

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 23, 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.

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.

Ed Kehoe, S. Main St.: Mr. Kehoe had a question about garbage pickup which was addressed. He also asked about having some overgrown grass at a property next door to his being taken care of. Mayor Chegwidden advised that he will have it addressed.

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 second reading, by title only.

Mayor Chegwidden advised that the work that is being done to update Centennial Court is a part of this agreement and he thanks the Council for their help in allowing this to happen. We held fast to make sure that the renovations are going to be done for the residents.

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments on this ordinance only.

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

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wickenheisser and was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes to adopt O-14-19 on second and final reading.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Discussion

- **Ordinances**
 - **Update to the Parks and Recreation Areas Ordinance- Ms. Evangelista advised that this update is to allow for dogs to be off leash within the confines of the Dog Park. There was some discussion about hours for the Dog Park. Ms. Evangelista will check on the current ordinance and report back.**
 - **Update to the Personnel Ordinance- Ms. Evangelista advised that this update is to include language about the new Part Time Sick law as well as to remove a few outdated practices that no longer take place.**

The Mayor and Council did not have any other questions or comments about the proposed changes so they will be on the next agenda for first 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 9/9/19

- Resolutions: R-140-19: Authorize Renewal of Cooperative Pricing System and Cooperative Pricing Agreements- Morris Area Energy Cooperative**
R-141-19: Authorize Change Fund for Municipal Alliance Race and Ride
R-142-19: Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2018-012
R-143-19: Award Bid Improvements to East Sterling Street

Approve Rec. Application Wharton Soccer for 9/1/19-11/17/19

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

Correspondence

- **RVRSA Meeting Minutes**
- **Monthly Reports Treasurer**

Council Reports

Council President Corbett: The Personnel Committee and the Finance Committee met with Mr. Rheinhardt to discuss the Best Practices that we need to submit to the State. In order to not have any reduction in funding you need to score at least a 30 and we scored 45 ½ out of the possible 48. We will be discussing this again at the next meeting. On 9/12 he attended multiple meetings of the RVRSA. They received updates on the Jersey City Litigation and the Mine Hill chapter of the Watershed Management Plan that has been proposed. On 9/16 he attended another RVRSA meeting where they discussed an issue that the County was utilizing incorrect

population numbers. This causes their Watershed plan to be incorrect, which can have a big effect on their planning.

Councilman Binkoski: He spoke with the Police Chief about some of the issues that were brought up at the previous meeting. They are doing some parking studies in the area that the concerns were brought up about. They are also looking into various recommendations that they can make. Next week they are going to go walk the area to have some conversations with the residents. Once the studies are done, they will make some recommendations about how to proceed. This Saturday is “Coffee with a Cop” at the El Tesoro Bakery from 8-10:30 a.m.

Councilwoman Hayes: The Kids First Foundation’s Trivia Night is 10/11 at the American Legion.

Councilwoman Veres: On 9/11 she attended the Board of Health Meeting. The Board of Health also passed their Ordinance about allowing dogs to be off-leash in the Dog Park. On 9/17 she attended the Library Board Meeting. The Friends of the Library Gala is on 10/19, which promises to be a great event. Right now, until the 25th the Kindergarteners are getting Library Cards.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: She made a motion to approve a Rec. Application from the Jr. Knights for their current season. It’s a new board so they were a little late with the application. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Yeager.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-6 NAY-0 ABSENT-0 ABSTAIN-0	MOTION CARRIED
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Last week she attended the Knock Out Opioid Abuse Training at CARES in Rockaway. We are going to partner with them for our upcoming Race and Ride which happens to be on Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day. They also have free Narcan training there on 9/30 if anyone needs it.

Councilman Yeager: He attended the Planning Board Meeting. Prior to the meeting they took a tour of the Port Oram Village Apartments. They are beautiful. He attended the Morris County League of Municipalities meeting. The speaker was speaking about how to help bring businesses to towns and one of the items they spoke about was having an updated water system. He’s glad that we have been working on ours for a long time and that it is in such good shape.

Mayor Chegwidde’s Report: Mayor Chegwidde thanked the Council for always focusing on the water system and is happy that we also have no debt despite all of the work that has been done to maintain it. He was on a Mayor’s call recently and they discussed water systems. There are some towns that now want the Federal Government to come in and pay to fix their systems that they have been neglecting for years. It’s pretty amazing to him that they’re getting tax payer money for this when they didn’t do their jobs. We had 55 companies attend the Job Fair last week, which is another thing that we took initiative in doing. When unemployment in town was at its highest, we started these Job Fairs and now have been doing them for 7 years. There were a lot of people who attended, it was a great event. He also took the tour of Port Oram, it looks great. He’s been talking to a lot of residents lately and they get it and would like the rest of the street to be done. They’re going to have a meeting with the Main Street Committee about redevelopment. He also attended the Planning Board Meeting where they discussed the Wharton Warehouse cleaning up environmental concerns. They’ve been working on that for a few years and he thanks Ken Loury and the rest of the Planning Board for taking that on. He also spoke with the Police Chief and they are going to be setting up some speed traps on the newly paved roads, because people are enjoying them a little too much. We also applied for some additional grant money for the Morris Canal project and received an additional over \$200,000 for that project. In total we’ve gotten 2.8 million in grants for that project. He also went to the 8th Grade Car Wash. A recent highlight for him was that he was invited to the White House to see Mariano Rivera receive

the Presidential Medal of Freedom. He also thanks Ms. Ghebreal for putting together the Job Fair.

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

September 23, 2019

ATTEST:

Gabrielle Evangelista,
Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR