

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
**OCTOBER 16, 2017**

**Opening Items**

Mayor Chegwidden called the Meeting to Order.

Mayor Chegwidden read the Open Public Meeting Statement.

**Roll Call**

Mayor Chegwidden requested Roll Call:

Council President Binkoski – Present  
Councilman Corbett – Present  
Councilwoman Hayes- Absent, Excused  
Councilwoman Veres- Present  
Councilwoman Wickenheisser- Present  
Councilman Yeager- Present

Also in attendance were Administrator Jon Rheinhardt, Borough Clerk Gabrielle Evangelista, and Attorney George Johnson.

**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, the Mayor or Council President shall have the discretion to terminate any 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.

**Presentation**

Borough Planner, Jessica Caldwell, provided a status review of the Highlands Center Plan/Economic Development Plan. She discussed the results of the online survey that was created from the SWOT Analysis from the Joint Meeting held on June 12<sup>th</sup>. She went over the results from the meeting with the Business Owners on Main Street who also completed a SWOT Analysis. Their results were similar to the ones from the Joint Meeting. She provided some information about socio-economic data of the Borough which was found in the Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics program which is a part of the US Census Bureau. She then went over some of the different tapestry segmentations represented in the Borough. This is a geodemographic system that identifies 68 distinct markets in the US based on socioeconomic and demographic characteristics. The combination of all of this information helped to develop potential strategies for businesses, redevelopment and planning, tourism, and the municipality. From here the Highlands Council would like us to finish this plan and submit it. They also are looking to fund an open space and trails plan.

Council President Binkoski asked if the Highlands Committee was looking to create a suite of resources that all of the towns that are involved can access. Ms. Caldwell

advised that she didn’t think so but everyone agreed that is a great idea and she will suggest it to them in our plan.

**Ordinance**

Councilman Yeager presented O-15-17, “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 231 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.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Yeager and was seconded by Council President Binkoski to adopt O-15-17 on second and final reading.

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

Councilman Corbett introduced O-16-17, “An Ordinance to Provide for a General Capital Project Enumerated within for the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris, and to Provide for the Funding Thereof,” on first reading by title only.

Councilman Corbett advised that this is funding for items to improve the appearance of Main Street. Mr. Rheinhardt advised that the Borough received two large contributions around eight years ago, the intent of which were to use for beautification of Main Street. The lights at the park, things in Memorial Park, part of the lights on Main Street have all been funded through this fund. So whatever we don’t use here gets cancelled and put back into that fund.

A motion was made by Councilman Corbett and was seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt O-16-17 on first reading.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-5 NAY-0 ABSENT-1 ABSTAIN- 0	MOTION CARRIED
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Mayor Chegwidden set the date of October 30, 2017 for second and final reading.

**Resolution**

Council President Binkoski introduced and read R-133-17, “Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of a Police Officer.”

A motion was made by Council President Binkoski and was seconded by Councilman Corbett to adopt R-133-17.

Mayor Chegwidden advised that the last officer that we hired was from Mine Hill and this officer is from Wharton. It’s nice to be able to hire local people. We had over 100 applicants.

Council President Binkoski advised that the Police Department Committee interviewed 96 of those applicants and whittled it down to 10. They then interviewed 5 for the last round and 5 more for this one. There were some really strong candidates, all of the 5 people that they met with he would have been comfortable with having protect us.

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

- 1. **Best Practices Inventory:** Mr. Rheinhardt went over the results of the 2017 Best Practices Inventory and explained the questions that were either not applicable or a no answer. We’re required to file this yearly and there were 25 questions, most of which were repeats. He qualified that these are not a vetted best practice checklist, they tend to be whatever the flavor of the year is. There is a National Best Practice Checklist created by a variety of organizations that also exists. We answered 88% correctly according to the State so we are not losing any of the energy tax money that the State uses as State Aid.
  
- 2. **Letter from Planning Board re: Suggested Ordinance Changes:** Mayor Chegwiddden advised that they are having a lot of applications relating to a non-permitted use of recreation in certain zones so the Planning Board suggested making the change. This change will be helpful for new businesses. Mr. Johnson advised that he sees no problem with it. It will be on the next Agenda.
  
- 3. **2018 Meeting Dates:**
  - Jan. 2 Re-Org (Tuesday)
  - Jan. 15
  - Feb. 12
  - Feb. 26
  - March 12
  - March 26
  - April 9
  - April 23
  - May 7
  - May 21
  - June 11
  - June 25
  - July 16
  - August 13
  - Sept. 10
  - Sept. 24
  - Oct. 15
  - Oct. 29
  - Nov. 12
  - Nov. 26
  - Dec. 3
  - Dec. 17
  - Jan. 2, 2019 Re-Org, Wednesday
  - Jan. 14, 2019

Ms. Evangelista advised that work has started on next year’s calendar so we need to choose dates. Everyone agreed that these meeting dates were acceptable.

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 September 25, 2017**

**Resolutions:** R-134-17: Approve NJDOT Grant Application- Baker Avenue  
R-135-17: Payout Maher  
R-136-17: Approve Agreement with KV Carriage LLC for Hallowharton

**Appointment of Laura Getchius as a matron for the remainder of the one year term to expire 12/31/17**

**Approve Junior Fire Fighter application from Ryan Hugues**

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

### Correspondence

- Monthly Reports from Clerk and Construction
- RVRSA Meeting Minutes

### Council Reports

**Council President Binkoski:** Councilwoman Hayes asked him to let everyone know that she attended the recognition ceremony for John Manna. He was honored for all of his work on the restoration of the Lock 2 East of Morris Canal. The road paving is going really well, he's getting a lot of positive comments. Some people were very surprised at how efficient the process was. On October 7<sup>th</sup> he attended the Library Gala which was very well attended. He met with Chief Fernandez regarding personnel at which they discussed the hiring of the new officer and replacing the part time records clerk. They are going to keep the list of applicants for a Police Officer that they interviewed open since they still have such strong candidates. There's a safety issue that was brought to his attention about parking on Elizabeth Street, Sgt. Zimmerman looked into it and advised that there should be no parking on one side of the road as well as on the down side of the hill. Mayor Chegwidden agreed with that assessment. The Ordinance change will be on the next Agenda.

**Councilman Corbett:** He was unable to attend the Library Gala as he was at a wedding. He did attend the RVRSA meeting at which they introduced their budget, which is a 2.03% increase over this year's budget. Also, the RVRSA Public Works union agreed to extend their contract at a 2% increase for two more years. Unless the case settles the trial for the Jersey City litigation is scheduled for 10/23, 10/24, and 10/25 to start. They did discuss Mine Hill who is planning additional apartments if they can get into the sewer service area.

**Councilwoman Hayes:** Absent, Excused

**Councilwoman Veres:** She attended the Library Gala on October 7<sup>th</sup> which was a nice event. She agrees that the road paving was completed incredibly fast. The Rabies Shot Clinic was moved to December 2<sup>nd</sup>. There will be no licensing, just the shots.

**Councilwoman Wickenheisser:** The Municipal Alliance hosted Yahya Bakkar, a motivational speaker at the local schools. They had great feedback about it. The Halloween house decorating contest is going on so make sure to apply if you want your home to be considered. HalloWharton is on October 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Councilman Yeager:** The Fire Department had a drill at the Morris County Fire Academy, it was great that they were able to utilize that resource.

### Mayor Chegwidden's Report

On January 4<sup>th</sup> the recycling will be picked up instead of on New Year's Day. We'll publish this change on our social media as well. He then discussed the road paving that was recently completed on Atlanta Place, Cornell Street, East Central Avenue from Church to Lafayette Streets, Eileen Court, Hance Street, Huff Street, Maple Terrace, Mount Pleasant Avenue from Church to Third Streets, Potter Lane, Sherwood Place, West Clarence Street, and Terry Lane. He just drove all of the completed roads. They had a preconstruction meeting for Oxford Road and Cambridge Road, which we received a grant to complete, earlier today. He then addressed some complaints that were raised by Mr. Kehoe at the previous meeting. Prior to the fire in January of 2014, he was involved in 32 complaints about the

property next door to him. All were investigated and some were founded, but many were unfounded. Since that time he has put in 4 complaints against another home which were investigated and found to be unfounded. Mayor Chegwidden had spoken with the owner of the one home who told him that she felt harassed. Mr. Rheinhardt also addressed a complaint about not being notified when New Jersey Natural Gas was doing work on his street which was raised by Mr. Skewes at the prior meeting. He advised that Mr. Skewes had personally discussed it with him three weeks prior to the project beginning, saying that he heard that they were coming and wanted to know the extent of the project. He also received a call from his wife asking how they could be put onto a list for a gas connection. Council President Binkoski advised that the Lieutenant told him that our department knocked on everyone's doors, but they were not home when they did. Mr. Rheinhardt continued that we normally do not notify for the utility companies unless they request it, but for all municipal projects we do. Mayor Chegwidden continued that the stop sign on Kice Avenue is working very well. Councilman Corbett advised that the one on Mill St. that was in the wrong location was moved to the correct location.

**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**

No further business to attend to this evening Councilman Corbett, made a motion to adjourn this meeting. This was seconded by Council President Binkoski. This motion was approved by a voice vote.

October 25, 2017

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

ATTEST:

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WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,  
MAYOR

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Gabrielle Evangelista,  
Borough Clerk