

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
**NOVEMBER 18, 2019**

Mayor Chegwidden Called the Meeting to Order

Mayor Chegwidden read the Open Public Meeting Statement

Mayor Chegwidden requested Roll Call:

Council President Corbett- Absent, Excused  
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.

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

**Ordinance**

Councilwoman Wickenheisser presented O-17-19, "An Ordinance Amending Chapter 213, Section 2A of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris, State of New Jersey," on second reading, by title only.

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

Councilwoman Hayes advised that she thinks the signage will be okay since dusk is prior to 9:30 p.m. If it becomes an issue in the future, we can always address it then.

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

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wickenheisser and was seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt O-17-19 on second and final reading.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-5 NAY-0 ABSENT-1 ABSTAIN-0
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MOTION CARRIED
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**Ordinance**

Councilwoman Hayes presented O-18-19, "An Ordinance Amending Chapter 330 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris, State of New Jersey," on first reading, by title only.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hayes and was seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt O-18-19 on first reading.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-5 NAY-0 ABSENT-1 ABSTAIN-0

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Chegwidden to set the date of December 9, 2019 for second and final reading

Ordinance

Councilman Binkoski introduced O-19-19, “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 247 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris, State of New Jersey,” on first reading, by title only.

A motion was made by Councilman Binkoski and was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes to adopt O-19-19 on first reading.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-5 NAY-0 ABSENT-1 ABSTAIN-0

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Chegwidden set the date of December 9, 2019 for second and final reading.

Discussion

- **Ordinance update for Background Checks for Volunteers:** Chief Young advised that this came about as a recommendation from our insurance company to ensure that those volunteers or coaches that are working with children under the age of 18 regularly get a criminal background check. The checks will be run through the Police Department, we have applied to be a part of the State’s VRO program which limits the cost of each background check. The maximum estimated upfront cost for next year is under \$2000 to do all of the coaches that fall under our rec program. Mr. Rheinhardt advised that we thought that the Borough will pay the initial cost and from then on it will be the responsibility of the program. Chief Young continued that the cost per background check is currently \$24 and after the initial one they are required every 3 years so it should not be too cost prohibitive. There is also some overlap of coaches amongst the different programs so that should help as well. They also will potentially accept checks that are done from other towns. Councilwoman Wickenheisser asked about the WALL program because Little League already requires a check for coaches. Chief Young advised that it is not very comprehensive and they would still need to do ours. After a short discussion everyone agreed that this can be added to the next meeting for first reading.
- **Ordinance updates for Vehicles and Traffic:** Chief Young advised that most of the suggested changes are resulting from complaints that the Police Department has received at previous meetings and elsewhere. There are changes to parking prohibited on certain streets and a language update to parking in municipal lots. As requested, they have also drafted a section for residential parking permits for Kossuth Street, Orchard Street, and Washington Street in order to avoid parking issues for current residents when the apartments in the area are rented. The permits will be free and will be issued by the Police Department. They will also have temporary permits for visitors, contractors, etc. Everyone was fine with the suggested changes and agreed that this can be added to the next meeting for first reading.
- **Ordinance for Defense and Indemnification:** This was an item that came from the insurance company that should be in our ordinances. No one had a problem with it and it will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

- Meeting Dates for 2020:

- Jan. 6
- Jan. 20
- Feb. 3
- Feb. 24
- March 9
- March 23
- April 6
- April 20
- May 4
- May 18
- June 8
- June 22
- July 13
- Aug. 17
- Sept. 14
- Sept. 28
- Oct. 5
- Oct. 19
- Nov. 9
- Nov. 23
- Dec. 7
- Dec. 28
- Jan. 4, 2021
- Jan. 18, 2021

Councilwoman Hayes advised that November 23 is the week of Thanksgiving which may be a problem for people who may be going away that week. It will be removed from the schedule and if a special meeting is needed, we can always have one.

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 10/21/19**

**Resolutions:** R-153-19: Approve Change Order 1 for Improvements to Memorial Park  
R-154-19: Budget Transfer Resolution  
R-155-19: Refund Sewer Overpayment  
R-156-19: Authorize Agreement with NJDOT  
R-157-19: Sewer Utility Capital Ordinance Cancellation  
R-158-19: Refund Tax Overpayment  
~~R-159-19: Approve Change Order 2 for Improvements to East Sterling Street~~

Councilman Binkoski pulled R-159-19 from the Consent Agenda and made a motion to approve the rest of the items on the Consent Agenda which was seconded by Councilman Yeager.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-5 NAY-0 ABSENT-1 ABSTAIN-0**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Correspondence

- Letter from American Legion re: donation of flag pole from Memorial Park
- Morris County Planning Board Minutes
- Notice of Ordinance from Randolph Township
- Monthly Reports from Clerk, Construction and Treasurer

Council Reports

Council President Corbett: Absent.

**Councilman Binkoski:** Having just finished election season, he would like to thank Councilwoman Veres for her service to the Council. He congratulates Ms. Vasquez and Mr. Norton on their victories. He attended a meeting with the Chiefs of the Fire Department, the Mayor, and Mr. Rheinhardt about planning and he thinks that it went well. He is looking forward to the Inspection Dinner next week.

**Councilwoman Hayes:** She attended the Splash Pad Committee meeting on 10/24 and they are meeting again this upcoming Saturday. On 10/26 she attended Hallowharton and would like to thank the Police Department, DPW, and Ms. Ghebreal for all the work that goes into having that event. She attended the judging for the Halloween house decorating contest and thanks everyone in town who decorates. There are a lot of great houses every year. Congratulations to Ms. Vasquez and Mr. Norton. It was wonderful working with Councilwoman Veres, she really enjoyed it. She attended the Veteran's Eve event at the American Legion. It was a nice event and the front area that has been redone looks beautiful.

**Councilwoman Veres:** On 10/26 she attended Hallowharton and thanks Ms. Ghebreal and everyone else who participated for their hard work. It was a nice event and nice to see all of the little kids participating. On Saturday, Congressman Malinowski is going to be at the Library for a Town Hall at 3pm. There's information on his official website to register. Regarding the election, it's been an honor to serve the past 3 years. She congratulates Mr. Norton and Ms. Vasquez on their victories and wishes them the best of luck. On 12/7 at the DPW from 9-11am is the Rabies Clinic.

**Councilwoman Wickenheisser:** She also attended the Splash Pad meeting and is looking forward to the next meeting. She also attended Hallowharton and thanks Ms. Ghebreal, the Police, and the DPW. On 10/30 she attended the Morris County Chamber of Commerce Economic Outlook Awards Luncheon and congratulates the Mayor on winning the Alex DeCroce Public Leadership Award. It was a really nice ceremony. She also attended the Veteran's Eve service which was really nice. Last week she attended the Jr. Knights and WALL meetings as well as the Municipal Alliance dance. They had a large turnout, but unfortunately due to the lack of parent volunteers they cannot continue to have the dances.

**Councilman Yeager:** He attended the Tenancy Review meeting and the Veteran's Eve event. He congratulates Mr. Norton and Ms. Vasquez on their victories, and thanks Councilwoman Veres for her service.

**Mayor Chegwidden's Report:** He congratulates Ms. Vasquez and Mr. Norton on their election victories. He thanks Councilwoman Veres for being a team member for the whole three years and thanks her for her service. He is also looking forward to the Splash Pad meeting to see where people really want to put it. He also thanks Ms. Ghebreal and everyone who helped out with Hallowharton. It's nice that it's actually back to Wharton residents attending. He also thanks the Fire Department for their Safe Trick or Treat and for their upcoming help with the Tree Lighting.

#### **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 Councilwoman Hayes to close this meeting.

**November 18, 2019**

**BOROUGH OF WHARTON**

**ATTEST:**

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WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,  
MAYOR**

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Gabrielle Evangelista,  
Borough Clerk**