

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
**MAY 12, 2025**

Mayor Chegwidden called the Meeting to Order.

Mayor Chegwidden read the Open Public Meeting Statement.

**Roll Call**

Mayor Chegwidden requested Roll Call:

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

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

**Flag Salute**

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

Mayor Chegwidden requested a moment of silence in honor of former Councilman George Stafford.

**Open to the Public**

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

**Jennifer Hobbs, Fern Ave.:** Ms. Hobbs asked about O-09-25. It was advised that this was the first reading of that Ordinance and it will be discussed at the following meeting prior to the second reading.

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

**Ordinance**

Councilman Yeager presented O-08-25, “An Ordinance to Provide for Reappropriation of 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 Councilman Binkoski to adopt O-08-25 on second and final reading.

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

**Ordinance**

Councilman Binkoski introduced O-09-25, “An Ordinance of the Borough of Wharton, in the County of Morris, New Jersey Approving an Application for a

**Long-Term Tax Exemption and Authorizing the Execution of a Financial Agreement with Wharton Developments A (Urban Renewal) LP” on first reading,**

**A motion was made by Councilman Binkoski and was seconded by Councilwoman Jones to adopt O-09-25 on first reading.**

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

**Mayor Chegwidden set the date of June 16, 2025 for second and final reading.**

**Resolution**

**Councilwoman Wickenheisser introduced R-85-25, “Resolution of the Borough of Wharton, In the County of Morris, New Jersey, Designating a Redeveloper and Authorizing the Execution of a Redevelopment Agreement for the Property Known as Block 903 Lot 2.03 on the Official Tax Maps of the Borough.”**

**A motion was made by Councilwoman Wickenheisser and was seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt R-85-25.**

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

**Resolution R-86-25 was tabled to the next meeting.**

**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>                     |               |                  |                   |
| <b>R-87-25: Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2024-015</b>  |               |                  |                   |
| <b>R-88-25: Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2024-008</b>  |               |                  |                   |
| <b>R-89-25: Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriation-Recycling Tonnage Grant</b> |               |                  |                   |
| <b>R-90-25: Refund Tax Overpayment Block 1603 Lot 14.59</b>                                       |               |                  |                   |
| <b>R-91-25: Refund Tax Overpayment Block 2116 Lot 5</b>   |               |                  |                   |
| <b>R-92-25: Authorize Agreement D&amp;M Fireworks</b>   |               |                  |                   |
| <b>Fire Department Application: Michael Bergman</b>   |               |                  |                   |
| <b>ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 6</b>   | <b>NAY: 0</b> | <b>ABSENT: 0</b> | <b>ABSTAIN: 0</b> |
| <b>MOTION CARRIED</b>   |               |                  |                   |

**Correspondence**

- **Morris County Planning Board Minutes**
- **Noice of Ordinance Rockaway Township**

**Council Reports**

**Council President Norton: She attended the Little League Ceremony. Thanks to the DPW for their work on the fields. They look great.**

**Councilman Binkoski: Thank you to Verizon for finally coming into Sterling Heights.**

**Councilwoman Jones:** She attended the MCLM meeting, which was very interesting. The new 4 way stop at Robert and Mill is great.

**Councilwoman Vasquez:** No report.

**Councilwoman Wickenheisser:** She attended the Little League Ceremony. Congratulations to Chief Young on finishing the Police Unity Tour. She agrees with the thank you to Verizon and that the 4-way stop is great.

**Councilman Yeager:** He also attended the MCLM meeting and participated in interviews for Class II Officers.

**Mayor Chegwidden's Report:** The business loans and grants are starting to come in. Thank you to everyone who has assisted with this, it has really been a team effort. The MCLM meeting was great. Thank you to the Fire Department for putting on their Easter Egg Hunt. He attended RVRSA meetings, Little League opening day, a Jersey First fair housing meeting, the school car wash, and the Knotty Pine Car Show, which benefitted the former owner of Mama's. Thank you to Jimmy Hill for that. He then outlined some updates on various projects the Borough is working on including Pine St. Parking Lot, the Fields at Orchard Mine, new picnic tables, Baker Ave, grant applications for the Canal, Columbia St. Park, grant applications for lead pipe remediation and dredging Washington Pond. He advised that the Planning Board discussed expanding the entrance of Costco at their meeting. He asked Captain Hamilton to discuss a recent traffic study done by the Police Department. Captain Hamilton advised that during the study the average speed was far below the state and national average, of course there are outliers, but those are the average. There has been a jump in accidents, most of which are fender benders, but this is due to an increase in volume. Over 72 hours, the department responded to many calls and issued 72 tickets.

**Open to the Public**

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

**Jennifer Hobbs, Fern Ave.:** Ms. Hobbs asked a question about property tax, which Mr. Kovalick will email her about.

**Carissa Baldwin, Columbia St.:** Ms. Baldwin asked about Canal Day, which is being held on 8/23 and is being coordinated by the Borough and Municipal Event Services. She also asked about the Memorial Day parade, which starts at 10 am.

**Mark Baldwin, Columbia St.:** Mr. Baldwin asked about redevelopment discussed as well as the bonds. The redeveloper is the property owner, who is a company out of Canada. Mr. Jessup advised him about the bonds, as well as what is done through the Planning Board application relating to redevelopment and a PILOT agreement. The project in question, will give the Borough an estimated over 20 million dollars over the 30 years after the portion that is sent to the County. It also helps fulfill our fair housing obligation and includes 7 units for veterans.

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 was seconded by Councilwoman Wickenheisser.

May 12, 2025

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

ATTEST:

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WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,  
MAYOR

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Gabrielle Evangelista,  
Borough Clerk