

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
JUNE 24, 2024

Mayor Chegwidden called the Meeting to Order.

Mayor Chegwidden read the Open Public Meeting Statement.

Roll Call

Council President Yeager requested Roll Call:

Council President Yeager - Present
Councilman Binkoski – Present
Councilwoman Jones - Absent, Excused
Councilman Norton - Present
Councilwoman Vasquez - Present
Councilwoman Wickenheisser – Present

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

Flag Salute

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

Proclamation

Mayor Chegwidden presented Rocky's Pasties with a Proclamation in honor of their 100th Anniversary. He thanked them for being an important part of our community and wished them continued success. Everyone in attendance congratulated them on this important achievement.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

Chet Talocci, 36 Kitchell Ave.: Mr. Talocci had some questions relating to the water system. After a short discussion, Mayor Chegwidden advised that we can ask our water engineer to give him a call.

Diane McDonald, 125 St. Mary's St.: She inquired about a traffic study on St. Mary's Street and to consider looking into one side of the street parking. Mayor Chegwidden advised they actually are already in the process of doing one.

Jean Zaccone, She also has concerns about the visibility on St. Mary's Street. Mayor Chegwidden advised that he spoke with the Chief about looking into all of our streets, some have real issues with accessibility for emergency vehicles among other things. More discussion about this followed. There will be a notice in the July Mayor's newsletter about not blocking driveways when parking.

Pat Craven, 87 Pine St.: She has concerns with people parking on lawns and feels like her street can be a speedway. Captain Hamilton advised that now that the Police Department has a specific traffic unit, tickets are way up. He has been a part of a traffic study on Pine St. and the speeding was pretty minimal, but they will continue to keep an eye on it.

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

Resolution

Council President Yeager introduced R-107-24, "Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of a Part Time Class II Police Officer."

A motion was made by Council President Yeager and was seconded by Councilman Binkoski to adopt R-107-24.

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

Discussion

- Request for road closure of Cross St. for a block party on 7/13- Mayor Chegwiddden advised that they have successfully held this event for the past few years with no issues. Everyone agreed that the request should be granted.

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.

Approval of Bills: Approve all bills referred to the Finance Committee Approval of Minutes: 6/10/24 R-108-24: Liquor License Renewal R-109-24: Liquor License Renewals R-110-24: Disabled Veteran Tax Exemption- Block 1095 Lot 6 R-111-24: Public Auction R-112-24: Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriation- Click It or Ticket R-113-24: Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriation- lean Communities R-114-24: Requesting Approval of Change of Text and Title R-115-24: Prof. Services- CHA 27 East Sterling St.- Supplemental Columbia Street Park Rehabilitation R-116-24: Prof. Services- CHA Oxford Road Parking Improvements R-117-24: Prof. Services- CHA 1.0MG Water Storage Tank Rehabilitation R-118-24: Private Auction-Municipalities Only Approve Recreation Application Wharton Soccer Approve Recreation Application Wharton Travel Baseball 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: 5 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 1 ABSTAIN: 0 MOTION CARRIED
--

Correspondence

- Notice of Ordinances- Mine Hill and Roxbury
- Notice of Resolution- Boonton

Council Reports

Council President Yeager: The Housing/Zoning Officer made him aware of the potential need for an ordinance relating to bamboo. We will work with him on getting a draft. He asked Captain Hamilton to advise about the liquor license renewals- there are some ongoing issues with one license and the Police recommended the special conditions remain as they were last year.

Councilman Binkoski: No report.

Councilwoman Jones: Absent.

Councilman Norton: No report.

Councilwoman Vasquez: No report.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: No report.

Mayor Chegwidden's Report: The Planning Board met recently about the conflict between Shop Rite and Townsquare Diner over a right of way. The Planning Board is now out of the case due to a ruling of the judge. He attended the Morris County League of Municipalities meeting where the President of Centenary University spoke about recruitment for municipal employees. He met with the NJDOT Commissioner and they discussed having the DOT review the intersection of Rt 15 and Dewey Ave. He attended the opening of Dover's new trail, which connects to ours. It looks beautiful. He then addressed some anonymous letters that have been circulating. He advised that after the first letter, the Borough asked the County Prosecutor's Office and a third-party attorney to review what was brought up and they found no problems or issues. There also was an internal review done by the Police Department with the same results. He advised that any new letters are being sent to the Prosecutor's Office and reminded that harassment of Borough employees is not acceptable and of the potential for civil suits against those who do so.

Following the conclusion of Mayor Chegwidden's report, Attorney Hirniak asked for a 5-minute recess to discuss something with Mayor Chegwidden and Captain Hamilton.

Open to the Public

After the recess, Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

Chet Talocci, 36 Kitchell Ave.: Mr. Talocci brought up some issues he has with his tax assessment.

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

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Yeager and seconded by Councilman Norton.

June 24, 2024

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

ATTEST:

**WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR**

**Gabrielle Evangelista,
Borough Clerk**