

REGULAR MEETING- HELD VIRTUALLY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
OCTOBER 19, 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

Councilman Yeager presented O-16-20, “An Ordinance to Provide for a General Capital Project Enumerated Within for the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris and to Provide for the Funding Thereof,” 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 was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes to adopt O-16-20 on second and final reading.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance

Council President Binkoski presented O-17-20, “An Ordinance Adding Chapter 20: Credit Card Payments to 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 Council President Binkoski and was seconded by Councilman Norton to adopt O-17-20 on second and final reading.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Discussion

- **Best Practices Inventory:** Mr. Rheinhardt presented the results of the Best Practices Inventory. The Borough received a score of 24.5 which qualifies us for our normal amount of State Aid. There were a certain amount of scored questions and a certain amount on unscored questions on topics including-personnel, budget, financial practices, transparency, procurement, cyber security, and others. We scored very well. Some of unscored questions were a little odd. Some were relating to COVID-19. One that he found a bit too probing was asking to describe the attitude of our residents about additional affordable housing developments. He responded that that is an unreasonable position to put the town in since there is a broad array of positions across the town. Councilwoman Hayes asked if he could read questions 30 and 31. Question 30 was how has COVID-19 impacted your municipalities' cash flow or anticipated surplus going into 2021. He selected not at all, we were fortunate that we had some additional revenues from the uniform construction code earlier in the year for a large project which offset the loss of revenue from court and interest income. Question 31 was has your municipality had to make any reductions in expenditures due to COVID-19. Our answer was no, certain items were impacted negatively but that was compensated by increases in other revenue items.

- **2021 Meeting Dates:**

JANUARY: 4 (Reorganization Meeting) and 25
FEBRUARY: 8 and 22
MARCH: 8 and 22
APRIL: 5 and 19
MAY: 3 and 17
JUNE: 14 and 28
JULY: 19
AUGUST: 16
SEPTEMBER: 13 and 27
OCTOBER: 4 and 25
NOVEMBER: 8 and 22
DECEMBER: 6 and 20
JANUARY, 2022: 3 (Reorganization Meeting) and 24

No one had a conflict with the proposed dates. They will be finalized at the Re-Organization meeting in January.

Mayor Chegwidden brought up doing make up yard waste pickups for when a holiday falls on a Monday. Council President Binkoski agreed. We will run it by the DPW Director.

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 10/5/20

Resolutions: R-125-20: Authorize Adoption of 2020 Morris County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Appoint Debra Kline as a Crossing Guard for the remainder of a one year term to expire 12/31/20

Appoint Raffaele Peluso as an Alternate Crossing Guard for the remainder of a one year term to expire 12/31/20

Approve Jr. Fire Fighter Application- Gabrielle Nunn

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

Correspondence

- Letter from Planning Board re: MHRD Long-Range Facility Plan
- Morris County MUA Water Rate Hearing Public Notice
- Monthly Report Treasurer

Mayor Chegwidden noted that the proposed water increase from the MUA is 4%.

Council Reports

Council President Binkoski: There has been some talk about where tree trimming is allowed. He spoke with the DPW Director and wanted to make sure that everyone understands that when tree trimming is done by the town it is for safety reasons or to address a specific issue in a right of way. He would like to discuss at the next meeting an update to the noise ordinance particularly for construction work.

Councilwoman Hayes: She'd like to remind everyone that if they have a question about their tax bill that they can call the tax collector or go into Town Hall with a mask on.

Councilman Norton: No report

Councilwoman Vasquez: The Rabies Shot Clinic will be on December 3rd from 6-8 p.m. at the DPW garage. We have 11 new cases of COVID-19 since the last report.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: No report

Councilman Yeager: He's like to remind everyone that this Friday is the Fire Department Inspection.

Mayor Chegwidden's Report: He's been receiving a few questions about the tax bill and he suggests looking at last year's bill and comparing it with this year's bill to see any difference. You can see by line item which have or have not gone up, since there is more than just municipal tax on it. If you take a \$10,000 bill about \$2,500 goes to the town. Everything else is collected by the town and passed on to the appropriate agency. We tend to get blamed for it all, but we are just the vehicle for much of it. For that \$2,500 you are paying for things like leaf collection, snow plowing, street paving, parks, garbage pick up, water and sewer maintenance, the Police Department, and the DPW Department. It's a little overwhelming when

people make blind statements without knowing the facts, especially because we put in a lot of effort.

He was asked by the Morris County Freeholders for a nominee to sit on the Historic Preservation Trust Fund and wanted to see if any of the Council people were interested. Councilman Yeager advised that he is interested.

Tomorrow evening the Planning Board will be looking at a redevelopment application on Main Street.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

Brian Cronin, WFD Chief: Chief Cronin thanked the Mayor and Council for working with the Fire Department. The 10 year capital plan they had made is working well. Mayor Chegwidden thanked Chief Cronin for working with them as well and for everything that the Fire Department does for the Borough.

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

Mayor Chegwidden advised that HalloWharton is on the 31st and that Halloween is happening with whatever regulations are set by the State at that point.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Council President Binkoski and was seconded by Councilman Yeager to close the Mayor and Council meeting. This motion was approved by voice vote.

October 19, 2020

ATTEST:

Gabrielle Evangelista,
Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR