

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 27, 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

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

Chet Talocci, 36 Kitchell Ave.: Mr. Talocci advised that he had a bad experience with the appraiser from the assessment company. He wouldn't let the person into the house and they told him that they would then have to then assess him at a higher rate. He is not sure where the assessments are coming from since we have a low municipal tax rate. Mayor Chegwidden advised that we hire a company through the State for the appraisers. Mr. Talocci can contact the appraiser's office if he has an issue with his assessment. Mayor Chegwidden also advised Mr. Talocci to look at his tax bill. Our portion of the bill was a 0% increase. We collect for the schools and the county as well.

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

Ordinance

Council President Wickenheisser presented 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 second reading, by title only.

Mayor Chegwiddden opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments on this Ordinance only.

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

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

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

Councilwoman Hayes presented 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 second reading, by title only.

Mayor Chegwiddden opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments on this Ordinance only.

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

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hayes and was seconded by Councilman Binkoski to adopt O-16-21 on second and final reading.

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

- **Statewide Municipal Electric Vehicle Ordinance:** Mr. Kovalcik advised that the State Department of Community Affairs has issued guidance on a new mandated Electronic Vehicle Ordinance. Mr. Hirniak advised that it is meant to set a standard for zoning relating to charging stations for electronic vehicles. There is some flexibility in the verbiage, but passing of some version is mandatory. Mr. Hirniak will review the guidance with Mr. Kovalcik and they will put together an ordinance for review.
- **Main Street Parking:** Chief Young met with some of the business owners about parking. The current ordinance has time limits in some areas, but the Police Department has been receiving complaints that vehicles are being parked in the time limited areas for extended periods of time. They are going to put out the display signs and start giving warnings. Eventually they will

start issuing summonses when the time is right. We also need to address the new parking lot. Now that there are additional spots, we need to see about permit parking as well as requests by some of the business owners for use of some of the spots. He will discuss this with the Administrator and they will bring their recommendations to the Council for consideration. Mayor Chegwiddden advised that we also should look into the fees for permit parking. We currently only charge \$50 and they are worth a lot more than that. He asked Mr. Kovalcik to survey other towns to see what their fees are. Chief Young advised that the current ordinance allows the owner of a permit to exclusively park in their permitted space. More discussion about parking followed. There will be continued discussion about this once the Chief and the Administrator can put together more information for the Council.

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.

Approval of Minutes from 9/13/21 Meeting

**Resolutions: R-127-21: Participate in OMNIA Cooperative Purchasing Program
R-128-21: Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriation- Municipal Alliance
R-129-21: Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriation- Municipal Alliance Supplemental
R-130-21: Payout Rheinhardt
R-131-21: Approve Alliance Contract Signing-Movie Screen Rental
R-132-21: Reject Bids Morris Area Energy Cooperative**

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: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Correspondence: None

Council Reports

Council President Wickenheisser: She attended the Job Fair last week. Thank you to all of the businesses who participated.

Councilman Binkoski: The Personnel Committee had another meeting with the FOP last week. He is hoping that we are moving forward with the negotiations process. He would like to address the complaint from a previous meeting about the gentleman's road not being looked at. It has been taken care of periodically and is up to standard. It is plowed whenever it snows. The way his road is plowed has also previously been adjusted at his request. They are going to fix any potholes and will add it to the list to have the road either repaved or they may look into completing the loop because this road ends and then starts again currently. He spoke with the Housing and Zoning Officer, Mr. Lewthwaite about a few items around town. He got back to him quickly and is taking a look at the items they discussed.

Councilwoman Hayes: She attended the Morris County League of Municipalities meeting. Morris County Prosecutor, Robert Carroll spoke about various issues throughout the County. It was very informative. She also attended the Job Fair.

Councilman Norton: He has a Resolution for consideration allowing the Municipal Alliance to have a change fund for the 5K run which is this weekend. He made a motion to approve R-133-21, which was seconded by Councilman Binkoski.

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

MOTION CARRIED

He would also like to recognize quite a few people who helped get things ready for the Jr. Knights first home game including the DPW employees who prepared things and painted the goal posts. Some volunteers also assisted including Mark DiGennaro who painted the scoreboard and Pete Cervona and Paul Turner who lined the fields. Everything looked better than it has in a long time and he thanks them all. Mayor Chegwiddden thanked the Council for allowing True Green to make the field look great.

Councilwoman Vasquez: She thanks the Police Department for their recent assistance with an issue that she had. Her son got locked in the car and they were there in 3 minutes to help her. The Library Board meeting is scheduled for tomorrow 9/28.

Councilman Yeager: He attended the Morris County League of Municipalities meeting as well as the Job Fair. He also wants to make a statement that they are fully behind the Police Department. We are in the middle of negotiations, but they do have the Council's support and they do a fantastic job. Mayor Chegwiddden agreed with him.

Mayor Chegwiddden's Report: He also attended the Morris County League of Municipalities meeting, which is always very informative. The Prosecutor is new so

he gave a bit of background as to how he got there, and gave some information on some programs that he is looking to put into place. He spoke with the Commander at the American Legion and they are excited about us purchasing the property over there. They are willing to work with us however they can. He attended the opening day ceremony of Wharton Soccer, which was a good crowd. He thanks Susanna for doing such a great job with bringing that program back. This past weekend, the Girl Scouts had their “grand opening” of the new items that they put into the Dog Park. They did a great job with it. Langdon Park will be finished this upcoming week except for one item that has been ordered, but won’t be in until next year, which is a handicapped swing. On 10/14 the developers at 10 Main St. are holding a ground breaking ceremony.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

Frances Schurgot, 46 Robert St.: Ms. Schurgot is having an issue getting in touch with the insurance company for the sub-contractor for the parking lot project who had backed into the electrical pole and caused some damage to her personal property. Mayor Chegwidden advised that she should contact Mr. Kovalcik tomorrow and he will get her in touch with the actual contractor to get this taken care of. We also hold a bond during the project in case of any issues that arise. She then asked about the way the contractors are chosen, she knows it has to go to the lowest bidder, but are their previous records looked at. Mayor Chegwidden advised that yes, if they had done something wrong in our town previously that’s taken into consideration because it goes to the lowest responsible bidder. Ms. Schurgot advised that she had heard that this wasn’t the only issue that this contractor had with this project, at one point a gas line got broken and New Jersey Natural Gas came. She was wondering why no one was notified. Mayor Chegwidden advised that does happen sometimes and the gas company is notified, they turn off the gas, and they fix the pipe. If it was the Borough, we would have sent an everbridge message, he’s not sure about the gas company. Ms. Schurgot was concerned because she remembers the gas explosion that occurred in the 80s.

Chet Talocci, 36 Kitchell Ave.: Mr. Talocci asked if there is anyone connected with the town who supervises projects. Mayor Chegwidden responded that the town engineer does.

Police Chief Young: Coming up this weekend is Wharton National Night Out on 10/2 at the school. The DPW, Fire Department, Police Department, and a state police helicopter will all be there. The directional signs for Chegwidden Way are now out. Mayor Chegwidden asked if there have been any incidents reported with the new road. Chief Young advised that there have been some close calls on East Dewey and one crash on Main Street that he’s aware of. Councilman Binkoski asked if one of the driveways that’s over on Chegwidden Way will be connected.

Mayor Chegwidden advised that it will be as it was a part of the Planning Board application in that area.

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

September 27, 2021

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

ATTEST:

**_____
WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR**

**_____
Gabrielle Evangelista,
Borough Clerk**