

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 14, 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
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 presented 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 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 Councilwoman Hobbs and seconded by Councilwoman Jones to adopt O-18-26 on second reading.

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

Council President Binkoski presented 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 second reading, by title only.

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public, for questions or comments on this Ordinance only.

Councilwoman Gonzalez inquired about the rationale behind merging the Qualified Purchasing Agent position with the Assistant Financial Officer role. It was explained that the positions were combined at the State's request for pension classification purposes.

Councilwoman Hobbs questioned what the duties of the Assistant Financial Officer are and why the position was created. It was explained that the assistant role was created to handle day-to-day operations as they arise, when the CFO is not in the office. It was also noted that Ms. Lorito holds a municipal CFO certification.

In response to Councilwoman Hobbs' request for a clearer understanding of the matter,

she was advised to contact Mr. Gabloff directly to schedule a meeting. Mayor Chegwiddden added that Councilwoman Hobbs has yet to attend the Finance classes offered by the NJ League of Municipalities and encouraged her to participate during the upcoming League Conference.

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

A motion was made by Council President Binkoski and seconded by Councilwoman Jones to adopt O-19-26 on second reading.

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

Council President Binkoski introduced R-133-26, “Resolution Authorizing the Expenditure of Funds Not to Exceed \$920,000.00 And Reasonable Closing Costs to Acquire Certain Real Property Identified as Block 1606, Lot 3 And Located At 52 South Main Street.”

A motion was made by Council President Binkoski and seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt R-133-26.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 6	NAY: 0	ABSENT: 0	ABSTAIN: 0
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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: 8/17/26 R-134-26: Resolution Cancelling Water Shutoff Charges R-135-26: Tax Sale Redemption TSC 25-00002 Pro Cap 8 FBO R-136-26: Tax Sale Redemption TSC 25-00011 Pro Cap 8 FBO R-137-26: Award Bid- Fields at Orchard Mine Phase II R-138-26: Liquor License Transfer- Mamas Gastro Pub LLC-Shianu LLC R-139-26: Payout Resolution- Gillen R-140-26: Authorizing Appointment of Crossing Guard R-141-26: Waiving Garage Sale Permit Fee for Town-Wide Garage Sale Fire Department Application: Omari Dawud <u>Mayor’s Appointment</u> <u>Board of Health-</u> Elizabeth Maloupis, remainder of 3-year term to expire 12/31/27. 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 high attendance at Canal Day and expressed appreciation to all who made the event successful, with special thanks to the DPW and the Police Department. He commended the fireworks display and noted he was honored to attend and speak at the September 11th ceremony at the American Legion. He also attended the Wharton Wolves Soccer opening day, and attended the Morris County September 11th Memorial ceremony. He expressed gratitude to the County for

organizing the moving event, and noted the keynote speaker's praise of the county training facility.

Councilwoman Gonzalez: She provided the monthly update on DPW activities, which included removing 750 tons of solid waste, assisting with Canal Day and fireworks festivities, mowing parks and fields twice weekly due to heavy rainfall, working on the new Baker Avenue water main, implementing the Lead Service Line Replacement Program, and planting trees on several Borough streets. She also attended Canal Day, thanking Councilwoman Wickenheisser for her hard work and noting how nice it was to have State Senators and members of Congress attend the local event. She also attended the Board of Education meeting, the American Legion September 11th ceremony, and the Wharton Soccer opening day.

Councilwoman Hobbs: She commended the Police Department and organizers for a successful Canal Day, noting that the fireworks were the best yet and mentioning a thank-you note received from U.S. Senator Cory Booker following his visit. She reported attending Board of Education meetings on August 27 and September 10 and reminded the public that the next meeting is September 24 and the Back-to-School picnic is September 18. She also attended meetings for the Planning Board and RVRSA. Regarding the Planning Board, she encouraged residents to complete the community survey to help shape the updated Master Plan. In response to her questions on two properties on Fern Ave., Chief Young reported that an extension was granted for debris removal at the demolished house due to insurance delays, and that the owner of the fire-damaged Luna property cleared external debris but must coordinate with the Construction Official for interior access. Regarding the Borough's educational grant to improve student test scores, Councilwoman Hobbs stated the School Board President indicated the Board President reported they were waiting on a Borough response; however, Municipal Attorney Roman Hirniak clarified that following an April 9 joint meeting, the Board was tasked with providing program details and sent no communication until a letter from their attorney arrived on September 6, which he answered on September 8.

Councilwoman Jones: She reported attending the final summer concert, the American Legion September 11th ceremony, and the Wharton Soccer opening ceremony. She also attended the Board of Education and Library Board meetings, encouraging residents to check the library's website for information on upcoming community events.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: She expressed her gratitude to the DPW for their hard work during Canal Day, highlighting their extra efforts to provide transportation assistance to attendees. She also praised the Police Department and volunteers for making the event a success. She attended the American Legion September 11th ceremony, the Jr. Knights pep rally, and the Wharton Soccer opening ceremony, where she extended special thanks to the parents who volunteer for the program. She reported that the girls' pee wee flag football team won their inaugural game against Wayne and thanked Sterling Brown for his efforts in securing a grant to purchase new equipment for the program. She also expressed condolences to the family and colleagues of Dirk Peereboom, owner of SMP Sussex Market, noting his long-standing support of the Borough.

Councilman Yeager: He reported attending Canal Day and the September 11th ceremony at the American Legion. He provided the monthly public safety statistics, noting that the Police Department responded to 1,800 calls for service and the Fire Department responded to 23 calls.

Mayor Chegwiddden's Report: He commended the success of Canal Day and praised the fireworks display, offering special thanks to Councilwoman Wickenheisser for her dedication to organizing the event. He reported attending the Planning Board meeting, noting that updates to the Master Plan are underway and expected to be ready for Council review in approximately two months. He added that a new subdivision on Church Street was approved and will begin construction soon. Finally, the Mayor thanked the Council for awarding the Orchard Mine Phase II bid and approving the acquisition of the Santander Bank property for future municipal parking.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

Scott Hutchins, 2 Columbia St.: In response to Councilwoman Hobbs' report, he noted for the record that the Board of Education meeting scheduled for September 10 was canceled due to a lack of business. In addition, he also reminded everyone at the last Board Meeting on August 27th the Board had discussed the need to respond to the Borough with more detailed program information, which Superintendent Sanchez was going to do before she was removed. He also expressed condolences regarding the passing of Dirk Peereboom of SMP Sussex Market, acknowledging his past contributions and ongoing support of the community.

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 Binkoski and seconded by Councilwoman Wickenheisser. The motion was approved via voice vote.

September 14, 2026

ATTEST:

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR

Cheryl Muzzillo,
Borough Clerk