

RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
JANUARY 6, 2020

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, Robert Norton and Paola Vasquez 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.

Councilman Norton: It is great to be back on the Council. He thanks the voters for voting for him as well as his family for all of their support. He is very anxious to work with the Mayor, Council, and Administration to continue moving Wharton forward in 2020.

Councilwoman Vasquez: She thanks everyone for their trust in her, because she knows that a lot of people don't know her yet. Thank to the Mayor for seeing something in her and trusting her. She is looking forward to working with everyone to do something good for the community.

Mayor Chegwidden recognized Assemblywoman Aura Dunn, Assemblyman Brian Bergan, and Deputy Freeholder Director Stephen Shaw for attending and thanked them for coming.

Roll Call

Mayor Chegwidden requested Roll Call:

Councilman Vincent Binkoski- Present  
Councilwoman Sandra Hayes- Present  
Councilman Robert Norton- Present  
Councilwoman Paola Vasquez- Present  
Councilwoman Nicole Wickenheisser- Present  
Councilman Thomas Yeager- Present

Flag Salute

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

Election of Council President

A motion was made by Councilman Yeager and was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes to elect Councilman Binkoski as Council President for the year 2020.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-5 NAY-0 ABSENT-0 ABSTAIN- 1 (Binkoski) MOTION CARRIED
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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 no separate

discussion of these appointments unless a council member requested, in which case, the appointment would have been considered separately.

Wharton Borough Fire Chief, Brian Cronin, for the year 2020 - term to expire 12/31/20.

Wharton Borough Fire Department Deputy Chief, Eugene Minell, for the year 2020- term to expire 12/31/20.

Wharton Borough Battalion Chief, Eugene Caulfield, for the year 2020- term to expire 12/31/20.

Wharton Borough Fire Department Captain:

- Christopher Krasnick

Wharton Borough Fire Department Lieutenants:

- Michael Marks Jr.
- Justin Ayala

All one-year terms to expire 12/31/20.

A motion to confirm all appointments was made by Councilman Yeager and was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-6 NAY-0 ABSENT-0 ABSTAIN- 0</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>
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Mayor Chegwiddden and Councilman Yeager administered the Oaths of Office for the Fire Department Deputy Chief and Lieutenants. Congratulations were offered by all in attendance.

<p><u>Consent Agenda</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Resolutions:</b> R-01-20: Meeting Schedule R-02-20: Setting Hourly Fee for Independent Attorneys R-03-20: Liability Search Officer for 2020 R-04-20: Tax Search Officer for 2020 R-05-20: Fixing Interest Rate on Delinquent Taxes for 2020 R-06-20: Designating Official Newspapers for 2020 R-07-20: Designating Public Agency Compliance Officer R-08-20: Cash Management Plan for 2020 R-09-20: Professionals Resolution R-10-20: Appointment of 2020 Local Emergency Planning Committee R-11-20: Authorizing the Tax Collector and Utility Collector to Cancel Any Balances under \$10.00 as Deemed Necessary R-12-20: Authorizing Required Notice of Tort Claims R-13-20: Authorizing Mayor to Execute Agreement for Risk Management Consultant Services for the Year 2020 R-14-20: Authorizing Re-Establishment of Petty Cash Funds R-15-20: Temporary Budget for 2020 R-16-20: Volunteer Appreciation Program for 2020 R-17-20: Authorizing Participation in the Morris County Co-Operative Purchasing Program R-18-20: Authorizing Participation in the State Co-Operative Purchasing Program</p>
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- R-19-20: Authorizing Signatures on Borough Checks
- R-20-20: Authorizing Certain Payments Outside of Scheduled Council Meetings
- R-21-20: Establish Bid Threshold
- R-22-20: Authorizing Mayor, Administrator and Borough Clerk to Execute and Submit Grant Applications if Due Date is Outside of Scheduled Council Meetings
- R-23-20: Authorizing Treasurer to Sign and Approve Purchase Orders in the Event the Administrator/CFO is not Available
- R-24-20: Authorizing Returned Check Fee
- R-25-20: Authorizing Participation in the Somerset County Co-Operative Purchasing Program
- R-26-20: Authorizing Participation in the Bergen County Co-Operative Purchasing Program
- R-27-20: Authorizing Participation in the Educational Services Commission of NJ Co-Operative Purchasing Program
- R-28-20: Approve Agreement Health Benefits Producer
- R-29-20: Temporary Capital Budget
- R-30-20: Authorizing Participation in the Cranford Police Co-Operative Purchasing Program

***Mayor's Appointments that Require Council Consent***

**Alternate School Crossing Guards-** Tina Ayala, Alice Doblosky, Melissa Phelan, and Laura White, one-year terms to expire 12/31/20

**Assistant Administrator-** Gabrielle Evangelista, one-year term to expire 12/31/20

**Assistant to Construction Official-** Desinez Ruffo, one-year term to expire 12/31/20

**Board of Health Member-**Leonor Vasquez, three-year term to expire 12/31/22

**Board of Health Secretary for Licensing-** Robin Ghebreal, one-year term to expire 12/31/20

**Certifying Payroll Officers-** Diana Fernandez, Jon Rheinhardt, and Katelin Lorito one-year terms to expire 12/31/20

**Clean Communities Coordinator-** Patricia Craven, one-year term to expire 12/31/20

**Community Affairs Coordinator-** Robin Ghebreal, one-year term to expire 12/31/20

**Deputy Borough Clerk-** Robin Ghebreal and Diana Fernandez, one-year terms to expire 12/31/20

**Deputy Emergency Management Coordinators-** David Young and Leon Stickle, one-year terms to expire 12/31/20

**Deputy Fire Official-** Douglas Svoboda, one-year term to expire 12/31/20

**Deputy Housing Enforcement Officers-** Patrick Lavery and Kevin Lewthwaite, one-year terms to expire 12/31/20

**Deputy Tax Collector-** Patty Craven, one-year term to expire 12/31/20

**Deputy Water/Sewer Collector-** Diana Fernandez, one-year term to expire 12/31/20

**Director of Public Works-** Scott Hutchins, one-year term to expire 12/31/20

**Fire Official-** Richard Cloughley, one-year term to expire, 12/31/20

**Grant Coordinator-** John Manna, one-year term to expire 12/31/20

Matrons- Alice Doblosky, Jen O'Malley-Dorr, Vicky Santana-Stickle, and Bonnie Sullivan, one-year terms to expire 12/31/20

Morris County Open Space and Farmland Preservation Representative- John Manna, one-year term to expire 12/31/20

Municipal Alliance Coordinator- Robin Ghebreal, one-year term to expire 12/31/20

Municipal Housing Liaison for COAH- Patrick Laverty, one-year term to expire 12/31/20

Personnel Administrator- Gabrielle Evangelista, one-year term to expire 12/31/20

Planning Board Secretary- Patricia Craven, one-year term to expire 12/31/20

Police Chaplain- Thomas Beirne, one-year term to expire 12/31/20

Qualified Purchasing Agent- Jon Rheinhardt, one-year term to expire 12/31/20

Recreation Director- Robin Ghebreal, one-year term to expire 12/31/20

Recycling Coordinator- Scott Hutchins, one-year term to expire 12/31/20

School Crossing Guards- Suzanne Adams, Joyce Hon, Kathleena Jackson, Jackie Kelly, Maureen Macalalag, Clifford Rollins, Robert Thrower, and Lois Werts, one-year terms to expire 12/31/20

Treasurer- Katelin Lorito, one-year term to expire 12/31/20

Water/Sewer Clerk- Patty Craven, one-year term to expire 12/31/20

Water/Sewer Operator- Thomas Quillinan, one-year term to expire 12/31/20

Zoning/Housing Enforcement Official/Road Opening Official - Pedro Moreno, one-year term to expire 12/31/20

Committee Appointments:

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

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

Environmental Commission- Consists of Mayor and Council Members

Finance- (includes Insurance, Budget, Personnel, CFO, Street Lighting, Tax Assessor, Tax Collector, Community Development) – Councilwoman Hayes

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

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

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

Public Affairs- (includes Building Inspector, Housing Inspector, Planning Board, Licenses, Zoning Officer, School Sub-Committee) – Councilwoman Wickenheisser

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

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

**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 12/31/20.

**Planning Board Class III Member-** Councilwoman Wickenheisser, one-year term to expire 12/31/20

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

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Mayor's Appointments**

**Alternate Member to the Community Development Revenue Sharing Committee-** Sandra Hayes, one-year term to expire 12/31/20

**Mayor Representative to the Morris County Community Development Revenue Sharing Committee-**Vincent Binkoski, one-year term to expire 12/31/20

**Municipal Alliance Committee Members-** Mayor William Chegwiddden, Councilman Robert Norton, Police Chief David Young, Administrator Jon Rheinhardt, Sheriff James Gannon, Superintendent Christopher Herdman, Dawn Klose, Jennifer DiSanto, Pamela Schiele, Eleazar Cortezano, Kevin Hernandez, Bonnie LaVoie, Rick Abline, Rino DePiano, Angie Deiling, and Susan Downer, one-year terms to expire 12/31/20

**Planning Board Alternate-** Barbara Chiappa to fill the remainder of a two-year terms to expire 12/31/20

**Planning Board Class IV Members-** Ken Loury, Roger Steele, and Marc Harris, four-year terms to expire 12/31/23

**Planning Board Class IV Member-** Brian Bosworth to fill the remainder of a four-year term to expire 12/31/22

**Trustee of Library-** Michelle Howe, to fill the remainder of a five-year term to expire 12/31/22.

**Trustee of Library-** Debra Demattio, five-year term to expire 12/31/24.

A motion was made Councilman Yeager and was seconded by Council President Binkoski to confirm the Mayor's appointments.

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Council Remarks**

**Council President Binkoski:** Thank you to the Council for giving him the opportunity to be the Council President this year. We always have a lot going on and this year will be no different. He's looking forward to another good year.

**Councilwoman Hayes:** Welcome back to Councilman Norton and welcome to Councilwoman Vasquez. She is looking forward to working with them both. As

Council President Binkoski said, there is a lot on the agenda for this year and she is looking forward to it.

Councilman Norton: Congratulations to the Fire Department officials that were appointed, he wishes them good luck and a safe year. Happy New Year everyone.

Councilwoman Vasquez: Thank you again to everyone. She is excited to work and can't wait to start.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: Happy New Year, she is looking forward to everything that is coming up this year. Congratulations to everyone who was appointed tonight, she is looking forward to working with everyone.

Councilman Yeager: Congratulations to the Fire Department appointees. Happy New Year to everyone. He is looking forward to looking with everyone throughout the year.

Mayor Chegwidde's Remarks:

He congratulates Councilwoman Vasquez and Councilman Norton. As they went around door to door it was refreshing to see what a great team they are. It's nice that they a part of our team on the Council. He thanks all of the Borough's employees for everything that they do. We have a culture of customer service and when someone needs something, we try to make sure it gets done. Everyone does a great job of making sure that things get done. Thank you to the volunteers that help with the variety of events that we have throughout the year, Ms. Ghebreal coordinates many of them, but they can't get done without all of the volunteers. Volunteers also make our sports programs happen and sit on our Boards. The Planning Board will be very busy again this year and they do an excellent job for the Borough. Thank you to the Fire Department, they are always helping and do an incredible job. Our Police Department is also fantastic, Chief Young runs it well. Thank you to the Council for everything that they've done to put us in the place where we are. Mr. Rheinhardt has looked at financials for this year and we are in a good place. He thanks him for all of his work. Wharton is involved with a lot of shared services- landscaping & plowing at the school, Board of Health, Police Service covering Mine Hill, sharing of equipment with other towns, animal control, among others. We are always looking for ways to keep taxes low and sharing services or equipment is one way which helps us to do so.

Some projects from 2019 that were completed include, water main and road improvements on Downs Avenue, Ford Avenue, Kitchell Avenue, and Orange Street. Roads improvements were completed on Columbia Street, Division Street, East Sterling Street, and Lane Way. We have taken care of our infrastructure over the years and it has become desirable for people to move here. Various parks were improved and revitalized. The trails on Irondale Mountain are now marked, which was completed using grant money. It is a beautiful walk up there. Construction in Memorial Park started and the new Dog Park on West Dewey Avenue was created. Memorial Park should be completed by Memorial Day and it is going to be a beautiful centerpiece for the town. The Dog Park is being utilized a lot and people seem to be cleaning up after themselves. The revitalization of Main Street is continuing, new crosswalks will be going in this year.

In 2020, the extension of Main Street is on track for completion this year, he thanks the Morris County Freeholders for putting the funding in place and construction should begin in the Spring. We are looking at improving Langdon Park based on suggestions from a meeting we had with local residents. Wharton Woods should be starting back up again. Wharton has been designated as an Opportunity Zone, which has increased interest in the Borough from different companies and businesses. We continue to be financially sound. We are debt free and we have about a ten-million-dollar budget, which is maintained through the guidance of the Finance Committee and Mr. Rheinhardt. We remain the second lowest municipal tax per capita and fourth total tax overall in Morris County. We have the lowest sewage and lowest water rates in the County. We have tried to keep those numbers down.

Lastly, he would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and thank you to everyone for their confidence in him and the Council as well as the Borough employees.

Public Portion

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public, if you wish to be heard, please stand stating your name and address.

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

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Norton and was seconded by Council President Binkoski.

January 6, 2020

ATTEST:

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Gabrielle Evangelista,  
Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

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WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,  
MAYOR