

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MARCH 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 – Arrived late
Councilwoman Vasquez – Present via phone
Councilwoman Wickenheisser – Present
Councilman Yeager- Absent, excused

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

Mayor Chegwidden requested a moment of silence in honor of the passing of former Councilman Glenn Corbett.

Flag Salute

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

Open to the Public

Prior to opening the meeting to the public, it was explained that due to concerns about Avalon Bay and its proximity to the sinkhole on Rt. 80, our Building Inspector conducted an in-depth inspection at the request of the NJDCA and provided them with his report. Based on his recommendation the building owners hired an outside engineer to come and do an additional inspection.

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

A lengthy discussion was held with residents of Avalon Bay about their concerns. The Borough will continue to do what is within our purview to keep things safe.

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

Ordinance

Council President Norton introduced O-05-25, “An Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14),” on first reading, by title only.

A motion was made by Council President Norton and was seconded by Councilman Binkoski to adopt O-05-25 on first reading.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 4 NAY: 0	ABSENT: 2	ABSTAIN: 0
MOTION CARRIED		

Mayor Chegwidden set the date of April 14, 2025 for second and final reading.

Ordinance

Councilman Binkoski introduced O-06-25, “An Ordinance Fixing the Salary of Certain Officers and Employees 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 Councilwoman Wickenheisser to adopt O-06-25 on first reading.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 4	NAY: 0	ABSENT: 2	ABSTAIN: 0
MOTION CARRIED			

Mayor Chegwidden set the date of April 14, 2025 for second and final reading.

Ordinance

Councilwoman Wickenheisser introduced O-7-25, “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 315, Article III, Sections 16 and 17 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 Wickenheisser and was seconded by Councilman Binkoski to adopt O-07-25 on first reading.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 4	NAY: 0	ABSENT: 2	ABSTAIN: 0
MOTION CARRIED			

Mayor Chegwidden set the date of April 14, 2025 for second and final reading.

2025 Municipal Budget

Councilman Binkoski introduced R-57-25 – the 2025 Municipal Budget.

A motion was made by Councilman Binkoski and was seconded by Councilwoman Wickenheisser to adopt the introduction of the 2025 Municipal Budget.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 4	NAY: 0	ABSENT: 2	ABSTAIN: 0
MOTION CARRIED			

Mayor Chegwidden set the meeting of April 14, 2025 for the public hearing on the 2025 Municipal Budget.

2025 Special District Budget

Council President Norton introduced R-58-25 – the 2025 Special District Budget.

A motion was made by Council President Norton and was seconded by Councilman Binkoski to adopt the introduction of the 2025 Special District Budget.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 4	NAY: 0	ABSENT: 2	ABSTAIN: 0
MOTION CARRIED			

Mayor Chegwidden set the meeting of April 14, 2025 for the public hearing on the 2025 Special District Budget.

Resolution

Councilman Binkoski introduced R-59-25, “Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of Police Officers.”

A motion was made by Councilman Binkoski and was seconded by Councilwoman Wickenheisser to adopt R-59-25.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 4	NAY: 0	ABSENT: 2	ABSTAIN: 0
MOTION CARRIED			

Discussion

- **Various Parking Improvements-** A discussion was held regarding plans for putting in municipal parking lot on Pine Street to help alleviate some of the current parking needs. Our engineer is working with us on plans. Discussion was also held regarding Hance St. and St. Mary’s St.

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: 2/10/25

R-60-25: Refund Sewer Overpayment Block 104 Lot 4
R-61-25: 2026 Reassessment Program
R-62-25: Public Auction
R-63-25: Municipal Alliance Application FY2026
R-64-25: Police Vehicle Purchase
R-65-25: Shared Services Agreement- Jefferson for Animal Pound/Shelter
R-66-25: Police Vehicle Purchase
R-67-25: Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2024-14
R-68-25: Shared Services Agreement- Provide Animal Control Services to Boonton And Mt. Arlington

Appoint William Chegwidden RVRSA Representative for the remainder of a 5 year term to expire 12/31/27

A motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda was made by Council President Norton and was seconded by Councilman Binkoski

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 4 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 2 ABSTAIN: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Correspondence

- **RVRSA Notice**
- **Morris County Planning Board Minutes**
- **Notice of Ordinances Rockaway Township**

Council Reports

Council President Norton: He attended the FOP’s Irish Fest. He met with the Governor at the sinkhole, which was crazy to see. The Governor is declaring a State of Emergency and is hoping to be able to get federal funding.

Councilman Binkoski: He attended the Morris County League of Municipalities meeting. There is a lot going on in the State right now. He wants to thank the public who came to the meeting today. The Council always wants to help, but they do have limitations on what they are able to do.

Councilwoman Jones: Absent.

Councilwoman Vasquez: No report.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: Her condolences to the Corbett family. She attended an MRC training about sheltering in place and the County is well prepared for

emergencies. She also attended a training relating to mental health support for veterans.

Councilman Yeager: Absent.

Mayor Chegwiddden's Report: He provided an update about the Affordable Housing requirements and a lawsuit filed by the Builder's Association against any town that challenged their numbers. We are also dealing with residents from Pondview trying to register their kids in Wharton schools. Our Housing Officer sent a letter to both Pondview and the schools about this. He gave an update relating to State aid for both the schools and the town. We have a new shared service; our Animal Control Officer will also be doing Boonton and Mt. Arlington. He's received many calls about Rt. 80 and he has been staying as informed as he can about what is happening and the Borough is doing as much as we can to help. The State DOT is working 24/7 and they are working on attempting to fix relating problems as much as they can as quickly as they can. They brought to the NJDOT's attention to take a look at some of the older bridges in the area since they are getting increased use.

Councilwoman Jones arrived

Mayor Chegwiddden continued that he participated in the "Leap in the Lake" and they raised a lot of money for special education. We are going to be hosting a business support meeting for those impacted by the Rt. 80 closure on 3/31. Various State and Federal agencies and elected officials will be attending to offer support and resources. Chief Young and Mt. Kovalcik attended a meeting at Picatinny about potential shared services.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwiddden opened the meeting to the public.

Paul Breda, 6 Potter Lane: Mr. Breda advised he had sent a letter relating to some concerns about the Borough to the DLGS and was hoping it would be on today's agenda. He was advised that the Borough has already dealt with that issue and that he cannot dictate the agenda.

Chief Young: He wants to thank the State Police for manning the traffic lights and assisting with traffic from the Rt. 80 closure.

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

Adjournment

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

March 10, 2025

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

ATTEST:

WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR

Gabrielle Evangelista,
Borough Clerk