

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
**MAY 6, 2019**

Mayor Chegwidden Called the Meeting to Order

Mayor Chegwidden read the Open Public Meeting Statement

Mayor Chegwidden requested Roll Call:

Council President Corbett- Present  
Councilman Binkoski- 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 Matthew Petracca

**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.

**Swearing in of Officers**

Sergeant Gillen, Officer Arentowicz, Officer Be', Officer Guerra, and Officer Rossi were sworn in. Congratulations were offered by everyone in attendance. Mayor Chegwidden thanked the members of the Mine Hill Council who were in attendance for coming, as well as for a great partnership. He also thanked former Mayor Beirne, who is also the Police Chaplain, for attending.

**Presentation**

Memorial Park Project- Mayor Chegwidden advised that they have been looking at updating this park for over 20 years, but the house in the middle was always an obstacle. Now that the Borough has purchased the house, we can do this right. John Thomas, the Borough's Landscape Architect presented an update on the plans for Memorial Park. Plans are similar to what has previously been discussed which include making the park level so there are no stairs, having a central plaza for Memorial Day and other events, and a meandering path that includes the monuments some which will be relocated and some of which will be rebuilt. The existing brick pavers will be re-done and the originals will be given back to the families. We will also give an opportunity for people to purchase new bricks. The site will also be wired. The Christmas tree will be moved, but still will be in the park and the existing time capsule is going to be incorporated as well. Details are continuing to be developed and a final plan should be available by Memorial Day. There was a meeting with the American Legion and members of the public this past Thursday and their ideas and suggestions are being incorporated into the final plans. Following the presentation there was a discussion which included members of

the public. Mike Slack from 37 St. Mary's St. asked if there was any consideration in the wiring plan for surveillance cameras if they are needed later on. It was not in the current plans, but they can look into it. There's a possibility that the bollards being used for lighting may be able to include cameras if necessary. There is also a possibility to put them onto the existing light poles as well. Maria Rodgers from 2 Oak Lane asked about the timeline for the project. Mayor Chegwidden advised that nothing will be started until after Memorial Day and then things are going to move ahead. Mr. Thomas hopes that they will be at the point of planting by the fall. Joel Aronson from 4 Ford Ave. asked if there are any anticipated traffic issues on Main Street with the construction. There are no significant issues anticipated. As a part of the plan, they are widening Union Street as well. Bonnie Lavoie from 84 E. Central Ave. asked about the contemplative nature of the park, will there be bikes allowed, are there benches? No bikes will be allowed, but there are benches that are the same ones that are located throughout town. It's supposed to be a quiet, reflective place. Ms. Rodgers asked if there are only 3 entrances to the park. Mr. Thomas advised that it will be leveled out so there are 3 entrances to the pathways, but you would be able to step into the park in most areas easily. Councilman Corbett advised that there was also a suggestion to include a recognition of military nurses.

**Ordinance**

Councilwoman Veres presented O-11-19, "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 Councilwoman Veres and was seconded by Council President Corbett to adopt O-11-19 on second and final reading.

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

MOTION CARRIED

**Ordinance**

Councilwoman Hayes presented O-12-19, "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 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 Council President Corbett to adopt O-12-19 on second and final reading.

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

MOTION CARRIED

**Ordinance**

Councilwoman Wickenheisser presented O-13-19, "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 Councilwoman Wickenheisser and was seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt O-13-19 on second and final reading.

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Discussion**

- **Water and sewer connection fees:** Mr. Rheinhardt advised that the Mayor and Council are supposed to set connection fees for both water and sewer yearly. Right now, we charge \$350 for someone to connect to the sewer system and after looking at the statute that tells us how it should be calculated we should be charging \$1,110 per equivalent dwelling unit. This is calculated by looking into all of the improvements that have been done to the system because all of the existing rate payers have already paid for this. He did the same analysis for the water utility which should be \$5,121. He compared these combined rates to surrounding towns and ours of \$6231 is \$150 less than the average of the surrounding towns. The systems are a collective wealth, since we all pay into maintaining it. After more discussion this will be put onto 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 4/22/19**

- Resolutions:**
- R-95-19: 2018 Audit Resolution**
  - R-96-19: Approve Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2018-001**
  - R-97-19: Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriation NJS 40A:4-87**
  - R-98-19: Approving Police Department Participation in a Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Imitative**
  - R-99-19: State Tax Court Judgement**
  - R-100-19: Prof. Service- Drainage Study Highlands**
  - R-101-19: Prof. Service- Master Plan Update Highlands**
  - R-102-19: Approve Application for Supplemental Municipal Alliance Funds**
  - R-103-19: Appoint Alternate JIF Commissioner**
  - R-104-19: Purchase Sewer Jetter**

A motion was made by Council President Corbett and was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes to approve all items listed on the Consent Agenda.

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Correspondence**

- **Morris County Planning Board Minutes**
- **Monthly Reports Clerk and Construction**

Council Reports

Council President Corbett: He attended the meeting at the American Legion where they discussed Memorial Park. He wishes everyone a Happy Mother's Day.

Councilman Binkoski: There was recently some confusion with the permitted parking spaces at Robert Street. It has been addressed with temporary signage and they have ordered new permanent signage that should help to clear everything up. Mayor Chegwidden added that there also needs some additional signage in the Main Street lot. There are non-permit spots in every lot, but you cannot park overnight in those lots. Anyone can apply for a parking permit as long as there are ones available. A short discussion about parking followed.

Councilwoman Hayes: The fencing for the dog park has started being put in. There was also a large water main break today that the DPW is taking care of. The hockey court at Sterling St. park is gone and they will be seeding it this week. There are two openings in the DPW and interviews are being conducted soon.

Councilwoman Veres: No report.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: No report.

Councilman Yeager: No report.

Mayor Chegwidden's Report: The DPW are going to be fixing the sidewalks and utility poles, because we have waited far too long for the utility companies to take care of it.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

Bonnie Lavoie asked about where the dog park will be and if any volunteers are needed for putting it together. Councilwoman Hayes advised that it is on West Dewey Ave. and that they are always willing to hear suggestions and would let her know if there is anything that she can help with. She then asked about the AED donation from St. Clare's to the American Legion. The AED was given to the Legion at the meeting there on Thursday evening. She advised that she will offer to help train them on it.

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

Adjournment

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

May 6, 2019

ATTEST:

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Gabrielle Evangelista,  
Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

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WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,  
MAYOR