REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
OCTOBER 19, 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, CFO Jason Gabloff and Attorney Roman Hirniak.

Flag Salute

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

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

Gerald Taranto, 14 Downs Ave.: Mr. Taranto inquired regarding the status and procedure of the lead service line replacement program. Mr. Quillinan advised that he would direct the Utility Supervisor to inspect the resident's property to determine whether the service line requires replacement.

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

Ordinance

Council President Binkoski introduced O-20-26, "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-20-26 on first reading.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 4	**NAY: 2**	**ABSENT: 0**	**ABSTAIN: 0**	
Yeas: Binkoski, Jones, Wickenheisser, Yeager				
Nays: Gonzalez, Hobbs				**MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution

Councilman Yeager introduced R-145-26, "Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of a Police Lieutenant."

A motion was made by Councilman Yeager and seconded by Councilwoman Wickenheisser to adopt R-145-26.

During roll call, Councilwoman Hobbs requested clarification regarding the salary range for a Lieutenant. Following a review of the relevant ordinance and resolution by Mr. Gabloff and Chief Young, it was confirmed that the salary specified in the resolution falls within the range established by the approved Salary Ordinance. Mayor Chegwidden advised Council members that questions regarding introduced items should be raised prior to voting to avoid confusion during roll call.

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: 9/28/26

R-146-26: Refund for Overpayment - Block 201 Lot 25 Qualifier C065B
R-147-26: Tax Sale Redemption TSC 25-00001 M&P Retirement Plan
R-148-26: Authorizing Agreement with Denville Animal Hospital
R-149-26 Tax Sale Redemption TSC 25-00004 Pro Cap 8 FBO
R-150-26 Authorizing Agreement with Canal Society of New Jersey

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

MOTION CARRIED

Discussion

- **Best Practices - Mr. Gabloff presented the results of the annual Best Practices Inventory, reporting a score of 45.5 out of 54 points. This score exceeds the 34-point minimum required to secure the municipality's full State Aid allocation, placing it well above the 43-point benchmark considered favorable. Point deductions were limited to inquiries regarding electric vehicles and court officer surety bonds; for the latter, Mr. Gabloff noted that a penalty was incurred due to the survey's strict binary response format, even though Mt. Arlington directly handles those surety bonds.**

- **Residential Handicap Parking – Mayor Chegwidden and Chief Hamilton led a discussion regarding the potential establishment of residential handicap parking. Council members raised questions concerning snow plowing logistics and how to zone the spaces so they remain reserved exclusively for residents within the designated area. Chief Hamilton agreed to research how other municipalities handle residential handicap parking zoning and report back with findings.**

Council Reports

Council President Binkoski: Council President Binkoski reported attending the Morris County Pathways History event at the Locktenders House and highlighted the Council's approval that evening extending the partnership with the Canal Society for interpretive programming, which will foster field trips, tours, and local tourism. He confirmed meeting with the DPW Director, Borough Administrator, Engineer, and Mr. Gabloff to finalize plans for Columbia Street Park, noting the project will move forward regardless of whether Senator Booker's grant is awarded. He emphasized that the Borough is establishing a solid budget to stabilize its portion of taxes and remain debt-free while operating on only 16% of total tax revenue, all while maintaining road and infrastructure projects, updating the Field House at Robert Street Park, and coordinating with the Police and Fire Departments to assess their capital needs. Additionally, he commended community programming, reporting positive attendance at Hispanic Heritage events at the American Legion and the Library, the latter attended alongside Councilwoman Jones. Mayor Chegwidden added financial context, stating that of the Borough's approximately $13.5 million overall budget—with $10 million dedicated to the school district—the Borough receives roughly $350,000 in State Aid, which is allocated strictly to capital projects rather than the operating budget to prevent fiscal reliance on the State.

<u>Councilwoman Gonzalez</u>: Councilwoman Gonzalez inquired about the Columbia Street Park capital project, asking if residents could view the plans before construction begins; Council President Binkoski clarified that while residents are welcome to view the finalized, previously approved plans for an update, no modifications can be made at this stage. She also reported that DPW loose leaf collection is underway and ongoing with unscheduled rotation across all streets and that DPW staff recently completed traffic control safety training. She noted the department is coordinating with the Police Department and Morris County to install crosswalk signs with caution lights outside Avalon Bay. Mayor Chegwidden emphasized that Council approval and budget appropriations are required before committing to any project, adding that the County and State must be involved due to the county roadway and proximity to Route 15; Chief Young and Mr. Quillinan clarified that the project is strictly in a preliminary exploratory phase with no active work underway.

<u>Councilwoman Hobbs</u>: She reminded the public to vote on Election Day and shared updates from the recent Board of Education meeting, noting discussions regarding an interim superintendent and a new partnership with the Jr. Knights to allow MacKinnon students to participate in wrestling at no cost in exchange for a facility fee waiver for hosting the tournament. She added that the next PTA meeting will take place on Election Day and noted that the weather-postponed Trunk or Treat event has been rescheduled for this Friday, encouraging additional community members to volunteer to offset scheduling conflicts.

<u>Councilwoman Jones</u>: She reported attending the enjoyable October 4th Canal Society Day and is looking forward to expanded programming in the future. She also attended the Board of Education meeting as well as the well-attended La Fiesta event at the Wharton Library, which has broadened its community offerings to include Senior Yoga.

<u>Councilwoman Wickenheisser</u>: She promoted the upcoming Hallowharton event, and thanked the staff working on the event. She highlighting the ongoing Halloween House Decorating Contest, and noted that residents of the senior building are participating in their own door decorating contest.

<u>Councilman Yeager</u>: He congratulated Lieutenant Katsigiannis on his appointment and expressed enthusiasm for working together. He also reported that the Fire Department responded to 15 calls during the previous month.

<u>Mayor Chegwidden's Report</u>*: *No Report

<u>Open to the Public</u>

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

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

<u>Adjournment</u>

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

October 19, 2026

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

ATTEST:

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WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN, MAYOR

_____
Cheryl Muzzillo,
Borough Clerk