

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
**DECEMBER 20, 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- Absent, Excused  
Councilman Yeager- Present

Also in attendance were Administrator Joseph Kovalcik Jr., Borough Clerk Gabrielle Evangelista, and Attorney Roman Hirniak.

**Flag Salute**

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

**Volunteer Appreciation**

Council President Wickenheisser presented Resolution R-155-21 “Honoring Qualified Members of the Wharton Fire Department.”

A motion was made by Council President Wickenheisser and was seconded by Councilman Binkoski to adopt Resolution R-155-21.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-5 NAY-0 ABSENT-1 ABSTAIN-0</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>
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Mayor Chegwidden, Council President Wickenheisser, and Councilman Yeager presented the volunteer incentive to the qualified volunteers and thanked them for their service to the Borough. Congratulations were offered by all in attendance.

**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.

**Ordinance**

Councilman Binkoski introduced O-19-21, “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 315, Article II, Section 10 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris, State of New Jersey,” on first reading, by title only.

Councilman Binkoski asked if this includes town parking at 10 N. Main. Mayor Chegwidden advised that we can’t include it in our ordinance because it’s private property, but there were some requirements included in the Planning Board’s approval of the project.

A motion was made by Councilman Binkoski and was seconded by Councilwoman Yeager to adopt O-19-21 on first reading.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-5 NAY-0 ABSENT-1 ABSTAIN-0</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>
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Mayor Chegwiddden set the date of January 24, 2022 for second and final reading.

**Resolution**

Councilman Yeager presented Resolution R-156-21 “Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of Police Officer.”

A motion was made by Councilman Yeager and was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes to adopt Resolution R-156-21.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-5 NAY-0 ABSENT-1 ABSTAIN-0**  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**Resolution**

Councilwoman Hayes presented Resolution R-157-21 “Resolution Authorizing Appointment.”

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hayes and was seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt Resolution R-157-21.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-5 NAY-0 ABSENT-1 ABSTAIN-0**  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**Consent Agenda**

The following items are considered to be routine and non-controversial by the Mayor and Council and are approved by one motion. There is no separate discussion of these items unless a council member or citizen so requests, in which case, the item is removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in a normal sequence on the agenda.

**Approval of Bills: Approve all bills referred to the Finance Committee.**  
**Approval of Minutes: 11/22/21, 12/6/21**  
**Resolutions: R-158-21: Authorize Signing Grant Agreement- CDBG Library Windows**  
**R-159-21: Budget Transfer**  
**A motion was made by Council President Wickenheisser, which was seconded by Councilman Yeager to approve all of the items on the Consent Agenda.**  
**ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 5      NAY: 0      ABSENT: 1      ABSTAIN: 0**  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**Correspondence**

- **Morris County Planning Board Minutes**

**Council Reports**

**Council President Wickenheisser:** Thank you to the Fire Department for adapting and finding a way for Santa to still come visit Wharton. She attended the tree lighting and thanks the DPW and Police Department for their work on it. She appreciates the community support of the event. She also wants to thank Jim Dingman, our Senior Bus Driver. He really goes above and beyond. She met with the Housing and Zoning Officer, Mr. Lewthwaite, about some Ordinance changes he's recommending to address some issues including chickens, bamboo, and the fee schedule. Mr. Hirniak will look into the recommendations, and we will discuss at a

future meeting. She wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Thank you to everyone for another great year.

**Councilman Binkoski:** He attended negotiations with the FOP. He also attended the tree lighting and thanks the Fire Department for bringing Santa by. He wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Thank you to everyone for another great year.

**Councilwoman Hayes:** She attended the tree lighting and thanks everyone who put the event together and participated. She helped Ms. Ghebreal with the baskets for the senior tricky tray and thanks everyone who donated and volunteered. She attended negotiations with the FOP. She wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Councilman Norton:** The amount of people who donated baskets for the senior tricky tray was amazing. There were a lot of people in attendance and it was one of our best events. Thank you to everyone involved. He attended the tree lighting event. The Wharton Soccer Club has new officers, thank you to all of the previous officers and he's looking forward to working with the new ones.

**Councilwoman Vasquez:** Absent, excused.

**Councilman Yeager:** He met with Chief Young about the new police officers. Thank you to the Fire Department for bringing Santa to town. He attended the tree lighting and it was great to see everyone there.

**Mayor Chegwidden's Report:** He was able to go see the new fire truck on Saturday, it looks beautiful. Thank you to everyone involved in the tree lighting, it's always a nice event. He received a letter from the Canal Society asking the Borough to consider partnering with them on holding events to showcase the canal and other items. They are also interested in furnishing the Lock Tender's House. Everyone agreed it would be a good partnership and Mr. Hirniak will take a look at their proposal. Work has been coming along nicely on the restoration. As the year comes to an end, he thanks our employees for keeping the town's business going during a difficult time. He thanks the DPW, Police Department, and our Fire Department for always being there when we need them. He thanks the Council for always moving the town forward. Our ratable base went up 40 million. He thanks Mr. Hirniak for everything that he does for the town. He also thanks the library for their service to our community.

**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 Wickenheisser introduced R-160-21 to close the meeting to the public for discussion on Contracts and Purchase of Real Property.

A motion was made by Council President Wickenheisser and was seconded by - Councilman Binkoski to approve R-160-21.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA-5 NAY-0 ABSENT-1 ABSTAIN-0
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MOTION CARRIED
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A motion was made by Council President Wickenheisser and seconded by - Councilman Yeager to return to open session. This motion was approved via voice vote.

**Resolution**

**Council President Wickenheisser presented Resolution R-161-21 “Resolution Authorization to Purchase Properties.”**

**A motion was made by Council President Wickenheisser and was seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt Resolution R-161-21. This motion was approved via voice vote.**

**Ordinance**

**Councilwoman Hayes introduced O-20-21, “An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Sign an Agreement with the Wharton Borough Fraternal Order of Police,” on first reading, by title only.**

**A motion was made by Councilwoman Hayes and was seconded by Councilwoman Yeager to adopt O-20-21 on first reading. This motion was approved via voice vote.**

**Mayor Chegwidden set the date of January 24, 2022 for second and final reading.**

**Adjournment**

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

**December 20, 2021**

**ATTEST:**

**BOROUGH OF WHARTON**

**\_\_\_\_\_  
WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,  
MAYOR**

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Gabrielle Evangelista,  
Borough Clerk**