

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MARCH 9, 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 lead 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.

Rita and Dharmesh Parikh, 22 N. Main St.: Mr. and Ms. Parikh had some questions relating to the redevelopment on Main Street including whether or not there is enough parking for the residents and businesses in the lot that is included in the plan. Mayor Chegwidden advised that they believe there is enough parking. Glenn Domenick from CHA, which is the designated Redeveloper for the site advised that it is a shared parking lot so as the residents leave to go to work, the spaces become available for anyone to use. More discussion about this followed. Mr. and Ms. Parikh also had a question about the pricing for the sale of the town’s parking lot to the developer and some other financial questions. Mayor Chegwidden advised that they believe the pricing is fair because the town gets a return as well as revitalizes our Main Street. More discussion about this followed.

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

Ordinance

Councilwoman Wickenheisser presented O-05-20, “An Ordinance of the Borough of Wharton, In the County of Morris, New Jersey Approving an Application for a Long-Term Tax Exemption and Authorizing the Execution of a Financial Agreement with Wharton CHA Urban Renewal LLC,” 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-05-20 on second and final reading.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance

Councilwoman Hayes introduced O-06-20, “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 Councilwoman Hayes and was seconded by Councilman Norton to adopt O-06-20 on first reading.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Chegwidden set the date of March 23, 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.

Approval of Minutes from 02/24/20

**Resolutions: R-56-20: Refund Tax Overpayment 2011/7
R-57-20: 2020 Salary Resolution**

Approve Blue Light Permit Application Muzzillo

Approve Recreation Application Wharton United Community Church for Flower Sale at Millennium Park on 4/4

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

- Notice of Ordinances from Mine Hill
- Morris County Planning Board Minutes
- Monthly Report Construction, Clerk

Council Reports

Council President Binkoski: Last Friday he attended the groundbreaking for the new county road which is an extension from North Main Street. Freeholder Shaw advised that the Freeholder Board would like a recommendation from the Council on what to name the new road. He spoke with the other Council Members and they unanimously agreed they would like it to be named Chegwidden Way. He also attended Sheriff Gannon’s event and the FOP Irish Fest.

Councilwoman Hayes: She also attended the groundbreaking, Sheriff’s event, and FOP Irish Fest.

Councilman Norton: He took a tour of the DPW Facility and Water facilities; everything looks really sound. On March 5th he attended the Sgt. Rich event at the school which was well attended. He also attended the FOP Irish Fest.

Councilwoman Vasquez: No Report.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: She also attended the groundbreaking, Sheriff’s event, and FOP Irish Fest.

Councilman Yeager: The Fire Department had less calls than normal this winter, they were helped by the warm weather. The 200 Club is giving an award to Detective Ornelas and Corporal Fernandez for their actions during a call in 2019.

Mayor Chegwidden’s Report: He thanks the Council very much for their recommendation on naming the new road after him. He appreciates it and remembers when he was on the Council and did the same for Former Mayor Harry Shupe. He, along with the rest of the Council and former Mayors, have been involved in trying to get this road put in for many, many years. It started with Former Mayor Tom Beirne and continued with Former Mayor Harry Shupe and then himself. He pushed it when he was a Freeholder and has been working with the County on getting this project going. He thanks them for doing so and was glad to attend the groundbreaking. He wasn’t at the last Council meeting because along with Councilwoman Vasquez, Mr. Rheinhardt, and Library Board President Mary Ryan, he was presenting a Community Development Block Grant application to the County. The presentation went very well and we should hopefully hear soon. He attended the Sheriff’s Event and had a meeting with the owners of the Air Products site about a concept plan they are planning on presenting to the EPA. He attended a Board Meeting for the Morris County Vo-Tech and a Main Street Committee meeting where they discussed the redevelopment plan for Main Street. He attended the FOP Irish Fest. He would like to acknowledge the anniversary of the passing of Mt. Arlington Mayor and his good friend, Art Ondish, who passed away March 8, 2016.

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.

Closed Session

Council President Binkoski introduced R-58-20 to close the meeting to the public for discussion on Litigation

A motion was made by Council President Binkoski and was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes to approve R-58-20.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Yeager and was seconded by Councilman Norton to return to open session. This was approved via voice vote.

Adjournment

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

March 9, 2020

ATTEST:

Gabrielle Evangelista,
Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR