

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
APRIL 6, 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 - Excused
Councilwoman Wickenheisser - Present
Councilman Yeager – Excused

Also in attendance were Administrator David Young, Deputy Clerk Desi Ruffo 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.

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

Ordinance

Council President Binkoski 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 Councilman Binkoski and seconded by Councilwoman Jones to adopt O-03-26 on first reading.

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

Mayor Chegwidden set the date of April 20, 2026 for second and final reading.

Ordinance

Council President Binkoski presented O-05-26, “An Ordinance to exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and Establish a CAP Bank (N.J.S.A. 40a:4-45.14),” on second reading, by title only.

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

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

A motion was made by Council President Binkoski and seconded by Councilwoman Wickenheisser to adopt O-5-26 on second and final reading.

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

Resolution

Councilwoman Wickenheisser introduced R-83-26, “Adoption of 2026 Emergency Temporary Appropriations Prior To Adoption of Budget.”

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wickenheisser and seconded by Council President Binkoski to adopt R-83-26.

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.

Approval of Bills: Approve all bills referred to the Finance Committee

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
R-76-26: Pine Street Parking Bid Award
R-77-26: Tax Sale Redemption TSC 25-00006 Pro Cap 8 FBO
R-78-26: Authorizing Extension and Renewal Agreement with Saint Clare's Health
R-79-26: Authorizing Participating in the 2026 Police Unity Tour
R-80-26: Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2023-006 Pro Cap 8 FBO
R-81-26: Renew Agreement with Wharton Schools for Class III Officer
R-82-26: Authorizing Memorandum of Agreement with FOP Lodge No. 24

Approve Recreation Facility Applications: WALL, Jersey Warhawks, NJ Rattlers, El Shaddai Assembly of God

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: 5 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 1 ABSTAIN: 0

Correspondence

- Morris County Planning Board Minutes

Council Reports

Council President Binkoski: He confirmed that an agreement with the Police Union has been reached and is expected to be finalized by the next Council meeting. He also stated that the school grants are anticipated to be finalized by that time. He expressed appreciation to Desi Ruffo for her work in the Construction Department. He wished everyone a Happy Easter and a Happy Passover.

Councilwoman Gonzalez: She attended the SOLTAR Breathwork event hosted by the Library with Councilwoman Jones. She also met with Scott Hutchins and Tom Quillinan from Public Works and was updated on Columbia Street Park and Orchard Mine. She received a report of Public Works activities completed in March and shared the report with the Council. The report included the following: ice and snow removal; preparation of light poles for summer flowers; installation of 250 banners; ongoing storm drain repairs; pothole repair preparation; preparation of Robert Street Park for baseball; spring cleanup at parks; repair of winter equipment; collection of 320 tons of curbside garbage; initiation of yard waste collection beginning Tuesday; street sweeping; 17 curb stop repairs; two emergency water shutoffs; replacement of two broken water lines; initiation of water shutoffs for delinquent accounts, resulting in \$51,074 collected; cleaning of 1,000 feet of municipal sewer line; and replacement of sewer pipe on municipal property. She confirmed this work was completed in one month by 14 employees. She thanked the Public Works Department for their outstanding work.

Councilwoman Hobbs: She wished everyone a Happy Easter and a Happy Passover. She attended a tour of the RVRSA and expressed concern regarding water usage and the potential impact if the proposed ICE facility is built, noting that it could affect

compliance with RVRSA requirements. She also voiced her support for Roxbury's opposition to the proposed ICE facility. She expressed excitement for the upcoming Sock Hop on Friday, although she will be unable to attend due to the end-of-year wrestling party. She also noted that the Fire Department will be holding a fish and chips fundraiser. Additionally, she mentioned that Saturday is the opening ceremony for soccer, and the PTA will be hosting a clothing drive on May 3rd.

Mayor Chegwidden stated that Wharton has its own water system and is a charter member of the RVRSA. He noted that Wharton's water system is a closed system. He added that Roxbury would require Mayor and Council approval as well as State approval to use Wharton's water, and that affordable housing has already stressed the town's water and sewer infrastructure.

Councilwoman Jones: She wished everyone a Happy Easter and a Happy Passover. She participated in the "Leap in the Lake" event and attended the Police Department Irish Fest at Muldoon's. She volunteered at the Scholastic Book Fair event for the Wharton schools. She attended the Library Board meeting and the Library Trustee training meeting. She also attended the adults-only movie night event held at the Library, as well as a SOLTAR Breathwork event with Councilwoman Gonzalez. Additionally, she attended the CDRS meeting and the Easter Egg Hunt hosted by the Fire Department.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: She wished everyone a Happy Easter and a Happy Passover. She attended the 3/26 School Board meeting and commended Dr. Sanchez for her work. She expressed concern that approximately 10% of students have failed two marking periods and hopes those numbers improve. She noted that the Senior Dance is scheduled for this Friday, with approximately 60 seniors currently registered to attend, and expects it will be a great event. She reported that the Veterans Banner program has been launched and thanked Tom Quillinan and Melanie Smith for their work and proactive efforts. Currently, 25 veterans have signed up. She encouraged residents to reach out with any questions regarding the banners. She also expressed excitement that a local business was used to reduce costs, with each banner costing approximately \$55 compared to the usual \$200, while maintaining the same quality. She attended the Morris County Chamber of Commerce meeting and expressed concern about how difficult it is for small business owners in New Jersey, noting that it should not take six to nine months to obtain a food cottage permit. She encouraged everyone to support small businesses.

Mayor Chegwidden's Report: During his report, Mayor Chegwidden highlighted several administrative updates and community activities:

- He confirmed that pre-construction meetings have been scheduled for Pine Street Park and for the 3rd and 4th phases of Baker Avenue, marking continued progress on key community improvement projects.
- He expressed excitement for the upcoming opening of the soccer and baseball seasons, which are highly anticipated community events.
- He noted that residents are pleased to see yard waste collection beginning, supporting cleaner neighborhoods and seasonal maintenance efforts.
- He also acknowledged the great work Public Works has done and continues to do.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

Jayne Murphy-Morris, 27 Columbia St.: She inquired about how to get volunteer information for town events. She was advised she could call Borough Hall for more information.

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

Resolution

Council President Binkoski introduced R-84-26, to close the meeting to the public for discussion upon potential litigation.

A motion was made by Council President Binkoski and seconded by Councilwoman Wickenheisser to approve R-84-26. This motion was approved via voice vote.

A motion was made by Council President Binkoski and seconded by Councilwoman Wickenheisser to return to open session. This motion was approved via voice vote.

Adjournment

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

April 6, 2026

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

ATTEST:

**_____
WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR**

**_____
Desi Ruffo,
Deputy Borough Clerk**