

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
JUNE 8, 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

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 presented 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 second reading, by title only.

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

Mayor Chegwidden closed the meeting to the public.

A motion was made by Council President Binkoski and seconded by Councilwoman Jones to adopt O-09-26 on second and final reading.

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

Ordinance

Councilman Yeager presented 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 second reading, by title only.

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

Mayor Chegwidden closed the meeting to the public.

A motion was made by Councilman Yeager and seconded by Council President Binkoski to adopt O-10-26 on second and final reading.

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

Ordinance

Councilwoman Wickenheisser presented 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 second reading, by title only.

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

Mayor Chegwidden closed the meeting to the public.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wickenheisser and seconded by Councilwoman Jones to adopt O-11-26 on second and final reading.

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

Ordinance

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

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

Mayor Chegwidden closed the meeting to the public.

A motion was made by Council President Binkoski and seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt O-12-26 on second and final reading.

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

Ordinance

Councilwoman Hobbs introduced O-13-26, “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 330, Section 20 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 Council President Binkoski to adopt O-13-26 on first reading.

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

Mayor Chegwidden set the date of June 29, 2026 for second and final reading.

Ordinance

Councilwoman Hobbs introduced O-14-26, “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 247 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 Council President Binkoski to adopt O-14-26 on first reading.

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

Mayor Chegwidden set the date of June 29, 2026 for second and final reading.

Ordinance

Councilman Yeager introduced O-15-26, “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 315, Article III, Section 18 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 Council President Binkoski to adopt O-15-26 on first reading.

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

Mayor Chegwidden set the date of June 29, 2026 for second and final reading.

Ordinance

Councilwoman Hobbs introduced O-16-26, “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 67, Section 13 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Wharton, County of Morris, State of New Jersey Hours of Sale and Service of Alcoholic Beverages to Accommodate the FIFA World Cup 2026 Tournament,” on first reading, by title only.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hobbs and seconded by Councilwoman Jones to adopt O-16-26 on first reading.

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

Mayor Chegwidden set the date of June 29, 2026 for second and final reading.

Resolution

Councilman Yeager introduced R-103-26, “Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of a Police Officer.”

A motion was made by Councilman Yeager and seconded by Council President Binkoski to adopt R-103-26.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 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
Approval of Minutes: 5/11/26

R-104-26: Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2022-001 Pro Cap 8 FBO
R-105-26: Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2024-004 Pro Cap 8 FBO
R-106-26: Liquor License Renewals
R-107-26: Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue & Appropriation
- 2025 Body Armor Grant
R-108-26: Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue & Appropriation
- 2026 Clean Communities Grant
R-109-26: Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue & Appropriation
- Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund
R-110-26: Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue & Appropriation
- Local Recreation Improvement Grant
R-111-26: Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue & Appropriation
- Highlands Water Protection & Planning Council
R-112-26: Approving & Authorizing the Execution of ADR Agreement- RVRSA

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: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

Councilwoman Hobbs: She inquired about the purpose of several grants listed on the Consent Agenda. It was clarified that the funding is allocated for Body Armor, Clean Communities, and Drunk Driving enforcement. She also questioned the reason behind placing special conditions on liquor licenses.

Mayor Chegwidden explained that the Borough holds the authority to impose special conditions, such as restricting operating hours or requiring the installation of security cameras, to ensure public safety and compliance, thereby helping businesses maintain their licenses.

Chief Young further noted that such special conditions are typically implemented in response to past reported incidents or code violations at a specific location.

Councilwoman Hobbs then asked why special conditions appeared to apply exclusively to the Four Seasons Restaurant. Councilwoman Gonzalez clarified that the restrictions for Four Seasons Restaurant pertain solely to outdoor dining, while separate, distinct restrictions are in place for Luna Restaurant & Bar.

Council Reports

Council President Binkoski:

- He assisted fellow Legionnaires in planting flags at the cemetery for Memorial Day and hosted the Memorial Day Program, which was successfully moved into the School Gymnasium due to inclement weather. Commended Braelynn Romel for an excellent public speaking performance as Miss Poppy for the American Legion.
- Attended and enjoyed the first concert of the summer season.
- Noted a lackluster voter turnout at the previous week's primary election.
- Participated in Wharton Pride Day, assisting with several community projects. Noted that the event was established over 20 years ago to foster community involvement.
- Attended the recent BOE meeting.

Councilwoman Gonzalez:

- Department of Public Works (DPW) Report:
 - Collected 425 tons of garbage.
 - Assisted with setup for the primary election, the Memorial Day Ceremony, and the first summer concert.
 - Relocated the Recycling Center to Eileen Court.
 - Installed new cellular radios for the DPW department.
 - Completed maintenance at Columbia Street Park and cleared a fallen tree from Mt. Pleasant Avenue.
 - Hosted Wharton Pride Day and repaired a water main on South Main Street.
 - Continuously installed Hometown Heroes banners across the borough.
 - Recognized Richard Sampson and Thomas Donnelly for receiving backhoe certification training, and Nicholas DeRosa for receiving his Certificate of Public Works Manager from the NJ Dept. of Community Affairs.
- Thanked the DPW for seamlessly moving the Memorial Day event indoors. Expressed gratitude to Cheryl Muzzillo and the new Community Affairs Coordinator, Monica Saldarriaga, for their excellent work organizing the program. Noted anticipation for the upcoming June 20th celebration of America's 250th Anniversary.
- Attended the BOE meeting, which was moved to the gymnasium to accommodate an unusually large crowd.
 - Commended Scott Hutchins on his well-deserved recognition by the State of New Jersey, praising his dedication and pride in his work.
 - Reflecting on her children's positive educational experience at MacKinnon Middle School, she praised the teachers for their dedication, particularly during COVID-19.
 - Acknowledged that while certain personnel or legal matters must remain confidential behind closed doors, she has observed major communication improvements since Superintendent Sanchez took office. Expressed hope that the Board and the Superintendent will continue to work collaboratively for the benefit of the children.

Councilwoman Hobbs:

- Attended the Infrastructure and Sewer Authority meeting. Noted that the Planning Board meeting was canceled due to a lack of business.
- Attended the successful 8th Grade Car Wash and the Memorial Day Celebration.
- Attended the well-attended BOE meeting, where she and a group of parents spoke in support of Superintendent Sanchez.
 - Acknowledged parental frustration regarding confidential information that cannot legally be shared, which makes understanding certain decisions difficult.
 - Reported that the Business Administrator announced her upcoming retirement.
 - Noted that chronic absenteeism will be a targeted focus for the next school year.
 - Recognized the American Legion for distributing prizes for the coloring contest and celebrated Scott Hutchins receiving a well-deserved Proclamation for his service.

Councilwoman Jones:

- Attended the Library Board meeting, where the annual budget was officially passed.
- Attended the Memorial Day Ceremony, the first summer concert, and the heavily attended BOE meeting, noting she was pleased to see high parent turnout.
- Participated in Wharton Pride Day by painting benches and the small white ticket booth. Extended thanks to all volunteers and participants.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser:

- Attended the Memorial Day Service and the well-attended first summer concert. Extended gratitude to Cheryl Muzzillo, Monica Saldarriaga, and all volunteers who worked to make these events successful.
- Reminded residents to submit applications for Summer Recreation and noted that the Jr. Knights program is currently seeking volunteers.
- Encouraged the public to "save the date" for the upcoming June 20th celebration of America's 250th Anniversary. Thanked Councilwoman Gonzalez and Pat Rechsteiner for their help in planning the event.

Councilman Yeager:

- Attended the Memorial Day Ceremony and thanked the community for their attendance.
- Reported that the Fire Department responded to 14 calls last month and 18 calls during the current month.
- Reported that seven officers recently took the Sergeants exam and announced that Sean Duffy, Robert Norton, Jr., and Timothy Drake will be sworn in in the near future.

Mayor Chegwiddden's Report

- Thanked Council President Binkoski for leadership in managing operations during the Mayor's absence, and thanked the full Council for their ongoing support. Expressed gratitude to the American Legion for consistently stepping up to support the Borough.
- Reported that the Pine Street Parking lot project is progressing, and thanked the DPW for preparing the site for construction; the lot will feature 67 parking spaces upon completion. Final plans for the Fields at Orchard Mine are underway and expected to go out to bid shortly.
- Attended Wharton Pride Day and deemed it a great overall success.
- Reported that the Municipal Alliance Carnival raised \$28,000. Checks will be distributed to the participating organizations that contributed to the event's success.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwiddden opened the meeting to the public.

Jayne Murphy Morris, 27 Columbia St.: She requested that descriptions or purpose statements be added to introduced Ordinances for greater public clarity.

Borough Clerk Cheryl Muzzillo explained that a formal Legal Notice, which includes a comprehensive purpose statement, is published on the Borough website following the introduction of every Ordinance. Residents can access these by navigating to the "Legal Notices" section of the Borough website and selecting the "First Reading" notice for the respective Ordinance.

She also inquired if action could be taken to mitigate standing water and mosquito issues at Columbia Street Park. Ms. Morris was advised that the Borough would coordinate with the Morris County Mosquito Control Commission to schedule treating/spraying the area.

Diane Kehoe, 43 Downs Ave.: She inquired about the exact location of the relocated Recycling Center. She was advised that the center has been permanently relocated to the end of Eileen Court.

William Rogers, 2 Oak Lane: She inquired about the procedure for residents who occasionally generate an extra volume of garbage that exceeds standard container capacity, noting that while permanent additional carts are available for lease, he was asking about infrequent needs. Mr. Quillinan explained that the DPW maintains "loaner" carts. Residents facing an occasional overflow can contact Borough Hall to request a temporary cart, which will be dropped off by the DPW and collected after disposal.

He also asked about a recent summons he received for an unregistered vehicle parked on his property, asking if the Police Department actively patrols at night conducting registration checks.

Chief Young explained that department vehicles utilize Automated License Plate Readers, which automatically alert officers to vehicle infractions such as unregistered status, stolen vehicles, or suspended/unlicensed drivers.

Mark Baldwin, Columbia St.: He thanked the DPW for their efforts in repairing the damaged turf at the park, but questioned why work was started and the grounds were left unfinished, noting Council President Binkoski had informed him the delay was due to a backordered mulch shipment. He also questioned why the cover letters for consecutive years of grant submissions appeared identical. He requested a status update on the March grant submission and asked what alternative funding options exist if the grant is not approved.

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

Mayor Chegwidden responded to Mr. Baldwin and reaffirmed that Columbia Street Park is slated as a priority project for the upcoming year. If the anticipated grant funding is not secured, the governing body will allocate the necessary funds in next year's municipal budget.

- The Mayor explained that the funding agency explicitly requested a resubmission of the previous year's technical documentation, which is why the cover letter remained unchanged.
- He clarified that park improvements must strictly adhere to State of New Jersey safety regulations, which mandate a specific certified base material and safety mulch. He noted that the Borough broke ground early due to high public demand and pressure from local residents, including Mr. Baldwin. It was discovered after the project began that the required regulatory mulch was a special-order item, causing the delivery delay.

Council President Binkoski addressed Mr. Baldwin regarding statements made during public meetings and on social media referencing his name. He confirmed he had accurately informed Mr. Baldwin that the required safety mulch was unavailable and in transit, but stated that Mr. Baldwin had misinterpreted the context. He encouraged Mr. Baldwin to contact him directly in the future to clarify facts rather than publishing inaccurate assumptions, emphasizing that his actions are always driven by the best interests of the community.

Mayor Chegwidden re-opened the meeting to Mr. Baldwin, for his response.

Mark Baldwin, 43 Columbia St.: He apologized to Council President Binkoski for his misunderstanding on the mulch situation.

Adjournment

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

June 8, 2026

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

ATTEST:

WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR

Cheryl Muzzillo,
Borough Clerk