as extending no parking sections near corners and in pinch points. He also advises in cases such as when the car was blocking the driveway to call the Police Department so they can address it. After the Police Department looks into this, they will let Ms. Cicchetti know so they can discuss the options to address these problems.

Fran Lewthwaite, 99 W. Central Ave: Ms. Lewthwaite advised that she has lived in Wharton for her entire life and has never seen the parking issue to be as bad as it is now. Her family always moved their cars in and out of their driveway so as to not inconvenience their neighbors. She's not sure where all of these cars park during the winter since they can't be on the road when it snows. She runs into a similar issue on Ford Ave. when going to church.

Pat Craven, 87 Pine St.: The home next to hers 81-83 Pine has an unsafe deck in the back. There is also stacking on Pine St. that she would like someone to look into. There are some other issues as well in the area as well as on Oxford. Mayor Chegwidden advised that he will ask the Zoning Officers to look into the issues that she brought up, and to make sure that she and everyone else reports when there are issues. We can't fix things that we don't know about.

Mary Williams, 175 ½ W. Central Ave.: She also runs into the same issues that have already been discussed. She sees a lot of cars speeding on W. Central when she's out walking her dog. Mayor Chegwidden advised that we can put the speed sign in the area that tracks the average speeds going by. She also sees a lot of dog waste that is not being picked up, particularly in the area where you turn onto Oxford as well as dogs that are not on their leashes. There is also a house on Cambridge that has a lot of weeds on their curbs. Mr. Rheinhardt advised that he will let the Zoning Officers know about those issues as well.

Donna Simonetti, 264 N. Main St.: Her mother lives on Central and when you back out of her driveway you cannot see the cars coming.

Cindy Coviello, 103 W. Central Ave.: She also has similar problems with the parking on W. Central. People park so close to her driveway that sometimes she has trouble getting out.

Ms. Craven advised that she recently ran into an issue where there were cars parked along the bend in the road and was wondering why they couldn't park in the lot leading up to the canal. Mayor Chegwidden advised that they can park there. Maybe we can suggest to the people parking on the road to park there more often. More discussion about this continued. Mayor Chegwidden thanked the residents for attending, we need to know what the problems are so we can work on addressing them. Councilman Binkoski advised that he will have the Police Department look into all of the issues that were brought up and they will get back to the residents once their study is complete.

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

Ordinance

Councilwoman Wickenheisser introduced O-14-19, "Ordinance of the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris Authorizing the Execution of an Amended and Restated Financial Agreement with Avanath Centennial Court Urban Renewal, LP Urban Renewal LLC and Granting a Continued Tax Exemption on Real Property Located at Block 903 Lot 1," on first reading, by title only.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wickenheisser and was seconded by Council President Corbett to adopt O-14-19 on first reading.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-6 NAY-0 ABSENT-0 ABSTAIN-0	MOTION CARRIED
---	-----------------------

Mayor Chegwidden set the date of September 23, 2019 for second and final reading.

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 8/12/19.

**Resolutions: R-135-19: Refund for Overpayment Block 1101 Lot 5
R-136-19: Renew Agreement with Wharton Schools for Class III Officer
R-137-19: Award Competitive Contract- Resident Engineer Morris Canal Lock 2 East
R-138-19: Award Competitive Contract- Archaeologist Morris Canal Lock 2 East**

Approve Application for a Social Affair Liquor License Permit for the Friends of the Library for October 19, 2019.

Prior to making a motion, Council President Corbett asked for clarification that no town money is involved in the two awards for the Morris Canal. Mr. Rheinhardt confirmed that that is correct. A motion was made by Council President Corbett and was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes to approve all items listed on the Consent Agenda.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Correspondence

- **Notice of Resolution from Borough of Netcong**
- **Monthly Report Clerk and Construction**

Council Reports

Council President Corbett: Council President Corbett introduced and read, R-139-19 “Resolution Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriation NJS 40A:4-87,” and made a motion to approve said Resolution. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes.

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

MOTION CARRIED

He attended customer appreciation day at the Knotty Pine, which is where he heard some of the complaints already discussed. He also had someone complain about parking on Park St. He attended the Finance Committee meeting of the RVRSA, they are planning on introducing their budget in October. The preliminary indication is that their budget is going to go up about 4.3% mainly due to the ongoing Jersey City issue and some required facility additions from the new permit. Preliminarily, Wharton’s increase will be approx. \$22,000.

Councilman Binkoski: We needed to add the Resolution that Council President Corbett just introduced because the Police Department is starting to spend the money from this grant so it has to be added into the budget. We are going to have to do some larger scale drunk driving enforcement in the near future. We are almost done with the road closures. Most of the work is being done on County Roads, which we do not control. The Police Department has a new Instagram account-whartonpd1.

Councilwoman Hayes: The DPW has been busy lately. The lights on the pathway bridges are now lit. Sterling St. park is almost done, they just need to do some re-seeding. They are pouring the floor for the new garage for the sewer jetter. They are installing the water line and water fountain at the dog park this week and will be doing some work on the parking area and then that will be complete for now. They have finished interviewing and will be fully staffed soon.

Councilwoman Veres: On 8/20 she attended the Library Board Meeting. The Wharton Pharmacy held a fundraiser for the Friends of the Library and raised \$600. Thank you to them for doing that. There was also a dine to donate fundraiser at Thatcher McGees that raised \$180 for the Friends of the Library as well. She also attended Canal Day.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: She thanks John Manna and all of the volunteers who helped with Canal Day. It was a beautiful day. The Job Fair is coming up on 9/19 and Dress for Success will also be attending. Football season has started and their pep rally is Saturday at 12:30. Soccer season starts this weekend and their opening day ceremony is Friday at 6 p.m. Fall ball for Baseball and Softball is also starting soon. A new refrigerator and ice machine are being delivered to the shed at Robert St. park, the Municipal Alliance has donated the ice machine and the teams and the town are all splitting the refrigerator.

Councilman Yeager: He attended Canal Day and had a great time. The weather was perfect. Tomorrow evening he is going on a tour of the Port Oram Village apartments and he is looking forward to that. He congratulates the Fire Department on winning multiple trophies at the parade.

Mayor Chegwidden's Report: He also congratulates the Fire Department on their wins as well as the District 1 Senior Softball State Champions. IWorq will be added to our website in the next week or so, which is a service request portal that residents can use to let us know about potholes and other issues. They are reconfiguring part of Robert St. park utilizing the dirt that was removed from Memorial park. We applied for the Opportunity Zone Grant from the Federal Government with the Highlands Council as our partner to work on updating and rewriting our Land Use and Zoning Ordinances to make them more efficient and effective. We're getting through a lot of road projects, New Jersey Natural Gas added a lot of new lines and the paving of N. Main and Dewey should be done by the end of the week. We also have a lot of water projects in the South end of town that are ongoing. Hopefully they will be done within a month or so, that is a slow-going project. Canal Day was a great day. John Manna puts his heart and soul into that day and kudos to him for another great event. It is a huge undertaking and he has it down to a science. The State League of Municipalities has asked him if there are any resolutions that we want to be considered at the convention in November. If any of the Council Members has a suggestion, let him know. Council President Corbett asked about the paving of East Sterling. Mr. Rheinhardt advised that we were waiting for DOT approval, but it will be bid in a few weeks and it will be a later in the year project. He also asked about the Safe Routes to School project. Mr. Rheinhardt advised that we received that grant in 2013 and have been waiting for the State and are still waiting for them to approve the final plans.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

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

Adjournment

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

September 9, 2019

ATTEST:

Gabrielle Evangelista,
Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR