

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
**NOVEMBER 18, 2024**

\*Mayor Chegwidden attended via phone

Council President Yeager called the Meeting to Order.

Council President Yeager read the Open Public Meeting Statement.

**Roll Call**

Council President Yeager requested Roll Call:

Council President Yeager - Present  
Councilman Binkoski – Present  
Councilwoman Jones - Present  
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**

Council President Yeager led those present in the Salute to the American Flag.

**Open to the Public**

Council President Yeager opened the meeting to the public.

**Mike and Kim Ryan, 25 Cutler St.:** - They are concerned with the intersection of Ford and Cutler, the parking seems like it is not a safe distance from the intersection and they are worried about it being a safety issue. After a short discussion, Chief Young advised that he will look into this and follow up with them.

No one else wishing to be heard, Council President Yeager closed the meeting to the public.

**Ordinance**

Councilwoman Wickenheisser introduced O-21-24, “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 315 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris, State of New Jersey” on first reading, by title only.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wickenheisser and was seconded by Councilman Binkoski to adopt O-21-24 on first reading.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 6	NAY: 0	ABSENT: 0	ABSTAIN: 0
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>			

Council President Yeager set the date of December 9, 2024 for second and final reading.

**Ordinance**

Councilman Binkoski introduced O-22-24, “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 247 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris, State of New Jersey” on first reading, by title only.

A motion was made by Councilman Binkoski and was seconded by Councilwoman Jones to adopt O-22-24 on first reading.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 6	NAY: 0	ABSENT: 0	ABSTAIN: 0
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>			

Council President Yeager set the date of December 9, 2024 for second and final reading.

**Ordinance**

Councilman Norton introduced O-23-24, “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 330 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris, State of New Jersey” on first reading, by title only.

A motion was made by Councilman Norton and was seconded by Councilman Binkoski to adopt O-23-24 on first reading.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 6	NAY: 0	ABSENT: 0	ABSTAIN: 0
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>			

Council President Yeager set the date of December 9, 2024 for second and final reading.

**Ordinance**

Councilwoman Jones introduced O-24-24, “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 287 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris, State of New Jersey” on first reading, by title only.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Jones and was seconded by Councilman Binkoski to adopt O-24-24 on first reading.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA:6	NAY: 0	ABSENT: 0	ABSTAIN: 0
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>			

Council President Yeager set the date of December 9, 2024 for second and final reading.

**Resolution**

Councilwoman Vasquez introduced R-166-24, “Resolution Authorizing a Person-to-Person and Place-to-Place Transfer of a Plenary Retail Consumption License.”

A motion was made by Councilwoman Vasquez and was seconded by Councilwoman Wickenheisser to adopt R-166-24.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA:6	NAY: 0	ABSENT: 0	ABSTAIN: 0
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>			

**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: 10/21/24
R-167-24: Payout Be'
R-168-24: Join National Co-Op

R-169-24 Safe and Secure Application 2025  
 R-170-24: Approve Tax Overpayment Refund Block 201 Lot 25 Qualifier C093A  
 R-171-24: Approve Tax Overpayment Refund Block 1703 Lot 8  
 R-172-24: Approve Addendum to Agreement with Wharton Borough Fraternal Order of Police  
 R-173-24: Approve Amendment of Police Department Policy and Procedures Manual  
 R-174-24: Budget Transfers  
 R-175-24: Award Bid Baker Avenue Improvements Phase I  
 R-176-24: Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriations- New Jersey DOT 2024 Municipal Aid Phase III Improvements to Baker Avenue Grant  
 R-177-24: Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriations- New Jersey DOT 2025 Municipal Aid Phase IV Improvements to Baker Avenue Grant  
 R-178-24: Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriations New Jersey DOT 2022 Municipal Aid Improvements to Robert Street Grant

Appoint Acting Zoning/Housing Enforcement Official/Road Opening Official- Leon Stickle for the remainder of a one-year term to expire 12-31-24

A motion was made by Councilman Binkoski to approve all of the items on the Consent Agenda, which was seconded by Councilwoman Wickenheisser.

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

MOTION CARRIED

**Correspondence**

- Notice of Ordinance Jefferson
- Notice of Ordinance Roxbury
- Notice of Hearing- SMCMUA

**Council Reports**

**Council President Yeager:** He thanks everyone who voted for him. He attended the Veteran’s Day Eve Parade and Ceremonies and the Fire Department Inspection and Dinner.

**Councilman Binkoski:** He thanked the Ryans for attending and letting them know about the issue. Congratulations to Council President Yeager and Councilwoman Wickenheisser on their re-election. Thank you to the Fire Department for the Inspection and Dinner.

**Councilwoman Jones:** She echoes Councilman Binkoski’s sentiments and also congratulates Council President Yeager and Councilwoman Wickenheisser on their re-election. She also attended the Veteran’s Day Eve Parade and Ceremonies and the Fire Department Inspection and Dinner.

**Councilman Norton:** He attended the Veteran’s Day Eve Parade and Ceremonies, which is such a great event for our town. He also attended the Fire Department Inspection and Dinner.

**Councilwoman Vasquez:** She also attended the Veteran’s Day Eve Parade and Ceremonies and the Fire Department Inspection and Dinner. She also congratulates Council President Yeager and Councilwoman Wickenheisser on their re-election. It is a pleasure to work with them.

**Councilwoman Wickenheisser:** Congratulations to Council President Yeager and thank you to everyone who voted for her. She thanks Fire Chief O’Malley Dorr for everything, she had a great year as Chief.

**Open to the Public**

Council President Yeager opened the meeting to the public.

**Mike Ryan, 25 Cutler St.:** Thank you for removing the parking in front of the library on Main Street.

**Paul Breda, 6 Potter Lane:** Mr. Breda asked what would be the best way to look at meeting items. Ms. Evangelista advised that they are posted on the Borough's website in two places. He then had a series of questions relating to redevelopment, PILOT payments, and how that money is used. Mr. Kovalcik advised that all of the properties with a PILOT agreement are making payments except for 10 N. Main which should be starting this year and Port Oram who's agreement is a tax abatement so they are not making PILOT payments. We use those monies as revenues not anticipated for capital and one-time projects, we do not want to get in the habit of depending on that money, because when it ends, you're in trouble. More discussion about this followed.

No one else wishing to be heard, Council President Yeager closed the meeting to the public.

Mayor Chegwidden advised that in December he is going to be traveling to Washington DC as a part of a group for Picatinny Arsenal.

**Closed Session**

Councilman Binkoski introduced R-179-24 to close the meeting to the public for discussion upon Personnel.

A motion was made by Councilman Binkoski and was seconded by Councilwoman Jones to approve R-179-24.

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

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

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Binkoski and was seconded by Councilwoman Wickenheisser.

November 18, 2024

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

ATTEST:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gabrielle Evangelista,  
Borough Clerk