

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
**DECEMBER 9, 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 – Absent, Excused  
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.

**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**

Councilwoman Wickenheisser presented 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 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 Wickenheisser and was seconded by Council President Yeager to adopt O-21-24 on second and final reading.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 5	NAY: 0	ABSENT: 1	ABSTAIN: 0
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>			

**Ordinance**

Councilman Binkoski presented 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 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 Binkoski and was seconded by Councilwoman Jones to adopt O-22-24 on second and final reading.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 5	NAY: 0	ABSENT: 1	ABSTAIN: 0
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>			

**Ordinance**

Councilman Norton presented 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 second reading, by title only.

Mayor Chegwiddden opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments on this Ordinance only.

Mayor Chegwiddden closed the meeting to the public.

A motion was made by Councilman Norton and was seconded by Councilwoman Jones to adopt O-23-24 on second and final reading.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 5	NAY: 0	ABSENT: 1	ABSTAIN: 0
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>			

**Ordinance**

Councilwoman Jones presented 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 second reading, by title only.

Mayor Chegwiddden opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments on this Ordinance only.

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

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 5	NAY: 0	ABSENT: 1	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.

<p><b>Approval of Bills: Approve all bills referred to the Finance Committee</b></p> <p>R-180-24: Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2022-002  R-181-24: Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2021-003  R-182-24: Refund Street Opening Escrows  R-183-24: Refund Planning Board Escrow  R-184-24: Prof. Services- CHA Robert St. Additional  R-185-24: Prof. Services- CHA Washington Forge Pond Dam Inspection  R-186-24: Cancel Taxes Exempt Vet Block 1805, Lot 100.01  R-187-24: Tax Overpayment Refund  R-188-24: Amend R-176-24  R-189-24: Budget Transfers</p> <p>A motion was made by Council President Yeager and seconded by Councilman Binkoski to approve all items listed on the Consent Agenda.</p>
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ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 5      NAY: 0      ABSENT: 1      ABSTAIN: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Correspondence

- Notice of Grant Award NJDOT

Council Reports

Council President Yeager: Council President Yeager introduced R-190-24, “Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of a Part Time Class II Police Officer,” and made a motion to approve said Resolution, which was seconded by Councilwoman Wickenheisser.

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

MOTION CARRIED

He continued that he attended the New Jersey League of Municipalities Conference and the Mayor’s last meeting there as the President. Congratulations to him on a great year.

Councilman Binkoski: He attended the tree lighting which was a very nice event.

Councilwoman Jones: She attended the tree lighting and enjoyed it.

Councilman Norton: He attended the tree lighting and thanks everyone who worked on it.

Councilwoman Vasquez: Absent

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: She attended the tree lighting and enjoyed the Police Department doing the reading. Thank you to everyone who worked on the event.

Mayor Chegwidden’s Report: He wanted to address the recent drone activity. A group of Mayors sent a letter asking for more information to the State and Federal Governments and they were told “there is no concern,” hopefully that’s correct. He attended a trip to the Pentagon on Picatinny’s behalf as they employ over 6,000 people and do research and development and a lot of their labs need updating. He is going to ask them to come in to present to the Council. He thanks everyone for their support during his tenure at the New Jersey League of Municipalities. He would get calls from all over the State about various issues. They were able to accomplish some things, including getting the OPRA law updated. On another note, the affordable housing round 4 numbers recently came out, and we are a part of the lawsuit with other towns around it. We have done what we’re supposed to and worked with the DCA through the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> rounds. We work with the developers because when you don’t you wind up with more units through litigation. Thank you to everyone who worked on and participated in the tree lighting especially the school kids, it was a nice event.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

Paul Breda, 6 Potter Lane: Mr. Breda had some questions relating to payments from the Port Oram property, he believes they haven’t made any payments. Mr. Kovalcik advised that they pay through a tax abatement, not a PILOT so the payments would be found in tax revenue. More discussion about this followed.

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

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Council President Yeager and was seconded by Councilman Binkoski.

December 9, 2024

**BOROUGH OF WHARTON**

**ATTEST:**

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**Gabrielle Evangelista,  
Borough Clerk**

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**WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,  
MAYOR**