

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
APRIL 23, 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

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

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

2018 Budget

Resolution

Council President Yeager introduced R-76-18 “Resolution to Read the Budgets by Title Only.”

A motion was made by Council President Yeager and was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes to adopt Resolution R-76-18.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-6 NAY-0 ABSENT-0 ABSTAIN- 0	MOTION CARRIED
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Mr. Rheinhardt then made a presentation on the 2018 Municipal Budget which explained the budgeting process, shared services that the Borough participates in, the Borough’s debt plan, State funding, anticipated revenues, appropriations, budget CAPs, 2017 capital projects, 2018 planned capital projects and what grants we have received to fund some of those projects, average property tax impact, and the Borough’s tax per capita ranking within Morris County. Mayor Chegwidden and Councilman Corbett also contributed points during the presentation.

2018 Municipal Budget

Councilman Corbett presented Resolution R-61-18, The 2018 Municipal Budget for final adoption.

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments on the 2018 Municipal Budget 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 R-61-18, The 2018 Municipal Budget.

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

MOTION CARRIED

2018 Special District Budget

Councilwoman Hayes presented Resolution R-62-18, The 2018 Special District Budget for final adoption.

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments on the 2018 Special District Budget only.

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

A motion was by Councilwoman Hayes and was seconded by Council President Yeager to adopt R-62-18, The 2018 Special District Budget.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Public Input on Memorial Park Design

- **Presentation by John Thomas, Landscape Architect: Mr. Thomas was asked by the Borough to come up with some draft ideas for redesigning Memorial Park on Main Street. He presented the Mayor, Council, Members of the American Legion, the Police Chief, the Fire Chief, and other members of the public including Harold Kay, Susan Davis, and Joel Aronson with three different options to serve as starting points to discuss what everyone would like to see in the park. Throughout the presentation a variety of items were discussed including having a central plaza and what could be included there, the grading of the property and whether or not that should be changed, lighting, location of the memorials, trees, having a water feature, including a map of the memorials and a history of each, types of materials that could be utilized, the existing memorial bricks and how they can be included still as well as possibly selling new ones, including some kind of overhead covering in the plaza in case of rain during events, handicapped accessibility, signs about not littering in the park, and the location of the Christmas tree. Following the discussion Mayor Chegwidden asked for volunteers for a committee to bring together the ideas that were discussed. They will meet and present their ideas at a future Mayor and Council meeting. Everyone thanked Mr. Thomas for his work.**

***At this point Councilman Binkoski had to leave the meeting.**

Discussion

- **Traffic controls in the area of the schools: Police Chief Fernandez advised that he met with the Traffic Officer and the Town Engineer to continue discussing this issue. They all agreed that they do not like the option of just putting stops on one part of the intersections instead of a four-way stop that was discussed at a previous meeting as they believe it is more confusing and more dangerous. An option is trying just the one-way during school hours to see if that would address the issue. Chief Fernandez advised that we could pass the ordinance and set everything up over the summer to get this in place for the first day of school in the fall. Mayor Chegwidden advised that there are two School Board Members in the audience and asked for their opinions. Ms. Ghebreab advised that she is also worried about speeding on Baker Ave. Chief Fernandez advised that they can do a speed survey on that street to determine what is actually happening in that area. Everyone agreed that they would like to try the one way during school hours on East Central Ave. and Dension Way as a first step. Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public. Stan Denby advised that his mother lives on Lafayette Street and Fern Avenue and there is an issue with people parking during soccer events**

in that area. Mayor Chegwidden advised that one side of the street is no parking and they will post that to see if that helps any. If not, they will see what else can be done. Gary Cole asked about putting a four-way stops at Lafayette and Central and Lafayette and Baker down to Baker and Michigan. Chief Fernandez advised that Michigan is too far outside of the 500 feet zone by the school that the engineer could approve this for. The DOT would need to approve it and they won't. Mayor Chegwidden closed the meeting to the public.

Consent Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes from 4/9/18

**Resolutions: R-77-18: Refund Tax Overpayment Block 201 Lot 25 Qualifier C133F
R-78-18: Payout Matute
R-79-18: Water Capital Ordinance Cancellation**

Approve Fire Fighter Application from Tyler Galuska

Approve Facility Application from American Christian School for 4/23/18-5/31/18

Approve Facility Application from Tyler Daniel Basketball for 7/11/18-8/15/18 for Columbia Street Park and Robert Street Park (after Summer Recreation)

Approval for Wharton Area Little League for use of Robert Street Park for their family day on Sunday, May 6th.

Approval for Civil War Re-Enactors to set up and camp overnight at Betty Poyer Field Prior to Canal Day.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

Correspondence

- RVRSA Meeting Minutes
- Notice of Resolution from Netcong
- Monthly Report from Treasurer

Council Reports

Council President Yeager: He attended the Fire Department's beefsteak dinner, which was a nice event. He attended Opening Day for Little League. Their numbers are up which is great. He attended the Boy Scout's pancake breakfast and their troop is also expanding.

Councilman Binkoski: Absent, Excused.

Councilman Corbett: On 4/9 he attended the User Charge Committee meeting of the RVRSA. They discussed billing changes. On 4/12 he attended the Infrastructure Committee and the regular meeting of the RVRSA. They finally received money from FEMA for damage done during Hurricane Irene. The trial with Jersey City is set to continue and will probably conclude in July. On 4/14 he also attended the Fire Department's beefsteak dinner and had a great time. Today he toured Memorial Park with Mr. Rheinhardt and Ms. Evangelista. The area is much bigger than people think. The organization that administers the survivor tree seedling for the

9/11 memorial has indicated that Wharton will be a recipient. So, we can move ahead with that project.

Councilwoman Hayes: No Report.

Councilwoman Veres: On 4/14 she attended the Fire Department's beefsteak dinner. It was her first time attending and was a great event. On 4/17 she attended the Library Board meeting. There are a lot of exciting things happening at the Library including Summer Reading, a class to prepare for the Citizenship Exam, the free lunch program over the summer for kids, and a free program to kick off Summer Reading on 6/12 called Dinosaur Field Station.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: She also attended the Fire Department's beefsteak and thanks them for a nice evening. She also attended the Opening Day for Little League and thanks everyone involved in preparing for that event. Herself, Ms. Ghebreal, and Mr. Hutchins have all been working together with the various recreation teams to plan the new seasons. It's nice to see all the sports expanding. The DPW is doing a great job with the fields.

Mayor Chegwidden's Report: He'd like to expand on Councilwoman Wickenheisser's report about the fields. We've recently had some problems with unauthorized people using the soccer fields when they are wet. We have put a lot of money into the fields to make them nice for our soccer program and are keeping an eye on this. It's amazing that the Little League program's enrollment is up over 100 kids. The people running the program are doing a great job. All of the fields look fabulous. The Council has done a nice job making an effort to maintain them, adding the new dugouts, and he'd again like to thank Tilcon for their donation for the new scoreboard which will be going in soon. He also thanks the Fire Department for the beefsteak dinner. He had a meeting today with Governor Murphy and some other Mayors from Morris County. One of the topics discussed was the Energy Tax that the State has collected for the towns but has not given to them. He doesn't think that we will ever see it, because the State made plans for that money. Another topic that was discussed was school funding. Some schools received State funding and instead of offsetting tax with it, they put new programs in place. One Mayor explained that his town cut their budget, but the school didn't cut theirs so their taxes went up. Everyone thinks that this is the town's fault, but we are a vehicle to collect taxes for the schools. He is going to suggest that the formula be changed. Another issue discussed was the power outages that recently took place during the winter storms. Mayor Morris from Mine Hill suggested allowing JCP&L to cut down any tree that they need to, to help alleviate some outages. Governor Murphy advised that he met with some out of state crews during the storms and they told him that in other states trees aren't allowed at all in those right of ways so the wires are not potentially compromised. Governor Murphy also spoke with them about how the entire delegation from New Jersey, both Republicans and Democrats are on board for the tunnel. He also discussed trying to get New Jersey Transit to run on time. He also spoke about free education at the County College Level. Mayor Chegwidden appreciates that Governor Murphy took the time to come to Morris County and meet with the Mayors.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

Gary Cole, Fire Chief: He thanks everyone for their kind words about the beefsteak. They try to do the best job that they can.

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

Adjournment

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

April 23, 2018

ATTEST:

**Gabrielle Evangelista,
Borough Clerk**

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

**WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR**