

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
**APRIL 20, 2026**

Council President Binkoski called the meeting to Order.

Council President Binkoski read the Open Public Meeting Statement.

**Roll Call**

Council President Binkoski to request 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 Mayor Chegwidden via phone, Administrator David Young, Borough Clerk Cheryl Muzzillo, Attorney Suzanne Cevasco, CFO Jason Gabloff, and Auditor Ray Sarinelli.

**Flag Salute**

Council President Binkoski led those present in the Salute to the American Flag.

**2026 Municipal Budget Presentation**

Mr. Gabloff presented the 2026 Municipal Budget, highlighting a modest 1.01% rate increase, which stands significantly lower than the 4.5% average seen elsewhere in Morris County. He attributed this fiscal stability to the Borough's debt-free status of over 20 years, strategic long-term planning, and the utilization of shared services to maximize efficiency. Supplementing the presentation, Auditor Ray Sarinelli noted that 2026 serves as a mandatory State review year; consequently, the budget underwent a rigorous approval process by the State in addition to the standard local and auditor reviews to ensure total compliance.

Councilwoman Hobbs requested clarification on several agenda items, specifically regarding the CAP rate ordinance and the Special District Budget. Mr. Gabloff explained that the Borough operates under two budget caps: a 2% Levy CAP and an Appropriations CAP, which the Borough may increase via ordinance to 3.5% to create a "CAP bank." He described this as an insurance policy that allows the Borough to carry over unused spending authority for up to two years to cover future emergencies or rising costs without immediately impacting taxes. Regarding the Special District Budget, Mr. Gabloff and Mr. Sarinelli clarified that while it is adopted with the Municipal Budget, it specifically covers garbage and recycling services and is funded through a separate tax levy based on home valuations. Mr. Sarinelli concluded by noting that because Borough home values are currently outpacing the budgetary needs, the tax rate is decreasing, a result of the Borough's successful efforts to control costs and develop new revenue streams.

**Open to the Public**

Council President Binkoski opened the meeting to the public for questions relating to the 2026 Municipal Budget presentation.

**Mr. Digennaro, 90 Garden Ave:** He inquired about the calculation of the regional school district tax rate. Mr. Sarinelli clarified that the rate is apportioned among participating municipalities based on student enrollment numbers. Furthermore, the Mayor noted that Wharton's financial contributions to the State serve to offset regional district costs, as the Borough's allocated State funding is directed specifically to the regional district.

No one else wishing to be heard, Council President Binkoski closed the meeting to the public.

Council President Binkoski opened the meeting to the public for all questions.

**Jennifer Joana, 17 Anderson Road:** Jennifer Joana, a resident and Board member of the Wharton Soccer Club, addressed the Council regarding a new \$500 seasonal fee imposed by the school district for the use of the turf soccer field. Ms. Joana expressed concern that these excessive fees threaten the affordability and sustainability of local youth programs, noting that the school's policy appears contradictory and was previously described as a refundable security deposit rather than a usage fee. She argued that the cumulative cost of at least \$2,000 per year between the Soccer and Little League non-profit programs is disproportionate given their limited field time, especially since the general public can use the field freely without being charged for use or potential damages. She highlighted that these nonprofit programs serve the same community that supports the schools through taxes, yet they lack guaranteed field access despite the payment. Council President Binkoski and Councilwoman Wickenheisser clarified that while the Council does not set these rates, they found the situation concerning given the

Borough already allocates funds to youth sports. In response, Council President Binkoski committed to having Councilwoman Wickenheisser speak with the Superintendent to investigate the policy changes and advocate for a collaborative solution to keep the programs accessible.

No one else wishing to be heard, Council President Binkoski closed the meeting to the public.

Ordinance

Council President Binkoski presented 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 second reading by title only.

Council President Binkoski opened the meeting to the public.

No one wishing to be heard, Council President Binkoski closed the meeting to the public.

A motion was made by Council President Binkoski and seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt O-03-26 on second and final reading.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0
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Ordinance

Councilwoman Wickenheisser introduced O-06-26, “An Ordinance Fixing the Salary of Certain Officers and Employees of the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris, State of New Jersey,” on first reading, by title only.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wickenheisser and seconded by Councilwoman Jones to adopt O-06-26 on first reading.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0
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Council President Binkoski set the date of May 11, 2026 for second and final reading.

Ordinance

Councilman Yeager introduced O-07-26, “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 315, Article II, Section 7 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris, State of New Jersey,” on first reading, by title only.

A motion was made by Councilman Yeager and seconded by Councilwoman Wickenheisser to adopt O-07-26 on first reading.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0
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Council President Binkoski set the date of May 11, 2026 for second and final reading.

Ordinance

Councilwoman Hobbs introduced O-08-26, “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 110, Section 3 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris, State of New Jersey,” on first reading, by title only.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hobbs and seconded by Councilwoman Jones to adopt O-08-26 on first reading.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0
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Council President Binkoski set the date of May 11, 2026 for second and final reading.

Resolution

Councilman Yeager introduced R-85-26 “Resolution to Read the Budgets by Title Only.”

A motion was made by Councilman Yeager and seconded by Councilwoman Wickenheisser to adopt Resolution R-85-26.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0
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2026 Municipal Budget

Council President Binkoski presented Resolution R-63-26, The 2026 Municipal Budget for final adoption.

Council President Binkoski opened the meeting to the public.

No one wishing to be heard, Council President Binkoski closed the meeting to the public.

A motion was made by Council President Binkoski and seconded by Councilwoman Wickenheisser to adopt R-63-26, The 2026 Municipal Budget.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 6	NAY: 0	ABSENT: 0	ABSTAIN: 0
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2026 Special District Budget

Councilwoman Wickenheisser presented Resolution R-64-26, The 2026 Special District Budget for final adoption.

Council President Binkoski opened the meeting to the public.

No one wishing to be heard, Council President Binkoski closed the meeting to the public.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wickenheisser and seconded by Councilwoman Jones to adopt R-64-26, The 2026 Special District Budget.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 6	NAY: 0	ABSENT: 0	ABSTAIN: 0
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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-86-26: Authorizing Appointment of Part-Time Animal Control Officer  R-87-26: Authorizing Appointment of Part-Time Assistant Police Records Clerk  R-88-26: Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriation- Click It or Ticket  R-89-26: Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2024-001 Christiana  R-90-26: Authorizing Appointment of Crossing Guard</p> <p>Approve Recreation Facility Applications: NJ Rattlers</p> <p>Fire Department Application: Alexander Stieve</p> <p>A motion was made by Councilman Yeager and seconded by Councilwoman Jones to approve all items listed on the Consent Agenda.</p> <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 6      NAY: 0      ABSENT: 0      ABSTAIN: 0</p>
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Correspondence

- Mine Hill Township Notice of Ordinance Introduction
- Jefferson Township Notice of Ordinance Introduction
- Jefferson Township Notice to Bidders – Liquor License
- County of Morris Notice of Proposed Sale of Property

Council Reports

Councilwoman Gonzalez: She reported on the successful Municipal Alliance Senior Fling Sock Hop and the opening day for Wharton Wolves Soccer. Representing the DPW, she noted that yard waste collection was completed over the last two weeks and Robert Street Park was prepared for the season. Maintenance crews serviced nine police vehicles, painted lines and installed signage on South Main and St. Mary’s streets, and repaired a storm water pipe at Hance Street and Sherwood Place, which led to the discovery and repair of an unknown water main break. She also noted that the Board of Education is partnering with the Library by having them visit the school to sign everyone up for a Library Card.

Councilwoman Hobbs: She reported on Board of Education activities, including a summer enrichment program and PTA fundraisers, while advising residents of upcoming traffic detours near Exit 30 due to Route 80 construction. She also recommended updating recreation facility applications to explicitly prohibit tobacco and vaping products.

**Councilwoman Jones:** She attended the Mayors meeting hosted by Assemblywoman Dunn, as well as the Board of Education and Library Board meetings. She thanked the Municipal Alliance for hosting the Senior Spring Fling Sock Hop. It was such a memorable event. She was happy to be part of the opening ceremonies for the Wharton Wolves and Wharton Area Little League and she wished them a successful season. She attended the Morris County League of Municipalities meeting at the County College of Morris and was able to tour the new Culinary Center, which is incredible. She gave a special thank you to everyone who made the Fire Department annual Beefsteak Dinner so successful.

**Councilwoman Wickenheisser:** She thanked Mr. Young, Ms. Vasquez, the DPW and everyone involved for their help with the Municipal Alliance Senior Spring Fling Sock Hop, which turned out to be a great night. She shared that the 250th Anniversary Committee is busy planning, with commemorative flags now on sale at Borough Hall and a deadline for the Hometown Heroes veteran's banners coming up this week and she expects many new details will be coming out in the near future regarding the celebration. She thanked Mr. Gabloff and the Finance Committee for their help with this budget. She also expressed how proud she is that the Borough stays debt-free. She loved seeing the high turnout at the Wharton Soccer and Little League Opening Day Ceremonies, which were beautiful days. She finds the school turf field usage fees situation concerning and will address the issue with the school. She thanked all of the parents who are volunteering their time and who work very hard to keep things running. The enrollment numbers of all of our youth sports have grown and noted after two weeks of registration the Jr. Knights are hitting their maximum numbers. She attended the Mayors Meeting with Assemblywoman Aura Dunn, who explained things that are going on in the State. She thanked the Assemblywoman for all she does for the Borough. She also attended the Fire Department Beefsteak Dinner and had a great time.

**Councilman Yeager:** He extended his thanks to Mr. Gabloff and Council President Binkoski for the significant work required to put the budget together. He shared that he enjoyed attending the Little League parade and was happy to see the local children having such a great time.

**Council President Binkoski:** He shared that he recently ordered his Hometown Heroes veteran banner and noted how simple the process was. He took a moment to specifically recognize the hard work of Mr. Gabloff, Mr. Young, and Mr. Hutchins on this year's budget; he noted that despite the difficult loss of CFO Mr. Kovalcik during the process, the team stepped up and made it work. On the school front, he reported a productive call with the Superintendent regarding grant details.

He also stayed busy with community events, enjoying the Municipal Alliance Senior Spring Fling Sock Hop and throwing out the first pitch at the Little League opening ceremony. He emphasized that these youth programs are vital for keeping residents connected and creating lasting memories for families. Finally, he mentioned how impressed he was with the new Culinary Science building at the County College of Morris during a recent meeting there, and he wrapped up by thanking the volunteers at the Fire Department's Beefsteak Dinner for another great event.

**Open to the Public**

Council President Binkoski opened the meeting to the public

No one else wishing to be heard, Council President Binkoski closed the meeting to the public.

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Wickenheisser and seconded by Councilwoman Jones. The motion was approved via voice vote.

April 20, 2026

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

ATTEST:

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VINCENT BINKOSKI,  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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Cheryl Muzzillo,  
Borough Clerk