

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

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
Councilwoman Hayes - Present
Councilman Norton - Excused
Councilwoman Vasquez - Present
Councilwoman Wickenheisser - Present
Councilman Yeager - Present

Also in attendance were Administrator Joseph Kovalcik Jr., Attorney Roman Hirniak and Deputy Borough Clerk Cheryl Muzzillo.

Flag Salute

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

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.

Ordinance

Councilman Yeager presented O-13-23, “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 315, Article II, Section 8 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 seconded by Councilwoman Hayes to adopt O-13-23 on second and final reading.

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

Resolution

Councilwoman Hayes introduced R-125-23, “A Resolution of the Borough of Wharton in Support of the Location and Operation of a Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Retail Facility by Ascend New Jersey, LLC.”

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hayes and seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt R-125-23.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 3	NAY: 2 – BINKOSKI & WICKENHEISSER	ABSENT: 1	ABSTAIN: 0
			MOTION CARRIED

Discussion

- Councilwoman Wickenheisser has heard concerns from local business owners regarding signage and lighting on Main Street. Council President Binkoski expressed the need to have consistent interpretation of the Ordinance for proper enforcement of the rules. Councilwoman Vasquez would like the rules to apply the same way for all businesses and suggested a packet of information should be given to new businesses before they open to help them understand what the rules are. Mayor Chegwidden suggested forming a committee, to include local business owners, and determine what is not currently conforming to our ordinance. The committee would report back to the Council. Attorney Hirniak indicated he would need to look at the ordinance and explained the Governing Body sets the ordinance and our professionals interpret and enforce the rules. There may be a need to change the ordinance, rather than deal with enforcement, if it doesn't accomplish what the Council wants it to.

It was agreed Councilwoman Wickenheisser would chair the committee. Council President Binkoski and Councilwoman Vasquez would serve on the committee, along with Zoning Officer Lewthwaite and local business owners. The committee will report back to the Mayor and Council in November.

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			
R-126-23: Authorize Governmental Energy Aggregation Program and Appoint Energy Agent			
R-127-23: Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2020-018 – LSG TL Holdings			
R-128-23: Wharton Housing Project			
R-129-23: Bid Award-Improvements to Robert Street			
R-130-23: Exempt Vet Refund & Cancellation of Taxes			
A motion was made by Council President Binkoski which was seconded by Councilman Yeager to approve all items listed on the Consent Agenda.			
ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 5 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 1 ABSTAIN: 0			
			MOTION CARRIED

Correspondence

- Notice from Roxbury Township

Council Reports

Council President Binkoski: He attended Canal Day and he thanked the DPW for their smart preparation and the Police Department for their help as well. It was a beautiful day.

Councilwoman Hayes: No report.

Councilwoman Vasquez: She attended Canal Day and the Fireworks. They were amazing and even better than last year.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: She attended Canal Day and thanked the DPW, Police Department and John Manna for all their hard work. She heard from a resident at 10 North Main who was concerned because people are not parking in parking spaces. There is a concern a fire truck wouldn't be able to get through, if necessary. Councilman Yeager will discuss the parking issue with the Police Chief.

Councilman Yeager: No report.

Mayor Chegwidden's Report: He attended Canal Day and this year's was the largest we've ever had. John Manna does a phenomenal job organizing it and is great at working with the DPW and Police Department. He thanked everyone for a job well done.

He indicated the Redevelopment Agreement should be in place by next month's meeting. Mr. Kovalcik will be looking it over and will also be working with Ascend on their project.

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 to adjourn was made by Council President Binkoski and seconded by Councilwoman Hayes. This motion was approved via voice vote.

September 11, 2023

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

ATTEST:

WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR

Cheryl Muzzillo,
Deputy Borough Clerk