

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 23, 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 – Present
Councilwoman Jones - Present
Councilman Norton – Present
Councilwoman Vasquez - Present
Councilwoman Wickenheisser – Absent, excused

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.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

Diane McDonald 125 St. Mary St.: Ms. McDonald asked if the investigation relating to letters that some people were receiving was completed. Mayor Chegwidden advised that it was completed and the results were announced a long time ago and the Prosecutor’s Office, Police Department, and an independent attorney all found no issues. She then asked about PILOT payments and the School Board’s request for some of the money. Mayor Chegwidden advised that that money is spent on capital projects and there is nothing that requires us to give some to the schools. The School Board never actually spoke to them about it, but just sent a Resolution. The way that taxation works is that no matter how much we collect we have to send the schools the full amount, if we don’t collect enough taxes we lose, not them. There is also a lot of money down there- they just built a 2-million-dollar turf field, received an additional 2 million in State Aid, and get money from Choice Students.

Elizabeth Lejune, 8 Port Oram Drive: Ms. Lejune is relatively new in town and wanted to know about the tax increase this year. Mayor Chegwidden advised that the 2024 tax rate actually went down, but assessments went up due to the market. We do a rolling assessment whereas some towns have to be ordered to do a revaluation. Councilman Binkoski advised that we started this program after a revaluation that killed us and it actually protects in the long run.

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

Ordinance

Councilman Norton presented O-17-24, “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 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 Norton and was seconded by Councilman Binkoski to adopt O-17-24 on second and final reading.

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

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: 9/09/24 R-144-24: Approve Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2022-013 R-145-24: Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriation- Municipal Alliance R-146-24: Cancel Taxes Exempt Vet- Block 1703 Lot 8 R-147-24: Cancel Taxes Borough Owned Property- Block 703 Lot 33 R-148-24: Cancel Taxes Borough Owned Property- Block 703 Lot 35 R-149-24: Cancel Taxes Borough Owned Property- Block 1310 Lot 6 R-150-24: Cancel Taxes Borough Owned Property- Block 607 Lot 2 R-151-24: Approve Amendment Wharton Police Department Policy and Procedures Manual R-152-24: Authorize Agreement Morris County Snow Plowing 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: 5 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 1 ABSTAIN: 0 MOTION CARRIED
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Correspondence

- None

Council Reports

Council President Yeager: He introduced R-153-24, “Resolution Rescinding R-144-23,” which was seconded by Councilman Binkoski. Ms. Evangelista explained that this was relating to a liquor license transfer whose application required some corrections. There is one more outstanding item and we should be able to redo it once that is received.

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

He continued that he attended Hog Wild, which was a great event.

Councilman Binkoski: He wishes Councilwoman Vasquez and Councilwoman Wickenheisser a happy birthday. He also attended Hog Wild.

Councilwoman Jones: She attended Hog Wild and thinks it will grow into a great event in the coming years. She attended the Morris County League of Municipalities meeting where they had a very interesting presentation on NJ4S which offers great mental health resources for schools.

Councilman Norton: No report.

Councilwoman Vasquez: She also attended Hog Wild and the Morris County League of Municipalities meeting. It was nice to see that people are taking mental health seriously for kids. Our schools should participate in this program, there's no cost and it's a great resource.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: Absent.

Mayor Chegwidden's Report: He attended Hog Wild; the pig race was so fun. He attended the swearing in of the new Police Chief in Rockaway Township. Prior to this meeting he attended a meeting with residents on Washington St. They listened to the ideas the residents had and will be implementing some of them. The new garbage carts are working well, our tonnage is actually down. He would just like to remind everyone to not store them out front.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

Diane McDonald: She asked if the DPW could put the garbage carts back on the sidewalk and not in the street please.

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 was seconded by Councilman Binkoski.

September 23, 2024

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

ATTEST:

WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR

Gabrielle Evangelista,
Borough Clerk