

REGULAR MEETING  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
MAY 11, 2026

Council President Binkoski called the meeting to Order.

Council President Binkoski read the Open Public Meeting Statement.

Roll Call

Council President Binkoski 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 Mayor Chegwidden via phone, Borough Clerk Cheryl Muzzillo and Attorney Roman Hirniak

Flag Salute

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

Open to the Public

Council President Binkoski opened the meeting to the public.

- **Paul Breda, 6 Potter Lane:** He read and submitted a statement for the record, summarized below, regarding the May 7th Board of Education (BOE) meeting. He clarified that although he is the BOE's appointed liaison to the Town Council, he was speaking as a private citizen. He noted that the following events transpired during the public portion of that meeting:
  - **Board Actions:** Following an executive session, a motion to place Superintendent Dr. Sanchez on involuntary medical leave failed in a 3-3 tie vote (with one member legally conflicted). Dr. Sanchez formally objected to the forced leave. Subsequently, a resolution of "no confidence" regarding board leadership was introduced and defeated 5-2. Additionally, a school staff member spoke publicly in support of Dr. Sanchez's leadership.
  - **Concerns of Overreach:** Based on OPRA requests and past meeting attendance, Mr. Breda expressed personal concerns that the school board has consistently overstepped its role in personnel matters and encouraged staff to bypass the proper chain of command.
  - **Administrative Impact & Support:** He stated his opinion that the board's actions have actively undermined Dr. Sanchez's authority and created an environment aimed at her removal. He affirmed his strong support for Dr. Sanchez, calling her an exceptional asset to the school district, and noted he has lodged objections to the board's direction since taking his seat in January.

Mr. Breda concluded by strongly encouraging the public to attend the next Board of Education meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 21st at 7:00 PM.

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

Ordinance

Councilwoman Wickenheisser presented 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 second reading, by title only.

Council President Binkoski opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments on this Ordinance only.

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 O-06-26 on second and final reading.

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

Councilman Yeager presented 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 second reading, by title only.

Council President Binkoski opened the meeting to the public, for questions or comments on this Ordinance only.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Yeager seconded by Councilwoman Jones to adopt O-07-26 on second and final reading.

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

Councilwoman Hobbs presented 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 second reading, by title only.

Council President Binkoski opened the meeting to the public, for questions or comments on this Ordinance only.

Council President Binkoski closed the meeting to the public.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hobbs and seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt O-08-26 on second and final reading.

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

Council President Binkoski introduced O-09-26, “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 Council President Binkoski and seconded by Councilwoman Wickenheisser to adopt O-09-26 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 June 8, 2026 for second and final reading.

Ordinance

Councilman Yeager introduced O-10-26, “An Ordinance to Provide for Sewer Utility Capital Project 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 Yeager seconded by Councilwoman Wickenheisser to adopt O-10-26 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 June 8, 2026 for second and final reading.

Ordinance

Councilwoman Wickenheisser introduced O-11-26, “An Ordinance to Provide for a Water Utility Capital Project Enumerated within for the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris, and to Provide for the Funding Thereof,” on first reading, by title only.

- Prior to the vote, Councilwoman Gonzalez clarified that this measure ensures budgeted funds are properly appropriated to their specific, intended uses.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wickenheisser and seconded by Councilwoman Hobbs to adopt O-11-26 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 June 8, 2026 for second and final reading.

Ordinance

Council President Binkoski introduced O-12-26, “An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Sign an Agreement with the Wharton Borough Fraternal Order of Police,” on first reading by title only.

A motion was made by Council President Binkoski and seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt O-12-26 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 June 8, 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.

<p>Approval of Bills: Approve all bills referred to the Finance Committee  Approval of Minutes: 3/16/26, 4/6/26, 4/20/26</p> <p>R-91-26: Opposing S-1836, Legislation Bypassing Local Planning  R-92-26: Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2023-001 Pro Cap 8 FBO  R-93-26: Authorizing Appointment of Part-Time Animal Control Officer  R-94-26: Public Auction  R-95-26: Authorizing Appointment of Part-Time Building Inspector  R-96-26: SHBP Reform  R-97-26: Restoration of Energy Tax Receipts  R-98-26: Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2024-020 Pro Cap 8 FBO  R-99-26: Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2024-006 Pro Cap 8 FBO  R-100-26: Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2024-005 Pro Cap 8 FBO  R-101-26: Police Vehicle Purchases  R-102-26: DPW Vehicle Purchase</p> <p>A motion was made by Councilwoman Wickenheisser 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>
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Correspondence

- Mine Hill Township Notice of Ordinance Adoption
- Jefferson Township Notice of Ordinance Introduction
- Morris County Planning Board Meeting Minutes

Council Reports

Councilwoman Gonzalez: She reported on her recent community attendance, including the Our Community Salutes ceremony at Fairleigh Dickinson University honoring 82 high school military enlistees, the Jersey Clay Society ribbon cutting, and volunteering at the Municipal Alliance Carnival. Additionally, she provided an update on completed Department of Public Works (DPW) tasks, which included flushing over 220 hydrants, filling borough-wide potholes, collecting more than 440 tons of garbage, and assisting with carnival preparations. The DPW also performed repairs at the Library, prepared catch basins on Trowbridge Lane and Fern Avenue, and continued routine maintenance and playground mulching across all municipal parks and athletic fields.

Councilwoman Hobbs: She reported on recent Board of Education (BOE) meetings, highlighting discussions on a potential book club, student tutoring options, summer RTI plans, BSL supports, and an ongoing review of the turf field policy. She expressed sadness regarding recent news concerning the Superintendent, noting she had been hopeful that previous issues were resolving. Additionally, she expressed enthusiasm for the return of the carnival, shared her attendance at the Jersey Clay Society ribbon cutting, and reminded the public of the upcoming eighth-grade car wash at MacKinnon School and next week's Planning Board meeting. Lastly, she noted that she received an update on the RVRSA situation and that an infrastructure meeting is scheduled for the coming week.

**Councilwoman Jones:** She reported on her attendance at the April 23rd Board of Education meeting and the regular Library Board meeting, noting she also took part in a relaxing meditation and Qi Gong session at the library. She attended the Jersey Clay Society and Ecuatorianesimo Restaurant ribbon cutting events and volunteered at the Municipal Alliance Carnival, extending a thank you to all volunteers for making the event a huge success. Lastly, she reminded residents that commemorative yard signs remain available for purchase at Town Hall.

**Councilwoman Wickenheisser:** She expressed gratitude to Fairleigh Dickinson University for the invitation to the Our Community Salutes ceremony and thanked everyone who contributed to the success of the Municipal Alliance Carnival, specifically highlighting the excellent impact of the Police Department. She announced that the Hometown Heroes banners are currently being installed and reminded everyone to save the date of June 20th for the 250th Anniversary Celebration, as well as to attend the upcoming Memorial Day Parade and Program. Finally, she reported attending ribbon cuttings for both the Jersey Clay Society and Ecuatorianesimo Restaurant, encouraging the community to get out and support local small businesses.

**Councilman Yeager:** He reported that he attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony and volunteered at the Municipal Alliance Carnival.

**Council President Binkoski's Report:** He congratulated the Municipal Alliance on a highly successful restart of the Carnival, commending Paola Vasquez, Chief Young, Lieutenant Arroyo, Melanie Smith, and all participating police officers for their efforts. He expressed appreciation for the DPW's hard work and thanked the American Legion, Nicole Wickenheisser, the Jr. Knights, the Wharton Area Little League (WALL), noting he had a great time working the games. He gave a special thanks to the Wharton Wolves Soccer program for volunteering and accommodating the event on their field space. Additionally, he reminded the public of the upcoming Memorial Day Parade and Program on May 25th, as well as the Summer Concert Series kickoff on May 29th. Finally, he reported attending the ribbon cutting for the Jersey Clay Society and the rededication of Ecuatorianesimo Restaurant, emphasizing the importance of supporting local small businesses.

**Open to the Public**

Council President Binkoski opened the meeting to the public.

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

**Adjournment**

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

May 11, 2026

**BOROUGH OF WHARTON**

**ATTEST:**

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**VINCENT BINKOSKI,  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

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**Cheryl Muzzillo,  
Borough Clerk**