

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
OCTOBER 25, 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- Absent, Excused
Councilman Norton- Present
Councilwoman Vasquez- Present
Councilman Yeager- Absent, Excused

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.

Mike Bezney, 1 Bartek Lane: Mr. Bezney asked about the energy aggregation contract with IDT ending. Mayor Chegwidden advised that yes, it is coming to an end for everyone. The market is in flux so the new bids weren't lower than JCP&L's rates so it reverts back to JCP&L. Mr. Bezney asked about the number of Housing/Zoning inspectors that Wharton has. Mayor Chegwidden advised that we have 1 full time and 2 part time inspectors. Mr. Bezney is concerned that there is not that much of a need and that he hopes its not too regulatory. He knows he has some work to do on his property, but it will take time. Mayor Chegwidden advised that there is a need, they are all busy. They do inspections every time someone moves in or out among other things. If they are issuing a letter or summons they are usually responding to a complaint. They will give him time to complete what needs to be done. Mr. Bezney advised that he is looking forward to the upcoming concert and asked about a rain date. Mayor Chegwidden advised that unfortunately there is no rain date.

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

Discussion

- **Best Practices Inventory-** Mr. Kovalcik advised that we scored 22.5 out of a possible 23 on the State's Best Practice Inventory. The only no that we had was not having an electric vehicle charging station in a municipal lot. This score allows us to receive all of our State Aid.

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.
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Approval of Minutes: 9/27/21 and 10/04/21

Resolutions: R-136-21: Amend Policies and Procedures Manual and Personnel Policy Employee Handbook
R-137-21: Reject Bids Morris Energy Cooperative
R-138-21: Purchase DPW Vehicles

Appoint Christiana Dorr as Alternate Crossing Guard for the remainder of a one-year term to expire 12/31/21.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 4 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 2 ABSTAIN: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Correspondence

- Morris County Planning Board Minutes
- Notices from Morris County MUA re: Amended Rate Schedule Tipping Fees, Amended Rate Schedule Vegetative Waste, Notice of Hearing Water Rate

Council Reports

Council President Wickenheisser: No report.

Councilman Binkoski: He wanted to note that the DPW Vehicles purchase that was approved on the Consent Agenda is well-needed and a part of the plan. He appreciates that we plan for things like this.

Councilwoman Hayes: Absent.

Councilman Norton: No report.

Councilwoman Vasquez: She is working on changing the Rabies Shot Clinic to a Saturday and will have more to report about it soon. She thanks the new Library Director for doing a great job so far. She asked Ms. Daley to share the library's good news. Ms. Daley advised that the library was chosen as an access navigator site. They are 1 of 15 throughout the entire state.

Councilman Yeager: Absent.

Mayor Chegwidde's Report: He thanks Councilwoman Vasquez for working on the Rabies Shot Clinic. He's heard some banter online about the project at 10 N. Main St. They recently attended the groundbreaking ceremony for it. There is plenty on parking for it on site and not on the street. He attended the Alliance meeting where they went over plans for upcoming events. The Canal project is coming along beautifully; he thanks John Manna for his work on getting the grant for that project and the NJDOT for giving us the grant. He met with JamFam, the company who put on the concert for us and they discussed having a slate of concerts for next year if it works in the budget. They talked about having a hybrid plan with some ticketed events and some non-ticketed events. The ticketed events would be larger name bands and there would be a small charge (\$5) to attend. The non-ticketed events would be free. More discussion about this followed including discussing parking, making a list of concerts in the spring so that people can plan for them, and holding them maybe every other month. Councilman Binkoski then made a motion to approve working with JamFam for a slate of concerts next year which was seconded by Council President Wickenheisser.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

Mike Bezney, 1 Bartek Lane: Mr. Bezney thinks the slate of concerts is an excellent idea. He likes that the upcoming one asks for a donation to the food pantries, maybe we can use that for the ones we are going to charge for as well. For example, the cost is \$10 if you bring nothing and \$5 if you also bring a donation for the food pantries. He then asked if the Wharton Woods project is done since the Planning Board voted against their application. Mayor Chegwidden advised that it is not complete until the Resolution is read and approved, there is also an appeal process available to the applicant.

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.

October 25, 2021

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

ATTEST:

WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR

Gabrielle Evangelista,
Borough Clerk