

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
**MARCH 13, 2023**

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 Joseph Kovalcik Jr., Attorney Roman Hirniak, and Borough Clerk Gabrielle Evangelista.

**Flag Salute**

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

**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 Yeager presented O-04-23, “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 315, Article II, Sections 7A and 8 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris, State of New Jersey” 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 Councilman Yeager and was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes to adopt O-04-23 on second and final reading.

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

**For Discussion**

- Ordinance Amending Chapter 231- Attorney Hirniak advised that recently the State amended the statute in relation to the registration of vacant and foreclosed properties. This ordinance will bring our current ordinance on it into compliance with the new law. Some discussion on definitions and provisions followed. Following the discussion, everyone agreed this can go on the next agenda for first reading.

**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.

<p>Approval of Bills: Approve all bills referred to the Finance Committee</p> <p>Approval of Minutes: 2/27/23</p> <p>R-57-23: Approve Tax Sale Redemption TSC #2021-005</p> <p>R-58-23: 2024 Reassessment Program</p> <p>R-59-23: Authorize Agreement for Ambulance Services</p> <p>R-60-23: Temporary Budget Amendment</p> <p>R-61-23: Authorize Application NJDCA DLGS Local Efficiency Achievement Program Grant</p> <p>R-62-23: Authorize Application NJDCA DLGS Local Efficiency Achievement Challenge Grant</p> <p>R-63-24: Community Project Funding Initiative Application</p> <p>R-64-23: Congressional Directed Spending Application</p> <p>Approve Recreation Application WALL for 3/1/23-10/31/23</p> <p>Approve Recreation Application Wharton Soccer for 4/3/24-6/25/23 except for Lafayette Upper Field Tuesdays 4-6pm</p> <p>A motion was made by Council President Binkoski which was seconded by Councilman Yeager to approve all of the items on the Consent Agenda.</p> <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 6      NAY: 0      ABSENT: 0      ABSTAIN: 0</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>
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Council President Binkoski advised that the reassessment program listed on the Consent Agenda is what we do every year. He would like our Assessor to come to a future meeting to go over the program.

Correspondence

- Morris County Planning Board Minutes

Council Reports

Council President Binkoski: He attended a meeting with a company that wants to bring a cannabis sales location to town. The meeting was very educational and much more discussion is necessary. There are pluses and minuses that will need to be weighed. He also attended the FOP’s Irish Fest which was a great event.

Councilwoman Hayes: The budgets are coming along; work is almost complete on them.

Councilman Norton: He attended the Irish Fest, which was very well attended. He wants to note that the Jr. Knights Wrestling program had an outstanding year. It is a strong and well-run program.

Councilwoman Vasquez: It’s been nice to see the Police Department on Main Street working traffic.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: She’s also noticed the Police Department working traffic more, which is good. She attended the Irish Fest, which was a nice event.

Councilman Yeager: The Fire Department had 10 calls in February and 50% were either false alarms or nonevents. He attended their pancake breakfast, which was very well attended. He attended the Morris County League of Municipalities Meeting. The presentation was about trying to sell everyone on the idea of a County

Joint Court. He doesn't agree that's the best idea for us, our Shared Court is working very well.

**Mayor Chegwiddden's Report:** He agrees with Councilman Yeager about the court. Court is not a money maker, and it's not supposed to be, it's a service. He attended the pancake breakfast and the Fire Department did a great job with it. They also have the comedy night coming up on Saturday. He attended the Irish Fest, which was a great event. He attended the meeting referenced by Council President Binkoski with the cannabis company. There is much more discussion to be had. They will invite them to a future meeting to make a presentation.

**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 Binkoski and was seconded by Councilman Yeager to close the meeting. This motion was approved via voice vote.

March 13, 2023

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

ATTEST:

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WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,  
MAYOR

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Gabrielle Evangelista,  
Borough Clerk