

MINUTES
RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
JANUARY 3, 2023

Attorney Hirniak 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 Mayor and Council Members

Attorney Hirniak announced that the Morris County Clerk's Office has determined that at the last General Election, William J. Chegwidden was duly elected to the position of Mayor for the Borough of Wharton for a term of four years.

Attorney Hirniak called William J. Chegwidden to the platform to be sworn in. Congratulations were offered by all in attendance.

Mayor Chegwidden announced that the Morris County Clerk's Office has determined that at the last General Election, Robert Norton and Paola Vasquez 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. Congratulations were offered by all in attendance.

Mayor Chegwidden invited the Council Members to address the public.

Councilwoman Vasquez: Councilwoman Vasquez gave a moving speech about her journey to becoming a Councilwoman and thanked the voters, her family, her new boss, and everyone in Wharton for supporting her. She is so happy that everyone here works so well as a team and she is proud to be a part of it. She will continue to do her best for the town.

Councilman Norton: Councilman Norton thanked everyone for their support. The last time he and Councilwoman Vasquez were sworn in was right before Covid hit and everything went very differently than anticipated. Despite the craziness, it has been a great 3 years and he is looking forward to serving the community for 3 more.

Mayor Chegwidden: Mayor Chegwidden thanked his wife and his family for their constant support during his tenure in Wharton. This is his 5th time being sworn in and it has gone from his children being very little to his youngest, Vaughn, being here as an adult to help swear him in. He also thanks Vaughn, for his assistance with the grant application that helped us to get the open space grant we just received.

Mayor Chegwidden noted that he received calls from Senator Bucco and County Surrogate Darling's offices and received a letter from Assemblywoman Dunn that he would like added to the record under correspondence.

He then asked for a moment of silence in honor of Ms. Denison who recently passed and was a crossing guard for Wharton for 30 plus years.

Roll Call

Mayor Chegwidden to request Roll Call:

Councilman Vincent Binkoski
Councilwoman Sandra Hayes
Councilman Robert Norton

Councilwoman Paola Vasquez
Councilwoman Nicole Wickenheisser
Councilman Thomas Yeager

Flag Salute

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

Election of Council President

Motion by Councilman Yeager and seconded by Councilman Norton to elect Councilman Binkoski as Council President for the year 2023.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA:5	NAY: 0	ABSENT:0	ABSTAIN: 1- Binkoski
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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-01-23: Meeting Schedule
 - R-02-23: Temporary Budget for 2023
 - R-03-23: Temporary Capital Budget
 - R-04-23: Cash Management Plan for 2023
 - R-05-23: Professionals Resolution- Competitive Contracting
 - R-06-23: Professionals Resolution- Discretionary
 - R-07-23: Authorizing Mayor to Execute Agreement for Risk Management Consultant Services for the Year 2023
 - R-08-23: Approve Agreement Health Benefits Producer
 - R-09-23: Fixing Interest Rate on Delinquent Taxes for 2023
 - R-10-23: Authorizing the Tax Collector and Utility Collector to Cancel Any Balances under \$10.00 as Deemed Necessary
 - R-11-23: Authorizing Returned Check Fee
 - R-12-23: Designating Public Agency Compliance Officer
 - R-13-23: Authorizing Treasurer to Sign and Approve Purchase Orders in the Event the Administrator/CFO is not Available
 - R-14-23: Setting Hourly Fee for Independent Attorneys
 - R-15-23: Liability Search Officer for 2023
 - R-16-23: Tax Search Officer for 2023
 - R-17-23: Authorizing Certain Payments Outside of Scheduled Council Meetings
 - R-18-23: Authorizing Re-Establishment of Petty Cash Funds
 - R-19-23: Designating Official Newspapers for 2023
 - R-20-23: Authorizing Signatures on Borough Checks
 - R-21-23: Establish Bid Threshold
 - R-22-23: Authorizing Mayor, Administrator and Borough Clerk to Execute and Submit Grant Applications if Due Date is Outside of Scheduled Council Meetings
 - R-23-23: Appointment of 2023 Local Emergency Planning Committee
 - R-24-23: Authorizing Required Notice of Tort Claims
 - R-25-23: Volunteer Appreciation Program for 2023
 - R-26-23: Authorizing Participation in the Morris County Co-Operative Purchasing Program
 - R-27-23: Authorizing Participation in the State Co-Operative Purchasing Program
 - R-28-23: Authorizing Participation in the Somerset County Co-Operative Purchasing Program
 - R-29-23: Authorizing Participation in the Bergen County Co-Operative Purchasing Program
 - R-30-23: Authorizing Participation in the Cranford Police Co-

Operative Purchasing Program
R-31-23: Authorize Participation in the Sourcewell Co-Operative Purchasing Program
R-32-23: Authorizing Participation in the Educational Services Commission of NJ Co-Operative Purchasing Program
R-33-23: Authorize Participation in OMNIA Co-Operative Purchasing Program
R-34-23: Authorize Participation in NJ Edge Co-Operative Purchasing Program
R-35-23: Appoint Records Custodians

Mayor's Appointments that Require Council Consent

Alternate Police Chaplain- James Gottshall, one-year term to expire 12/31/23

Alternate School Crossing Guards- Christina Dorr, James Winston Jr., and Melissa Phelan one-year terms to expire 12/31/23

Assistant Administrator- Gabrielle Evangelista, one-year term to expire 12/31/23

Assistant Director of Public Works- Thomas Quillinan, one-year term to expire 12/31/23

Assistant to Construction Official- Desinez Ruffo, one-year term to expire 12/31/23

Board of Health Member- Leonor Vasquez, three-year term to expire 12/31/25

Board of Health Secretary- Desinez Ruffo, one-year term to expire 12/31/23

Board of Health Secretary for Licensing- Cheryl Muzzillo, one-year term to expire 12/31/23

Certifying Payroll Officers- Diana Fernandez, Joseph Kovalcik Jr., and Yolanda Dykes one-year terms to expire 12/31/23

Clean Communities Coordinator- Scott Hutchins, one-year term to expire 12/31/23

Community Affairs Coordinator- Cheryl Muzzillo, one-year term to expire 12/31/23

Deputy Borough Clerk- Cheryl Muzzillo and Desinez Ruffo, one-year terms to expire 12/31/23

Deputy Emergency Management Coordinators- David Young and Leon Stickle, one-year terms to expire 12/31/23

Deputy Fire Official- John Webber, one-year term to expire 12/31/23

Deputy Housing and Zoning Officers- Patrick Laverty and Leon Stickle, one-year terms to expire 12/31/23

Deputy Tax Collector- Sandi Critchlaw, one-year term to expire 12/31/23

Deputy Water/Sewer Collector- Diana Fernandez, one-year term to expire 12/31/23

Director of Public Works- Scott Hutchins, one-year term to expire 12/31/23

Electrical Inspector- Gregory Chontow, four-year term to expire 12/31/26

Fire Official- Richard Cloughley, one-year term to expire, 12/31/23

Grant Coordinator- John Manna, one-year term to expire 12/31/23

Matrons- Alice Doblosky, Jen O'Malley-Dorr, Vicky Santana-Stickle, and Bonnie Sullivan, one-year terms to expire 12/31/23

Morris County Open Space and Farmland Preservation Representative- John Manna, one-year term to expire 12/31/23

Municipal Housing Liaison for COAH- Patrick Laverty, one-year term to expire 12/31/23

Personnel Administrator- Gabrielle Evangelista, one-year term to expire 12/31/23

Planning Board Secretary- Desinez Ruffo, one-year term to expire 12/31/23

Plumbing Inspector- James Gonroski, four-year term to expire 12/31/26

Police Chaplain- Thomas Beirne, one-year term to expire 12/31/23

Recreation Director- Cheryl Muzzillo, one-year term to expire 12/31/23

Recycling Coordinator- Scott Hutchins, one-year term to expire 12/31/23

RVRSa Representative- Glenn Corbett, five-year term to expire 12/31/27

School Crossing Guards- Kathleena Jackson, Jackie Kelly, Deborah Kline, Maureen Macalalag, Stephanie Mertz, Clifford Rollins, Robert Thrower, and Lois Werts, one-year terms to expire 12/31/23

Treasurer- Yolanda Dykes, one-year term to expire 12/31/23

Water/Sewer Clerk- Sandi Critchlaw, one-year term to expire 12/31/23

Water/Sewer Operator- Thomas Quillinan, one-year term to expire 12/31/23

Zoning/Housing Enforcement Official/Road Opening Official – Kevin Lewthwaite, one- year term to expire 12/31/23

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), Councilwoman Vasquez, and Councilman Yeager

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 12/31/23.

Planning Board Class III Member- Councilwoman Wickenheisser, one-year term to expire 12/31/23

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

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

Mayor's Appointments

Alternate Member to the Community Development Revenue Sharing Committee- Sandra Hayes, one-year term to expire 12/31/23

Mayor Representative to the Morris County Community Development Revenue Sharing Committee- Paola Vasquez, one-year term to expire 12/31/23

Planning Board Alternate- Steven Dickinson, two-year term to expire 12/31/24

Planning Board Class 2 Member- Barbara Chiappa, four-year term to expire 12/31/26

Planning Board Class 4 Members- Brian Bosworth and Peter Rathjens, four-year term to expire 12/31/26

Trustees of Library- Charlotte Kelly and Michele Howe, five-year terms to expire 12/31/27

Correspondence

- Letter from Assemblywoman Dunn

Council Remarks:

Council President Binkoski: Thank you to the rest of the Council for voting him Council President. It's an honor to be a part of this team. He is looking forward to the next year.

Councilwoman Hayes: She thanks everyone for attending. In 2022 we had a municipal tax decrease while remaining in a good place financially and making sure all of our departments have what they need. We are almost done building the 2023 budget. We've received some major grants, which are very helpful. She thanks Mr. Kovalcik for everything that he does. We had 3 major roles in transition at Town Hall and she thanks everyone for keeping things running smoothly. She thanks Ms. Evangelista for her assistance with this. She also thanks all of our employees, attorneys, and engineers. It was a busy year and everything went smoothly.

Councilman Norton: He thanks everyone for attending the meeting and wishes everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year. He has many meetings for recreation set up soon and is looking forward to another great year.

Councilwoman Vasquez: Thank you to everyone for attending the meeting. She thanks everyone for helping her, including Mr. Kovalcik. Happy New Year to everyone.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: Happy New Year to everyone. Thank you to everyone in town. She congratulates the Mayor, Councilwoman Vasquez, and Councilman Norton on their re-elections.

Councilman Yeager: He welcomes everyone back and congratulations them on their re-elections. He also congratulates Council President Binkoski. Last year the Police Department hired 3 new officers and has one more starting this week. The Fire Department will do their annual appointments next month. Happy New Year to everyone.

Mayor Chegwidden recognized County Commissioners, Cabana and Shaw and thanked them for attending.

Mayor Chegwidden's Remarks

Mayor Chegwidden outlined some of the Borough's accomplishments from 2022:

- We remained the second lowest municipal tax per capita for all of Morris County.
- Purchase of two parcels of real property – 1 of which will be a park for passive recreation. We received \$1.373 Million from Open Space Funds for this property purchase. The other parcel gives us frontage on Main Street.
- Substantial work was completed on the Morris Canal and Lock tenders' house. Project is expected to be completed in 2023.
- Work on a Bid for the replacement of Library windows and roof. This will be completed in 2023.
- Began to fund the Rehabilitation and Sitework for Sterling Water tank \$500K
- Work was completed on the Bid documents for the interconnection project for the Sterling Street Water tank.
- Painting of the Recreation Building at Robert Street Park
- Work has begun on the refurbishment of our foot bridges
- Delivery of a new Sanitation truck
- Assimilation of new or existing staff due to retirements or people who left throughout 2022.

He then discussed some things on the horizon for 2023:

- Road Projects to be completed:
 - Washington Street (Grants of \$648K)
 - Lafayette Street (\$231,700 PY Grant from the NJDOT)
 - Robert Street (Grant Funding of \$271,200)
 - Design work will begin on Baker (Grant Funding of \$149,855)
- New Dog Park
- Development of Orchard Mine Park through an offsite improvement agreement
- Overhaul of Columbia Street Park (Potential Grant Funding)
- Completion of Irondale Phase III Trails (Grant funding of \$130,100)
- Completion of the Morris County Canal Lock 2East project.
- Replacement of Library windows (PY CDBG Funds of \$80,000) and roof (CDBG Funds of \$49,000).

He continued that Wharton continues to be fiscally sound. Our books are in the process of being closed for the year and he has been informed by our CFO that we ended the year on a positive note. He would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and would like to thank all of the employees and volunteers that make Wharton the great little town that it is. He also wants to thank the Council for always working as a team for the residents of Wharton. He's looking forward to another great year.

Public Portion

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

Scott Hutchins, DPW Director: Since he rarely has the opportunity to do so, he would like to publicly recognize some of his staff who are in attendance- Paul, a new laborer and Vaughn and Jack, who both work at the recycling center. He thanks all of his staff for another good year.

Mike Bezney, 1 Bartek Lane: Mr. Bezney advised that it is nice to see how everyone works together here, unlike some levels of government. Good luck to everyone this year, and keep trying to do what is best of the community.

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

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Binkoski and was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes.

January 3, 2023

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

ATTEST:

WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR

Gabrielle Evangelista,
Borough Clerk