

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
APRIL 24, 2023

Mayor Chegwidden called the Meeting to Order

Mayor Chegwidden read the Open Public Meeting Statement

Mayor Chegwidden requested Roll Call:

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

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

Lawrence Roscoe, 30 Elizabeth St.: Mr. Roscoe, along with some of his neighbors, are in attendance to ask for assistance with an ongoing issue about a neighbor having open burns in their backyard. They have two concerns about them, first that sometimes they appear to be burning items that are not wood. Second that the fires are sometimes very large. It's affecting the neighbors and they are concerned. Police Chief Young advised to call the Police Department when this is happening and they will assist. Some calls may need to go through the Fire Department, but they can help with that.

Prudencio Hernandez, 31 Elizabeth St.: Mr. Hernandez advised that this has happened multiple times. The person works in construction so they are worried that what's being burned is cement and other materials. The Fire Department has had to respond a few times. Fire Chief Caulfield advised that they warned the resident to lower the fire in September, and at the most recent call it was enclosed and appeared to just be wood. They will respond as necessary. Chief Young advised that if there are pictures to send them to the Police Department and they will work with them.

20-21 Elizabeth St.: He advised that he is here in support of his neighbors. Their main concerns are the height of the fires and the potential health risk if they are burning items that aren't wood.

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

Ordinance

Councilman Yeager presented O-06-23, "An Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)," 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 Yeager and was seconded by Council President Binkoski to adopt O-06-23 on second and final reading.

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

2023 Budget

Mr. Kovalcik made a presentation about the 2023 budget.

The Borough’s auditor, Mr. Sarinelli advised that Wharton is amongst the lowest average municipal tax in Morris County and we manage to get a lot done with that.

Mayor Chegwidden thanked Mr. Kovalcik, Mr. Sarinelli, and the Finance Committee for all of their work on our budget.

Councilwoman Hayes thanked Mr. Kovalcik for all of his work on the budget.

Resolution

Councilwoman Hayes introduced R-70-23 “Resolution to Authorize Wharton Borough to Self-Examine the 2023 Municipal Budget.”

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hayes and was seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt Resolution R-70-23.

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

Resolution

Councilwoman Vasquez introduced R-71-23 “Resolution to Read the Budgets by Title Only.”

A motion was made by Councilwoman Vasquez and was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes to adopt Resolution R-71-23.

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

Resolution

Councilman Yeager introduced R-72-23 “Resolution to Cancel Reserve Balance.”

A motion was made by Councilman Yeager and was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes to adopt Resolution R-72-23.

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

2023 Municipal Budget

Councilwoman Hayes presented Resolution R-65-23, The 2023 Municipal Budget for final adoption.

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments on the 2023 Municipal Budget only.

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

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hayes and was seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt R-65-23, the 2023 Municipal Budget.

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

2023 Special District Budget

Council President Binkoski presented Resolution R-66-23, The 2023 Special District Budget for final adoption.

Mayor Chegwiddden opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments on the 2023 Special District Budget only.

Mayor Chegwiddden closed the meeting to the public.

A motion was made by Council President Binkoski and was seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt R-66-23, the 2023 Special District Budget.

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

Ordinance

Councilwoman Wickenheisser introduced O-07-23, “An Ordinance to Provide for General Capital Projects Enumerated Within for the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris and to Provide for the Funding Thereof.” on first reading, by title only.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wickenheisser and was seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt O-07-23 on first reading.

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

Mayor Chegwiddden set the date of May 8, 2023 for second and final reading.

Ordinance

Councilman Norton introduced O-08-23, “An Ordinance to Provide for Water Capital Projects Enumerated Within for the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris and to Provide for the Funding Thereof.” on first reading, by title only.

A motion was made by Councilman Norton and was seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt O-08-23 on first reading.

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

Mayor Chegwiddden set the date of May 8, 2023 for second and final reading.

Ordinance

Councilwoman Vasquez introduced O-09-23, “An Ordinance to Provide for Sewer Capital Projects Enumerated Within for the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris and to Provide for the Funding Thereof.” on first reading, by title only.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Vasquez and was seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt O-09-23 on first reading.

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

Mayor Chegwidden set the date of May 8, 2023 for second and final reading.

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: 4/10/23

R-73-23: Approve Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2022-014
R-74-23: Approve Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2022-004
R-75-23: Approve Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2022-003
R-76-23: Authorize Agreement Morris County Fuel
R-77-23: Endorse TWA Permit Application
R-78-23: Authorize Interlocal Services Agreement- Animal Control
R-79-23: Approve Change Order 3- Municipal Building Improvements

A motion was made by Council President Binkoski which was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes 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 Binkoski: Thank you to Mr. Kovalcik and the Finance Committee for their work on the budget.

Councilwoman Hayes: She attended the Little League parade. The fields looked great, thank you to the DPW for their work on them. She attended the Morris County League of Municipalities meeting where they discussed the County's budget.

Councilman Norton: He also attended the Little League parade and ceremony. The crowd was great and the field looks marvelous. Thank you DPW. He attended the Boy Scout's breakfast and the Soccer opening day event.

Councilwoman Vasquez: She also attended Little League, Soccer, and the breakfast. Everything was great and the fields are in good shape. The Little League ceremony was run very well and you can tell that they really care about the town.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: She offers her condolences to former Fire Chief Dorr's family and to the Fire Department. She attended a training for a disaster event run by Morris and a few other Counties. It was very helpful and its good to be prepared. The fields all look amazing.

Councilman Yeager: He attended the Morris County League of Municipalities meeting, which was interesting. He also attended the Boy Scout breakfast; the Troop looks great. He also attended the Soccer opening day event.

Mayor Chegwidden's Report: He also would like to offer his condolences to the Dorr family. He was unfortunately away during the service. He thanks Kyle, and the entire family, for all of their service to the Borough for many years. He will be

greatly missed. Every time he hears the sirens, he thinks of him. He also attended the Morris County League of Municipalities meeting and thought the budget presentation by the County was great. The Boy Scout's breakfast was enjoyable. He needed two pitches to make it for Little League. Unfortunately, it rained during the Soccer ceremony. He wants to thank all of the volunteers for the sports teams for all of their hard work. He also thanks the Council and Finance Committee for our budget, it's a lot of work to get it done.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

Scott Hutchins, DPW Director: He thanks everyone for their kind comments about his department. It's the 13 great guys that do the actual work. He is also proud that the Alliance soccer clinic is being run by 3 of his guys and the Police Department on their own time.

Chief Young, Police Department: He has received a request from Apple TV about filming in town on approximately June 19th in the area of Fern Avenue and North Main Street. They are going to submit a formal request to the Clerk and their insurance. On June 10th (rain date June 11th) Overlook Village is hosting a block party in the pool area. They have asked if they can have the cars that normally park in the area be able to park on Overlook Drive overnight. Everyone was fine with this. The Alliance soccer clinic had 39 preregistered and added 2 more participants. It's going very well so far.

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

Adjournment

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

April 24, 2023

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

ATTEST:

WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR

Gabrielle Evangelista,
Borough Clerk