

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
DECEMBER 19, 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- Absent, Present
Councilwoman Hayes- Present
Councilman Norton- Present
Councilwoman Wickenheisser- Attending Via Phone
Councilman Yeager- Present

Also in attendance were Administrator Joseph Kovalcik Jr., Attorney Roman Hirniak, and Borough Clerk Gabrielle Evangelista.

Flag Salute

Mayor Chegwidden led those in attendance with the salute to the American Flag.

Volunteer Appreciation

Councilman Yeager presented Resolution R-136-22 “Honoring Qualified Members of the Wharton Fire Department.”

A motion was made by Councilman Yeager and was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes to adopt Resolution R-136-22.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 6	NAY: 0	ABSENT: 0	ABSTAIN: 0 MOTION CARRIED
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Mayor Chegwidden, Council President Vasquez, and Councilman Yeager presented the volunteer incentive to the qualified volunteers. Congratulations were offered by all in attendance.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

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

Ordinance

Councilman Binkoski presented O-17-22, “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 330, 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-17-22 on second and final reading.

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

Council President Vasquez presented O-18-22, “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 247, 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 to be heard, Mayor Chegwiddden closed the meeting to the public.

A motion was made by Council President Vasquez and was seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt O-18-22 on second and final reading.

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

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: 11/14/22, 11/28/22, 12/5/22			
R-137-22: Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriations- Highway Safety Grant			
R-138-22: Approve Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2021-014			
R-139-22: Approve Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2021-016			
R-140-22: Health Benefits Opt. Out			
R-141-22: Refund Tax Overpayment Block 1801 Lot 16			
R-142-22: Cancel Grant Balance			
R-143-22: Reject Grant- Electric Garbage Truck			
R-144-22: Appoint Temporary Fire Sub Code Official			
R-145-22: Budget Transfer			
R-146-22: Award Contract Foot Bridge Repair			
A motion was made by Council President Vasquez 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 Vasquez: Merry Christmas to everyone and Happy New Year.

Councilman Binkoski: Thank you to the DPW for their work on quickly and safely fixing the watermain break on Main Street. Merry Christmas to everyone.

Councilwoman Hayes: Happy Holidays to everyone.

Councilman Norton: The tree lighting event was on Sunday December 11th which was a very nice event. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: The tree lighting event was beautiful, thank you to everyone involved. She attended the Planning Board Meeting. Thank to you to the DPW for their work on the watermain repair.

Councilman Yeager: He attended the tree lighting event. Thank you to everyone for a great year.

Mayor Chegwiddden's Report: He presented at a course held by the NJ League of Municipalities for newly elected officials, which went very well. He attended the retirement party for County Administrator, John Bonanni. He wishes him well in his retirement. The tree lighting event was excellent, he thanks everyone involved. He attended the Planning Board meeting where the redevelopment application on Harry Shupe passed. It was an extremely thorough application, they addressed all of questions that the Planning Board had in writing. He attended the NJ League of Municipalities meeting in Princeton where they discussed the large increase in state health benefits. Thankfully, ours with the HIF is 4%, not the 26% from the state. They are looking for the state to put some money into it, he brought up that the same should be done for us because it's still tax dollars. He also attended a strategic planning meeting at the Wharton school. It was a shame that not a lot of people from the public attended. He advised them to do a survey at the next school event. Merry Christmas to everyone and Happy New Year. 2022 was another great year in Wharton. We had \$40 million in new ratables this year. He thanks the Council, Town Hall employees, the DPW, and the Police Department for all that they have done this year.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwiddden opened the meeting to the public.

Scott Hutchins, DPW Director: Mr. Hutchins thanks the Mayor for recognizing his department and thanks the Police Department for all of their help during the year.

Chief Young, Wharton Police Department: He thanks everyone for their support and is looking forward to another great year.

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

Closed Session

Council President Vasquez introduced R-147-22 to close the meeting to the public for discussion on Purchase of Real Property.

A motion was made by Council President Vasquez and was seconded by Councilman Binkoski to approve R-147-22. This motion was approved via voice vote.

A motion was made Councilman Binkoski and was seconded by Councilman Yeager to return to open session. This motion was approved via voice vote.

Councilman Binkoski introduced and read, R-148-22, "Authorize Property Purchase" and made a motion to approve this Resolution which was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes.

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

Councilman Binkoski introduced and read, R-149-22, “Authorize Property Purchase” and made a motion to approve this Resolution which was seconded by Councilman Yeager.

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

Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilman Yeager and was seconded by Councilman Norton to close the meeting. This motion was approved via voice vote.

December 19, 2022

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

ATTEST:

**WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR**

**Gabrielle Evangelista,
Borough Clerk**