

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
DECEMBER 3, 2018

Mayor Chegwidden Called the Meeting to Order

Mayor Chegwidden read the Open Public Meeting Statement

Mayor Chegwidden requested Roll Call:

Council President Yeager- Absent, Excused
Councilman Binkoski- Present
Councilman Corbett- Present
Councilwoman Hayes- Present
Councilwoman Veres- Absent, Excused
Councilwoman Wickenheisser- Present

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

Prior to the Flag Salute, Mayor Chegwidden requested a moment of silence for President George Bush.

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.

George Schroll, 141 St. Mary's St.: Mr. Schroll asked about why the rabies shot clinic is scheduled for a Friday evening. Mayor Chegwidden advised that the clinic is set by the Board of Health. Ms. Evangelista advised that they had an issue with getting a vet who was available to do the clinic and that was the only time that there was a vet available. Mr. Schroll then advised that the police have been actively monitoring speeds on his street. As they can't be there all of the time, he noticed that the speed signs have been put out, but haven't been turned on. He knows that they are still collecting data, but he was wondering if he would be able to see a summary of the data. Mayor Chegwidden advised that he would need to check with the Police Department about that. Mayor Chegwidden asked if Mr. Schroll has noticed that the poles around town are starting to be replaced. Councilwoman Hayes thanked Mr. Schroll for bringing that issue to their attention. Mr. Schroll advised about an issue with a large hole in between a catch basin and a pole on Hance Street. Mayor Chegwidden advised that it will be taken care of.

John McCusker, 34 Ford Ave.: Mr. McCusker congratulated the council people who were recently elected. Mr. McCusker asked about where we are in the process of putting in a water park for the kids in town that he has previously discussed with Mayor Chegwidden. Mayor Chegwidden advised that we are still looking into it, but we are first looking at re-doing Memorial Park in the center of town and have recently formed a committee about doing a dog park.

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

Ordinance

Councilwoman Hayes introduced O-19-18, “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 24 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Wharton,” on first reading by title only.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hayes and was seconded by Councilman Binkoski to adopt O-19-18 on first reading.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-4 NAY-0 ABSENT-2 ABSTAIN- 0

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Chegwidden set the date of December 17, 2018 for second and final reading.

Ordinance

Councilwoman Wickenheisser introduced O-20-18, “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 240 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Wharton,” on first reading by title only.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wickenheisser and was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes to adopt O-20-18 on first reading.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-4 NAY-0 ABSENT-2 ABSTAIN- 0

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Chegwidden set the date of December 17, 2018 for second and final reading.

Ordinance

Councilman Binkoski to introduce O-21-18, “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 315, Article II, Section 10 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Wharton,” on first reading by title only.

A motion was made by Councilman Binkoski and was seconded by Councilman Corbett to adopt O-21-18 on first reading.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-4 NAY-0 ABSENT-2 ABSTAIN- 0

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Chegwidden set the date of December 17, 2018 for second and final reading.

Ordinance

Councilwoman Hayes to introduce O-22-18, “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 330 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Wharton,” on first reading by title only.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hayes and was seconded by Councilwoman Wickenheisser to adopt O-22-18 on first reading.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-4 NAY-0 ABSENT-2 ABSTAIN- 0

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Chegwidden set the date of December 17, 2018 for second and final reading.

Ordinance

Councilman Corbett to introduce O-23-18, “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 247 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Wharton,” on first reading by title only.

A motion was made by Councilman Corbett and was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes to adopt O-23-18 on first reading.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-4 NAY-0 ABSENT-2 ABSTAIN- 0

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Chegwiddden set the date of December 17, 2018 for second and final reading.

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 11/19/18

Resolutions: R-152-18: Transfer Resolution

R-153-18: Approve Shared Service Contract with Wharton Board of Education for Class III Officer

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-4 NAY-0 ABSENT-2 ABSTAIN- 0

MOTION CARRIED

Correspondence

None

Council Reports

Council President Yeager: Absent.

Councilman Binkoski: He advised that they are skipping the appointment of the Class III Special Officer that was on the Agenda because they are waiting for one more item that needs to be completed prior to making the appointment. He thanks the Fire Department for the inspection and ladies night dinner. He attended the tree lighting and is happy that the town still does traditional events like that.

Councilman Corbett: On 11/29 he met with Mr. Rheinhardt to discuss the sewer rates. The RVRSA rates are going up 5.6% and they were able to whittle that down to a 3.5% increase for our rate. On 12/3 he met with one member of the 9/11 commission, they are going to meet again in January. For those who celebrate, he wishes everyone a Happy Hanukkah.

Councilwoman Hayes: She attended the tree lighting ceremony as well and thanks the pharmacy for providing snacks for the kids. Since the last meeting she has spent a lot of time with Mr. Hutchins and Mr. Rheinhardt going over things, including capital budget planning. There are a lot of good things coming in the future that they are trying to budget for, but they need to prioritize things and do things as they can. Mayor Chegwiddden agreed, thanking the Council for always doing things over time as they can be done. Mr. Rheinhardt clarified that they have been discussing a splash pad, not a water park.

Councilwoman Veres: Absent.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: She also attended the tree lighting and thanks Wharton Pharmacy, Police, Fire Department, DPW, and all of the kids who participated. It was really nice to hear all of the kids sing. Happy Hanukkah to those that are celebrating.

Mayor Chegwiddden's Report: He wanted to highlight something that happened on Thanksgiving Day. Pop's Chicken hosted meals for all those who weren't having Thanksgiving for free. They are a great part of our community. He also attended the tree lighting, which is always one of his favorite events. He thanks everyone who had a hand in putting that together and everyone who participated.

He recently was on a New Jersey Conference of Mayor's call where they had a number of items to discuss, but instead talked about marijuana for an hour. He thinks it's a little bit ridiculous that our infrastructure is falling apart in the State and they are instead talking about marijuana. They discussed how far apart everyone is on the issue, the Governor wants a 25% tax and the towns would get a 2% tax. He will keep everyone informed as he learns more information.

He recently received a complaint about the traffic on Fern Ave. and he went to see the Rodriguez family after school one day about the problem. He saw firsthand exactly what they were talking about. That neighborhood has really revived itself recently, and there are a lot of kids that live there now. They're very proud and trying to turn the neighborhood around. The Police Chief is aware of the issue now and they are on it. They will be collecting data in the area and issuing tickets as necessary. The worst times for speeding seem to be before and after school.

He then asked Councilman Binkoski to go over the proposed plans that they have received from the landscape architect for Memorial Park based on ideas from the Memorial Park Committee. Councilman Binkoski advised that the proposal includes bringing the park to grade, keeping the two main monuments in place and have them professionally re-pointed, removing the house and re-orienting things to put the presentation area to the left and the Christmas tree to the right. They had an arborist come in and look at the existing trees and they advised that almost all of the big trees on the property are dead so they will be filling in with new trees. Mayor Chegwiddden advised that he actually noticed that at the tree lighting last night. When the trees were all lit up you could see all of the rot underneath. Councilman Binkoski continued that they are thinking of the focal point being the presentation area, with a pergola around that provides some cover in case of rain. The proposal also includes a meandering walkway that will require some of the monuments to be relocated. The Police Chief has advised that he would like to utilize some of the money that was bequeathed to the town for projects for the good of the town to re-do the Vietnam monument that is currently falling apart. There will also be a tree wall on the back end to protect the homes that are next to the park. The Chief also discussed widening Union St. a small amount so that there could be a natural flow of traffic there during events. The proposal also includes subdued lighting. Mayor Chegwiddden advised that the proposal also includes taking an inventory of the existing personalized bricks, and re-doing them so that they are all included in the new design as well. The Memorial Park Committee is going to review the proposal and it will be discussed again.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwiddden opened the meeting to the public.

Mr. McCusker asked if the Class III Special Officer is for the school. Mayor Chegwiddden advised that yes, it is.

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

Adjournment

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

December 3, 2018

ATTEST:

**Gabrielle Evangelista,
Borough Clerk**

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

**WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR**