

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
JULY 15, 2024

Mayor Chegwidden called the Meeting to Order.

Mayor Chegwidden read the Open Public Meeting Statement.

Roll Call

Council President Yeager requested Roll Call:

Council President Yeager - Present
Councilman Binkoski – Attended Via Phone
Councilwoman Jones - Present
Councilman Norton – Absent, Excused
Councilwoman Vasquez - Present
Councilwoman Wickenheisser – Present

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

Flag Salute

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

Mayor Chegwidden requested a moment of silence for

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.

Discussion

- **Update to Tree Ordinance- Bamboo/ Invasive Plants and/or Noxious Plants:** Mr. Kovalcik advised that this update was requested by the Housing/Zoning Officer as he has been getting complaints about bamboo in particular. After a short discussion everyone agreed this could be on the next agenda for first reading.

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.

<p>Approval of Bills: Approve all bills referred to the Finance Committee</p> <p>R-119:24: Tax Overpayment Refund Block 1905 Lot 6 R-120-24: Tax Overpayment Refund Block 2107 Lot 10.01 R-121-24: Grant Application NJDOT- Baker R-122-24: Grant Application NJDOT- Elizabeth and Sunset R-123-24: Liquor License Renewal R-124-24: Prof. Services- CHA- Miscellaneous Property Surveys R-125-24: Prof. Services- CHA- Fields at Orchard Mine R-126-24: Prof. Services- John Morgan Thomas- Fields at Orchard Mine R-127-24: Award Bid Irondale Water Storage Tank Rehabilitation Project</p> <p>Approve Recreation Application- Wharton Soccer</p>

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

Correspondence

- Morris County Planning Board Minutes
- Letter from BPU re: Altice

Council Reports

Council President Yeager: He attended National Night Out. The Fire Department had 20 calls last month, they are always looking for more volunteers.

Councilman Binkoski: He attended the most recent concert in the Summer Concert Series. They have been very well received and have inspired other towns to start holding similar events.

Councilwoman Jones: No report.

Councilman Norton: Absent.

Councilwoman Vasquez: No report.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: She attended National Night Out and thanks the Police for doing a great job with that event. She attended the opening of a new business and wishes them great success.

Mayor Chegwidden's Report: He attended a meeting with some other Mayors where they were asked if they want to participate in a lawsuit relating to the new affordable housing law passed by the State. They aren't against affordable housing; they want to make sure that the numbers and the process that is being imposed are fair to all towns. They are looking for an initial \$10,000 commitment from each town that is participating. Over 20 towns have already signed on. He attended the last concert, which was great. He attended the grand opening for Ascend where they gave the Borough a \$10,000 check for Summer Recreation and the Municipal Alliance, they are also looking to do more. Thank you to the, for that. He took a tour of the facility and it was very professional. So far, they have been busy, but have had no issues. Kudos to the Police Department for National Night Out. He also attended the 100th anniversary celebration for Rocky's Pasties, which was very nice. They are such a humble family and have done so much for our community throughout the years. He also wants to welcome the White Owl Tavern to town; their food is outstanding and he thanks them for coming to Wharton.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

Diane McDonald, 125 St. Mary's St.: Ms. McDonald asked for more information on the affordable housing. Mayor Chegwidden advised that we actually have plenty in town, but it was previously never taken into consideration. If we do nothing about it and developers come to the Planning Board and don't get approved, they can get what's called builders remedy where the court decides that they can build and how many units without our control. We've always worked with developers to avoid this and to maintain control over what's being built. The State also designates sites where they think affordable housing can be built, the last time it happened they sent us a map that included the off ramps of Route 80.

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

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Council President Yeager and seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

July 15, 2024

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

ATTEST:

**Gabrielle Evangelista,
Borough Clerk**

**WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR**