

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
**AUGUST 16, 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.

**Resolution**

Councilman Yeager introduced R-110-21, “Resolution Authorizing a Person-to-Person and Place-to-Place Transfer of a Plenary Retail Consumption License.”

A motion was made by Councilman Yeager and was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes to adopt R-110-21.

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| ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-6 NAY-0 ABSENT-0 ABSTAIN-0 |
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| MOTION CARRIED |
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**Resolution**

Mayor Chegwidden advised that the current Administrator/CFO, Jon Rheinhardt has accepted another position and will be leaving the Borough after 19 years of service.

Councilwoman Hayes introduced R-111-21, “Resolution Authorizing Appointment of Administrator and CFO.”

The new Administrator/CFO is Joseph Kovalcik, Jr. Everyone is looking forward to working with him.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hayes and was seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt R-111-21.

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Discussion**

- Request from the Construction Department to consider changing fees for retaining walls and decks as well as certificate of occupancy for multifamily. Construction Official Andre Brezina explained to the Mayor and Council the reasoning for the requested fee change. For both items the current fee does not cover the cost for the department to complete them. The update will allow them to do so. Everyone agreed that this is reasonable. The first reading of the Ordinance change will be on the next agenda for consideration.

**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 7/19/21 Meeting**

**Resolutions: R-112-21: Approve Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2018-007  
R-113-21: Award Bid Irondale Mt. Trails Phase II  
R-114-21: Approve Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2020-017  
R-115-21: Approve Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2020-009  
R-116-21: Amend R-91-21**

**Blue Light Permit Renewal Applications- Adam Yeager, Justin Ayala, James McCormick**

**Blue Light Permit Application- Cesar Rios**

**Change Stephanie Mertz from an Alternate Crossing Guard to a Crossing Guard to fill the remainder of a term to expire 12/31/21.**

**A motion was made by Council President Wickenheisser, which was seconded by Councilman Yeager to approve all of the items on the Consent Agenda.**

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Correspondence**

- N Letter re 170 N. Main St.
- Notice of Resolution Morris County Board of County Commissioners
- Morris County Planning Board Minutes
- Notice of Resolution Hanover Township
- Notice of Ordinances Jefferson Township
- Notification of Grant for E Sterling to Columbia Walkway Project from NJDOT
- Letter from St. Mary's Senior Club
- Notice of Ordinances from Jefferson
- Monthly Reports Clerk, Construction

### Council Reports

**Council President Wickenheisser:** She thanks Mr. Rheinhardt for everything he has done for Wharton during his tenure. Welcome to Mr. Kovalcik.

**Councilman Binkoski:** He recently received some false information relating to the energy aggregation program that the Borough participates in. He asked if we can share the correct information about the program in the Mayor's newsletter so that no one else runs into the same issue that he did. He thanks Mr. Rheinhardt for everything he has done for Wharton and welcomes Mr. Kovalcik.

**Councilwoman Hayes:** She attended contract negotiations with the Wharton FOP which are ongoing. She thanks Mr. Rheinhardt for everything he has done for Wharton and welcomes Mr. Kovalcik.

**Councilman Norton:** The Summer Recreation Program just ended and it was a great one. He thanks all of the staff for their outstanding work this year. He also thanks the Police and Fire Departments for visiting the Summer Recreation Program. Fall sports will be starting soon. On September 9<sup>th</sup> the end of summer concert will be taking place at Betty Poyer field. On September 22<sup>nd</sup> we will be hosting our annual job fair outside at the school. He received a request to restripe one of the tennis courts so that it could be used for pickle ball. After a short discussion, everyone agreed that as long as we can afford it we can do so. He thanks Mr. Rheinhardt for everything he has done for Wharton and welcomes Mr. Kovalcik

**Councilwoman Vasquez:** She thanks Mr. Rheinhardt for everything he has done for Wharton and welcomes Mr. Kovalcik

**Councilman Yeager:** Fire calls are down slightly from last year, but the department is still quite busy. He thanks Mr. Rheinhardt for everything he has done for Wharton and welcomes Mr. Kovalcik

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the Police Chief, David Young and the Fire Chief, Gene Minell who both thanked Mr. Rheinhardt for working with them over the years and wished him the best in his new endeavor. They both welcomed Mr. Kovalcik.

**Mayor Chegwidden's Report:** Thank you to everyone who made the carnival possible, especially Ms. Ghebreel. The parking lot project is moving along nicely. The refresh at Langdon Park looks great. It's nice to see good things happening throughout town.

Mayor Chegwidden then discussed how Mr. Rheinhardt did a great job for the town and how he will be greatly missed. He really helped to bring us where we are today, cleaned up a lot of things, and got us where they had envisioned that we could be. Mayor Chegwidden then presented Mr. Rheinhardt with a key to the city to thank him for everything that he has done for Wharton.

### Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

**Mike Bezney, 1 Bartek Lane:** Mr. Bezney thanked Mr. Rheinhardt for his assistance throughout the years. He asked if he was able to present the Mayor and Council with a petition that he had circulated that has approx. 150 signatures objecting to Wharton Woods application that is before the Planning Board. The Planning Board was unable to accept it, so he wanted to give the Council the feedback. Mr. Hirniak advised that he could submit it as long as there is no legal advice and reminded Mr. Bezney that the Planning Board is an independent Board which the Mayor and Council do not control.

**John McCusker, 34 Ford Ave.:** Mr. McCusker wondered why the people who signed the petition don't come to meetings.

Mayor Chegwidden advised that he goes door to door in town a lot and has heard the opposite. There is always going to be a percentage that doesn't like change, but no change makes things stagnant.

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

**Closed Session**

Council President Wickenheisser introduced R-117-21 to close the meeting to the public for discussion on Purchase of Real Property.

A motion was made by Council President Wickenheisser and was seconded by - Councilwoman Hayes to approve R-117-21.

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| <b>ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-6 NAY-0 ABSENT-0 ABSTAIN-0</b> | <b>MOTION CARRIED</b> |
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A motion was made by Council President Wickenheisser and was seconded by Councilman Binkoski to return to open session.

This motion was approved via voice vote.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Council President Wickenheisser and was seconded by Councilman Binkoski to close the meeting. This motion was approved by voice vote.

August 16, 2021

ATTEST:

**BOROUGH OF WHARTON**

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**Gabrielle Evangelista,**  
**Borough Clerk**

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**WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,**  
**MAYOR**