

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MAY 8, 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.

Margie Corbett, 36 Columbia St.: Ms. Corbett asked if there have been any thoughts of buying a permanent digital sign rather than the moveable ones we currently have. Mayor Chegwidden advised that this has been discussed previously, but the issue is finding a good location that we own for a permanent sign.

Nancy Leone, 186 Princeton Ave.: Ms. Leone advised that they wanted to bring it back to the Mayor and Council's attention. They thanked them for bringing it back up and we will look into if we can find a good place for one.

Bill Hamtil, 21 Anderson Rd.: Mr. Hamtil had a flooding issue that was previously taken care of, but it has come back. Mayor Chegwidden advised that they will take care of it again.

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

Ordinance

Councilwoman Hayes presented O-07-23, "An Ordinance to Provide for General Capital Projects 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 Councilwoman Hayes and was seconded by Council President Binkoski to adopt O-07-23 on second and final reading.

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

Ordinance

Councilman Yeager presented O-08-23, “An Ordinance to Provide for Water Capital Projects 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 Councilman Yeager and was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes to adopt O-08-23 on second and final reading.

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

Ordinance

Councilwoman Vasquez presented O-09-23, “An Ordinance to Provide for Sewer Capital Projects 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 Councilwoman Vasquez and was seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt O-09-23 on second and final reading.

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

Ordinance

Councilwoman Hayes introduced O-10-23, “To Amend Ordinance O-03-20 to Provide for Sewer Capital Projects Enumerated Within for the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris and to Provide for the Funding Thereof” on first reading, by title only.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hayes and was seconded by Council President Binkoski to adopt O-10-23 on first reading.

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

Mayor Chegwidden set the date of May 22, 2023 for second and final reading.

Resolution

Council President Binkoski introduced R-80-23, “Resolution to Authorize the Administrator/CFO to Purchase without Public Advertising or Bidding.”

A motion was made by Council President Binkoski and was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes to adopt R-80-23.

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 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: 4/24/23
Approve Closed Session Minutes: 8/16/21, 12/20/21, 12/19/22

R-81-23: Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue an Appropriations- American Rescue Plan Firefighter 2022 Grant
R-82-23: Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue an Appropriations- 2022 Open Space Trust Fund Program-Morris County
R-83-23: Purchase Equipment at 10% Less Than State Contract Pricing

A motion was made by Council President Binkoski which was seconded by Councilman Norton to approve all of the items on the Consent Agenda.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Correspondence

- Morris County Planning Board Minutes
- Notice from JCP&L

Council Reports

Council President Binkoski: No report

Councilwoman Hayes: No report

Councilman Norton: No report

Councilwoman Vasquez: The first summer concert was very nice. As a reminder, the library is now offering computers and hot spots that can be checked out with a library card.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: No report

Councilman Yeager: No report

Mayor Chegwidde's Report: He recently was on a call with other Mayors from around the State and they are really pushing to get the energy tax that is owed to the towns back from the State. He did a walkthrough of what will be the new Orchard Mine Park and we closed on the property. He thanks Mr. Kovalcik, Mr. Hirniak, and the Vazquez family for all of their work on making that happen. He attended the spaghetti supper at the American Legion and County Clerk Ann Grossi's Cinco de Mayo event. The first summer concert went very well, and he thanks Ms. Muzzillo, Mr. Kovalcik, and the Police Department for making everything run smoothly at the concerts.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwidde opened the meeting to the public.

Chief Young, Wharton Police Department: Apple TV made their formal request about filming in town on June 19th. They are working with them on plans and everything looks good so far. He also wanted to request that the Mayor and Council consider recognizing a Good Samaritan who recently stopped someone in Schifner Park from harming themselves as well as three officers who helped to save someone who was choking with CPR in March. The soccer program had to cancel due to weather so they wanted to extend it a few weeks. No one had an issue with this.

Mayor Chegwidden complimented the Police Department on the increase in traffic enforcement. Chief Young advised that the additional officers and the new traffic unit are doing well. He continued that he received a letter from Trowbridge Ave. about some traffic issues. They will add an additional sign and will look into the other concerns this week.

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

Closed Session

Council President Binkoski introduced R-84-23 to close the meeting to the public for discussion on Purchase of Real Property and Contracts.

A motion was made by Council President Binkoski and was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes to approve R-84-23.

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

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

Adjournment

A motion was made by Council President Binkoski and was seconded by Councilwoman Hayes to close the meeting. This motion was approved via voice vote.

May 8, 2023

ATTEST:

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

**_____
WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR**

**_____
Gabrielle Evangelista,
Borough Clerk**