

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
JANUARY 24, 2022

Mayor Chegwidden called the Meeting to Order

Mayor Chegwidden read the Open Public Meeting Statement

Mayor Chegwidden requested Roll Call:

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

Also in attendance were Administrator Joseph Kovalcik Jr. 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.

Joe Macasek, Canal Society of New Jersey: Mr. Macasek asked about the proposal from the Canal Society of New Jersey that was submitted to the Borough regarding the restoration of the Lock 2 East and the locktender's house. Mr. Hirniak exchanged contact information with him as he is still reviewing the proposal.

Mike Bezney, 1 Bartek Lane: Mr. Bezney asked a question about PILOT tax programs that properties such as Avalon Bay receive and if there was a chance the contracts would be extended. Mayor Chegwidden advised that the contracts are not extended with the exception of Centennial Court though the Wharton Senior Citizen Corp. Mr. Bezney asked a question about new buildings having preferred parking for extra fees. Mayor Chegwidden advised that private property is allowed to have their parking as they'd like. Parking on public roads is subject to Title 39 of the NJ Laws. Plans for parking are reviewed by the Planning Board when hearing applications. Mr. Bezney congratulated the re-elected Council Members and asked who is up for re-election this year and if the Council receives a stipend for being on the board. Council President Vasquez and Councilman Norton are up this year and yes, the Council receives a small salary for serving on the board. Mr. Bezney mentioned that the DPW has been doing a great job with snow removal.

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

Ordinance

Councilman Binkoski presented O-19-21, "An Ordinance Amending Chapter 315, Article II, Section 10 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris, State of New Jersey," on second reading, by title only.

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments on this ordinance only.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Binkoski and was seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt O-19-21.

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

Ordinance

Councilman Yeager presented O-20-21, , “An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Sign an Agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police,” 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 to be heard, Mayor Chegwiddden closed the meeting to the public.

A motion was made by Councilman Yeager and was seconded by Councilman Binkoski to adopt O-20-21.

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

Presentation

Nouvelle, LLC made known a grant application. They have applied to Morris County Community Development for a grant for new construction in Wharton. The application is considered to be "County-Wide" and therefore not counted to be against an application from the Borough of Wharton.

Councilman Binkoski made a motion acknowledging the application, which was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes.

This motion was approved via voice vote.

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-38-22: Payout Nealon
R-39-22: Payout Lorito
R-40-22: Municipal Alliance Application FY 2022-2023
R-41-22: Award of Contract to JamFam Productions
R-42-22: Change Order 1 for Lock 2 East Project
R-43-22: Change Order 2 for Memorial Park Project
R-44-22: Fireworks Contract**

Appoint John Webber Deputy Fire Official, one-year term to expire 12/31/22.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

Correspondence

- Letter from Morris County re: Trails Grant
- Letter from Morris County: Municipal Alliance Funding
- Notice from RVRSA
- Notice of Donation from Avalon Bay
- Monthly Report Clerk and Construction

Council Reports

Council President Vasquez: She asked Library Director Fran Daley to speak about the library’s strategic planning. Ms. Daley advised that utilizing the feedback received from a community survey, the library is working on strategic planning. They are addressing some staff and salary changes in order to address the growing population of the Borough. Council President Vasquez asked if the Council would be okay with her providing relevant ordinances to business owners in both English and Spanish. Everyone agreed.

Councilman Binkoski: Thank you to Mr. Hutchins and the DPW for their great job with snow removal.

Councilwoman Hayes: No report.

Councilman Norton: No report.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: Thank you to Ms. Daley on her work with the library.

Councilman Yeager: Thank you to Councilwoman Hayes and everyone involved for their hard work on this year’s budget.

Mayor Chegwidden’s Report: He wants to thank all of the Planning Board members, especially President, Mr. Loury and Vice President, Mr. Steele for all of their work and many hours they’ve dedicated. He thanks everyone who attended the Borough’s holiday party. He wants to remind everyone that we are a walking school district and to please make sure your sidewalks are clear from snow so that kids can safely get to school. This is also required by law.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

Police Chief, David Young: Chief Young thanked the Personnel Committee, Mr. Kovalcik, and Mr. Rheinhardt for their support and help with working on negotiating the new Police contract. He agrees with the Mayor’s reminder about clearing sidewalks. Residents can utilize the system on the Police Department’s website to alert them of sidewalks that aren’t cleared in the appropriate time period.

Mike Bezney, 1 Bartek Lane: Mr. Bezney confirmed that people have 24 hours after snowfall ceases to clear sidewalks. Yes, that is correct.

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 via voice vote.

January 24, 2022

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

ATTEST:

**Gabrielle Evangelista,
Borough Clerk**

**WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR**