

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MARCH 26, 2018

Mayor Chegwidden called the Meeting to Order

Mayor Chegwidden read the Open Public Meeting Statement

Mayor Chegwidden requested Roll Call:

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

Flag Salute

Mayor Chegwidden then 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 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

Councilman Corbett presented O-06-18, “An Ordinance to Provide for General Capital Projects Enumerated within for the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris and to Provide for the Funding Thereof,” on second reading, by title only.

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public for questions and 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 Corbett and was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes to adopt O-06-18 on first reading.

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

Council President Yeager presented O-07-18, “An Ordinance to Provide for General Capital Projects Enumerated within for the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris and to Provide for the Funding Thereof,” on first reading, by title only.

A motion was made by Council President Yeager and was seconded by Councilman Binkoski to adopt O-07-18 on first reading.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-6 NAY-0 ABSENT-0 ABSTAIN- 0	MOTION CARRIED
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Mayor Chegwidden set the date of April 9, 2018 for second and final reading.

Ordinance

Councilman Binkoski presented O-08-18, “An Ordinance to Provide for General Capital Projects Enumerated within for the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris and to Provide for the Funding Thereof,” on first reading, by title only.

A motion was made by Councilman Binkoski and was seconded by Councilman Corbett to adopt O-08-18 on first reading.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-6 NAY-0 ABSENT-0 ABSTAIN- 0	MOTION CARRIED
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Mayor Chegwidden set the date of April 9, 2018 for second and final reading.

2018 Municipal Budget

Councilman Corbett introduced R-61-18 – the 2018 Municipal Budget and explained:

The Total General Appropriations are	9,635,673.90
Less Anticipated Non-Tax Revenue (Surplus, Misc Revenues, Receipts from delinquent taxes)	5,551,432.90
Less Minimum Library Tax	223,354.00
Difference: Amounts to be raised by Taxes For support Municipal Budget	\$ 3,860,887.00

A motion was made by Councilman Corbett and was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes to adopt the introduction of the 2018 Municipal Budget.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-6 NAY-0 ABSENT-0 ABSTAIN- 0	MOTION CARRIED
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Mayor Chegwidden set the meeting of April 23, 2018 for the public hearing on the 2018 Municipal Budget.

2018 Special District Budget

Council President Yeager introduce R-62-18 – the 2018 Special District Budget.

Mr. Rheinhardt explained:

That the Total Solid Waste Appropriations are	\$ 1,205,411.00
Less Anticipated Non-Tax Revenue (Surplus & Misc Revenues)	78,900.00
Difference: Amounts to be raised by Taxes For support Special District Budget	\$ 1,126,511.00

A motion was made by Council President Yeager and was seconded by Councilman Corbett to adopt the introduction of the 2018 Special District Budget.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-6 NAY-0 ABSENT-0 ABSTAIN- 0	MOTION CARRIED
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Mayor Chegwidden set the meeting of April 23, 2018 for the public hearing on the 2018 Special District Budget.

Resolution

Councilwoman Wickenheisser introduced R-63-18, “Certifying with Civil Rights Requirements”

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wickenheisser and was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes to adopt R-63-18.

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.

Resolutions: ~~R-64-18: Professional Services – GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.~~
Removed
R-65-18: Municipal Alliance Agreement with Top Youth Speakers
R-66-18: Tax Overpayments Applied
R-67-18: Transfer for Funds for Bills Presented
R-68-18: Professional Services -VanCleeef Engineering Assoc.

Approval of Jr. Fire Fighter Application for Nicholas Wickkiser

Approve Facility Application from Wharton Fire Department for the Robert Street Softball Field for selected Sundays and Fridays from 5-8 p.m. from March - August.

A motion was made by Council President Yeager and was seconded by Councilman Corbett to approve all of the items on the Consent Agenda except for R-64-18.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Correspondence

- None

Council Reports

Council President Yeager: He attended the Tenancy Review Board meeting. There is a Planning Board meeting this Thursday for Taco Bell.

Councilman Binkoski: He attended a meeting to discuss the Courts and the direction in which we are going with that. He also attended a meeting to discuss redevelopment in Town.

Councilman Corbett: He appeared at Morristown Superior Court in connection with the RVRSA-Jersey City litigation. There were 4 commissioners called to be there, but only the Chairman testified. The Jersey City commissioner also testified. Their case ended there. Our attorney made a motion to dismiss, which was denied. Jersey City is saying that the contract should be void because the RVRSA failed to pay interest on a \$500,000 credit that they were entitled to. It’s unclear in the contract whether or not they should get interest anyway. He doesn’t think that the judge will think the contract void due to the relatively small amount of money involved. However, during oral argument the judge kept referring to “the project.”

It's been our position that the project is the plant that is still in operation and that Jersey City is supposed to pay its share. The judge kept saying that, as if once the bonds are paid off that Jersey City was out of the case. We haven't put in a single word of testimony on our side yet though. He attended the RVRSA meeting where the new owners of Refresco came and made a presentation. The RVRSA director affirmed that they will continue to give them relief as necessary. They also discussed the Mine Hill contract, they are asking for an additional 18,500 gallons out of the septic reserve, not for new construction.

Councilwoman Hayes: No Report.

Councilwoman Veres: The Library Board meeting has been postponed from last Tuesday until tomorrow, because there was not a quorum. She just returned from the State family law retreat in the Bahamas.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: A reminder that, Thursday night is the Parents Forum at 7 p.m. Last meeting there was a recreation application for a men's soccer league. She wants to note that we are working with Wharton Soccer to make a schedule that works for everyone. Councilwoman Hayes thought that application was for the Fire Department softball. She was advised that this application was on the previous agenda, not tonight's.

Mayor Chegwidden's Report: He also attended the meeting about the Court. Everything is running very smoothly in Mt. Arlington. The Judge, and the Police are happy. We did promise to not keep it in their municipal building for more than two years so they will be looking into other possible locations. They also brought Mine Hill into the meeting and will give them some more information to see if they want to participate. It was a very productive meeting. They will be meeting again to discuss numbers about purchasing a building. He also met with the Borough Planner about an update to our Master Plan. She will be making a presentation about the update, utilizing some of the things that were discussed in the public meetings that we had last year at a future meeting. We will be the first town to actually complete our Highlands Plan, which means that grant money will come towards us. Once again, we're out front. The Highlands Committee were surprised and happy that we're getting this done. We just received a letter from the State DCA about Wharton being named as an enterprise zone. There was not a lot of information in it, and we're asking them for more information. Mr. Rheinhardt advised that he thinks that it specifies us as a zone in need of redevelopment and we could potentially qualify for a special funding source from the IRS that anyone that comes in to redevelop town can get up to 39% of their project in tax credits deferred over 7 years. If that's correct, there will be a lot of interest in redevelopment here. Once we get more information we will let everyone know. At the April 23rd meeting we will discuss potential new designs for Memorial Park in the center of town.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

Gary Cole, Wharton Fire Chief: He asked what was said about the Fire Department during Councilwoman Wickenheisser's report. She advised that they were clarifying the different recreation applications, one of which was the Fire Department for softball.

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

Closed Session

Council President Yeager introduced and read R-69-18, closing the meeting to the public for discussion upon litigation. He then made a motion to approve R-69-18 which was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilman Corbett and was seconded by Councilman Binkoski to close this meeting. This was approved via voice vote.

March 26, 2018

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

ATTEST:

**WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR**

**Gabrielle Evangelista,
Borough Clerk**