

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 11, 2017

Opening Items

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
Councilman Corbett – Present
Councilwoman Hayes- Present
Councilwoman Veres- Present
Councilwoman Wickenheisser- Present
Councilman Yeager- Present

Also in attendance were Administrator Jon Rheinhardt, Borough Clerk Gabrielle Evangelista, and Attorney Bill Johnson.

Flag Salute- Moment of Silence

Mayor Chegwidden led those in attendance with the salute to the American Flag.

Mayor Chegwidden requested a moment of silence in honor of September 11, 2001.

John McCusker, Co-Chair of the 9/11 Memorial Committee, gave the Mayor and Council an update on the activities of the committee. He advised that all of the artifacts from the Towers have been given out, but he has someone with a friend on the NYPD who may be able to get them a piece of an emergency vehicle which was damaged during the attacks. They are checking to see if there is anything available and he will keep everyone updated.

Mayor Chegwidden thanked him for his report and work on the Memorial.

Presentation

Maureen Bolinger from Atlantic Healthcare donated an AED machine to the Recreation Department. Everyone thanked them for the donation.

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, the Mayor or Council President shall have the discretion to terminate any 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.

Presentation

Mayor Chegwidden advised that he had asked Mr. Rheinhardt to put something together to give an update about the many road projects going on in town. Mr.

Rheinhardt then gave a presentation on 2017 Roadway Improvements which included discussion throughout. He first discussed how the road projects are chosen and then went over the Borough’s roadway projects that were completed using the Morris County Co-Op this year. He then discussed projects that were completed via the competitive bidding process this year, many of which that were funded via grants. He gave an update on Morris County’s plan for a small bridge replacement on West Central Avenue. He then gave a history of the County’s plans for a Main Street extension and an update about the current status of the project. The County has had plans to add an extension to Main Street in the area of the former L.E. Carpenter site for many years. The history discussed in the presentation started in 2004. There have been a few different plans with a variety of issues throughout the years, which Mr. Rheinhardt discussed. However, the current status is upon approval of permits from the DEP, the County is planning on bidding the project in late 2017/early 2018, with construction anticipated to last 6-9 months and having an anticipated completion by the end of 2018. Mayor Chegwidden asked that the presentation be posted on the Borough’s website.

Ordinance

Councilwoman Hayes introduced O-10-17, “An Ordinance Authorizing the Acceptance of Utility Easements,” 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 Hayes and was seconded by Councilman Corbett to adopt O-10-17 on second and final reading.

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

Councilman Corbett introduced O-11-17, “An Ordinance to Provide for General Capital Projects 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 Corbett and was seconded by Council President Binkoski to adopt O-11-17 on second and final reading.

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

Councilwoman Hayes introduced O-12-17 “An Ordinance to Provide for General Capital Projects 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 Councilwoman Hayes and was seconded by Councilman Corbett to adopt O-12-17 on second and final reading.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance

Council President Binkoski introduced O-13-17, “An Ordinance Providing for the Registration and Regulation of Taxicabs Engaged in the Business of Carrying Passengers,” on first reading, by title only.

A motion was made by Council President Binkoski and was seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt O-13-17 on first reading.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Chegwiddden set the date of September 25, 2017 for second and final reading.

Ordinance

Councilwoman Wickenheisser introduced O-14-17, “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 315, Article III, Section 17 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 Wickenheisser and was seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt O-14-17 on first reading.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Chegwiddden set the date of September 25, 2017 for second and final reading.

Discussion

- **Ordinance for registration of vacant properties:** Mr. Rheinhardt advised that we have had issues with vacant properties over the years. A lot of surrounding towns have adopted an ordinance requiring registration of them in order to ensure that the properties get maintained. These encourage the banks or owners to take care of the properties and to get the properties sold. Mayor Chegwiddden reminded the Council of a house that took years to get cleaned up and we had to actually put a warrant out for the arrest of the owner for neglect of the property. Mr. Johnson advised that the fees in the proposed ordinance are consistent with other towns. After some discussion everyone agreed that they like the ordinance and the first reading will be on the next Agenda.

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.

Approval of Minutes from August 14, 2017

Resolutions: R-121-17: Approve Interlocal Agreement with Morris County for Salting, Sanding, and Plowing
R-122-17: Approve Change Fund for Color Run
R-123-17: Approve Change Order 1- Water Storage Tank No.2
R-124-17: Approve Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2016-010
R-125-17: Approve Refund for Overpayment
R-126-17: Accept Morris Country Historic Preservation Trust Fund Grant

Approve use of Fire Chief's car for Fireman's Convention and Expo on 9/14-17 and use of Fire Chief's car and Truck 321 in Wallington Christmas Parade on 9/25.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

Correspondence

- Monthly Reports Clerk and Construction

Council Reports

Council President Binkoski: He attended Canal Day and the fireworks. Canal Day is such a great event and was really well attended. The fireworks were awesome as well. He'd like to thank all of the people who help with the event. He noticed a lot of the junior firemen around and he was impressed with them.

Councilman Corbett: He also attended Canal Day. On 8/23 there was a special meeting of the RVRSA to discuss waiving attorney client privilege on certain documents for the ongoing litigation. Prior to this meeting, he attended a Finance Committee meeting about a number of items including starting on next year's budget. Mr. Rheinhardt added that he has an initial meeting of all of the RVRSA towns' Administrators and CFOs as well as their Attorneys to bring them up to date about the litigation with Jersey City.

Councilwoman Hayes: She also attended Canal Day and the Finance Committee Meeting. At the end of August they had the first meeting of the Business Development Committee where they invited business owners to attend. They had about 8 attend with more telling her later that they should have. They are going to meet again to discuss next steps. Since the last meeting, Mrs. Schiffner passed away, who was a great asset to the Borough.

Councilwoman Veres: She also attended Canal Day, which was a great day. October 7th the Friends of the Library Gala is happening at the Library. They are raising money for a new AV system.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: She also attended Canal Day and would like to thank the Fire Department, DPW, Police and John Manna for doing a great job with that event. The Job Fair is this Wednesday from 5-8 at the American Legion. Saturday is the Opening Day of Soccer. The following Sunday, 9/24 is the 5K Camo Color Run, which will be a nice event.

Councilman Yeager: He also attended Canal Day and the Finance Committee meeting. He attended the American Legion breakfast.

Mayor Chegwiddden's Report Canal Day was again a big success. He would like to thank everyone who came to the dedication of Betty Poyer Field. Betty was a fixture at Town Hall for a long time and anytime you needed anything she took care of it. The fireworks were once again spectacular. On 9/28 at Historic Speedwell they are honoring John Manna, who has put a lot of time and energy into the Canal

restoration and to Canal Day. He would like to attend, if anyone on the Council wants to join him. He spoke with the Mayor of Mt. Arlington about the Court. Everything is set and ready to go. The Courts can't get over how well the two towns are working together. Mr. Rheinhardt advised that they are hoping to hire the Court Administrator by December 1st in order to have everything in place by the start of next year. Mayor Chegwidden advised that the next step is continuing the search for the building. He thanks Councilwoman Hayes and Councilwoman Wickenheisser for putting together the meeting for the business owners. We are really trying on our end. This will be the 6th job fair that we're hosting. There are over 15 businesses that will be attending. The rest of the water tower will be going up this month. He just received a letter from a former Councilman who now lives in Florida who advised that he was reading a newspaper from 1893 about the naming of Dewey Avenue in Wharton. He closed the letter with a note about hoping to see the Main Street extension through L.E. Carpenter sometime in his lifetime.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

Ed Nunn, Wharton Fire Chief: Chief Nunn advised the Council that former Chief Gene Caulfield will be acting Chief while Chief Nunn and his Deputy Chief are away at the Firemen's Convention. He attended the County's September 11th services along with a few other members of the Department last evening and it was a great event. He had the privilege of meeting with the speaker, who spoke very well.

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

Closed Session

Council President Binkoski introduced R-127-17 to close the meeting to the public for discussion on Purchase of Real Property and Litigation.

A motion was made by Council President Binkoski and was seconded by Councilman Corbett to approve R-127-17.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-6 NAY-0 ABSENT-0 ABSTAIN- 0	MOTION CARRIED
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A motion was made by Councilwoman Hayes and was seconded by Council President Binkoski to return to open session. This motion was approved by a voice vote.

Adjournment

No further business to attend to this evening Councilman Corbett, made a motion to adjourn this meeting. This was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes. This motion was approved by a voice vote.

September 11, 2017

ATTEST:

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR

Gabrielle Evangelista,
Borough Clerk