

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MARCH 9, 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- Absent, Excused
Councilman Norton- Present
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.

Kate Morgan, Wharton Library: Ms. Morgan asked about the status of the municipal budget so that the Library staff could know when to expect their increases. The budget process was explained to Ms. Morgan.

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

Ordinance

Councilman Corbett introduced O-01-15, “An Ordinance Fixing the Salary of Certain Officers and Employees of the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris, State of New Jersey,” on first reading by title only.

A motion was made by Councilman Corbett and was seconded by Councilman Binkoski to adopt O-01-15 on first reading.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Chegwidden set the date of March 23, 2015 for second and final reading.

Ordinance

Councilman Yeager introduced O-02-15, “Bond Ordinance Providing for the Improvement of the Water Supply and Distribution System (Second Street) in and by the Borough of Wharton, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Appropriating \$350,000 therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$170,000 Bonds or Notes of the Borough for Financing such Appropriation,” on first reading by title only.

A motion was made by Councilman Yeager and was seconded by Council President Wickenheisser to adopt O-02-15 on first reading.

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

Mayor Chegwiddden set the date of March 23, 2015 for second and final reading.

Resolution

Councilman Binkoski introduced R-54-15, “Resolution for a Person to Person Liquor License Transfer.” Councilman Binkoski advised that this transfer is for the license held by Tri-County Federal Credit Union to Father Romano LLC.

Mayor Chegwiddden opened the meeting to the public about this Resolution only.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Binkoski and was seconded by Councilman Corbett to approve R-54-15.

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

Everyone wished the new owner good luck.

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 2/23/15
Resolution: R-55-15: Purchase DPW Vehicle
A motion was made by Council President Wickenheisser and was seconded by Councilman Binkoski 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 Town of Dover re: Joint Municipal Court rec’d March 2, 2015.
2. Letter from Township of Edison, rec’d March 6, 2015.
3. RVRSA Minutes rec’d February 26, 2015.

4. Monthly Reports from Clerk and Construction

Mayor Chegwidden noted the letter from Dover which advised that the Resolution from Rockaway Borough about withdrawing from the Joint Court was passed too late and according to the contract they would need to pass another one for the following year.

Council Reports

Council President Wickenheisser: No report.

Councilman Binkoski: He attended the FOP fundraiser. It was well attended and it was nice to see members of the Fire Department at the event supporting the Police Department. He had the opportunity to speak with Freeholder Doug Cabana. The Republican Club scholarship application is now available for Morris Hills students.

Councilman Corbett: He would remind anyone who is interested that the American Legion also has a scholarship available. On 2/24 he attended the infrastructure meeting of the RVRSA. There are a number of projects that they have to go forward with. The good news is that one project will cost about half of what was originally projected. He also attended the FOP fundraiser and would like to congratulate all those who organized it. He'd like to remind everyone that on March 14th is the Morristown St. Patrick's Day Parade which originated in Wharton. This will be the 25th Anniversary of it being in Morristown. The Canal House is hosting a murder mystery on March 13th.

Councilwoman Hayes: Absent.

Councilman Norton: No report.

Councilman Yeager: No report.

Mayor Chegwidden's Report: He attended the FOP fundraiser. He chaperoned the Municipal Alliance dance along with Councilman Norton. Last Saturday he was the moderator for a class taught by Mr. Rheinhardt about Municipal Budgeting. Along with Mr. Rheinhardt he also attended the grant presentation for the Community Development Block Grants. We are applying for an \$80,000 grant for water main improvements to Church Street.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

Chet Talocci, 36 Kitchell Ave.: Mr. Talocci came in to discuss his tax assessment. His assessment was recently increased which he does not agree with. Mr. Talocci was advised to call the Tax Assessor to set up an appointment to have him come to the home. Mr. Rheinhardt advised on how the tax assessment program for the Borough works. More discussion about this issue 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 Litigation and 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.

March 9, 2015

ATTEST:

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

Gabrielle Evangelista,
Borough Clerk

WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR