

MINUTES  
RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
JANUARY 4, 2022

Mayor Chegwidden called the meeting to order and read the Open Public Meeting Statement as follows:

"This is the Annual Re-Organization Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Wharton which was advertised in the print media as required by law. A copy of the annual meeting schedule is posted in the Municipal Building."

Swearing in of Council Members

Mayor Chegwidden announced that the Morris County Clerk's Office has determined that at the last General Election, Nicole Wickenheisser and Thomas Yeager were duly elected to the positions of Council Members for the Borough of Wharton for a term of three years.

Mayor Chegwidden called both Council Members to the platform to be sworn in. Congratulations were offered by all in attendance.

Mayor Chegwidden invited the Council Members to address the public.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: She thanks the community for their support. She will always do her best and is here for anyone that needs her. Thank you to the Mayor and Council for their support.

Councilman Yeager: Thank you to the community, his family, and the Mayor and Council for their support.

Roll Call

Mayor Chegwidden to request Roll Call:

Councilman Vincent Binkoski  
Councilwoman Sandra Hayes  
Councilman Robert Norton  
Councilwoman Paola Vasquez  
Councilwoman Nicole Wickenheisser  
Councilman Thomas Yeager

Flag Salute

Mayor Chegwidden led those present in the Salute to the American Flag.

Election of Council President

Motion by Councilman Binkoski and seconded by Councilwoman Wickenheisser to elect Councilwoman Vasquez as Council President for the year 2022.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 6	NAY: 0	ABSENT:0	ABSTAIN:
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Council President Vasquez thanked the Council for voting her Council President. She advised that is an honor and she will work hard every day for the community.

Mayor Chegwidden thanked Assemblyman Bergan and Assemblywoman Dunn for attending. He also received a call from Senator Bucco, who had to be at another meeting. He also thanked Sheriff Gannon and Surrogate Darling for attending. He thanks them all for their support. Sheriff Gannon offered his congratulations to everyone being sworn in and he thanks the Police Department and Emergency Services for working with his department.

Fire Department Appointments

The following appointments are considered to be routine and non-controversial by the Mayor and Council and were approved by one motion.

Wharton Borough Fire Chief, Eugene Caulfield, for the year 2022 - term to expire 12/31/22.

Wharton Borough Fire Department Deputy Chief, Kyle Dorr, for the year 2022- term to expire 12/31/22.

Wharton Borough Fire Department Captains:

- James Ayers - Engine Captain
- Michael Marks Jr. - Truck Captain

Wharton Borough Fire Department Lieutenants:

- Tom Andes - Engine Lieutenant
- Maximiliano Meinero - Truck Lieutenant

All one-year terms to expire 12/31/22.

A motion was made by Councilman Yeager and seconded by Councilwoman Wickenheisser to confirm all appointments.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 6	NAY: 0	ABSENT: 0	ABSTAIN:
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Councilman Yeager, Mayor Chegwidde, and Chief Caulfield swore in the new Fire Department officers. Congratulations were offered by all in attendance.

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.

- R-01-22: Meeting Schedule
- R-02-22: Temporary Budget for 2022
- R-03-22: Temporary Capital Budget
- R-04-22: Cash Management Plan for 2022
- R-05-22: Professionals Resolution- Competitive Contracting
- R-06-22: Professionals Resolution- Discretionary
- R-07-22: Authorizing Mayor to Execute Agreement for Risk Management Consultant Services for the Year 2022
- R-08-22: Approve Agreement Health Benefits Producer
- R-09-22: Fixing Interest Rate on Delinquent Taxes for 2022
- R-10-22: Authorizing the Tax Collector and Utility Collector to Cancel Any Balances under \$10.00 as Deemed Necessary
- R-11-22: Authorizing Returned Check Fee
- R-12-22: Designating Public Agency Compliance Officer
- R-13-22: Authorizing Treasurer to Sign and Approve Purchase Orders in the Event the Administrator/CFO is not Available
- R-14-22: Setting Hourly Fee for Independent Attorneys
- R-15-22: Liability Search Officer for 2022
- R-16-22: Tax Search Officer for 2022
- R-17-22: Authorizing Certain Payments Outside of Scheduled Council Meetings
- R-18-22: Authorizing Re-Establishment of Petty Cash Funds

R-19-22: Designating Official Newspapers for 2022  
 R-20-22: Authorizing Signatures on Borough Checks  
 R-21-22: Establish Bid Threshold  
 R-22-22: Authorizing Mayor, Administrator and Borough Clerk to Execute and Submit Grant Applications if Due Date is Outside of Scheduled Council Meetings  
 R-23-22: Appointment of 2022 Local Emergency Planning Committee  
 R-24-22: Authorizing Required Notice of Tort Claims  
 R-25-22: Volunteer Appreciation Program for 2022  
 R-26-22: Authorizing Participation in the Morris County Co-Operative Purchasing Program  
 R-27-22: Authorizing Participation in the State Co-Operative Purchasing Program  
 R-28-22: Authorizing Participation in the Somerset County Co-Operative Purchasing Program  
 R-29-22: Authorizing Participation in the Bergen County Co-Operative Purchasing Program  
 R-30-22: Authorizing Participation in the Cranford Police Co-Operative Purchasing Program  
 R-31-22: Authorize Participation in the Sourcewell Co-Operative Purchasing Program  
 R-32-22: Authorizing Participation in the Educational Services Commission of NJ Co-Operative Purchasing Program  
 R-33-22: Authorize Participation in OMNIA Co-Operative Purchasing Program  
 R-34-22: Approve Interlocal Services Contract-Health and Nursing Services- Mt. Olive  
 R-35-22: Approve Interlocal Services Contract- Animal Control and Animal Pound/Shelter Hopatcong  
 R-36-22: Safe and Secure Grant 2022

Mayor's Appointments that Require Council Consent

Alternate School Crossing Guards- Alice Doblosky, Christina Dorr, Raffaele Peluso one-year terms to expire 12/31/22

Assistant Administrator- Gabrielle Evangelista, one-year term to expire 12/31/22

Assistant to Construction Official- Desinez Ruffo, one-year term to expire 12/31/22

Board of Health Member-Michael Ross, three-year term to expire 12/31/24

Board of Health Secretary for Licensing- Robin Ghebreal, one-year term to expire 12/31/22

Certifying Payroll Officers- Diana Fernandez, Joseph Kovalcik Jr., and Yolanda Dykes one-year terms to expire 12/31/22

Clean Communities Coordinator- Patricia Craven, one-year term to expire 12/31/22

Community Affairs Coordinator- Robin Ghebreal, one-year term to expire 12/31/22

Deputy Borough Clerk- Robin Ghebreal and Diana Fernandez, one-year terms to expire 12/31/22

Deputy Emergency Management Coordinators- David Young and Leon Stickle, one-year terms to expire 12/31/22

Deputy Housing Enforcement Officer- Patrick Lavery, one-year terms to expire 12/31/22

Deputy Tax Collector- Patty Craven, one-year term to expire 12/31/22

Deputy Water/Sewer Collector- Diana Fernandez, one-year term to expire 12/31/22

Deputy Zoning Officer – Leon Stickle, one-year term to expire 12/31/22

Director of Public Works- Scott Hutchins, one-year term to expire 12/31/22

Fire Official- Richard Cloughley, one-year term to expire, 12/31/22

Grant Coordinator– John Manna, one-year term to expire 12/31/22

Matrons- Alice Doblosky, Jen O'Malley-Dorr, Vicky Santana-Stickle, and Bonnie Sullivan, one-year terms to expire 12/31/22

Morris County Open Space and Farmland Preservation Representative- John Manna, one-year term to expire 12/31/22

Municipal Housing Liaison for COAH- Patrick Lavery, one-year term to expire 12/31/22

Personnel Administrator- Gabrielle Evangelista, one-year term to expire 12/31/22

Planning Board Secretary- Patricia Craven, one-year term to expire 12/31/22

Police Chaplain- Thomas Beirne, one-year term to expire 12/31/22

Recycling Coordinator- Robin Ghebreal, one-year term to expire 12/31/22

School Crossing Guards- Kathleena Jackson, Jackie Kelly, Deborah Kline, Maureen Macalalag, Stephanie Mertz, Clifford Rollins, Robert Thrower, and Lois Werts, one-year terms to expire 12/31/22

Treasurer- Yolanda Dykes, one-year term to expire 12/31/22

Water/Sewer Clerk- Patty Craven, one-year term to expire 12/31/22

Water/Sewer Operator- Thomas Quillinan, one-year term to expire 12/31/22

Zoning/Housing Enforcement Official/Road Opening Official – Kevin Lewthwaite, one-year term to expire 12/31/22

Committee Appointments:

Alternate Members to Finance Committee - #1 - Councilwoman Wickenheisser and #2 –Councilman Norton

Community Relations- (includes Recreation Committee, Celebration Public Events, Regionalization Committee- Shared Services, Senior Citizen Association) – Councilman Norton

Environmental Commission- Consists of Mayor and Council Members

Finance- (includes Insurance, Budget, Personnel, CFO, Street Lighting, Tax Assessor, Tax Collector, Community Development) – Councilwoman Hayes

Finance Committee- Councilwoman Hayes (Chair), Councilman Yeager, and Councilwoman Vazquez

Health/Welfare- (includes Board of Health, Public Assistance, Library) – Councilwoman Vasquez

Personnel Committee- Councilwoman Hayes (Chair), Councilman Binkoski and Councilman Yeager

Public Affairs- (includes Building Inspector, Housing Inspector, Planning Board, Licenses, Zoning Officer, School Sub-Committee) – Councilwoman Wickenheisser

**Public Safety-** (includes Police Department, Fire Department, First Aid Squad, Municipal Court, Emergency Management, Elections) - Councilman Yeager

**Public Works-** (includes Parks, Building/Grounds, Sanitation, Maintenance Shop, Engineering, Streets and Roads, Water and Sewer) – Councilman Binkoski

**Council Appointments in Accordance with State Statutes:**

**Council Representative to the Morris County Community Development Revenue Sharing Committee-** John Manna, one-year term to expire 12/31/22.

**Planning Board Class III Member-** Councilwoman Wickenheisser, one-year term to expire 12/31/22

A motion was made by Council President Vasquez and was seconded by Councilman Yeager to approve all of the items listed on the Consent Agenda.

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

**Mayor's Appointments**

**Alternate Member to the Community Development Revenue Sharing Committee-** Sandra Hayes, one-year term to expire 12/31/22

**Mayor Representative to the Morris County Community Development Revenue Sharing Committee-** Vincent Binkoski, one-year term to expire 12/31/22

**Planning Board Class 4 Member-** Charlotte Kelly, four-year term to expire 12/31/25

**Trustee of Library-** Christopher Roman, five-year term to expire 12/31/26

**Council Remarks:**

**Council President Vasquez:** No report.

**Councilman Binkoski:** Happy New Year to everyone and thank you to everyone for attending. This past year was a tough one and he thanks all of the Borough's employees for keeping things going. He thanks Mr. Hutchins and Mr. Quillinan for keeping the DPW going through some challenging times. He thanks our County and State representatives for working with us.

**Councilwoman Hayes:** Happy New Year to everyone. Congratulations to Councilwoman Wickenheisser and Councilman Yeager. She echoes Councilman Binkoski's sentiments about it being a tough year and thanks everyone for working with them and keeping things going.

**Councilman Norton:** He thanks everyone that keeps our Borough well run and wishes everyone Happy New Year.

**Councilwoman Wickenheisser:** She also thanks everyone especially those that work to keep us all safe and healthy. Thank you for all of the support with her reelection as well.

**Councilman Yeager:** Happy New Year to everyone. Thank you to the community for their support. Thank you to Chief Young and 2021 Fire Chief Minell for their hard work last year.

Mayor Chegwidden's Remarks

He thanks the Council for everything they do for the town They really are a family, sometimes they have disagreements, but they always work them out to do what's best for the town. We've done a lot in 2021- Oakhurst Lane drainage project, the County opened the Main Street extension, Lafayette Street Improvements, which we received a DOT grant for, received another \$40,000 grant for parks, Washington St. sewer project, purchased a new fire truck, completed the renovation of the Library and Town Hall parking lot, which was partially funded by a CDBG grant, continued working on the Irondale Mountain Trails, which we've received a grant for, continued work on the restoration of the Morris Canal Lock 2 East, which was funded by a grant, and continued working on redevelopment and revitalization. Plans for 2022 include Robert St., which we received a DOT grant for, finishing the Lafayette St. project, adding an important interconnect water main for the MCMUA bypass for the water tank, which gives us an important backup, continuing construction on the canal restoration, finishing the property purchase on Main Street, continuing working on the trails system and adding a walking path around Robert Street Park, and working on the redevelopment near Harry Shupe and Chegwidden Way. We've increased ratables by 40 million and are still debt free. Last year we had a 0% increase in municipal tax and he credits the schools for keeping theirs below 2%. Thank you to our employees who have kept the business of the town running through a difficult year. Happy New Year to everyone.

Public Portion

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

Mike Bezney, 1 Bartek Lane: Mr. Bezney asked about the Irondale Mountain trails. Mayor Chegwidden advised they are hiking trails and we've been receiving grant money to work on them. Mr. Bezney asked if there were any plans for a gas line in the area around Mill Street. Mayor Chegwidden advised that he would need to ask the gas company about that, but often if there's enough interest in an area, the gas company will consider it. Mr. Bezney asked about the Robert Street Park grant. Mayor Chegwidden advised that we have to use the grant for the purpose it was applied for which was for a walking trail. Mr. Bezney asked about drainage. Mayor Chegwidden asked Mr. Hutchins to respond. Mr. Hutchins advised that the Borough's engineers are working on a total drainage system study for town. Once it's complete, we can use it to improve things when we do infrastructure and utility work. Mr. Bezney asked about the possibility of looking into moving some utility wiring underground, especially on Main Street. Mayor Chegwidden advised that we have actually previously looked into it, but the pricing was extremely expensive.

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

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Binkoski and was seconded by Councilwoman Wickenheisser.

January 4, 2022

ATTEST:

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Gabrielle Evangelista,  
Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

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WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,  
MAYOR