

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
**SEPTEMBER 13, 2021**

Mayor Chegwidden called the Meeting to Order

Mayor Chegwidden read the Open Public Meeting Statement

Mayor Chegwidden requested Roll Call:

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

Also in attendance were Administrator Joseph Kovalcik Jr., 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.

**Frank Smith, 132 Old Irondale Rd.:** Mr. Smith would like the Borough to pave his road or at least fill in the potholes. Back in the 80s he built a home and had to put in the road. In the 90s the town put in a sewer easement and took over maintenance of the road, but it hasn’t been touched in 20 years. Mayor Chegwidden advised that we will certainly look into it.

**Dawn Klose, 58 Elizabeth St.:** Ms. Klose asked about the status of the renovation of Langdon Ave. Park. Mayor Chegwidden advised that we were waiting for some materials to come in, which finally have been received. He asked Mr. Quillinan from the DPW if he knew more information. Mr. Quillinan advised that they are going to pour the sidewalk this week and still need to do some planting and adding benches, but they are almost done. Mayor Chegwidden and Ms. Klose thanked the DPW for their work.

**John Ruppel, Baker Ave.:** Mr. Ruppel thanked the Borough for putting on the end of summer concert. It was a great event and was really nice to be able to spend time with friends again. Mayor Chegwidden advised that they are going to discuss holding another concert later in the meeting.

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

**Presentation**

Mayor Chegwidden, Councilman Norton, and Ms. Ghebreal presented donations of proceeds from the Municipal Alliance carnival to various community groups including:

- American Legion Post 91
- Jr. Knights Football/Cheerleading
- Jr. Knights Wrestling
- St. Mary's Food Pantry
- Wharton Area Little League
- Wharton FOP
- Wharton Kids First Foundation
- Wharton Library Summer Reading Program
- Wharton PTA
- Wharton Soccer
- Wharton United Community Church Food Pantry

Mayor Chegwidden thanked all of the groups and their representatives for everything that they do for the community. Everyone echoed that sentiment.

**Ordinance**

Council President Wickenheisser to introduce O-15-21, “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 110. Section 3 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris, State of New Jersey,” on first reading, by title only.

A motion was made by Council President Wickenheisser and was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes to adopt O-15-21 on first reading.

Mayor Chegwidden advised that this is an amendment to fees for permits for retaining walls, decks, and other items which was brought to us by the Construction Official. Our fees were very low and did not cover the costs.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-6 NAY-0 ABSENT-0 ABSTAIN-0	<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>
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Mayor Chegwidden set the date of September 27, 2021 for second and final reading.

**Resolution**

Councilman Binkoski introduced R-118-21, “Improvement Authorization Cancellation.”

A motion was made by Councilman Binkoski and was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes to adopt R-118-21.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-6 NAY-0 ABSENT-0 ABSTAIN-0	<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>
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**Ordinance**

Councilwoman Hayes introduced O-16-21, “Bond Ordinance Providing for the Acquisition of Land in and By the Borough of Wharton, in the County of Morris, New Jersey, Appropriating \$2,000,000 Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$1,000,000 Bonds or Notes of the Borough for Financing Such Appropriation,” on first reading, by title only.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hayes and was seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt O-16-21 on first reading.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-6 NAY-0 ABSENT-0 ABSTAIN-0	<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>
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Mayor Chegwidden advised that we have the opportunity to purchase 5 acres of property along the pond, which is what this Ordinance is for. We will be using the area for open space. The area is behind the American Legion and Cherokee Glass.

We are looking at different ways we can utilize it including potentially a location for the splash pad, a pavilion that we will talk to the American Legion about being able for them to use, and a field. We are also looking into putting first right of refusal on the homes in front of the area. We do not eminent domain, but if they go up for sale the Borough would have first refusal buy them so that eventually we can open all of that area up. There were developers interested in buying it, but the owner offered it to us first. Mr. Kovalcik advised that there is a possibility to put in an application to for open space, which may allow us to get up to 75% of the funding for this. Mayor Chegwidden continued that our last application for open space was 30 years ago. Our last purchase was on Irondale Mountain which is coming to a sunset now so the timing is good. Mr. Kovalcik also advised that this Ordinance is really for bookkeeping, the Borough is strong enough financially that we can borrow the money from ourselves.

Mayor Chegwidden set the date of September 27, 2021 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.

<p><b>Approval of Bills: Approve all bills referred to the Finance Committee.</b></p> <p><b>Approval of Minutes: Approve Minutes from 8/16/21 Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Resolutions: R-119-21: Appoint NJMEBF Commissioner</b> <b>R-120-21: Appoint JIF Commissioner</b> <b>R-121-21: Amend R-110-21</b> <b>R-122-21: Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2020-003</b> <b>R-123-21: Approve Change Order 1- SCADA System</b> <b>R-124-21: Approve Change Order 1- Oakhurst Lane</b> <b>R-125-21: Authorize Contract KV Carriage</b> <b>R-126-21: Authorize Appointment QPA</b></p> <p><b>Approve Recreation Facility Application Wharton Soccer</b></p> <p><b>Approve Recreation Facility Application Tyler Daniel</b></p> <p><b>A motion was made by Council President Wickenheisser, which was seconded by Councilman Binkoski to approve all of the items on the Consent Agenda.</b></p> <p><b>ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 6      NAY: 0      ABSENT: 0      ABSTAIN: 0</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>
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**Correspondence**

- Notice of Ordinances from Roxbury and Jefferson Township
- Monthly Report Clerk and Construction

**Council Reports**

**Council President Wickenheisser:** The concert was really nice and she thanks everyone who put it together. She’s looking forward to having another one.

**Councilman Binkoski:** The concert was really fun and it was so nice to see a lot of faces he hasn’t in a while. He also attended Canal Day and the rainy fireworks, which still were nice. He attended several meetings, but will let the chair people discuss them.

**Councilwoman Hayes:** She attended Canal Day and the fireworks as well. Welcome to Mr. Kovalcik. The Council took Mr. Rheinhardt out to dinner before he left. On August 24<sup>th</sup> there was another meeting with the FOP for contract negotiations. We're not quite there yet, but are scheduling another meeting with them soon.

**Councilman Norton:** He attended the concert. It was great for our town. On August 28<sup>th</sup> he had the privilege of attending the Eagle Scout ceremony for Javier Gonzalez. His project was doing the flag turrets in front of the American Legion. It was a really nice ceremony. On September 22<sup>nd</sup> is the Job Fair from 5-7 at the Middle School Parking Lot. On October 2<sup>nd</sup> is National Night Out also at the school. On October 3<sup>rd</sup> is the 5K Run Donut Dash and on October 30<sup>th</sup> we will be holding HalloWharton.

**Councilwoman Vasquez:** She attended the concert and it was really nice to see everyone there. She would like to welcome our new Library Director, Mary Fran Daley. She thanks the interim director for submitting a grant under the American Rescue Plan, which will allow them to purchase computers.

**Councilman Yeager:** He attended the concert and Canal Day, which were great events. He attended the September 11<sup>th</sup> Memorial at the American Legion and he thanks them for hosting such an important event.

**Mayor Chegwidden's Report:** He thanks Mr. Manna for once again doing a great job with putting on Canal Day. When he took over the event years ago it was dying and he has done a great job bringing it back. The municipal parking lot project should be done this week. He wanted to point out the new solar tables at the library. He thanks the American Legion for putting together the September 11<sup>th</sup> Memorial. It really does behoove us to remember the heroes of that day. He loved the concert and thanks the Council for approving that event. There's a Billy Joel tribute band that is available to do another one in October if everyone is on board. Everyone agreed they would like to host another one. He received a message from a former Wharton resident who now lives in California, who is in a ZZ Top cover band who would like to come back and put on a concert here. We will look into doing so in the spring. The project on Main Street needs to come back before the Planning Board to make some changes, due to the product delays. The upcoming Job Fair is our 10<sup>th</sup>. We started them after seeing a 10% unemployment rate in town and wanting to help address that. Ms. Ghebreal has worked to grow it into a great event. He thanks Mr. Rheinhardt again and welcomes Mr. Kovalcik.

**Open to the Public**

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

No one 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.

September 13, 2021

ATTEST:

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Gabrielle Evangelista,  
Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

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WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,  
MAYOR