

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MARCH 11, 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.

Ordinance

Council President Corbett presented O-02-19, "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 Council President Corbett and was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes to adopt O-02-19 on second and final reading.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Chegwidden advised that this Ordinance is funded through a grant that the Borough received for \$2,522,090 for the Canal Restoration.

Ordinance

Councilman Yeager presented O-03-19, "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.

Mayor Chegwidden advised that this Ordinance is funded through a grant that the Borough received for \$38,250 for the Canal Restoration.

A motion was made by Councilman Yeager and was seconded by Council President Corbett to adopt O-03-19 on second and final reading.

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

Ordinance

Councilwoman Wickenheisser presented O-04-19, “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.

Mayor Chegwidden advised that this Ordinance is funded through a grant that the Borough received for \$71,600 for the Irondale Mount Trails.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wickenheisser and was seconded by Council President Corbett to adopt O-04-19 on second and final reading.

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

Ordinance

Councilwoman Hayes presented O-05-19, “An Ordinance to Provide for A Sewer 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.

Councilwoman Hayes advised that this is for purchasing a sewer jetter.

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 Yeager to adopt O-05-19 on second and final reading.

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

Ordinance

Council President Corbett introduced O-06-19, “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 Corbett and was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes to adopt O-06-19 on first reading.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Chegwiddden set the date of March 25, 2019 for second and final reading.

Resolution

Councilwoman Veres introduced R-69-19, “Resolution Proclaiming April National Donate Life Month.”

Mayor Chegwiddden advised that he received a request from Sage Mitchell to consider this Resolution and asked if Mr. Mitchell would like to say anything. Mr. Mitchell advised that currently there are approximately 4,000 people in New Jersey, including 6 in Wharton, who are awaiting organ transplants. April is the month that they try to educate people about the need for organ and tissue donation and to encourage them to consider signing up to be a donor. As someone who had received a heart transplant, he is thankful for it and thanks the Mayor and Council for considering this Resolution. Mayor Chegwiddden thanked Mr. Mitchell for bringing it to their attention.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Veres and was seconded by Council President Corbett to adopt R-69-19.

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: All bills referred to the Finance Committee to be paid if found correct.

Approval of Minutes from 2/25/19

**Resolutions: R-70-19: Authorize Alliance Movie Screen Rental
R-71-19: Approve Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2018-011
R-72-19: 2019 Salary Resolution**

Approve Blue Light Permit Application Adam Yeager

Approve Waiving Fee for Garage Sale Permit for Clean Community Day

Councilman Binkoski asked about the Resolution authorizing the Alliance movie screen rental. Councilwoman Wickenheisser advised that it \$411 to be used for the on April 18th event on teen suicide prevention.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-6 (Corbett Voted Yes but Abstained from Approval of Minutes) NAY-0 ABSENT-0 ABSTAIN- (Corbett Abstained from Approval of Minutes)

MOTION CARRIED

Correspondence

- Morris County Planning Board Minutes
- Monthly Report Construction and Clerk
- Notice of Grant Cancellation

Council Reports

Council President Corbett: After almost a month off, he attended a RVRSA meeting on 3/7 about a change in a project. Later that same day he met with the Finance Committee, Mr. Rheinhardt and GZA about a project that they had competed for us. They submitted an after the fact change order increasing the price by 49%. After meeting with them and discussing it the Finance Committee recommended not approving the change order. Today he met with Nancy Greuter to discuss the 9/11 Committee. After a lot of initial enthusiasm, himself and Ms. Greuter have been the only ones who have been attending the Committee meetings. They have agreed to dissolve the Committee because it requires a lot more than 2 people in order to make it work. There has been a lot of discussion happening with the RVRSA and the Administrators of the towns involved about projected budget increases. Things are still changing, but the RVRSA Director has calculated between operating budget and debt increases of as much as 4% increase a year in future years, but not every year. As Wharton's representative to the RVRSA, in the past he had encouraged them to take steps to lower what was supposed to be a tremendous increase in the debt payments in order to level things out. The biggest problem is the ongoing litigation with Jersey City, which potentially still has years to go. If we lose that may be a significant blow to all of the town's budgets. We are getting numbers tomorrow from the school districts about the impact of increased enrollments and increased rates and how that will impact our share of the budget. He'd like to point out that people may think that the increased enrollment comes from Avalon Bay, but it doesn't. It comes from houses that were empty during the recession that were foreclosed on being sold and filling back up, which is bringing more students to town. It is likely to have an impact on our tax structure because of what is going on with Morris Hills District. He also attended the FOP event on 3/10 which was a great event.

Councilman Binkoski: On 3/1 he welcomed our 4 new Police Officers to the Borough on their first day. He gave them some insight into our expectations as a town. He also met with both Chiefs to discuss a couple of points of interest.

Councilwoman Hayes: She has a few items from the DPW Director to report. We received notification that we got a grant for \$12,000 for electric vehicle charging stations. He has also received a verbal commitment that we received a \$44,000 grant towards a new senior bus. They are continuing work on refurbishing Langdon St. Park and are working on ideas for the Dog Park. Hopefully, that was the last of the snow and they are working on filling potholes. The Finance Committee has been meeting quite regularly lately and they are close to finishing up the budgets.

Councilwoman Veres: She also attended the FOP event, which was very fun. She has a meeting scheduled for tomorrow at the library with the Architect for the bathroom renovation in the library. They have submitted the revised library budget to Mr. Rheinhardt for review.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: She also attended the FOP event, which was well attended and a great event. Last week they held a CPR class for our recreation coaches at St. Clare's Hospital, which was great. It was a full class and she received great feedback about it. She asked if dollar amounts can be included on any Municipal Alliance contracts for future Resolutions.

Councilman Yeager: He attended the Finance Committee meetings.

Mayor Chegwidden's Report: He wasn't at the last meeting and thanks Councilman Binkoski for running it for him. He wasn't at our meeting because along with Mr.

Rheinhardt, DPW Director Mr. Hutchins, and our senior bus driver Ms. Skewes he was presenting to the Community Development Block Grant committee in Morristown. It makes a big difference when you bring everyone to those presentations and they received \$44,000 grant towards a new senior bus. The library renovation that Councilwoman Veres is meeting about tomorrow is also being funded through a \$80,000 Community Development Block Grant. He wants to publicly thank the DPW for their work on snow removal. He knows that people comment that they're making extra money and this and that, but that is blood money. He knows how hard they work and he thanks them and the Police for everything that they do during inclement weather. He has an update on the construction of Port Oram Village, the plumbing is being put in right now and they are hoping to start renting in the fall. Along with Mr. Rheinhardt, he presented to about 130 newly elected officials about budgeting. It is nice to get up there and tell them that we're debt free and to be able to help other towns try to achieve the same thing. Councilman Binkoski added that he talks with other towns who have tried to do the same thing on the backs of service levels and personnel and we were able to do it by budgeting and keeping things where they were if not better. Mayor Chegwidden continued that it is funny that he mentions that because he recently had someone tell him that their tax hasn't gone down and he reminded them that their roads are being paved on a regular basis, their infrastructure is being updated, our equipment is up to date, all of which comes at a price, but it gives everyone a collective wealth. Council President Corbett added that even with all of that, other than Victory Gardens who doesn't have a police department, Wharton has the lowest per capita property taxes in the County. We are almost certainly the lowest water and sewer costs in the County and our garbage collection is included in our property taxes whereas in a lot of places it is paid for separately. Mayor Chegwidden continued that we're below the median for the State and for Morris County. Wharton is also above the poverty level, which is a part of our success with people coming in and buying homes here because they realize that it's affordable to live here. He also attended the breakfast at the American Legion and the FOP event.

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 Corbett and was seconded by Councilman Binkoski to close this meeting.

March 11, 2019

ATTEST:

Gabrielle Evangelista,
Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR