

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 23, 2015

Opening Items

Mayor Chegwidden called the Meeting to Order.

Mayor Chegwidden read the Open Public Meeting Statement.

Roll Call

Mayor Chegwidden requested Roll Call:

Council President Wickenheisser – Present
Councilman Binkoski – Present
Councilman Corbett – Present
Councilwoman Hayes- Present
Councilman Norton- Absent
Councilman Yeager- Present

Also in attendance were Administrator/CFO Jon Rheinhardt, Borough Clerk Gabrielle Evangelista, and Attorney George Johnson.

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, the Mayor or Council President shall have the discretion to terminate any 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.

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: All bills referred to the finance committee to be paid if found correct.

Approval of Minutes from 2/2/15 and 2/11/15

Resolution: R-45-15: Approve Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2014-013
 R-46-15: Amend R-38-15
 R-47-15: 2015 Fireworks Contract
 R-48-15: Authorize Construction Change Order
 R-49-15: Approve Tax Sale Redemption TSC 09-20
 R-50-15: State Tax Appeal Block 1317, Lot 15
 R-51-15: Property Tax Exemption 206 South Main Street

**R-52-15: Approve Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2014-030
R-53-15: Professional Services- Borough Planner**

Approve Facility Application from Wharton Area Little League for 3/1/15-7/30/15

Approve Facility Application from Wharton American Legion for 5/8/15-8/31/15

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

Correspondence

1. Letter from Borough of Rockaway re: Municipal Court rec'd February 17, 2015
2. Letter from Assemblywoman DeCroce re: Mr. Rheinhardt rec'd February 18, 2015.
3. Notification for Multi- Permit Application for Jersey Central Power and Light rec'd February 6, 2015.
4. Letter from Langan Engineering & Environmental Services re: Response Action Outcome 100 E. Dewey Ave. rec'd February 17, 2015.
5. Notice of Ordinance from Mine Hill Township rec'd February 17, 2015.

Council Reports

Council President Wickenheisser: She'd like to wish Toby and Anthony from Hot Rods a lot of success in their new place. On February 14th she along with a few others went to Centennial Court to spend some time with the seniors. They enjoyed spending time with them. She also attended the Chris Herren speech for Project Purple which was a great presentation. She'd like to thank Morris Hills, Morris Knolls, Denville, Rockaway, our Municipal Alliance, and Robin Ghebreel for putting that together.

Councilman Binkoski: The Charity Pub Crawl is upcoming. Shirts are now available at the bars.

Councilman Corbett: He attended the Fire Department Clam Bake which was very well attended. He also attended an event at Hot Rods on Saturday night. The place looks great and the food was very good.

Councilwoman Hayes: On February 18th she attended the Morris County League of Municipalities meeting. William Dressel from the State League of Municipalities gave a 'State of the State' Address. On February 20th she attended the Kids First Foundation Lotsa Pasta fundraiser. It was the most successful one they've had so far. There were over 135 people in attendance. She attended an event at Hot Rods on Sunday and would like to wish them lots of luck.

Councilman Norton: Absent.

Councilman Yeager: He attended the Planning Board Meeting. Ken Loury is the Chairman for this year and Roger Steele is the Vice Chairman. He also attended the Lotsa Pasta dinner.

Mayor Chegwidden's Report: He also attended the Clambake and the Morris County League of Municipalities meeting. Bill Dressel has been with the State League of Municipalities for 30+ years. He will be sorely missed. He also attended the Planning Board meeting. Mr. Loury and Mr. Steele do a great job running that Board. It is looking to be another busy year for them. We received a letter from Rockaway Borough about giving notice about possibly pulling out from the Joint Court. We

will have to see what happens with that. The Department of Planning in Morris County is redoing elements of their Master Plan and is looking for input. He is planning on suggesting fixing up the trails along the Canal that go across Dewey Ave. into Mount Hope. We received a grant for \$100,000 from the Department of Transportation. Mr. Rheinhardt advised that there are several components as to how the money will be spent but the main one is to put in the walking path from Lowe St. over Lafayette St. across the park. These projects are a part of the Safe Routes to School plan that was developed in 2008. Mayor Chegwidden advised that we received a letter from the County about video conferencing for prisoners from the County Jail for Court. Another item he would like to discuss is that we received a letter from Carol Quinn about abandoning the spillway and draining the pond. After a short discussion everyone agreed that they do not want to do that.

Councilman Corbett advised that he attended a meeting of the RVRSA at which they authorized their attorneys to send a letter to Jersey City demanding the payment of the approx. \$700,000 that they have not been paying since 2010. That is the portion of the operation and maintenance budget that the Judge ruled they should be paying in the summary judgment.

Councilwoman Hayes asked if the recent law enacted by the State about pet stores covers the issues that the Council has been asked to pass an Ordinance about. Councilman Corbett advised that he believes that it does.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

Paul Breda, Board of Education Liaison: He is attending as the Board of Education Liaison. They have started developing their budget for the 2015-2016 school year. They typically have to wait for state aid numbers from the state and then can go from there. The presentation on the budget should be in the first couple of weeks of April. Mayor Chegwidden asked how things are looking for this year. Mr. Breda advised that they have a robust 'choice' program which brings students and the aid that follows them into the district. Until he gets the final state aid numbers though it's hard to say. They have some projects that will need to be done in the next couple of years so capital improvements will be a part of the discussion as well. More discussion with Mr. Breda about the budget followed.

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

Closed Session

Council President Wickenheisser made a motion to close the meeting to the public for discussion on Contract Negotiations, which was seconded by Councilman Yeager. This motion was approved by voice vote.

A motion was made by Council President Wickenheisser and was seconded by Councilman Corbett to return to open session. This motion was approved by voice vote.

Adjournment

No further business to attend to this evening, Councilman Binkoski made a motion to adjourn this meeting. This was seconded by Councilman Corbett. This motion was approved by a voice vote.

February 23, 2015

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

ATTEST:

**Gabrielle Evangelista,
Borough Clerk**

**WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR**