

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MARCH 8, 2021

Mayor Chegwidden called the Meeting to Order

Mayor Chegwidden read the Open Public Meeting Statement

Mayor Chegwidden requested Roll Call:

Council President Wickenheisser- Present
Council Binkoski- Present
Councilwoman Hayes- Present
Councilman Norton- Present
Councilwoman Vasquez- Present
Councilman Yeager- Present

Also in attendance were Administrator Jon Rheinhardt, Deputy Clerk Robin Ghebreal and Attorney Roman Hirniak. In attendance via phone was Borough Clerk, Gabrielle Evangelista.

Flag Salute

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

Presentation

Members of the Girl Scouts presented about their proposed plans for improvements to the Dog Park in order to get their Silver Badges. Mayor Chegwidden thanked them for coming in and wished them a happy Women's Month. Their proposal includes adding boxes for balls and sticks, some ramps for the dogs to run up and down, and some signage. Councilwoman Hayes advised that we can't have the boxes because we can't put anything that the dogs may fight over. Mr. Rheinhardt advised that the ramps are a great idea but they need to be shorter for insurance reasons. The Girl Scouts are planning on fundraising to pay for the improvements. Councilwoman Hayes made a motion to approve the improvements as discussed, which was seconded by Councilman Binkoski.

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

Everyone thanked them for coming in for the presentation.

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 Binkoski introduced O-05-21, "An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Sign an Agreement with the Wharton Borough Teamsters Union Local 469," on first reading, by title only.

Councilwoman Hayes advised that the Personnel Committee and Mr. Rheinhardt had several meetings with the Union Representatives in order to work on the new contract. She thanks everyone for their time and work on the new contract. Mayor Chegwidden also thanked everyone.

A motion was made by Councilman Binkoski and was seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt O-05-21 on first reading.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-6 NAY-0 ABSENT-0 ABSTAIN-0	MOTION CARRIED
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Mayor Chegwidden set the date of March 22, 2021 for second and final reading.

Council 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 2/22/21
Resolutions: R-56-21: Authorize Agreement with Borough of Hopatcong for Animal Pound and Shelter Services R-57-21: Authorize Morris County Trails Construction Grant R-58-21: Budget Transfer
Approve Recreation Applications: Wharton Soccer Tyler Daniel
Council President Wickenheisser made a motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda which was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes.
ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-6 NAY-0 ABSENT-0 ABSTAIN- 0
MOTION CARRIED

Correspondence

- Notice of Ordinances from Rockaway Township and Roxbury
- Monthly Reports from Construction and Clerk

Council Reports

Council President Wickenheisser: She wants to discuss the new bill which was passed that does not allow the Police Department to notify a parent if their underage child is caught with marijuana or alcohol. She would like to put together a Resolution opposing this. After some discussion, everyone agreed. Chief Young advised that he agrees that it is difficult to parent when you don't know what's going on. In his over 25 years of experience, they have always tried to notify the parents when possible. He also expressed his concern for other aspects of the new law. He is going to review the Borough Ordinances with our attorney and make recommendations for any updates. Mayor Chegwidden advised that he thinks what happened is that no one read this bill closely before passing it. After more discussion, Mr. Hirniak advised that with regard with all of the new cannabis laws the Council should have as much information as possible in order to make a decision that they feel is best for the constituency. He would like to make a presentation with the Administrator, Police Chief, and Borough Planner at the next meeting about the new various cannabis laws. He advised that he agrees with the

Mayor’s observation about not reading the bill, but there is news coming out of Trenton that a bill is being worked on to reverse the notification aspect of the bill.

Council Binkoski: No report

Councilwoman Hayes: No report

Councilman Norton: Councilwoman Vasquez, Ms. Ghebreab, and him have recently been working on helping Wharton Seniors who are 65 and over sign up for appointments to get the covid vaccines since many of them do not have access to a computer. Councilwoman Vasquez spoke with the Board of Health President and they discussed having the Board of Health having a special meeting to go over a plan and having them sign up through the Board of Health.

He would like to make a motion that the Recreation Department is now going to require that any sports and recreation teams that receives money from the Borough provide a financial statement from their bank to the Borough quarterly, which was seconded by Councilman Yeager.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Councilwoman Vasquez: The next Library Board meeting is March 16th. They are discussing possible programs for the future. Councilman Binkoski asked if they have any plans for opening soon. Councilman Vasquez advised that it is a Library Board decision, but she would like them to open now that the safety measures are in place.

Councilman Yeager: He met with Chief Young this morning to discuss the marijuana laws. They also discussed updating the signage in the parks to include vaping, marijuana, and tobacco. He congratulates Chief Young on being the Treasurer of the Morris County Chiefs Association. They also discussed the new regulations about Police Officers being required to wear body cameras. The State is supposed to reimburse us, but we don’t know how that will work yet. The Fire Department has been busy the past few months.

Mayor Chegwiddden’s Report: Tomorrow night the Planning Board is meeting to hear an application about a digital information sign on Route 15. They are offering to allow the Borough to use it for emergencies or for sharing information. The furnace at the American Legion broke and they have asked if the Council would waive the permitting fees to replace it. Councilman Binkoski made a motion to waive the permitting fees which was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Chegwiddden continued that Verizon still hasn’t moved on what they need to complete on the new Main Street Extension. Chief Young advised that he spoke with them and they are working on it. He expects it will take a few more weeks. Mayor Chegwiddden advised that on the Consent Agenda was the approval of the Morris County Trails Grant which was for approximately \$154,000. He thanks Mr. Manna for his work on that and the Council for putting in the match.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwiddden opened the meeting to the public.

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

Adjournment

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

March 8, 2021

ATTEST:

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

**Gabrielle Evangelista,
Borough Clerk**

**WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR**