

REGULAR MEETING- HELD VIRTUALLY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

Mayor Chegwidden called the Meeting to Order

Mayor Chegwidden read the Open Public Meeting Statement

Mayor Chegwidden requested Roll Call:

Council President Binkoski- Present
Councilwoman Hayes- Present
Councilman Norton- Present
Councilwoman Vasquez- Present
Councilwoman Wickenheisser- Present
Councilman Yeager- Present

Also in attendance were Administrator Jon Rheinhardt, Borough Clerk Gabrielle Evangelista, and Attorney Roman Hirniak.

Flag Salute

Mayor Chegwidden led those in attendance with 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 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

Council President Binkoski introduced O-14-20, “An Ordinance to Provide for a Water Utility Capital Project Enumerated Within for the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris and to Provide for the Funding Thereof,” on first reading, by title only.

A motion was made by Council President Binkoski and was seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt O-14-20 on first reading.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-6 NAY-0 ABSENT-0 ABSTAIN-0	MOTION CARRIED
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Mayor Chegwidden set the date of September 28, 2020 for second and final reading.

Resolution

Councilwoman Wickenheisser presented R-112-20, “Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of Housing Officer, Zoning Officer, and Road Opening Inspector.”

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wickenheisser and was seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt R-112-20

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-6 NAY-0 ABSENT-0 ABSTAIN-0	MOTION CARRIED
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Discussion

- **For Discussion and Possible Action- Update to Fire Prevention Ordinance:** Ms. Evangelista advised that the Fire Official has requested an update to this ordinance due to a lack of compliance by certain businesses with the annual registration. He has asked to raise the fees \$10 to cover the cost of certified mailings to businesses that have not responded as well to include the general penalty for noncompliance, which was previously absent from this Ordinance. No one had an issue with the proposed changes.

A motion was made by Councilman Yeager and was seconded by Councilwoman Wickenheisser to adopt O-15-20, “An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 136 of the Revised General Ordinance of the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris, State of New Jersey,” on first reading, by title only.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-6 NAY-0 ABSENT-0 ABSTAIN-0	MOTION CARRIED
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Mayor Chegwiddden set the date of September 28, 2020 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: All bills referred to the finance committee to be paid if found correct.

Approve Minutes from 8/17/20

- Resolutions:**
- R-113-20: Prof. Service- Trails**
 - R-114-20: Payout Moreno**
 - R-115-20: Improvement Authorization Cancelation**
 - R-116-20: Liquor License Renewals**
 - R-117-20: Approve Change Fund Color Run**
 - R-118-20: Refund Smith**

Approve Recreation Facility Application- Tyler Daniel for Sterling St. Park for 9/15-10/29

Approve Recreation Facility Application- Jazzercise for Robert St. Park for Sundays in September and October

Approve Fire Fighter Applications- Ryan Hugues and Cesar Rios Rojas

Approve Blue Light Permit Renewal- Kyle Dorr

Council President Binkoski made a motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda which was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-5 NAY-0 ABSENT-1 ABSTAIN- 0	MOTION CARRIED
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Correspondence

- **Notification Roadway Maintenance from NJDOT**
- **Resolutions from Morris County Freeholders, Pequannock, and Roxbury**
- **Proclamation from Long Hill**
- **Ordinance from Rockaway Township**

- Monthly Reports Treasurer, Clerk, Construction

Council Reports

Council President Binkoski: There has been some discussion about people who have left out their recycling cans even though the pick up on Labor was cancelled due to the holiday. He has talked about this with the DPW Director and Zoning Officer, who has started to notify people to remind them of the correct pick up dates and that they can't leave their recycling out indefinitely. He asked if we can do a reminder on the Borough's social media, which will be done. People can also bring their recycling to the recycling center during its operating hours. One nice thing with that, is that we get a small rebate when the bins at the recycling center reach capacity before getting picked up, which we always try to do.

Councilwoman Hayes: The Personnel Committee met several times to discuss a few issues and negotiations that are going on. The Finance Committee met to discuss the SCADA system. At the request of Councilwoman Vasquez, she met with the DPW Director Mr. Hutchins, and Mr. Rheinhardt about some potential upgrades to the Library. Unfortunately, we won't be able to do anything this year, but they will look at the Capital Budget and get them included so we can hopefully do some next year. In the meantime, Mr. Hutchins will do some smaller items to spruce it up.

Councilman Norton: He agrees with sending an update about the recycling and reminding people that the recycling center is available. Perhaps people don't realize that it is an option. On 8/20 the Municipal Alliance sponsored an outdoor movie event, which was very well attended. They are going to try to do another one around Halloween. This coming Thursday, 9/17 will be our 8th Annual Job Fair. It will be a little different this year because it will be outside in the parking lot of the MacKinnon School. On 10/4 the Municipal Alliance will be sponsoring a 5K Color Run. He spoke with the Jr. Knights Football program about their season. The season was cancelled by the Morris County Youth Football League, but they left it up to each individual town or program if they wanted to schedule a game with someone else who is looking to play a game. He is not sure how insurance covers that. They also decided that kids would be allowed to go play for another team if they choose to. Mayor Chegwidden advised that he thinks it is all covered by the JIF so it should be okay.

Councilwoman Vasquez: On 8/18 the Library Board met. They discussed different ideas and issues. Some of which included expanding the use of social media to market the services of the Library as well as services for Senior Citizens. The annual gala has been cancelled for this year so they are working on other ideas for fundraising. On 9/8 some of the Board met with the staff of the Library, which was a good and positive meeting. There are some issues with the building so she brought it to Councilwoman Hayes, who already discussed what has been happening with that. They are still working on hiring a new director for the Library. On 9/9 she attended the Board of Health meeting, which was a good meeting. Since June we have only had 11 Covid-19 cases in town, which she thinks is a good number for 3 months.

Mayor Chegwidden advised that he suggested applying for a CDBG next year to do the windows in the Library. We have been very successful in getting those grants so hopefully that could help with one of the items that needs done.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: She wishes Mr. Moreno well in his retirement and welcome in Mr. Lewthwaite, who has will have his hands full and big shoes to fill.

Councilman Yeager: He met with Chief Young and the officers are feeling more comfortable with the virus concerns so they are resuming more normal activity for pulling people over.

Mayor Chegwidden's Report: He thanks Rita Parikh for hosting the 100th birthday party for Henry Shapiro. He attended with Councilwoman Wickenheisser and it was a very nice event with a small crowd. The following Saturday, there was a

birthday drive by parade for Mr. Shapiro with several towns participating and our Fire, Police and DPW. He thanks everyone who put that together and participated. It was very heart warming.

At our next meeting we are going to have a joint session with the Library Board to do strategic planning for the Library. The Library has always been a focal point for the Borough and has done a lot of great things.

The Job Fair this week will be our 8th one. When we had a high unemployment rate during the recession, we put this together to help our residents. This one will have many businesses there looking for employees.

He attended the Planning Board meeting where they discussed the Morris Hill's Regional District's long-range facility plan. They asked the Planning Board for facts and figures so that they can plan for their future. He thought it was very interesting that we had and still have a decline in students that Wharton is sending there. In 2017-2018 the decline was 3.9% to 111 students, which is a big drop for us. In 2018-2019 it declined by another 3 students. It decreased again in 2020-2021 by 23 students. Over the past 10 years it has decreased 8%, 223 students. You often hear how new development is going to flood the schools with new students, but we have to go back to when Sterling Heights was built for the last large increase. When they look at current and potential future developments the approximate number of new students is 31, replacing that 223. Councilwoman Wickenheisser advised that she agrees that it was a good report. The development that is going in now is not bringing a lot of students. Families now are looking for more space in a single-family home, not condos or townhomes.

Mayor Chegwidden continued that he also wants to welcome Mr. Lewthwaite to the team and to thank Mr. Moreno for his 50 years of service to the Borough, 20 years in the office and 30 as a Police Officer. His heart and soul has always been in Wharton and he's always been very fair with people.

The new County road is almost complete, they are waiting for JCP&L to come finish up, it will hopefully be done within the month.

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.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Council President Binkoski and was seconded by Councilman Norton to close this meeting.

September 14, 2020

ATTEST:

Gabrielle Evangelista,
Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR