

REGULAR MEETING- HELD VIRTUALLY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
JUNE 8, 2020

Mayor Chegwidden called the Meeting to Order

Mayor Chegwidden read the Open Public Meeting Statement

Mayor Chegwidden requested Roll Call:

Council President Binkoski- Present
Councilwoman Hayes- Present
Councilman Norton- Present
Councilwoman Vasquez- Present
Councilwoman Wickenheisser- Present
Councilman Yeager- Present

Also in attendance were Administrator Jon Rheinhardt, Borough Clerk Gabrielle Evangelista, and Attorney Roman Hirniak.

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. If you wish to be heard, please click the "Raise Hand" button, and we will be notified of your request to talk. Mayor Chegwidden will recognize you, and your microphone will be un-muted to allow you to speak. Once you have completed speaking your mic will be re-muted.

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

Ordinance

Councilman Yeager presented O-10-20, "An Ordinance Amending Chapter 315 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Wharton County of Morris, State of New Jersey," on second reading, by title only.

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public for questions or 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 Yeager and was seconded by Council President Binkoski to adopt O-10-20 on second and final reading.

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

Council President Binkoski introduced O-11-20, “An Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14),” on first reading, by title only.

A motion was made by Council President Binkoski and was seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt O-11-20 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 June 22, 2020 for second and final reading.

2020 Municipal Budget

Councilwoman Hayes introduced and read R-81-20 – the 2020 Municipal Budget.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hayes and was seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt the introduction of the 2020 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 July 13, 2020 for the public hearing on the 2020 Municipal Budget.

2020 Special District Budget

Council President Binkoski introduced and read R-82-20 – the 2020 Special District Budget.

A motion was made by Council President Binkoski and was seconded by Councilman Norton to adopt the introduction of the 2020 Special District Budget.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Chegwiddden set the meeting of July 13, 2020 for the public hearing on the 2020 Special District Budget.

Discussion

- **For discussion and possible action:**
 - **Changes to outdoor dining permits due to COVID-19: Councilwoman Wickenheisser advised that she has met with the Zoning Official about allowing restaurants that apply for an outdoor dining permit some leeway with the locations in order to help the local businesses as much as we can. She asked Chief Young to discuss the new NJABC permits for expanding licensed premises. Chief Young asked the Council for their recommendation on time limits to the outdoor permits. Many of the businesses that are in residential areas already have a time limit on the outdoor portion of their liquor license and he recommends 11 pm as the limit for any others in residential areas. If they are not in a residential area, they can follow the normal law.**

Councilwoman Wickenheisser made a motion to approve the Chief's recommendations on hours which was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes.

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

MOTION CARRIED

- **One-time adjustment to time off policy: Councilwoman Hayes advised that the Personnel Committee is recommending making a one time change to the Borough's time off rollover policy due to the current global health emergency. In order to avoid staffing issues when everyone needs to take all of their time in a short period of time this year, they suggest changing the vacation time rollover policy to allow employees to roll over additional vacation days no greater than 50% of the current year's allowance from 2020 in addition to the 10 days they are currently allowed to roll over with limitations on when they have to use the rolled over time by. They also suggest allowing the Police Department to be able to roll over a maximum of an additional 50 compensatory hours in addition to the 230 they are currently allowed to roll over with time limitations on when they have to use the rolled over time by.**

Councilwoman Hayes made a motion to approve R-87-20, "Resolution Authorizing a One Time Amendment to Borough Policy," which was seconded by Councilman Norton

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.

Approve Minutes from 5/18/20

Resolutions: R-83-20: Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2017-011

R-84-20: Approve Grant Application for Morris Canal Lock 2 East-NJ Historic Trust

R-85-20: Authorizing a Purchase through the Morris County Co-Op-Curbing

R-86-20: Authorizing a Purchase through the Morris County Co-Op-Street Milling and Paving

Council President Binkoski made a motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda which was seconded by Councilman Yeager.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Chegwiddden advised that the grant application for the Morris Canal Lock 2 East project is to ask for additional funds to cover the cost of the continued restoration. We received bids that were higher than the amount of grant money that we currently have for that project.

Correspondence

- Notice from NJDOT re: Guiderail Replacement
- Notices of Resolutions from various Morris County towns
- Notice of Ordinance from Randolph

Council Reports

Council President Binkoski: It was interesting to be a part of the budget process this year, it certainly has been a difficult year for it. He thanks Mr. Rheinhardt and Councilwoman Hayes for all of their work on putting together a good budget. He also thanks all of the Borough employees for keeping up services for the residents during this unprecedented time. He is glad that the Borough is doing what we can to help the local small businesses.

Councilwoman Hayes: Thank you to Mr. Rheinhardt and the Finance Committee for their work on the budget. Thank you to the Personnel Committee for their work on the updated policy. The Police Department is collecting food and personal items to give out to residents until this Wednesday.

Councilman Norton: We received a facility application from former Councilwoman Veres for holding some small outdoor Jazzercise classes at Robert Street Park on 4 Saturdays in July. He made a motion to approve the application, which was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Previously we had decided to cancel the in-person summer recreation program and to hold a virtual one. However, since then, the Governor has allowed camps to run starting on July 6th. He has discussed it with the Summer Recreation Director, Ms. Ghebreal, and they would like to resume the in-person program. He asked Ms. Ghebreal to explain some of the changes that will be necessary to do so. She advised that there will be new rules about distancing and cleaning, there will be no bus trips, and there will be no camp if rain is forecasted due to the indoor space not being large enough to properly distance all of the campers, among other things. Councilman Norton then made a motion to approve resuming the in-person summer recreation program, which was seconded by Council President Binkoski.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Councilwoman Vasquez: The Library Board is working on a reopening plan. Mr. Hutchins is working on putting in partitions around the front desk. Councilwoman Hayes asked if they are planning on doing the lunch program for kids again. Councilwoman Vasquez advised that she wasn't sure.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: She thanks the Finance Committee for their work on the budget. She also was recently helped by the Wharton Police Department and she thanks them for their help. She has been working with the St. Mary's Food Pantry and they have been busy. She thanks everyone who has been donating to them.

Councilman Yeager: There is a protest planned for next Sunday. He asked Chief Young to explain more. Chief Young advised that the organizers contacted the Police Department and he appreciates that. They are working with them and our OEM, Fire Department, and County partners to ensure everyone's safety. The organizers want to have a peaceful and positive event.

Mayor Chegwidden's Report: Recently, he was reminded of a news story from many years ago about the diversity in Wharton. We have always done our best to help all of our residents whenever they need it. He is proud that we treat everyone as a Whartonite and nothing else. He is also proud of our Police Department and their record within the community. We have had no spikes in COVID-19 cases in almost 2 weeks. We had a small ceremony dedicating the redone Memorial Park on Memorial Day and he thanks everyone who put it together. The park is a gem. We are gearing up Town Hall to prepare for the eventual reopening. He wants to bring everyone's attention a few bills that are being considered in the State Assembly. The first would allow the State to borrow up to 5 billion dollars, which if they can't make it up could fall to property taxes. He has spoken to many Mayors throughout the state from both political parties and none of them want this. The second bill would allow towns that need to, to borrow funds through the Joint Insurance Funds. We will not use that, but for many other towns that could be an important bridge to help them during these difficult financial times. He wants to thank everyone that has been helping our residents throughout this difficult time, a lot of people need help, and he appreciates those who have been doing what they can to help. Refresco has been making donations to the local food pantries. Councilwoman Wickenheisser added that Jim Hill from the Knotty Pine has also been donating food every week to the food pantry throughout. Thank you to them and everyone else who has been helping where they can.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

Mary Ryan, Wharton Library Board: Ms. Ryan advised that the Library will be doing the free lunch program during the summer once they are able to reopen. They will be setting them up as to-go orders.

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

Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilman Yeager and was seconded by Councilman Norton to close this meeting.

June 8, 2020

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

ATTEST:

**WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR**

**Gabrielle Evangelista,
Borough Clerk**