

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 19, 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- Absent, Excused
Councilman Corbett- Present
Councilwoman Hayes- Present
Councilwoman Veres- Present
Councilwoman Wickenheisser- Present

Also in attendance were Administrator 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 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.

Resolution

Councilwoman Hayes introduced R-140-18, “Authorizing the Permanent Appointment of a Police Officer.”

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hayes and was seconded by Councilman Corbett to adopt R-140-18.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Discussion

1. Ordinance Updates

- **Special Sales- Christmas Trees:** Ms. Evangelista advised that based upon the discussion at the previous meeting an update was made to the proposed amendments to this ordinance, which requires applicants for the license to include a drawing of sales, parking, and loading areas so that the Housing and Zoning Officer can review them for any safety concerns prior to approving the license. Councilwoman Hayes advised that she recommends changing the number of licenses to two. Everyone agreed with the changes and this will be on the next agenda for first reading.

- **Criminal Background Checks:** Ms. Evangelista advised that we have sections on criminal background checks in both the ordinances and the Personnel Manual and the ordinance needs some updating to make the two the same.
- **Parking in Municipal Lots:** Lt. Young advised that this update is to include permitted spots in the perimeter of the municipal lot in the center of Main Street. There is also an update that restricts permits being issued to vehicles over 8,000 pounds. Mayor Chegwidden advised that he has also received a request to set up zoned permits for parking on Washington Street so that the residents of that street can still park in front of their homes when the nearby new development is complete. Chief Fernandez advised that it may need to be more than just Washington Street, especially if the Canal House area is also redeveloped. This will be looked into the beginning of next year. After more discussion, the updates to this ordinance will be on the next agenda for first reading. Lt. Young advised that once the ordinance updates are passed, we will be sending out applications for permits so that we can issue them in January.
- **Water and Sewer Ordinances:** Prior to this discussion item, Mayor Chegwidden thanked Mr. Quillinan, Utility Supervisor, for identifying the water losses in the report that he recently did for Mr. Rheinhardt and told him that he is doing a great job with the Water Department. Mr. Rheinhardt advised that the suggested changes to the water ordinance include updating the interest charges to be the same as they are for sewer and tax as well as updating the rate to be equivalent to the rate that the Morris County MUA charges us for the water. For sewer, there is no clear indication of what the 2019 rate will be yet. Right now, the overall budget for the RVRSA is going up 3.5%, but it depends upon how they prorate the charges based on flow. We should have a better idea of the 2019 rate at the first meeting of December. Mr. Quillinan advised on the other suggested changes which include updating some charges to be reflective of our costs, remove a requirement that isn't enforced that hydrants be painted fluorescent, add a hydrant permit fee which is referenced in the ordinance but the fee was never actually included in the ordinance. Another suggested change is to require multi-family dwellings that do not have separate curb-stops for each unit to put them in when certain events occur. This is suggested because often one unit will pay their bill and another will not, causing them to not be able to do shut-offs because it turns off all of the units. After some discussion, the updates to the ordinance will be on the next meeting for first reading.

2. Everyone agreed on the following meeting dates for 2019:

- Feb. 4
- Feb. 25
- March 11
- March 25
- April 8
- April 22
- May 6
- May 20
- June 10
- June 24
- July 15
- August 12
- Sept. 9
- Sept. 23
- Oct. 7

- Oct. 21
- Nov. 18
- Dec. 9
- Dec. 30
- Jan. 6, 2020
- Jan. 20, 2020

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 10/29/18

Resolutions:

- R-141-18: Job Description- Uniform Fire Safety Official
- R-142-18: Job Description- Police Records Clerk
- R-143-18: Job Description- Deputy Uniform Fire Safety Official
- R-144-18: Job Description- Deputy Housing and Zoning Officer
- R-145-18: Job Description- Summer Recreation Director
- R-146-18: Amend Borough Personnel Policy Policies and Procedures Manual/Employee Handbook
- R-147-18: Job Description- Emergency Management Coordinator
- R-148-18: Approve Joining Cranford Police Co-Op
- R-149-18: Police Vehicle Purchase

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Rheinhardt advised that his goal when he got here 15 years ago was to get all of the job descriptions done and those are the final ones for Town Hall.

Councilman Corbett then introduced and made a motion to adopt R-150-18 to transfer funds which was seconded by Council President Yeager,

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

MOTION CARRIED

Correspondence

- Letter from Morris County MUA re: Water Rate Hearing
- Morris County Planning Board Minutes
- Letter from Morris County re: Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment
- Monthly Reports from Clerk and Construction

Council Reports

Council President Yeager: He congratulates Mayor Chegwidden and Councilwoman Wickenheisser on their election victories. He thanks the voters for their continued support and faith in them. He thanks the Fire Department for the invitation to the inspection and dinner. Everything looked great at the inspection and the dinner was fantastic.

Councilman Binkoski: Absent.

Councilman Corbett: He congratulates Mr. Hutchins and the entire DPW on doing a great job during the recent snow storm which left half the State gridlocked. On 10/30 and 11/7 he attended User Charge Committee meetings of the RVRSA. A lot of their conversation revolved around Mine Hill's requests to tie into the system, because they are not a member, they are a customer. On 11/8 he attended the regular meeting of the RVRSA where they approved their budget for the next year. This will be discussed more in Closed Session, but we did finally get a decision in the lawsuit with Jersey City and we did win. That's not the end of it, but it's a good step. On 11/10 he attended the Veteran's Eve Ceremony, which was a great event, but not very well attended. On 11/17 he attended the Fire Department inspection and dinner. He attended the State League of Municipalities Convention, where he attended many seminars including the one that give us a discount on our insurance. He also attended a Finance Committee meeting prior to this one.

Councilwoman Hayes: She congratulates Mayor Chegwidden, Council President Yeager, and Councilwoman Wickenheisser on their election victories. She also congratulates Tim Drake on his permanent appointment. It is nice to see someone from Wharton do such a great job. She also thanks the DPW for a wonderful job. She also attended the State League of Municipalities Convention and the Fire Department inspection and dinner.

Councilwoman Veres: She would like everyone's concurrence on having the rabies shot clinic on Friday 12/14 from 6-8 pm. Ms. Ghebreal advised that it was very difficult to find a vet with availability to do the clinic this year, so this was really the only time that we can have it. Everyone agreed that it is fine. She thanks the Fire Department for the invitation to the inspection and dinner. She thought the DPW did a great job handling the snow event in town. She thanks both Ed Nunn and Scott Hutchins for reaching out to her to let her know the hatchback was open in their car overnight. She also congratulates Mayor Chegwidden, Council President Yeager, and Councilwoman Wickenheisser on their election victories and looks forward to working with them in the next year.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: She congratulates Mayor Chegwidden and Council President Yeager on their election victories. On 11/14 the Municipal Alliance and Police Department gave a presentation on Teen Suicide Prevention and Social Media. It was well attended and they are thinking about doing a similar presentation in the spring. There is no travel basketball team this year and wrestling will begin in December. The annual tree lighting event will be on 12/2 at 6 pm. She attended the Veteran's Eve Parade and Ceremony and it was a very nice event. It would be nice to see more people out there. She also attended the Fire Department's inspection and dinner. She wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mayor Chegwidden's Report: He also congratulates Council President Yeager and Councilwoman Wickenheisser on their election victories and thanks them for everything that they do and for being such great part of this team. He has been getting a lot of requests for a dog park in town. He would like to look at an area that isn't currently being utilized in Robert Street Park to see if that would be feasible. After a short discussion, he would like to put together a committee to work on this. Council President Yeager and Councilwoman Veres both volunteered to be on the committee. Another idea that he saw at the State League of Municipalities Convention is some exercise equipment that can be placed in parks. He also recently spoke with a Councilman from Parsippany who complimented us on our holiday decorations. Another issue that came up a lot at the State League of Municipalities was the discussion about marijuana. He was able to hear a lot from both sides of the discussion and it was very informative. He has met with a medical marijuana outfit who wants to come and give a presentation at a Council meeting. He told them they can come to a meeting in January and we'll advertise when that will be so that we can get feedback from the public about this issue. He thanks the Veterans and the Fire Department for everything that they do. He was in awe with the response to the Dover fire and it is so nice to know that there is a plan in place for things like that.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

Robin Ghebreal: She suggested looking into a handicapped swing if we are looking into new equipment. Mayor Chegwidden said we can look into it. He also wants to look into a splash pad.

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

Closed Session

Council President Yeager then introduced and made a motion to adopt R-151-18 to close the meeting to the public for discussion on litigation, which was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes. This motion was approved by voice vote.

Councilman Corbett made a motion to return to open session which was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes. This motion was approved by voice vote.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hayes and was seconded by Councilman Corbett to close this meeting.

November 19, 2018

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

ATTEST:

**WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR**

**Gabrielle Evangelista,
Borough Clerk**