

MINUTES  
RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
JANUARY 4, 2021

Mayor Chegwidden called the meeting to order and read the Open Public Meeting Statement as follows:

"This is the Annual Re-Organization Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Wharton which was advertised in the print media as required by law. A copy of the annual meeting schedule is posted in the Municipal Building."

*Swearing in of Council Members*

Mayor Chegwidden announced that the Morris County Clerk's Office has determined that at the last General Election, Vincent Binkoski and Sandra Hayes were duly elected to the positions of Council Members for the Borough of Wharton for a term of three years.

Mayor Chegwidden called both Council Members to the platform to be sworn in.

Mayor Chegwidden invited the Council Members to address the public.

*Roll Call*

Mayor Chegwidden to request Roll Call:

Councilman Vincent Binkoski  
Councilwoman Sandra Hayes  
Councilman Robert Norton  
Councilwoman Paola Vasquez – absent and excused  
Councilwoman Nicole Wickenheisser  
Councilman Thomas Yeager

*Flag Salute*

Mayor Chegwidden lead those present in the Salute to the American Flag.

*Election of Council President*

Motion by Councilman Binkoski and seconded by Councilman Norton to elect Councilwoman Wickenheisser as Council President for the year 2021.

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

Mayor Chegwidden and Councilman Yeager administered the Oaths of Office for the Fire Department.

*Fire Department Appointments*

The following appointments are considered to be routine and non-controversial by the Mayor and Council and will be approved by one motion.

Wharton Borough Fire Chief, Gene Minell, for the year 2021 - term to expire 12/31/21.

Wharton Borough Fire Department Deputy Chief, Gene Caulfield, for the year 2021- term to expire 12/31/21.

Wharton Borough Battalion Chief, unappointed, for the year 2021- term to expire 12/31/21.

Wharton Borough Fire Department Captain:

- Michael Marks, Jr.
- Jim Ayers

Wharton Borough Fire Department Lieutenants:

- Justin Ayala
- Thomas Andes

All one-year terms to expire 12/31/21.

Motion to confirm all appointments Councilman Yeager and seconded by Councilwoman Hayes.

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

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.

- Resolutions:
- R-01-21: Meeting Schedule
  - R-02-21: Setting Hourly Fee for Independent Attorneys
  - R-03-21: Liability Search Officer for 2021
  - R-04-21: Tax Search Officer for 2021
  - R-05-21: Fixing Interest Rate on Delinquent Taxes for 2021
  - R-06-21: Designating Official Newspapers for 2021
  - R-07-21: Designating Public Agency Compliance Officer
  - R-08-21: Cash Management Plan for 2021
  - R-09-21: Professionals Resolution
  - R-10-21: Appointment of 2021 Local Emergency Planning Committee
  - R-11-21: Authorizing the Tax Collector and Utility Collector to Cancel Any Balances under \$10.00 as Deemed Necessary
  - R-12-21: Authorizing Required Notice of Tort Claims
  - R-13-21: Authorizing Mayor to Execute Agreement for Risk Management Consultant Services for the Year 2021
  - R-14-21: Authorizing Re-Establishment of Petty Cash Funds
  - R-15-21: Temporary Budget for 2021
  - R-16-21: Volunteer Appreciation Program for 2021
  - R-17-21: Authorizing Participation in the Morris County Co-Operative Purchasing Program
  - R-18-21: Authorizing Participation in the State Co-Operative Purchasing Program
  - R-19-21: Authorizing Signatures on Borough Checks
  - R-20-21: Authorizing Certain Payments Outside of Scheduled Council Meetings
  - R-21-21: Establish Bid Threshold
  - R-22-21: Authorizing Mayor, Administrator and Borough Clerk to Execute and Submit Grant Applications if Due Date is Outside of Scheduled Council Meetings
  - R-23-21: Authorizing Treasurer to Sign and Approve Purchase Orders in the Event the Administrator/CFO is Not Available
  - R-24-21: Authorizing Returned Check Fee
  - R-25-21: Authorizing Participation in the Somerset County Co-Operative Purchasing Program
  - R-26-21: Authorizing Participation in the Bergen

County Co-Operative Purchasing Program  
R-27-21: Authorizing Participation in the Educational Services  
Commission of NJ Co-Operative Purchasing Program  
R-28-21: Approve Agreement Health Benefits Producer  
R-29-21: Temporary Capital Budget  
R-30-21: Authorizing Participation in the Cranford Police Co-  
Operative Purchasing Program  
R-31-21: Authorize Participation in the Sourcewell Co-Operative  
Purchasing Program

*Mayor's Appointments that Require Council Consent*

Alternate School Crossing Guards- Tina Ayala, Alice Doblosky, Melissa Phelan,  
Raffaele Peluso, Joyce Hon and Laura White, one-year terms to expire 12/31/21

Assistant Administrator- Gabrielle Evangelista, one-year term to expire 12/31/21

Assistant to Construction Official- Desinez Ruffo, one-year term to expire 12/31/21

Board of Health Member–Shelly Chegwiddden, three-year term to expire 12/31/23

Board of Health Member–Doreen Thompson, three-year term to expire 12/31/23

Board of Health Secretary for Licensing- Robin Ghebreal, one-year term to expire  
12/31/21

Certifying Payroll Officers- Diana Fernandez, Jon Rheinhardt, and Yolanda Dykes  
one-year terms to expire 12/31/21

Clean Communities Coordinator- Patricia Craven, one-year term to expire 12/31/21

Community Affairs Coordinator- Robin Ghebreal, one-year term to expire 12/31/21

Deputy Borough Clerk- Robin Ghebreal and Diana Fernandez, one-year terms to  
expire 12/31/21

Deputy Emergency Management Coordinators- David Young and Leon Stickle, one-  
year terms to expire 12/31/21

Deputy Housing Enforcement Officer- Patrick Laverty, one-year terms to expire  
12/31/21

Deputy Tax Collector- Patty Craven, one-year term to expire 12/31/21

Deputy Water/Sewer Collector- Diana Fernandez, one-year term to expire 12/31/21

Deputy Zoning Officer – Leon Stickle, one-year term to expire 12/31/21

Director of Public Works- Scott Hutchins, one-year term to expire 12/31/21

Emergency Management Coordinator- Eugene Caulfield, three-year term to expire  
12/31/23.

Fire Official- Richard Cloughley, one-year term to expire, 12/31/21

Grant Coordinator– John Manna, one-year term to expire 12/31/21

Matrons- Alice Doblosky, Jen O'Malley-Dorr, Vicky Santana-Stickle, and Bonnie  
Sullivan, one-year terms to expire 12/31/21

Morris County Open Space and Farmland Preservation Representative- John Manna,  
one-year term to expire 12/31/21

Municipal Alliance Coordinator- Robin Ghebreal, one-year term to expire 12/31/21

Municipal Housing Liaison for COAH- Patrick Lavery, one-year term to expire 12/31/21

Personnel Administrator- Gabrielle Evangelista, one-year term to expire 12/31/21

Planning Board Secretary- Patricia Craven, one-year term to expire 12/31/21

Police Chaplain- Thomas Beirne, one-year term to expire 12/31/21

Qualified Purchasing Agent- Jon Rheinhardt, one-year term to expire 12/31/21

Recreation Director- Robin Ghebreal, one-year term to expire 12/31/21

Recycling Coordinator- Scott Hutchins, one-year term to expire 12/31/21

School Crossing Guards- Suzanne Adams, Kathleena Jackson, Jackie Kelly, Maureen Macalalag, Clifford Rollins, Robert Thrower, Deborah Kline and Lois Werts, one-year terms to expire 12/31/21

Treasurer- Yolanda Dykes, one-year term to expire 12/31/21

Water/Sewer Clerk- Patty Craven, one-year term to expire 12/31/21

Water/Sewer Operator- Thomas Quillinan, one-year term to expire 12/31/21

Zoning/Housing Enforcement Official/Road Opening Official – Kevin Lewthwaite, one-year term to expire 12/31/21

Committee Appointments:

Alternate Members to Finance Committee - #1 - Councilwoman Wickenheisser and #2 –Councilman Norton

Community Relations- (includes Recreation Committee, Celebration Public Events, Regionalization Committee- Shared Services, Senior Citizen Association) – Councilman Norton

Environmental Commission- Consists of Mayor and Council Members

Finance- (includes Insurance, Budget, Personnel, CFO, Street Lighting, Tax Assessor, Tax Collector, Community Development) – Councilwoman Hayes

Finance Committee- Councilwoman Hayes (Chair), Councilman Yeager, and Councilman Binkoski

Health/Welfare- (includes Board of Health, Public Assistance, Library) – Councilwoman Vasquez

Personnel Committee- Councilwoman Hayes (Chair), Councilman Binkoski and Councilman Yeager

Public Affairs- (includes Building Inspector, Housing Inspector, Planning Board, Licenses, Zoning Officer, School Sub-Committee) – Councilwoman Wickenheisser

Public Safety- (includes Police Department, Fire Department, First Aid Squad, Municipal Court, Emergency Management, Elections) - Councilman Yeager

Public Works- (includes Parks, Building/Grounds, Sanitation, Maintenance Shop, Engineering, Streets and Roads, Water and Sewer) – Councilman Binkoski

Council Appointments in Accordance with State Statutes:

Council Representative to the Morris County Community Development Revenue Sharing Committee- John Manna, one-year term to expire 12/31/21.

Planning Board Class III Member- Councilwoman Wickenheisser, one-year term to expire 12/31/21

Motion by Council President Wickenheisser and seconded by Councilman Binkoski to approve all of the items listed on the Consent Agenda.

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

*Mayor's Appointments*

Alternate Member to the Community Development Revenue Sharing Committee- Sandra Hayes, one-year term to expire 12/31/21

Mayor Representative to the Morris County Community Development Revenue Sharing Committee- Vincent Binkoski, one-year term to expire 12/31/21

Municipal Alliance Committee Members- Mayor William Chegwiddden, Councilman Robert Norton, Police Chief David Young, Administrator Jon Rheinhardt, Sheriff James Gannon, Superintendent Christopher Herdman, Dawn Klose, Jennifer DiSanto, Pamela Schiele, Eleazar Cortezano, Kevin Hernandez, Bonnie LaVoie, Rick Abline, Rino DePiano, Angie Deiling, and Susan Downer, one-year terms to expire 12/31/21

Planning Board Alternates- Barbara Chiappa and Christopher Fleischman, two-year terms to expire 12/31/22

Trustee of Library- Leonor Vasquez

*Council Remarks:*

Councilman Binkoski: Stated that he wished to thank all of the residents who voted for him and Councilwoman Hayes. He thanked all the Morris County dignitaries who attended the meeting. He stated how it is always so good to work with the Morris County Representatives. He congratulated the Fire Department for all the appointments from the night. He thanked his family for supporting him through the election process.

Councilwoman Hayes: Stated that she wished to thank all the residents who voted for her and for Councilman Binkoski to be reelected.

Councilman Norton: Stated congratulations to Councilwoman Hayes and Councilman Binkoski for being reelected. He's happy to work with them and they both do such a great job.

Councilwoman Vasquez: Absent & Excused

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: Stated that she wished to thank her fellow council members for electing her Council President. She congratulated Councilwoman Hayes and Councilman Binkoski on their reelection. She thanked the Morris County dignitaries for attending. She wished everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

Councilman Yeager: Stated congratulations to Councilwoman Hayes and Councilman Binkoski for their reelection. He congratulated the Fire Department with their newly appointed officers.

Mayor Chegwidden's Remarks Stated that he wanted to thank both the Fire Department and the Police Department for always doing such a great job. He stated that the DPW is doing an amazing job throughout all the seasons and on many special projects in town. He wanted to thank the Town Hall staff for all that they do throughout the year. He thanked Administrator Rheinhardt for doing such a great job. He thanked Attorney Hirniak for all his hard work. He stated that he is so happy with the way Memorial Park turned out. He stated that other parks in town are also getting improvements and Oakhurst Lane will soon be finished. He thanked the County Officials for attending the meeting and also thanked them for the No. Main Street Extension. He thanked them for always supporting Wharton. He wished all the residents a happy and healthy New Year and it was extremely sad to have lost 9 residents to COVID. He thanked our Health Department for doing a great job during the pandemic.

#### Public Portion

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

Mayor Chegwidden closed the meeting to the public.

#### Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Council President Wickenheisser and seconded by Councilman Binkoski.