

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
OCTOBER 4, 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- Absent, Excused
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

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

Fran Schurgot, 46 Robert St.: Ms. Schurgot advised that she does not agree with a proposed increase in permit parking fees and does not agree with the Mayor's statement in relation to the same. She listed some reasons why she feels this way including that residents have to find alternate places to park during the winter months due to the ordinance not allowing on street parking during snow events, that the fee should only cover the cost of printing the tags and signs as snow removal, etc. is covered through taxes and that renters are paying taxes through their rent, and that some residents do not have driveways and are forced to find alternate locations to park. She suggests grandfathering those without driveways and in the future having some kind deed title notification to inform new owners that they will need to purchase parking permits. She thinks that the costs of permits can be offset and one way to do so is stop sending the Mayor's newsletter each month, she believes that the town's website is set up to get the messages out to residents. Mayor Chegwidden advised that there are quite a number of people that don't have computers. Councilman Yeager advised that he wanted to clarify one thing, that a parking permit allows the person sole use of that spot. There are other places for public parking throughout town. Councilman Binkoski agreed and advised that people are allowed to park non permitted spots, just not overnight, which we do waive during

inclement weather. Having a permit is not required, but a choice someone can make if they want use of their own space. Ms. Schurgot advised that she did not agree with the Mayor's comment about for \$50 they are getting their space plowed for free which is a good deal. She believes that should be included in their tax payments, so it's not a good deal. Mayor Chegwidden advised that he stands by the statement, he would love to have his driveway plowed because he also pays taxes. His family has lived on Dewey Ave. for 150 years and they took the parking away in front of his house to put in sidewalks and they were not grandfathered in. More discussion about this followed.

Ms. Schurgot also has some issues with noise that she believes is above allowed levels in the noise ordinance including that from- loud muffler on cars intentionally whining as they drive down Main Street, blowing of horns by limo services instead of getting out of the car or texting their clients to let them know they have arrived, thumping bass from subwoofers in cars, and professional grade fireworks. They all have increased recently and it needs to be addressed, especially after 10 p.m. Mayor Chegwidden agreed about the mufflers and advised that we do have a noise ordinance, but they have to be there for a certain amount of time. He asked Chief Young if he could advise further. Chief Young advised that there is a decibel reading that the Health Department is certified in and it does have to be for a certain amount of time. There are some violations they can issue to vehicles, but they need to get called on them in order to do so. With any of these, give the Police Department a call and they will try to enforce the laws that they are able to. They can also refer the Health Department when necessary.

Ms. Schurgot advised that she did get in touch with the insurance company, which she had asked about at a previous meeting.

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

Consent Agenda

The following items are considered to be routine and non-controversial by the Mayor and Council and are approved by one motion. There is no separate discussion of these items unless a council member or citizen so requests, in which case, the item is removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in a normal sequence on the agenda.

Approval of Bills: Approve all bills referred to the Finance Committee.

**Resolutions: R-134-21: Award Bid Lafayette St.
R-135-21: Request for Competitive Contract**

A motion was made by Council President Wickenheisser, which was seconded by Councilman Yeager to approve all of the items on the Consent Agenda.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 5 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 1 ABSTAIN: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Correspondence

- Monthly Report Clerk and Construction

Council Reports

Council President Wickenheisser: She attended National Night Out. Everyone who was there did a great job and she thanks them all for their efforts. Langdon Park looks amazing, thank you to the DPW for their work on that project. She also took a walk and saw the progress that is being made on the Lock Tender's House at the Canal and it is amazing. It's nice to see the history being preserved there. Thank you to John Manna and everyone else who is involved in that.

Councilman Binkoski: He participated in the 5K yesterday, it was nice to get around town and see people. Thank you to the Police Department as it was well protected.

Councilwoman Hayes: She picked a bad weekend to go away and was sorry to miss the events, but heard everything was great.

Councilman Norton: Absent.

Councilwoman Vasquez: She attended the Library Board meeting. They discussed many items including their programs for October as well as the ongoing issue with the roof. They are not sure if the problem is the windows or the roof, but are working on figuring it out. Mr. Kovalcik advised that the windows are going to be replaced through a Community Development Block Grant that we received and they are going to have the roof inspected again.

Councilman Yeager: He attended National Night Out, which was a great event. He spoke with Chief Young today and the body worn cameras are in. They are working on the rules and regulations for them.

Mayor Chegwidden's Report: He didn't run, but tried to steal some donuts from the 5K. He thanks the FOP and the Alliance for National Night Out. The kids loved it. If people haven't seen it yet, they should check out Langdon Park. It looks great. Coming in the spring is a handicapped swing and some benches and a picnic table. People should also check out the progress at the canal. It is amazing. In 2006 he met someone who was one of the last people to live in that house. They rented it out up until the 1970s. The stonework up there is great and it is all stone from the site. He is

working with Mr. Crimi on a path to go all the way around. Behind there is a 600 acre lake.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

Police Chief Young: He thanks the Mayor and Council for their support of National Night Out. He also thanks the Fire Department, DPW, the NJ State Police aviation unit, the Morris County Park Police, the Sheriff's Department, the military, Ms. Ghebreal, and Lt. Hamilton. It was a great event.

Wharton Library Director Fran Daley: She is meeting with Mr. Kovalcik later this week to go over some things. They are very glad to be hosting story time and having the kids come in again. They were also glad to be at the National Night Out, it was really nice.

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 Yeager to close the meeting. This motion was approved by voice vote.

October 4, 2021

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

ATTEST:

WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR

Gabrielle Evangelista,
Borough Clerk