

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
AUGUST 17, 2026

Mayor Chegwidden called the meeting to order.

Mayor Chegwidden read the Open Public Meeting Statement.

Roll Call

Mayor Chegwidden requested Roll Call:

Council President Binkoski - Present
Councilwoman Gonzalez - Present
Councilwoman Hobbs - Present
Councilwoman Jones – Present via Phone Conference
Councilwoman Wickenheisser - Present
Councilman Yeager - Present

Also in attendance were Administrator David Young, 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

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

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

Ordinance

Councilwoman Hobbs introduced O-18-26, “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 231, Article IV 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 Hobbs and seconded by Council President Binkoski to adopt O-18-26 on first reading.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 6	NAY: 0	ABSENT: 0	ABSTAIN: 0
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Mayor Chegwidden set the date of September 14, 2026 for second and final reading.

Ordinance

Council President Binkoski introduced O-19-26, “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 Council President Binkoski and seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt O-19-26 on first reading.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 6	NAY: 0	ABSENT: 0	ABSTAIN: 0
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Mayor Chegwidden set the date of September 14, 2026 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

Approval of Minutes: 7/20/26

R-129-26: Refund for Overpayment of Taxes - Block 201 Lot 25 Qualifier C084A

R-130-26: Corrective Action Plan

R-131-26: Authorizing Consolidation of Titles of Municipal Clerk, Assistant Administrator and Personnel Administrator

R-132-26: Authorizing Consolidation of Titles of QPQ and Assistant Financial Officer

Approve Recreation Facility Application: WALL

A motion was made by Council President Binkoski and seconded by Councilwoman Wickenheisser to approve all items listed on the Consent Agenda.

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

Council Reports

Council President Binkoski: He reported that many residents are utilizing the new pickleball courts at Langdon Park and thanked Assistant DPW Director Tom Quillinan for his hard work in preparing them. Following a resident tip, Housing Official Leon Stickle successfully shut down an illegal body shop operating out of a rental garage. President Binkoski attended Sergeant Gillen's retirement walkout and expressed gratitude for his dedicated service to Wharton. Additionally, he met with Planning Board members, Borough attorneys, and Dover officials regarding the Kubert Mansion redevelopment project along the Wharton border. The historic mansion will be preserved to include a few rental units and common areas, complemented by three new carriage-house-style structures in Dover and four single-family homes in Wharton designed to match the existing neighborhood aesthetic. Lastly, he noted that the American Legion is open to the public and encouraged non-members to visit and support the organization.

Councilwoman Gonzalez: She spoke with Chief Young regarding crosswalk concerns near Avalon and thanked him for addressing the issue promptly. She noted she had attended the Board of Education meeting. She inquired about the status of the Borough's \$75,000 grant offered to help improve student grades. Council President Binkoski explained that after initial progress with former Superintendent Sanchez, Board advisors expressed concerns that the offered funding was insufficient for full program implementation. While the Board was expected to follow up with specific figures, no response was received. Administrator Young confirmed he would reach out to the new Business Administrator to follow up, as the Borough remains interested in providing support. Councilwoman Gonzalez also attended Sergeant Gillen's retirement service and recognized his years of dedicated service. Finally, she announced that Senator Booker requested to visit Canal Day as part of his 21-city tour.

Councilwoman Hobbs: She shared a Zoning Board reminder for homeowners to keep curbs and sidewalks clear of litter, dirt, and weeds, and noted that recent utility work on E. Central Avenue had required a brief water shutoff. She expressed enthusiasm for the new Langdon Park pickleball courts and the upcoming Canal Day celebration. In addition to attending recent Planning Board and Rockaway Valley Regional Sewerage Authority (RVRSA) meetings, she reminded the public that High School Freshman Orientation would take place on Wednesday, August 19th.

Councilwoman Jones: She reminded residents about the Canal Day festivities and fireworks scheduled for Saturday, August 22nd. She also encouraged community participation in the numerous programs hosted by the local library, which can be found listed on their website and calendar.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: She announced that opening ceremonies for Canal Day would begin at 10:00 a.m. with local and state officials in attendance, and she urged everyone to support the Jr. Knights at the snack shed during the fireworks. She reported a very successful conclusion to the Summer Recreation Camp, noting

strong positive feedback from parents. Additionally, she commended Tom Quillinan for swiftly assisting a new resident with a potential water issue and providing a welcoming first impression of Borough services.

Councilman Yeager: He provided the monthly emergency response figures, reporting 1,677 total calls for the past month, which included 32 callouts for the Fire Department.

Mayor Chegwiddden's Report: He commended Councilwoman Wickenheisser for her leadership and efforts in coordinating Canal Day. Regarding Borough projects, he noted that work on the Pine Street Parking project has temporarily slowed to conduct soil testing, while the Fields at Orchard Mine project is progressing smoothly with bids currently being submitted. The Planning Board has begun updating the municipal Master Plan, a process expected to take several months with adoption targeted by the end of the year. He also highlighted the Borough's opposition to proposed state legislation that would mandate municipalities to allow accessory dwelling units, such as converted garages and sheds. Lastly, he shared that the Summer Recreation program received widespread praise from residents as one of its best seasons to date.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwiddden opened the meeting to the public.

Barbara Tarchak, 26174 Westview: She asked about the status and escalation process regarding vacant commercial spaces, questioning if additional measures could be taken since the current fee policy did not seem to be working. Mayor Chegwiddden explained that the Council establishes policy, while department heads are responsible for implementation. He noted that the process has been in place for only a short time. He clarified that the Borough operates from a bottom-up approach, where department heads identify needs and bring feasible solutions to the Council for approval. Addressing the vacancies directly, Councilwoman Wickenheisser noted that applications had been submitted for spaces at 10 N. Main Street—including interest from a restaurant, a dog groomer, and a bakery—but lengthy state-level approval delays forced the prospective business owners to pull out due to holding costs.

Gabriel Gonzalez, 32 Fern Avenue: He asked who the Council would coordinate with regarding the offered school grant following the departure of Superintendent Sanchez. He was informed that outreach would likely continue through the interim superintendent. Mr. Gonzalez expressed his appreciation to the Mayor and Council for their ongoing efforts to support local students.

Lindsey Crean, 113 Pine Street: She followed up regarding the school grant, inquiring how long it had been since the Borough received a response from the Board of Education. She was informed that it had been several months. Ms. Graham thanked the governing body for offering the much-needed student support and expressed hope that the initiative would move forward soon.

James Gottshall, 44 Third Street: He requested clarification on whether the grant funds were designated strictly to improve test scores rather than being absorbed into general funds. It was confirmed that the funds were specifically earmarked for academic improvement and could not be redirected to general accounts, as agreed upon during initial discussions with Superintendent Sanchez. Resident S. Hutchins added for the record that the Board President was also present on the call during those initial discussions and was fully aware of the grant's intended purpose.

Jean Zaccone, 31 Park Street: She expressed appreciation for the recent parking adjustments on St. Mary's Street and inquired about enforcement regarding new laws for motorized bikes and scooters. Chief Young reported that the initial registration grace period has ended and all vehicles must now be fully registered. He noted that the primary issue involves mandatory insurance requirements, explaining that non-compliant operators face vehicle impoundment and license suspension tickets. Chief Young mentioned that many riders are around 15 years old and their parents are often unaware of the requirements, so the department is

focusing on public education while actively monitoring compliance. Councilwoman Hobbs suggested discussing the scooter and bike regulations during back-to-school night, an idea that was well received by Chief Young and the Council.

Scott Hutchins, 2 Columbia Street: He acknowledged and commended the efforts of the Borough’s young seasonal workers for their hard work in maintaining the flower displays along Main Street.

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

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Council President Binkoski and seconded by Councilwoman Wickenheisser. The motion was approved via voice vote.

August 17, 2026

ATTEST:

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR

Cheryl Muzzillo,
Borough Clerk