

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
AUGUST 12, 2024

Mayor Chegwidden called the meeting to Order.

Mayor Chegwidden read the Open Public Meeting Statement.

Roll Call

Mayor Chegwidden requested Roll Call:

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

Also in attendance were Mayor Chegwidden, Administrator Joseph Kovalcik Jr., Attorney Roman Hirniak (via teleconference) and Deputy Borough Clerk Cheryl Muzzillo.

Flag Salute

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

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

Jean Zaccone, 31 Park St.: Ms. Zaccone inquired why the 3rd Qtr. tax bills were being sent out late. Mr. Kovalcik explained this was due to a delay in receiving the tax rate from the County. Ms. Zaccone also expressed concern about the electric bikes and scooters speeding through town, not obeying the traffic laws. The problem was reported to the Police Department and it was explained the State recognizes the concerns about speed and safety and future regulation is also likely.

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

Ordinance

Councilwoman Vasquez introduced O-16-24, “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 297 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris, State of New Jersey” on first reading, by title only.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Vasquez and seconded by Council President Yeager to adopt O-16-24 on first reading.

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

Mayor Chegwiddden set the date of September 9, 2024 for second and final reading.

Discussion

- **Town Wide Garage Sale 9/21- Waive Permit Fee: It was agreed the Borough will waive the permit fee for the Town Wide Garage Sale being held on September 21st.**

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
Approval of Minutes: 6/24/24 and 7/15/24**

**R-128-24: 2023 Audit
R-129-24: Corrective Action Plan
R-130-24: Refund Street Opening Escrow Deposit- 1 Bartek
R-131-24: Refund Street Opening Escrow Deposit- 21-23 N. Main
R-132-24: Authorize Participation in Litigation re: Affordable Housing Mandates
R-133-24: Authorize Amendment to FOP Contract
R-134-24: Payout Resolution- Fernandez
R-135-24: Payout Resolution- Ornelas
R-136-24 DPW Tractor Purchase Resolution
R-137-24 Sanitation Cans**

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

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

Correspondence

- **Morris County Planning Board Minutes**

Council Reports

Council President Yeager: No report

Councilman Binkoski: He attended the Winslow concert last month. It was a great event and everyone had a good time.

Councilwoman Jones: She also attended last month's concert. The event was well attended and the band was phenomenal.

Councilman Norton: No report

Councilwoman Vasquez: She is impressed with the new garbage carts. They have streamlined the process and everything looks neat and organized around town. She also expressed her appreciation for the DPW Summer Help program and how it teaches the kids responsibility.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: She met with Chief Young, Mr. Hutchins and the Jr. Knights to discuss their Fall program. Councilwoman Wickenheisser visited the Summer Recreation camp and thanked all who worked to make it so successful. It is very well organized.

Mayor Chegwidden's Report: He stopped into Reno's Ristorante and the renovation is coming along nicely. He also visited the new building on Kossuth Street which looks great and was very well done.

The Mayor attended the last concert which was very well attended. While there, he received feedback from many residents who really like the new garbage carts and are happy with how much they hold. Since instituting the new carts, the Borough's tonnage is down 25%, which is a savings to the town.

He thanked the DPW for beautifying the grounds for Canal Day; new trees, BBQ's and benches have been added to the park. The DPW has a new multi-use truck. Mr. Hutchins explained different attachments that give the truck infinite capabilities.

The Mayor thanked Ms. Muzzillo and the Summer Recreation staff for their work on the Summer Recreation Program. It is very well organized and has never run so well.

Applications are still being accepted for the Hog Wild Charity Cook Off competition being held on September 14th at Betty Poyer Field.

Starting in October, the Borough will resume turning off water if delinquent payments are not collected. Residents who are delinquent will receive notice before the water is turned off.

Most of the Sterling Street Park design is completed. It includes: an inclusive playground, pickleball court, rehab/adult exercise stations and a pocket park on a separate lot that will have a reading/butterfly garden.

He thanked Mr. Kovalcik for his work to get the tax rate from the County and he thanked the office staff for fielding phone calls and questions from the residents. Mr. Kovalcik reported the Audit was approved.

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.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilman Binkoski and seconded by Councilwoman Wickenheisser to close the meeting. This motion was approved via voice vote.

August 12, 2024

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

ATTEST:

**WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR**

**Cheryl Muzzillo,
Deputy Borough Clerk**