

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 17, 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 Deputy Borough Clerk Cheryl Muzzillo and Attorney Roman Hirniak.

Flag Salute

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

Open to the Public

In accordance with Local Ordinance O-18-03, “Persons making public comment at the first public portion shall be limited to five (5) minutes. During the second public portion the presiding officer shall have the discretion to terminate any repetitive, irrelevant or excessive public comment in the interest of permitting all members of the public time to speak on any governmental issue and completing the public business within a reasonable period of time.”

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

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

Ordinance

Councilman Yeager presented O-17-25, “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 315, Article II, Section 7 and Article III, Section 18,” 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 Yeager and seconded by Councilman Binkoski to adopt O-17-25 on second and final reading.

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

Ordinance

Councilman Binkoski introduced O-18-25, “An Ordinance of the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Acquisition by Purchase or Eminent Domain of Certain Property Identified as Block 1606, Lot 3 on the Official Tax Map of the Borough of Wharton and Located at Known as 52 South Main Street,” on first reading, by title only.

A motion was made by Councilman Binkoski and seconded by Councilwoman Jones to adopt O-18-25 on first reading.

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

Mayor Chegwidden set the date of December 8, 2025 for second and final reading.

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-153-25: Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2024-011 Pro Cap 8 FBO
R-154-25: Refund for Overpayment - Block 1709 Lot 14
R-155-25: Payout Resolution- Kovalcik
R-156-25: Appointment of Chief Finance Officer
R-157-25: Appointment of Community Affairs Coordinator, Administrative Assistant & Planning Board Secretary
R-158-25: Appointment of Temporary Plumbing Inspector
R-159-25: Appoint HIF Commissioners
R-160-25: Appoint JIF Commissioners
R-161-25: Authorizing Signatures on Borough Checks
R-162-25: Budget Transfers

A motion was made by Council President Norton 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

Correspondence

- Letter from Wharton Borough Public Schools – Discussion occurred regarding the installation of snow fencing around the perimeter of the Turf Field, as well as who should be responsible for the scheduling of the school district’s field.
- RVRSA Update

Council Reports

Council President Norton: No report.

Councilman Binkoski: He expressed his gratitude to the staff at Town Hall for stepping up and providing assistance wherever it was needed. He thanked Mr. Hutchins for his help with several projects and extended his appreciation to Chief Young for stepping into the role of acting Business Administrator.

He also proposed going back to two Council meetings per month, with the exception of July and August.

Councilwoman Jones: She attended the Veteran’s Eve ceremony which was a very moving event. She also attended the Fire Department’s Open House.

Councilwoman Vasquez: She thanked everyone for helping where needed.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: She attended the Veteran’s Eve ceremony, which was well attended.

She also attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the Morris County Park Commission's Healing Garden, located at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum. The garden is designed as a dedicated space for veterans suffering from PTSD, offering various activities to support them in their recovery.

Councilman Yeager: He attended the Veteran’s Eve ceremony and the Fire Department’s Open House. He noted that the Fire Department is currently in need of new members.

Mayor Chegwidden's Report:

- He attended the RVRSA meeting, where the primary topic of discussion was PFAS.
- He gave an update on the litigation with the Jersey City MUA.
- He advised that Rockaway Borough requested to share our Clerk for a few months while their Clerk is on leave. The Council gave its approval for this arrangement.
- He attended the Free Rabies Clinic, which was very successful and extremely well organized.
- The Mayor also asked Mr. Hutchins to provide an update on local projects:
 - Orchard Mine Park: Phase I is complete. The remaining material piles will be used for Phase II, which is nearly ready for bid.
 - Pine Street Parking: We are in the final design phase for the parking lot at 1 Pine Street and expect to go out for bid soon.
- Finally, Mayor Chegwidden welcomed Jason Gabloff as the new Chief Financial Officer for the Borough.

Open to the Public

In accordance with Local Ordinance O-18-03, “The presiding officer shall have the discretion to terminate any repetitive, irrelevant or excessive public comment in the interest of permitting all members of the public time to speak on any governmental issue and completing the public business within a reasonable period of time.”

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

Jennifer Hobbs, 40 Fern Ave.: She had a question about the funds used for the new parking lot. It was explained the funds are allocated within the capital budget. Additionally, she asked the about the distribution schedule for Council meeting agendas and was told the agenda is made available on the Friday preceding a Monday meeting.

Diana Kehoe, 43 Downs Ave.: She had a question regarding the cleanout of the former canal behind Pine Street. It was explained the cleanout was conducted to remove a significant number of dead trees and underbrush, which posed a potential fire hazard to nearby homes.

Miriam Onembo, 204 W. Dewey Ave.: - She asked that a statement be made in support of Transgender Day of Remembrance on Thursday, November 20th.

Jim Gottshall, 44 Third St.: He inquired about the estimated date that Orchard Mine Park would be available for residents to use. Mr. Hutchins advised that if all goes according to plan it may be ready at the end of next year.

Additionally, he thanked the Council for cosigning the legislation with other municipalities to revisit the current Mt. Laurel doctrine.

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 seconded by Councilman Yeager.

November 17, 2025

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

ATTEST:

WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR

Cheryl Muzzillo,
Deputy Borough Clerk