

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
**FEBRUARY 26, 2024**

Mayor Chegwidden called the Meeting to Order.

Mayor Chegwidden read the Open Public Meeting Statement.

**Roll Call**

Mayor Chegwidden requested Roll Call:

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

**Flag Salute**

Mayor Chegwidden led those present in the Salute to the American Flag.

**Open to the Public**

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

**Joe Macasek, Canal Society of New Jersey:** He asked permission to conduct their Program at the Lock Tender’s house. It was explained that work on the gate mechanism would be completed by May 31<sup>st</sup> and access to the site before May 31<sup>st</sup> would be dependent upon whether the gate lock would need to be pulled apart.

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

**Ordinance**

Councilman Binkoski introduced O-11-24, “An Ordinance Establishing an Energy and Natural Gas Aggregation Program” on first reading, by title only.

A motion was made by Councilman Binkoski and seconded by Council President Yeager to adopt O-11-24 on first reading.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 6    NAY: 0    ABSENT: 0    ABSTAIN: 0</b> <b>MOTION CARRIED</b>
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Mayor Chegwidden set the date of March 25th, 2024 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.

<b>Approval of Bills: Approve all bills referred to the Finance Committee</b> R-57-24 Refund for Overpayment - Block 702 Lot 5.37 Qualifier C0002 R-58-24 Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2020-002 - PC 8 R-59-24 Exempt Vet Cancellation of Taxes - Block 2010 Lot 9 R-60-24 2025 Reassessment Program R-61-24 Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2021-001 PC8 – Correction R-62-24 Opposing NJ A-4 & S-50 Overhauling NJ Fair Housing Act R-63-24 Resolution Amending R-116-23 Appointment
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**R-64-24 Resolution to sign GEA Related Docs**

**Approve Recreation Application Jr. Knights for 4/1/24-12/1/24**

**Approve Recreation Application Wharton Soccer for 4/1/24-6/23/24**

**A motion was made by Council President Yeager and seconded by Councilman Binkoski to approve all items listed on the Consent Agenda.**

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Correspondence**

- **Notice of Public Hearing – JCP&L**

**Council Reports**

**Council President Yeager: He reported the Fire Department had 15 calls last month.**

**Councilman Binkoski: He advised we are in process of putting together a presentation by the Tax Assessor to explain property taxes and the reassessment program.**

**Councilwoman Jones: She attended the NJ League of Municipalities seminar for newly elected officials and the Morris County League of Municipalities dinner. She also attended the Library Board meeting. She thanked the DPW for doing an excellent job of snow and trash removal.**

**Councilman Norton: No report**

**Councilwoman Vasquez: She also attended the League seminar and very much enjoyed it.**

**Councilwoman Wickenheisser: She attended the League meeting as well. She thanked the DPW for their help during the storm.**

**Mayor Chegwidden's Report: Mr. Hutchins, Mr. Kovalcik and himself met with JCP&L for an overview of the system in Wharton. They invited the representative to speak to the Council at a meeting. He attended the Morris County League of Municipalities dinner. He moderated the NJLM seminar for newly elected officials. He attended the Planning Board meeting and explained 170 N. Main Street was granted another extension. He and Mr. Hutchins met with the developer of Morris Woods and discussed an alternative entrance to the old water tower at Robert Street Park. The contractor offered to put a road in to the tower, through their parking lot. This access will make the rehabilitation on the tower easier.**

**He will be publishing a chart in the Mayor's Newsletter showing where the tax dollars go and how a PILOT works. We will also have the Tax Assessor at our meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup> to give a presentation on how the process works.**

**Open to the Public**

**Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.**

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

**Adjournment**

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

**February 26, 2024**

**BOROUGH OF WHARTON**

**ATTEST:**

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WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,  
MAYOR**

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Cheryl Muzzillo,  
Deputy Borough Clerk**