

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 13, 2017

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 Binkoski – Present
Councilman Corbett – Present
Councilwoman Hayes- Present
Councilwoman Veres- Present
Councilwoman Wickenheisser- Present
Councilman Yeager- Present

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

Flag Salute- Moment of Silence

Prior to the Flag Salute, Mayor Chegwidden requested a moment of silence in honor of the passing of former Councilman Brian Gillen. Mr. Gillen served the community as a member of the Council for 30 years.

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.

Ordinance

Council President Binkoski presented O-18-17, “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 315, Article II, Section 7 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris, State of New Jersey,” on second reading by title only.

Council President Binkoski advised that this is for the no parking that was discussed at the last meeting.

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 Council President Binkoski and was seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt O-18-17 on second and final reading.

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

MOTION CARRIED

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 October 30, 2017

Resolutions: R-140-17: Renew Membership North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefits Fund

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

MOTION CARRIED

Correspondence

- Monthly Reports from Clerk and Construction

Council Reports

Council President Binkoski: Congratulations to Councilwoman Hayes on her win for Council. He'd like to thank all of his family and friends for their support throughout this long process. He'd like to thank the voters of Wharton for their continued faith in Councilwoman Hayes and himself to continue working to keep Wharton a great place to live. A special thank you to Councilwoman Wickenheisser, Councilman Yeager, and Mayor Chegwiddden for coming out and walking with them, he's truly convinced that this show of unity along with their positive message was a big factor in their success in the election. He thanks the town for their support. The news of Brian Gillen's passing was a great shock and sadness to the town. As the Mayor mentioned, he served for 30 years on the Council, but before that he was instrumental in bringing soccer to Wharton among other things that he and his family did. They were mainstays in this town and it will be a big loss for the town. He attended the Veteran's Eve Parade on Friday, which was one the coldest he's ever been to. He also had a pre-meeting with Chief Fernandez and Lieutenant Young to discuss something that will be discussed in Closed Session.

Councilman Corbett: Congratulations to Councilwoman Hayes and Council President Binkoski on their victory last week. On 11/1 he attended an infrastructure meeting of the RVRSA. On 11/9 he attended 3 meetings at the RVRSA- finance, infrastructure, and regular. He attended the ceremony for Veteran's Eve but it was too cold for him to walk in the parade. He expresses his condolences to Brian Gillen's family.

Councilwoman Hayes: Congratulations to Council President Binkoski on the election win. She thanks all of the people in Wharton who put their faith in them. She'd like to especially thank Council President Binkoski for putting up her throughout the process. She will attend the services for Mr. Gillen and will pass on the entire Council's condolences since many will be at the League of Municipalities Convention.

Councilwoman Veres: Congratulations to Council President Binkoski and Councilwoman Hayes on their victory last week in the election. She looks forward to working with them for the foreseeable future. She would have liked to attend the Veteran's Eve Parade, but has been sick for two weeks and didn't think it was a good idea.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: Congratulations to Council President Binkoski and Councilwoman Hayes on their win. She offers her condolences to the Gillen family, it's a big loss.

Councilman Yeager: Congratulations to Council President Binkoski and Councilwoman Hayes. He ran with Mr. Gillen for his first few elections and he was a great running mate and a great public servant. He will be truly missed.

Mayor Chegwiddden's Report

He remembers Mr. Gillen attending many of the League of Municipalities Conventions and him always being asked to sing "God Bless America." For many years, he also took the Council photo as he had the photography studio. He built the soccer program here from nothing into what it is today, he really put his time in. He was a great member of the Council, as they told him when they gave him his rocking chair as a retirement gift. He stopped over to visit the family and bring food tonight and expressed the condolences of the Council and the town. He told them how grateful we were to have him for as many years as we did. He was a great soul.

He would also like to congratulate Councilwoman Hayes and Council President Binkoski on their victory. He's glad that the residents of Wharton see the job that they do and that the Council does.

He would like to thank all of the Veterans who attended Veteran's Eve. It's always a great event, albeit a small event, especially when it's that cold, but it's neat to see the people looking out the windows on Main Street as they walk. He thanks Council President Binkoski for his service.

The water tower is being sanitized and will be filled in about a week or so. He met with the person doing the trails project and they have mapped out some ideas which includes a running track around Robert Street Park. This is just a concept so if anyone has more ideas they can look into them. His suggestion was to name the trails after people who have dedicated themselves to Wharton.

They have plans from the architect for re-doing the bathrooms in the downstairs of the library. We can apply for the Community Development Block Grant to fund this project if the Council wants. They will discuss with the Library Board to see if they are interested. He'd like a committee to work on this. Councilwoman Veres and Councilwoman Hayes will be the committee members. Also about the Library, he saw that they were thinking of pulling away and doing their own payroll, which he disagrees with. We pay a lot of the pension and other costs for them.

He has a letter from Morris County advising that they are working with TM Associates to apply to the NJDEP for updated permits for the North Main Street Extension Project. The letter says the permits and approvals should be obtained in spring 2018 and that the project will be bid in summer 2018 with a completion date by the end of the year.

He received information about a program run by Habitat for Humanity that works with senior citizens on projects that will allow them to stay in their homes. We already work with them on a program already and they have been a great partner for us thus far. Council President Binkoski asked about how people can qualify for the existing program. Mayor Chegwiddden advised that they have to be below a certain income level and if they are approved the money loaned is attached to the mortgage so they can't sell the home without repaying it. The money then goes back into the pot. This is funded by COAH fees. Council President Binkoski advised that

he spoke with one of the participants and they did a great job with the project and she was so proud of how the house looked. Mayor Chegwidden advised that there are many of these projects throughout town. If everyone is on board he'd like to partner with them on the senior program. Everyone was amenable to the program.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

Harold Kay, 25168 Westview: Congratulations to Council President Binkoski and Councilwoman Hayes for their victory in this year's Council race. Although he is disappointed that he and Mr. LoRe didn't win, he is very proud of the miles that they walked, the number of doors that they knocked on, and the many conversations that they had with the citizens of Wharton. Mr. LoRe and he ran a substantive campaign based on real issues and positive vision of the future of our Borough. They didn't resort to half-truths, mischaracterizations, silly mailers, half-baked Facebook posts, or otherwise insult the intelligence of the public. He's proud of how they conducted themselves during the campaign. Running for public office is one of the greatest experiences of his life. He feels more connected to Wharton than anywhere else he's lived since he was a child. He thanks everyone who donated their hard earned money or volunteered their time and effort on their behalf. Although the 2017 campaign is over, he thinks that we're all looking forward to 2018. He knows that their distinguished competition disagreed on a number of issues but he is convinced that all of them love Wharton and he looks forward to continuing this debate in the future.

John McCusker, 34 Ford Ave.: He asked about a sign or banner that he saw recently looking for volunteers EMTs. Council President Binkoski advised that it's not really clear, but it is for the Mine Hill rescue squad.

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

Closed Session

Council President Binkoski introduced R-141-17 to close the meeting to the public for discussion on Litigation.

A motion was made by Council President Binkoski and was seconded by Councilman Corbett to approve R-141-17.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-6 NAY-0 ABSENT-0 ABSTAIN- 0	MOTION CARRIED
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A motion was made by Councilman Corbett and was seconded by Council President Binkoski to return to open session. This motion was approved by a voice vote.

Council President Binkoski introduced and read R-142-17, "Resolution Authorizing Mayor, Borough Administrator, and Borough Clerk to Sign Agreement," which was seconded by Councilman Yeager.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-6 NAY-0 ABSENT-0 ABSTAIN- 0	MOTION CARRIED
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Adjournment

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

November 13, 2017

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

ATTEST:

**Gabrielle Evangelista,
Borough Clerk**

**WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR**