

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 9, 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 – Present

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.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

Carisa Baldwin, 39 Columbia St.: Ms. Baldwin requested that the Mayor and Council formally state their opposition to a detention center in or near Morris County. She was advised that the Borough adheres to the rules and regulations set by the New Jersey Attorney General.

Scott Hutchins, 2 Columbia St.: Mr. Hutchins expressed his disagreement with the proposal for the Mayor and Council to go on record regarding a detention center.

Mr. Fernandez, 16 Mill St.: Mr. Fernandez raised concerns about residents failing to follow local traffic laws. Chief Young noted that he would discuss this matter further with Mr. Fernandez following the meeting.

Jim Gottshall, 44 Third St.: Mr. Gottshall commended the DPW for their excellent work with snow removal during the most recent storm and thanked them for their efforts.

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

Ordinance

Councilwoman Gonzalez introduced O-03-26, “An Ordinance to Provide for General Capital Projects Enumerated Within for the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris and to Provide for the Funding Thereof,” on first reading by title only.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gonzalez and seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt O-03-26 on first reading.

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

Mayor Chegwidden set the date of February 23, 2026 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.

Approval of Bills: Approve all bills referred to the Finance Committee
Approval of Minutes: 1/26/26

R-52-26: Changing Custodian of Petty Cash Fund
R-53-26: Municipal Alliance Application FY27
R-54-26: Authorizing Establishment of Change Funds
R-55-26: Authorizing Purchase of Garbage Truck
R-56-26: Authorizing CDBG Application
R-57-26: Authorizing DCA Grant Application
R-58-26: Safe and Secure Application 2026
R-59-26: Amend R-165-25 Refund for Street Opening Escrow

A motion was made by Council President Binkoski and seconded by Councilwoman Jones to approve all items listed on the Consent Agenda.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Correspondence

- Notice of Ordinance Introduction – Jefferson Township
- Notice of Land Use Board Meeting - Jefferson Township
- Notice of Land Use Board Meeting – Wharton Borough
- Notice of Planning Board Meeting – Rockaway Township

Council Reports

Council President Binkoski: He reported the snow removal and street cleaning downtown were excellent, and he thanked the DPW for their efforts. Work continues on open personnel items regarding the FOP contract and new hires. Budget preparation is being finalized and will be available soon.

Councilwoman Gonzalez: She attended the Board of Education meeting, where they discussed planned projects to improve the school, which will include garden boxes outside the Kindergarten playground. She thanked the DPW for the amazing job they did during the snowstorm and for their efforts on the water main breaks, highlighting that the work was done quickly and efficiently.

Councilwoman Hobbs: She attended the Board of Education meeting where interviews were held for a vacant seat; she reported Christina Rice was selected for the position. The meeting also celebrated the Students of the Month.

Councilwoman Jones: She attended the Library Board and Board of Education meetings. She put a question to Councilwoman Hobbs about the criteria the Board of Education uses to select candidates for vacant seats. Councilwoman Hobbs noted that, based on her ten years of experience, the traits typically favored include active community involvement, having children currently in the school system, and a demonstrated investment in the district's outcomes.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: She commended the DPW for their hard work on snow removal and water main repairs. She also attended the Finance meetings and Board of Education meeting. She raised concerns regarding the audio quality at the school board meetings and inquired if anything had been done to address the concerns residents have expressed about being unable to hear the meeting discussions. Councilwoman Jones noted that microphones were not used, however, a change in the room layout slightly improved the situation depending upon where people were sitting.

Councilman Yeager: He reported that the Police Department handled 1,900 calls last month, and the Fire Department responded to 16 incidents.

Mayor Chegwidden's Report: He thanked Mr. Hutchins and Mr. Quillinan for their leadership during the snow removal and water main repairs. He also expressed appreciation to County Concrete and John Crimi for providing the trucks necessary to haul snow.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

DPW Director, Mr. Hutchins: He expressed his appreciation for John Crimi, noting that in addition to the trucks, he provided a loader to assist the Borough with snow removal efforts.

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 Binkoski and seconded by Councilman Yeager. This motion was approved via voice vote.

February 9, 2026

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

ATTEST:

WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,

Cheryl Muzzillo,
Borough Clerk