

RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
JANUARY 3, 2017

Mayor Chegwidden 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 Council Members

Mayor Chegwidden announced that the Morris County Clerk's Office has determined that at the last General Election, Glenn Corbett and Patricia L. Veres were duly elected to the positions of Council Members for the Borough of Wharton for a term of three years.

Mayor Chegwidden called both members to the platform to be sworn in. Congratulations were offered by all in attendance.

Mayor Chegwidden invited the newly elected members to address the public.

Councilwoman Veres: She would like to thank all of the voters in Wharton and the new friends she has made throughout this process. If anyone had told her at this time last year that she would be sitting here, she would have told them they were crazy, but a lot has happened and here she is. She is very grateful for the opportunity and is looking forward to working with the Council, Mayor, and town administration for the better of Wharton.

Councilman Corbett: He would like to thank the citizens and voters in town. He would also like to thank his wife for making the two hour trip with his grandson to attend this evening. He is looking forward to continuing to work for the citizens of Wharton.

Roll Call

Mayor Chegwidden requested Roll Call:

Councilman Vincent Binkoski
Councilman Glenn Corbett
Councilwoman Sandra Hayes
Councilwoman Patricia Veres
Councilwoman Nicole Wickenheisser
Councilman Thomas Yeager

Flag Salute

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

Election of Council President

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wickenheisser and was seconded by Councilman Yeager to elect Councilman Binkoski as Council President for the year 2017.

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

Mayor Chegwidden recognized Mike Stanzilis, Mayor of Mount Arlington, Sam Morris, Mayor of Mine Hill, and Former Councilman George Stafford and thanked them for attending.

Fire Department Appointments

The following appointments are considered to be routine and non-controversial by the Mayor and Council and were approved by one motion. There was be no separate discussion of these appointments unless a council member requests, in which case, the appointment will be considered separately.

Wharton Borough Fire Chief, Edward Nunn, for the year 2017 - term to expire 12/31/17.

Wharton Borough Fire Department Deputy Chief, Gary Cole, for the year 2017- term to expire 12/31/17.

Wharton Borough Fire Department Truck Captain:

- Larry Biehler

Wharton Borough Fire Department Lieutenants:

- Engine Lieutenant- James Ayers
- Truck Lieutenant- Brian McCormick

All one year terms to expire 12/31/17.

A motion to confirm all appointments was made by Council President Binkoski and was seconded by Councilman Corbett

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

Mayor Chegvidden and Councilman Binkoski administered the Oaths of Office for the Fire Department. Congratulations were offered by all in attendance.

Consent Agenda

The following items were considered to be routine and non-controversial by the Mayor and Council and will be approved by one motion. There was 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-1-17: 2017 Meeting Schedule for Mayor and Council Meetings**
 - R-2-17: Setting Hourly Fee for Independent Attorneys**
 - R-3-17: Liability Search Officer for 2017**
 - R-4-17: Tax Search Officer for 2017**
 - R-5-17: Fixing Interest Rate on Delinquent Taxes for 2017**
 - R-6-17: Designating Official Newspapers for 2017**
 - R-7-17: Designating Public Agency Compliance Officer**
 - R-8-17: Cash Management Plan for 2017**
 - R-9-17: Professional Resolution**
 - R-10-17: Appointment of 2017 Local Emergency Planning Committee**
 - R-11-17: Authorizing the Tax Collector and Utility Collector to Cancel Any Balances under \$10.00 as Deemed Necessary**
 - R-12-17: Authorizing Required Notice of Tort Claims**
 - R-13-17: Authorizing Mayor to Execute Agreement with for Risk Management Consultant Services for the Year 2017**
 - R-14-17: Authorizing Re-Establishment of Petty Cash Funds**
 - R-15-17: Temporary Budget for 2017**
 - R-16-17: Volunteer Appreciation Program for 2017**
 - R-17-17: Authorizing Participation in the Morris County Co-Operative Purchasing Program**
 - R-18-17: Authorizing Participation in the State Co-Operative Purchasing Program**
 - R-19-17: Authorizing Signatures on Borough Checks**
 - R-20-17: Authorizing Certain Payments Outside of Scheduled Council Meetings**
 - R-21-17: Establish Bid Threshold**
 - R-22-17: Authorizing Mayor, Administrator and Borough Clerk to Execute and Submit Grant Applications if Due Date is Outside of Scheduled Council Meetings**
 - R-23-17: Authorizing Treasurer to Sign and Approve Purchase Orders in the Event the Administrator/CFO is Not Available**
 - R-24-17: Authorizing Returned Check Fee**
 - R-25-17: Authorizing Participation in the Somerset County Co-Operative Purchasing Program**
 - R-26-17: Authorizing Participation in the Bergen**

County Co-Operative Purchasing Program

Mayor's Appointments that Require Council Consent:

Alternate Member to the Community Development Revenue Sharing Committee- Sandy Hayes, one year term to expire 12/31/17.

Alternate School Crossing Guard- Suzanne Adams, Alice Doblosky, Grace Schomp, and Laura White. All one year appointments to expire 12/31/17.

Assistant Administrator- Gabrielle Evangelista, one year term to expire 12/31/17.

Assistant to Construction Official- Rita Sharp, one year term to expire 12/31/17.

Board of Health Member- Bob Dorr, three year term to expire 12/31/19.

Board of Health Secretary for Licensing- Robin Ghebreal, one year term to expire 12/31/17.

Certifying Payroll Officers- Diana Fernandez, Jon Rheinhardt, and Katelin Lorito one year terms to expire 12/31/17.

Clean Communities Coordinator- Patricia Craven, one year term to expire 12/31/17.

Community Affairs Coordinator- Robin Ghebreal, one year term to expire 12/31/17.

Deputy Borough Clerk- Robin Ghebreal and Diana Fernandez, one year terms to expire 12/31/17.

Deputy Emergency Management Coordinators- David Young and Leon Stickle, one year terms to expire 12/31/17.

Deputy Fire Official- Frank Steinberg, one year term to expire 12/31/17.

Deputy Housing Enforcement Officer - Patrick Laverty, one year term to expire 12/31/17.

Deputy Tax Collector- Patty Craven, one year term to expire 12/31/17.

Deputy Water/Sewer Collector- Diana Fernandez, one year term to expire 12/31/17.

Director of Public Works - Scott Hutchins, one year term to expire 12/31/17.

Fire Official- Richard Cloughley, one year term to expire, 12/31/17.

Grant Coordinator- John Manna, one year term to expire 12/31/17.

Matrons- Alice Doblosky, Debra Malson, Jen O'Malley-Dorr, Vicky Santana-Stickle, and Bonnie Sullivan. All one year appointments to expire 12/31/17.

Mayor Representative to the Morris County Community Development Revenue Sharing Committee-Vince Binkoski, one year term to expire 12/31/17.

Morris County Open Space and Farmland Preservation Representative – John Manna, one year term to expire 12/31/17.

Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Robin Ghebreal, one year term to expire 12/31/17.

Municipal Housing Liaison for COAH – Patrick Lavery, one year term to expire 12/31/17.

Personnel Administrator- Gabrielle Evangelista, one year term to expire 12/31/17.

Planning Board Alternate- Brian Bosworth, two year term to expire 12/31/18.

Planning Board Alternate- Jennifer O'Malley Dorr, two year term to expire 12/31/18.

Planning Board Secretary- Patty Craven, one year term to expire 12/31/17.

Public Health Nurse - Carol Miller, one year term to expire 12/31/17.

Qualified Purchasing Agent- Jon Rheinhardt, one year term to expire 12/31/17.

Recreation Director- Robin Ghebreal, one year term to expire 12/31/17.

Recycling Coordinator – Scott Hutchins, one year term to expire 12/31/17.

Rockaway River Watershed Cabinet Representatives- Glenn Corbett and Tom Yeager, one year term to expire 12/31/17.

School Crossing Guards – Martha Hoffman, Joyce Hon, Peggy Husti, Kathleena Jackson, Jackie Kelly, Maureen Macalalag, Penny Moraga, and Lois Werts. All one year appointments to expire 12/31/17.

Treasurer – Katelin Lorito, one year term to expire 12/31/17.

Trustee of Library- Ana Jones, five year term to expire 12/31/21.

Water/Sewer Clerk- Patty Craven, one year term to expire 12/31/17.

Water/Sewer Operator- Jeff Mayhew, one year term to expire 12/31/17.

Zoning/Housing Enforcement Official/Road Opening Official - Pedro Moreno, one year term to expire 12/31/17.

Committee Appointments:

Alternate Members to Finance Committee - #1 - Councilman Binkoski and #2 – Councilwoman Wickenheisser

Community Relations- (includes Recreation Committee, Celebration Public Events, Regionalization Committee- Shared Services, Senior Citizen Association) – Councilwoman Wickenheisser

Environmental Commission- Consists of Mayor and Council Members

Finance- (includes Insurance, Budget, Personnel, CFO, Street Lighting, Tax Assessor, Tax Collector, Community Development) - Councilman Corbett

Finance Committee- Councilman Corbett (Chair), Councilwoman Hayes, and Councilman Yeager

Health/Welfare- (includes Board of Health, Public Assistance, Library) – Councilwoman Veres

Personnel Committee- Councilman Corbett, Councilwoman Hayes (Chair), and Councilman Yeager

Public Affairs- (includes Building Inspector, Housing Inspector, Land Use Board, Licenses, Zoning Officer, School Sub-Committee, Youth Advisory) - Councilman Yeager

Public Safety- (includes Police Department, Fire Department, First Aid Squad, Municipal Court, Emergency Management, Elections) - Councilman Binkoski

Public Works- (includes Parks, Building/Grounds, Sanitation, Maintenance Shop, Engineering, Streets and Roads, Water and Sewer) – Councilwoman Hayes

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 12/31/17.

Planning Board Class III Member- Councilman Thomas Yeager, one year term to expire 12/31/17.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

Council Remarks

Council President Binkoski: Congratulations to Councilman Corbett and Councilwoman Veres, he is looking forward to a good year. He appreciates the nomination for Council President. Happy New Year to everyone.

Councilman Corbett: The finance department has already closed out the 2016 year and are already working on the 2017 budget. All of our accounts are in good shape and we are on track to be able to buy another truck for the DPW this year in accordance with our plan.

Councilwoman Hayes: Congratulations to Councilman Corbett and Councilwoman Veres. She thinks that Councilwoman Veres will find that this group is fair and works well together. She is proud of what we've accomplished in 2016 and believes we are on track for a good 2017. Health and happiness to everyone in 2017.

Councilwoman Veres: Thank you to everyone for welcoming her. She knows she will have a bit of a learning curve, but promises to work hard to get past that.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: Happy New Year to everyone. Congratulations to Councilman Corbett and Councilwoman Veres. She is looking forward to good things in 2017.

Councilman Yeager: Congratulations to Councilwoman Veres and Councilman Corbett and all of the Fire Officers who were sworn in tonight. He wishes everyone good luck and a Happy New Year.

Mayor Chegwiddden's Remarks: Mayor Chegwiddden discussed some of Wharton's accomplishments in 2016 which include- an \$80,000 grant for Church Street water main replacement, another \$80,000 grant for East Central Avenue, another \$160,000 grant for West Central Avenue Roadway improvement, paving 15% of our roadways with an additional 15-20% scheduled for 2017, the purchase of the parking lot in the center of town, the line striping and brick pavers on Main Street, and the start of work on our new million gallon water tank which should be completed in 2017. On the horizon for 2017- we've applied for grants for Oxford and Cambridge, we are partnered with the Morris County Park Commission and a train group to work on recommissioning a trolley by the canal in creating a living museum, municipal building improvements of new windows and doors, Main Street revitalization continues with a redevelopment plan that is already underway and with the building of Port Oram Village. Our financials remain positive, we have the second lowest municipal tax in Morris County and the fourth lowest per capita total tax in Morris County. He would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and to thank all of volunteers, employees, and the Council for putting us in great financial position with sticking to a long term plan to become debt free.

Public Portion

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

Susan Davis, 39 Ford Ave.: She would like to thank the decorating committee for the letter she received this year and thinks it's a good way to create a community atmosphere.

Mine Hill Mayor, Sam Morris: He would like to congratulate the newly elected Councilmembers. He has spoken with Mayor Chegwidden about this previously, but it is a huge deal for the town to go debt free. Mine Hill is working on the same goal, which will hopefully be achieved in two years' time. This Council must be doing something right, because it is a difficult goal to achieve. The State financials are getting worse and worse so it is very important. He wishes everyone a good 2017.

Mayor Chegwidden advised that, that plan has been in place and has been worked on since 2003.

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

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Corbett and was seconded by Council President Binkoski. This motion was approved by voice vote.

January 3, 2017

ATTEST:

Gabrielle Evangelista,
Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR