

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
OCTOBER 7, 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 – 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.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

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

Ordinance

Councilwoman Vasquez introduced O-18-24, “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 267 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 was seconded by Council President Yeager to adopt O-18-24 on first reading.

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

Mayor Chegwidden set the date of October 21, 2024 for second and final reading.

Ordinance

Councilman Norton introduced O-19-24, “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 Councilman Norton and was seconded by Councilwoman Jones to adopt O-19-24 on first reading.

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

Mayor Chegwidden set the date of October 21, 2024 for second and final reading.

Ordinance

Councilman Binkoski introduced O-20-24, “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 165 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 Councilman Binkoski and was seconded by Council President Yeager to adopt O-20-24 on first reading.

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

Mayor Chegwiddden set the date of October 21, 2024 for second and final reading.

Resolution

Council President Yeager introduced R-154-24, “Resolution Authorizing a Person-Person Transfer of a Plenary Retail Distribution License.”

A motion was made by Council President Yeager and was seconded by Councilman Binkoski to adopt R-154-24.

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

Resolution

Council President Yeager introduced R-155-24, “Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of a Police Officer.”

A motion was made by Council President Yeager and was seconded by Councilwoman Jones to adopt R-155-24.

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

Discussion

- **Best Practices Inventory-** Mr. Kovalcik discussed the results of the annual Best Practices Inventory. We scored 43.5 out of a possible 46.5, which gets us our full State Aid amount. The points we lost involved not bidding our health benefit consultants and questions relating to electric vehicles.

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-156-24: Tax Overpayment Refund Request
R-157-24: Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriation- Municipal Alliance Supplemental
R-158-24: Renew Flexible Spending Plan
R-159-24: Adopt Cyber JIF Technology Policy and Cyber Incident Response Plan
R-160-24: Health Benefits Opt Out 2025
R-161-24: Amend Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual-Performance Appraisal

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: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Kovalcik advised that the Resolution about the cyber technology policy and cyber incident response plan is for the new Cyber JIF. These policy updates combined with some changes to the Borough's technology allowed us to qualify for the Intermediate level, which brings our deductible down significantly.

Correspondence

- Morris County Planning Board Minutes
- RVRSA Resolution

Council Reports

Council President Yeager: He attended Coffee with a Cop, which was a good event. The Fire Department had 16 calls 50% of which were false alarms. A short discussion about false alarms followed. We do have an Ordinance that allows the Fire Department to recommend habitual offenders to be fined for this.

Councilman Binkoski: He attended a Finance and Personnel Committee with the Police Chief where they discussed some plans relating to efficiency and personnel.

Councilwoman Jones: No report.

Councilman Norton: No report.

Councilwoman Vasquez: No report.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: No report.

Mayor Chegwidden's Report: The Water Department has been doing water shuts for non-payment of bills, which was brought in approx. \$30,000 so far. This ensures that everyone is paying their fair share. We are working with Morris County on moving the recycling center to utilize that area for parking, which is moving along. The Fields and Orchard Mine plan for phase 1 is almost ready. Irondale at Wharton is having their grand opening on 11/4 at 9am, they will be sending invitations to the Council. Mr. Kovalcik and Mr. Hirniak have a call with Ascend on Wednesday to discuss some provisions of the host community agreement that are not being fulfilled yet. The light posts in the center of town are all being painted. He attended football games at Robert St. on Saturday, there were lots of people in attendance and he wishes them luck in their season.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

Diane McDonald, 125 St. Mary's St.: Ms. McDonald advised that one of the light posts appears to have been put back slanted. Mr. Quillinan, from the DPW, advised that he will check it out.

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 Councilwoman Wickenheisser.

October 7, 2024

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

ATTEST:

**Gabrielle Evangelista,
Borough Clerk**

**WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR**