

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
AUGUST 18, 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, and Attorney Roman Hirniak.

Flag Salute

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

Mayor Chegwidden thanked the Fire Department for the great job they did at the fire in Overlook Village and today at Good Morning. He also thanks all of the towns who helped with mutual aid as well as the DPW, Police Department, and our residents who have been great with providing support for those affected.

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

Councilman Yeager presented O-12-25, “An Amending Ordinance to Provide for 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-12-25 on second and final reading.

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

Ordinance

Councilwoman Vasquez presented O-13-25, “An Amending Ordinance to Provide for 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 Councilwoman Vasquez and was seconded by Councilwoman Wickenheisser to adopt O-13-25 on second and final reading.

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

Ordinance

Councilman Binkoski introduced O-14-25, “An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Sign an Agreement with the Wharton Borough Teamsters Union Local 439,” on first reading, by title only.

A motion was made by Councilman Binkoski and was seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt O-14-25 on first reading.

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

Mayor Chegwiddden set the date of September 15, 2025 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.

<p>Approval of Bills: Approve all bills referred to the Finance Committee</p> <p>R-117-25: Affirm Borough’s Civil Rights Policy R-118-25: Payout Cerisola R-119-25: Amend Borough Employee Handbook R-120-25: Endorse TWA Permit R-121-25: Resolution Protesting A Proposed Settlement Between NJDEP and the 3M Company Regarding PFAS</p> <p>Approve Waiving Garage Sale Permit Fee for Townwide Garage Sale on 9/20</p> <p>A motion was made by Council President Norton and seconded by Councilman Yeager to approve all items listed on the Consent Agenda.</p> <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>
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Correspondence

- Morris County Mosquito Commission Report
- RVRSA Update
- Morris County Planning Board Minutes
- Ordinance from Roxbury Township

Council Reports

Council President Norton: No report.

Councilman Binkoski: Thank you to the Finance Committee, Mr. Kovalcik, and the Teamsters for working together on the new DPW contract. He’s glad it went through and hopes that everyone is happy with it.

Councilwoman Jones: She attended the Field at Orchard Mine groundbreaking, which was very nice. She also attended the concert.

Councilwoman Vasquez: She attended the concert and the groundbreaking. It is going to be a beautiful project that benefits everyone in town. Thank you to the Fire Department and everyone who was involved in the response to the fires.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: She attended the groundbreaking and agrees that it is going to be a beautiful park. She wants to remind everyone that Canal Day is this coming Saturday. Thank you to the Police, Fire and everyone who participated in the fire response. She wants to note that our new Animal Control Officer is a great asset. She's been doing a wonderful job.

Councilman Yeager: No report.

Mayor Chegwiddden's Report: Thank you to everyone who has been involved with the Fields at Orchard Mine project. It is coming along well. Thank you to Chief Young for hosting the program for seniors at the senior building. The concerts have been going well so far this year. He had a meeting with the Local Finance Board about the RAB for the Fields at Orchard Mine and it could not have gone better. We were praised as a good example for other towns. He had a meeting with the new owners of 170 N. Main, and that project is starting to move. We are in the process of changing our credit card processing which will save the residents some money on fees. He attended some RVRSA meetings, they are issuing Refresco a fine for discharging too much into the system. He wanted to bring to the attention the proposed settlement between 3M and the DEP. We passed a Resolution protesting it today, because they should not be released from any recourse. There are quite a few things happening before the winter months, trees planted on Chegwiddden Way, picnic tables, Baker and other streets being paved, finishing the crosswalks, and we have grant applications including for Congressional funding going on.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwiddden opened the meeting to the public.

Jennifer Hobbs, 40 Fern Ave.: Ms. Hobbs discussed ownership of the rooster that was discussed at previous meetings. Chief Young advised her to please call the Police Department when it is making noise and they can assist. She then asked about an email she had sent with questions about PILOTs. Mr. Kovalcik advised he will get back to her shortly.

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

Adjournment

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

August 18, 2025

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

ATTEST:

WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR

Gabrielle Evangelista,
Borough Clerk