

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
**JANUARY 26, 2026**

Mayor Chegwidden called the Meeting to Order.

Mayor Chegwidden read the Open Public Meeting Statement.

**Roll Call**

Mayor Chegwidden requested Roll Call:

Council President Binkoski - Present  
Councilwoman Gonzalez - Present  
Councilwoman Hobbs - Present  
Councilwoman Jones - Present  
Councilwoman Wickenheisser - Present  
Councilman Yeager – Excused

Also in attendance were Administrator David Young, Borough Clerk Cheryl Muzzillo, and Attorney Roman Hirniak.

**Flag Salute**

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

**Fire Department Appointment**

Mayor Chegwidden and Councilman Yeager administered the Oath of Office for the Fire Department Lieutenant, Max Meinero. Congratulations were offered by all in attendance.

**Open to the Public**

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

**Mike Gasser, 68 Baker Ave.:** Mr. Gasser made a suggestion to livestream the Mayor and Council meetings.

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

**Ordinance**

Councilwoman Wickenheisser presented O-01-26, “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 231, Articles V and VI, of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris, State of New Jersey,” on second reading by title only.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wickenheisser and seconded by Councilwoman Jones to adopt O-01-26 on second reading.

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

**Ordinance**

Councilwoman Hobbs presented O-02-26, “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.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hobbs and seconded by Council President Binkoski to adopt O-02-26 on second reading.

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

Resolution

Council President Binkoski introduced R-42-26, “Resolution Authorizing the Settlement of Various Borough of Wharton Tax Appeal Litigation Matters”.

A motion was made by Council President Binkoski and seconded by Councilwoman Jones to adopt R-42-26.

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

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  Approval of Minutes: 12/29/26, 1/8/26</p> <p>R-43-26: Authorize Issuance of Bids  R-44-26: Appoint HIF Commissioners  R-45-26: Renewing Benefits Programs  R-46-26: Transfer of Dental Benefits from MetLife to Delta Dental  R-47-26: Adopting Compliant Processes for Legal Notices  R-48-26: Appoint Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator  R-49-26: Refund for Overpayment - Block 501 Lot 38  R-50-26: Resolution Accepting and Authorizing the Execution of a Water Utility Easement  R-51-26: Resolution Accepting Sight Triangle Easement</p> <p>Approve Recreation Facility Applications: Junior Knights</p> <p><u>Appointment of Fire Department Lieutenant</u>- Max Meinero, one-year term to expire 12/31/26</p> <p><u>Mayor’s Appointments</u></p> <p><u>Planning Board Class 4 Member</u>- Daniel Mize, 4-year term to expire 12/31/2029</p> <p><u>Board of Health</u>- Laurie McDermott, 3-year term to expire 12/31/2028</p> <p>A motion was made by Council President Binkoski and seconded by Councilwoman Wickenheisser to approve all items listed on the Consent Agenda.</p> <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 5      NAY: 0      ABSENT: 1      ABSTAIN: 0</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>
---

Correspondence

- Morris County Planning Board Minutes

Council Reports

Council President Binkoski: He reported the Finance Committee met to discuss several topics. Regarding FOP negotiations, the process is ongoing as they have not yet reached a decision on the latest offer. He thanked the DPW, Police Department, and everyone else who worked during the recent snowstorm. He also thanked those who organized and provided snack bags for the workers during the storm.

Councilwoman Gonzalez: She and Councilwoman Hobbs met with the Auditor to gain a better understanding of current financial information. She also attended the Board of Education meeting, where it was announced that over 30 students have graduated from the ESL program. During the recent snowstorm, she had the opportunity to ride with Mr. Hutchins from the DPW while he was plowing. She expressed her gratitude for the experience, noting that Mr. Hutchins provided a wealth of information. Finally, she thanked the DPW, Police, and Fire Departments for their hard work during the storm.

**Councilwoman Hobbs:** She met with the Auditor and attended both the Planning Board Reorganization and Board of Education meetings. She was pleased to participate in the effort to assemble snack bags for the DPW, Police and Fire Departments, who worked 30+ hours during the snowstorm.

**Councilwoman Jones:** She attended the recent Board of Education meeting. She also participated in assembling snack bags for the workers during the recent snowstorm and was very impressed by the generous amount of donated items.

**Councilwoman Wickenheisser:** She attended the Finance Committee meeting and expressed her gratitude to Councilman Binkoski for his efforts. She also attended the Board of Education meeting, where she suggested they look into improving their audio setup, as it is currently extremely difficult to hear the discussions. She noted how nice it was to see the students recognized during the ceremony. Additionally, she thanked the superintendent for her hard work and positive impact.

Finally, she thanked everyone who participated in making snack bags for the DPW, Police and Fire Departments, with a special thanks to the local businesses that donated items to the cause.

**Mayor Chegwidde's Report:** The Mayor thanked Councilwoman Wickenheisser for organizing the snack bag initiative and expressed his appreciation to Sussex Meat Packing, Pop's Bagels, and the Knotty Pine Pub for their continued support of the community.

Regarding educational initiatives, the Mayor contacted Mr. Breda following the last Board of Education meeting to discuss concerns regarding the school's poor proficiency scores. After consulting with Council President Binkoski and the Finance Committee, a grant of \$50,000 to \$75,000—funded by PILOT revenue—has been proposed to help improve student achievement. Mr. Breda advised the Mayor to speak with the Superintendent about the proposal, who expressed strong support after hearing it.

Councilman Binkoski reported that he and the CFO are working to ensure the Finance Committee is aligned and that a legal framework is established. This will provide oversight and ensure the grant funds are used effectively for their intended purpose.

Councilwoman Hobbs offered her professional expertise to the project, noting her current role at the State Department of Education involves helping schools implement improvement plans based on student achievement.

The Mayor noted that the Superintendent has identified a company that utilizes a one-on-one approach to guaranteed score improvement. The Council expressed unanimous support for the grant, and the Mayor will follow up with the Superintendent to finalize the details and move the initiative forward.

The Mayor also recognized Planning Board Chairman Kenny Loury for his 15+ years of service, noting the excellent leadership provided by both Mr. Loury and Mr. Rathjens. Additionally, he commended the DPW for their hard work during the recent snowstorm and thanked everyone who contributed to the snack bags for the DPW, Police, and Fire Departments.

### **Open to the Public**

Mayor Chegwidde opened the meeting to the public.

Chief Young thanked the Council, the Town, and all the businesses that donated snack bags. He noted that the team had been working for 30+ hours straight and was very grateful for the support.

The Chief also shared statistics from the last two snowstorms. During the first storm, the Police Department issued over 70 parking tickets, while during the most recent storm, only 14 tickets were issued. He thanked the public for keeping vehicles off the roadway, noting it was a significant improvement. Finally, he expressed his appreciation to the Mayor and Council for their ongoing support.

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

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Council President Binkoski and was seconded by Councilwoman Wickenheisser to close the meeting. This motion was approved via voice vote.

January 26, 2026

**BOROUGH OF WHARTON**

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cheryl Muzzillo,  
Borough Clerk

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