

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
**DECEMBER 18, 2023**

Mayor Chegwidden called the Meeting to Order.

Mayor Chegwidden read the Open Public Meeting Statement.

**Roll Call**

Mayor Chegwidden requested Roll Call:

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

**Flag Salute**

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

As this was Councilwoman Hayes final Council meeting, Mayor Chegwidden paid tribute to her for her 12 years of service on the Council, as well as her time on the Planning and Library Boards. He thanked her and presented her with a rocking chair from the Borough to commemorate her years of service.

**Open to the Public**

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

**Kevin Finnegan, American Legion:** Mr. Finnegan inquired about the fee for the Pool Table license. Ms. Muzzillo explained that the fee was waived for the American Legion.

**Rafik Botros, Pharmacist at Wharton Pharmacy:** Mr. Botros wanted to say how happy he is to meet the people of Wharton. Everyone has been very welcoming and he thanked everyone. He hopes to provide the service that the people of Wharton deserve.

Mayor Chegwidden welcomed Mr. Botros and thanked him for bringing his business to Wharton.

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

**Volunteer Appreciation**

Mayor Chegwidden thanked the Fire Department volunteers for their service.

Fire Chief Gene Caulfield thanked the Mayor and Council on behalf of the Fire Dept. for the Volunteer Appreciation incentive. He indicated after four long years he is done and he thanked the Mayor, Council and Mr. Kovalcik for their support.

Mayor Chegwidden thanked Chief Caulfield for stepping up to the plate.

**Resolution**

Councilman Yeager introduced Resolution R-163-23 “Honoring Qualified Members of the Wharton Fire Department.”

A motion was made by Councilman Yeager and seconded by Councilwoman Hayes to adopt Resolution R-163-23.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 5    NAY:    ABSENT: 1    ABSTAIN:</b>
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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.

Approval of Bills: Approve all bills referred to the Finance Committee

R-164-23 Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2022-005 Christiana  
R-165-23 Chapter 159 Municipal Alliance - Regular Grant  
R-166-23 Chapter 159 Municipal Alliance - Supplemental  
R-167-23 Refund for Street Opening Escrow  
R-168-23 Update Borough Policy & Procedure Manual and Employee Handbook  
R-169-23 2023 Budget Transfers

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 5      NAY:0      ABSENT: 1      ABSTAIN:0

Correspondence

- Jefferson Township – Notice of Ordinance #23-21
- Denville Township - Notice of Resolution
- Morris County 2024 Re-Org Meeting Invitation

Council Reports

Council President Binkoski: He reported the Water Dept. had a tough water main issue on Lafayette Street and they were all over it and got it done. He thanked them for their hard work. He congratulated Councilwoman Hayes and thanked her for her service. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilwoman Hayes: She had two finance meetings today. She met with Mr. Kovalcik and went through the 2024 budget. She met with Chief Young to discuss changes at the Police Dept. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilwoman Vasquez: She thanked Councilwoman Hayes and expressed what a pleasure it was working with her. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: She wished Councilwoman Hayes all the best and thanked her for all her hard work over the years. She thanked the Police and Fire Departments and the DPW for all their hard work all year. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilman Yeager: He thanked Councilwoman Hayes for her service and let her know it was his honor to work with her. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mayor Chegwidde's Report: He thanked Councilwoman Hayes again for her service throughout the years and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwidde opened the meeting to the public.

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

Closed Session

Council President Binkoski introduced R-124-23 to close the meeting to the public for discussion upon Contractual Items in Nature.

A motion was made by Council President Binkoski and was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes to approve R-124-23.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 5      NAY: 0      ABSENT: 1      ABSTAIN: 0</b>
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>

A motion was made by Council President Binkoski and was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes to return to open session. This motion was approved via voice vote.

**Adjournment**

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

December 18, 2023

**BOROUGH OF WHARTON**

ATTEST:

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**WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,  
MAYOR**

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**Cheryl Muzzillo,  
Deputy Borough Clerk**