

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
**JUNE 28, 2021**

Mayor Chegwidden called the Meeting to Order

Mayor Chegwidden read the Open Public Meeting Statement

Mayor Chegwidden requested Roll Call:

Council President Wickenheisser- Absent, Excused  
Council Binkoski- Present  
Councilwoman Hayes- Present  
Councilman Norton- Present  
Councilwoman Vasquez- 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.

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

**Ordinance**

Councilwoman Hayes presented O-12-21, “An Ordinance by the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris, New Jersey, to Amend Chapter 165, “Land Use and Development,” Section 165-90, “General Provisions,” Subsection 165-90A, “Prohibited Uses” of the Borough Municipal Code, to Prohibit the Operation of Any Class of Cannabis Businesses within the Borough’s Geographical Boundaries,” 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 Councilwoman Hayes and was seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt O-12-21 on second and final reading.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-5 NAY-0 ABSENT-1 ABSTAIN-0</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>
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**Ordinance**

Councilman Binkoski presented O-14-21, “An Ordinance to Provide for a Water Utility Capital Project Enumerated within for the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris and to Provide for the Funding Thereof,” on second reading, by title only.



**Councilman Yeager:** He thanks the Fire Department for their hard work. There was a fire in Dover yesterday that they responded to as mutual aid, and they left their families on a weekend and helped with a fire on a hot day.

**Mayor Chegwidden's Report:** The parking lot project is moving along. They are looking to put in some benches and a nice tree outside of the library. We are also going to get solar panels that can be used as a table and a charging station. He would like to set up a concert at the end of August or beginning of September at Betty Poyer field if everyone is on board with that. He recently heard a great Eagles cover band and would like to have them play. If it's successful, we can set up more concerts. It will be nice to get more use out of that field and the bandstand. After a short discussion, everyone agreed that it sounds like a good idea so we will get started on planning that. He would like to have permission from the Council to negotiate with the Vasquez family about property they own that is next to the American Legion. No decisions will be made, he will bring the information back to the Council. Councilman Yeager made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Councilman Norton.

Councilwoman Hayes asked if we could include something in the Mayor's Newsletter about yielding to pedestrians in crosswalks. Mayor Chegwidden agreed that we can include it in the next few newsletters.

### **Open to the Public**

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

**Mike Bezney, 1 Bartek Lane:** Mr. Bezney had a few questions relating to the Wharton Woods application that is currently before the Planning Board. He understands that this Council has nothing to do with what the Planning Board will or will not approve, but still had a few questions. The first was relating to drainage in the area, particularly Irondale Rd. and Bartek Lane. Mr. Rheinhardt advised that we have a grant from the NJ Highlands Commission about a drainage study for the entire town, which is in the midst of being wrapped up. The second was relating to traffic that may occur if the project is approved and potentially opening an additional road in the area. Mr. Rheinhardt advised that they are doing a survey of to look at the right of ways in the area that is in progress, but is in the beginning stages. After a short discussion, Mr. Bezney had an additional comment about the Planning Board meetings via Zoom. He found it difficult to find the meeting information on the website and is wondering why they haven't gone back to in person meetings yet. Mayor Chegwidden advised that the Planning Board is an autonomous Board so they make their own decisions and they had people who were uncomfortable coming to an in-person meeting. However, their next meeting is going to be the last one held on Zoom and they will be switching back to in person after that. He is only a member of the Board and has one vote, just like the rest of the Board members. Mr. Bezney thanked the Mayor and Council for always addressing his concerns. They may not always agree, but there is always mutual respect. Mayor Chegwidden thanked him for attending. Mr. Bezney then asked about an area on Irondale Mt. and if there is a plan for fencing any parts of it due to a sinkhole. Mayor Chegwidden advised that he's not aware of anything in the area Mr. Bezney asked about, but if there is anything that is dangerous, that specific area will be addressed. He continued that the Planning Board meeting information is located on the front page of the website.

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

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Councilman Binkoski and was seconded by Councilman Norton to close the meeting. This motion was approved by voice vote.

June 28, 2021

**BOROUGH OF WHARTON**

**ATTEST:**

**WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,  
MAYOR**

**Gabrielle Evangelista,  
Borough Clerk**