

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 10, 2025

Mayor Chegwidden called the Meeting to Order.

Mayor Chegwidden read the Open Public Meeting Statement.

Roll Call

Mayor Chegwidden requested Roll Call:

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

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

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.

Joe Macasek, Canal Society of NJ: Mr. Macasek wanted to discuss opening the Lock Tender’s House for the Morris County Pathways events in the Spring and Fall. They could man the building with volunteers from the Canal Society. They would also like to regularly open the building, if possible, for things such as school programs. Mayor Chegwidden asked the Council if they were agreeable to participating in the Pathways event and potentially others, which they were. As for the school programs, he advised attending a Board of Education meeting to discuss partnering with them. We can also advertise in our newsletter when they are looking for volunteers.

Carisa Baldwin, 39 Columbia St.: Ms. Baldwin wanted to introduce herself as she is the new chair of the Wharton Democrats. Joining her was Vice Chair, John McCusker, Stacy Gasser, and Charles Hallbach. She advised they are willing to partner with the town on whatever they need.

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

Ordinance

Councilman Binkoski presented O-02-25, “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 Binkoski and was seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt O-02-25 on second and final reading.

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

Ordinance

Council President Norton presented O-03-25, “An Ordinance to Provide for Water 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 Chegwiddden opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments on this Ordinance only.

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

A motion was made by Council President Norton and was seconded by Councilman Binkoski to adopt O-03-25 on second and final reading.

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

Ordinance

Councilwoman Vasquez presented O-04-25, “An Ordinance to Provide for Sewer 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 Chegwiddden opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments on this Ordinance only.

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

A motion was made by Councilwoman Vasquez and was seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt O-04-25 on second and final reading.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 6	NAY: 0	ABSENT: 0	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: 1/20/25			
R-51-25: Approve Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2024-002			
R-52-25: Cancel Taxes Exempt Vet Block 2107 Lot 9			
R-53-25: Approve Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2024-019			
R-54-25: Support Publishing Legal Notices on Official Government Websites			
R-55-25: Payout- Rand			
R-56-25: Temporary Budget Amendment			
Approve Recreation Facility Applications: Wharton Soccer Club, Wharton Area Little League, Junior Knights			
ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 6	NAY: 0	ABSENT: 0	ABSTAIN: 0
MOTION CARRIED			

Correspondence

- Morris County Planning Board Minutes

Council Reports

Council President Norton: No report.

Councilman Binkoski: He attended Senator Bucco's recent dinner. He appreciates the invitation. It was well attended and nice to see a lot of folks from around the County.

Councilwoman Jones: She attended the Library Board meeting, where they approved the plan relating to the Borough's help with managing their finances. She attended the walkthrough of the completed project at the library. She also attended Senator Bucco's dinner, which was very nice.

Councilwoman Vasquez: No report.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: No report.

Councilman Yeager: He attended the library's re-opening.

Mayor Chegwidden's Report: The latest information he has on the Route 80 closure is that the NJDOT was planning on milling it and they did a boring test and the road collapsed so they are investigating it further. It is not in the same spot as the previous issue. He spoke with Senator Bucco and Assemblywoman Dunn about this and the traffic issues. The DOT is working on a plan, but it doesn't look like it will be an easy fix. He attended the re-opening of the library and he thanks the Council for taking care of the building by applying for the CDBG grants. The library did agree to the plan relating to their finances. There was recently a call about the affordable housing litigation and it is moving to appeals court. He and Mr. Kovalcik had a zoom call with Ascend and they are working with them on parking. We are moving along planning the Summer Concert Series, are working on planning a Brew Fest in August, and are working on Canal Day. He attended the soft opening at Reno's and it was great. He thanks him for investing in the town. He attended the Planning Board meeting where they extended the approval for 170 N. Main for 1 year, since they had due to the delay from the DEP. They also extended the approval for Harry Shupe for 1 year. He had a legislative call with the New Jersey Conference of Mayors where they discussed potential changes relating to accessory housing, which would trump local zoning laws. He attended the NJ Chamber of Commerce trip, which was very informative. They had gubernatorial candidates from both parties attend and answer questions.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

John McCusker, 34 Ford Ave.: Mr. McCusker asked if there are numbers of stacking issues in town. A neighbor of his recently had an issue with this. Mayor Chegwidden advised that the Housing and Zoning Officer does actively work on the issue, but he can't be everywhere at once so if you know of one to please call him. It's dangerous and costs all of us.

Mayor Chegwidden advised that he would like to commend the DPW on their response to the recent issue with the water pump station in Overlook Village. Mr. Quillinan and Mr. DeRosa sent people to go door to door to make sure people understood the issue and to assist.

Scott Hutchins, DPW Director: This has been a unique winter and they have been facing constant issues with people parking in the streets and clearing their snow back into the streets once they are plowed.

Chief Young, Wharton PD: He agreed with Mr. Hutchins, and thanks the DPW for still doing a great job. During the last storm, the Police Department issued 34 tickets.

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

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Binkoski and was seconded by Councilman Yeager.

February 10, 2025

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

ATTEST:

WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR

Gabrielle Evangelista,
Borough Clerk