

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
APRIL 19, 2021

Mayor Chegwidden called the Meeting to Order

Mayor Chegwidden read the Open Public Meeting Statement

Mayor Chegwidden requested Roll Call:

Council President Wickenheisser- Present
Council Binkoski- Present
Councilwoman Hayes- Present
Councilman Norton- Present
Councilwoman Vasquez- 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.

2021 Budget

Councilwoman Hayes advised that the 2021 Budget \$10,069,540 which is \$207,503 lower than our 2020 budget. Total taxes for both the town and the library are \$4,178,146 which is an overall decrease of \$45,811. Library taxes are increasing \$6,099.30 while the town taxes are decreasing \$51,910.60. The impact on a personal property is estimated at \$2.74 increase for the library and \$14.62 decrease for the municipal tax. Contained in this budget is an aggressive capital plan that includes paving projects for Lafayette St. which we have a grant for \$231,700, municipal and library parking lot improvements, which we have a grant for \$80,000, continuation

of trail systems through Irondale Mt., which we have a grant for \$154, 398, a new fire truck, library furniture, and various other equipment.

Resolution

Councilman Yeager introduced R-70-21 “Resolution to Read the Budgets by Title Only.”

A motion was made by Councilman Yeager and was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes to adopt Resolution R-70-21.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-6 NAY-0 ABSENT-0 ABSTAIN-0	MOTION CARRIED
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2021 Municipal Budget

Councilwoman Hayes presented Resolution R-59-21, The 2021 Municipal Budget for final adoption.

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments on the 2021 Municipal Budget only.

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

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hayes and was seconded by Councilman Binkoski to adopt R-59-21, The 2021 Municipal Budget.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-6 NAY-0 ABSENT-0 ABSTAIN-0	MOTION CARRIED
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2021 Special District Budget

Councilman Binkoski presented Resolution R-60-21, The 2021 Special District Budget for final adoption.

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments on the 2021 Special District Budget only.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Binkoski and was seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt R-60-21, The 2021 Special District Budget.

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

Councilman Norton presented O-08-21, “An Ordinance to Provide for General Capital Projects Enumerated Within for the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris, and to Provide for the Funding Thereof,” on second reading, by title only.

Mayor Chegwiddden opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments on this Ordinance only.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Norton and was seconded by Councilman Binkoski to adopt O-08-21 on second and final reading.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance

Council President Wickenheisser presented O-09-21, “An Ordinance to Provide for General Capital Projects Enumerated Within for the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris, and to Provide for the Funding Thereof,” on second reading, by title only.

Mayor Chegwiddden opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments on this Ordinance only.

Mayor Chegwiddden closed the meeting to the public.

A motion was made by Council President Wickenheisser and was seconded by Councilman Binkoski to adopt O-09-21 on second and final reading.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance

Councilwoman Hayes introduced O-10-21, “An Ordinance to Provide for General Capital Projects Enumerated Within for the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris, and to Provide for the Funding Thereof,” on first reading, by title only.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hayes and was seconded by Councilman Norton to adopt O-10-21 on first reading.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Chegwidden set the date of May 3, 2021 for second and final reading.

Ordinance

Councilwoman Vasquez introduced O-11-21, “An Ordinance to Provide for General Capital Projects Enumerated Within for the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris, and to Provide for the Funding Thereof,” on first reading, by title only.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Vazquez and was seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt O-11-21 on first reading.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Chegwidden set the date of May 3, 2021 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: Approve all bills referred to the Finance Committee.

Approval of Minutes: Approve Minutes from 4/5/21 Meeting

**Resolutions: R-71-21: Prof. Services- Engineering Lafayette Street Improvements
R-72-21: Authorize Agreement Morris County MUA for Recycling
R-73-21: Authorize Additional Inspection Services
R-74-21: Prof. Services- Engineering Sanitary Sewer System
Infiltration/Inflow Investigation
R-75-21: Authorize Signing CDBG Library Parking Lot Renovations
R-76-21: 2022 Reassessment Program**

A motion was made by Council President Wickenheisser 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

Discussion

- **Date Change for May 17, 2021 Mayor and Council Meeting:** Mr. Rheinhardt advised that the date for the May 17th meeting needs to be changed to May 24th in order to accommodate the tight schedule for bidding and awarding the parking lot improvement project so that we can fit into the timeline of the grant for the project. No one had an issue with the change.

Correspondence

- Letters from Assemblywoman Dunn
- Morris County Planning Board Minutes
- Monthly Reports Construction, Clerk
- Notice of Ordinance Jefferson Township
- Notice of Resolution Millstone Township

Council Reports

Council President Wickenheisser: She expressed her condolences to the Fernandez and O'Malley families, which was echoed by everyone present.

Councilman Binkoski: The DPW is working a few projects and things are starting to look good out there.

Councilwoman Hayes: Thank you everyone for their kindness for the last few months when she was dealing with her mother's illness. Everyone stepped in as needed and she really appreciates how well this group works together. Thank you to the Mr. Rheinhardt and the Finance Committee on their work on the budget. They just finished negotiations with the DPW and are currently working with the FOP.

Councilman Norton: We received a recreation facility application for a company that is looking to use Robert Street one day for a demonstration for Picatinny. He suggests waiving the fee since it is for the military. He made a motion to do so and approve the application, which was seconded by Councilman Yeager. This motion was approved via voice vote. He attended the opening ceremonies for soccer, which was very well attended and the field conditions were amazing. The Job Fair is scheduled for 4/21, but weather sounds like it may still be an issue so it may be on the rain date of 4/22. The clean-up day is scheduled for 6/5, he spoke with Ms. Craven and her suggestion was to give the volunteers their assignments in advance and then a bagged lunch will be brought to them there. After some discussion the Mayor and Council would like it to be like it usually is with lunch provided at the DPW afterwards. It is a large outdoor area so people can effectively socially distance as necessary. The shredding and garage sales with no fee for the permit will also take place on that day. They are looking at a grant for recreation some options they are looking at are for Robert Street to improve the area around the swings, the clubhouse, putting in a walking path, and changing the angle of the football field.

Mr. Rheinhardt advised that there are actually 2 grants, one is small, but we will apply for it. They are looking at using one of the grants to put in some new benches as well.

Councilwoman Vasquez: The Library opened last week. Thank you to the DPW for their work to get things ready. Assemblywoman Dunn is going to have a satellite office program at the Library so that residents are able to come in if they need anything from the Assemblywoman's office.

Councilman Yeager: He met with the Fire Department and they had 12 calls in March. He met with Chief Young who is working on signage for Chegwidden Way and is working with Mr. Hirniak about the ordinance for the parks.

Mayor Chegwidden's Report

He attended opening day of soccer and it was very nice to see everyone there. The fields are beautiful. We've been having some problems with the development at 10 Main Street, because Verizon has been holding things up with the placement of the poles. He called a representative who he never heard from again so he spoke with Senator Bucco who placed a call to them as well. They finally came today and did half of what they were supposed to. They had no problem taking the money from the developer and then not moving on the project. It's sad because we have no other options. He was on a call today with the New Jersey Conference of Mayors who are planning a webinar for Mayors to meet with the utility companies. They are also planning on talking with the Department of Education from Minnesota who put a plan in place several years ago that reduced their property tax. They are going to do a presentation for the NJCM about how they did it. Each State does different things and if it works for them, why can't it work for us.

Mr. Rheinhardt advised that the new County Road will be dedicated at a ceremony on April 29th at 2:30 p.m. and the road will be opened for use following the ceremony.

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 **Councilman Yeager** to close the meeting. This motion was approved by voice vote.

April 19, 2021

ATTEST:

**Gabrielle Evangelista,
Borough Clerk**

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

**WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR**