

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
JUNE 29, 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 - Excused
Councilwoman Hobbs - Present
Councilwoman Jones - Present
Councilwoman Wickenheisser - Present
Councilman Yeager - Present

Flag Salute

Mayor Chegwidden invited Troop 67 to lead the presentation of the Flag, recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, Scout Oath, and the Scout Law.

Proclamation

Mayor Chegwidden honored Roey Paglingayen for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout and for his service to the community.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public. If you wish to be heard, please stand, stating your name and address.

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

Presentation

Donations of proceeds from the Municipal Alliance Carnival were presented to various community groups:

- Father Lem Camacho
- Wharton Area Little League
- Wharton Wolves Soccer
- Jr. Knights Football
- William J. Hocking American Legion Post 91

Ordinance

Councilwoman Hobbs presented 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 second reading, by title only.

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

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

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hobbs and seconded by Councilwoman Wickenheisser to adopt O-13-26 on second and final reading.

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

Councilwoman Hobbs presented 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 second reading, by title only.

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

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

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hobbs and seconded by Councilwoman Jones to adopt O-14-26 on second and final reading.

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

Councilman Yeager presented 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 second reading, by title only.

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

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

A motion was made by Councilman Yeager and seconded by Councilwoman Jones to adopt O-15-26 on second and final reading.

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

Councilwoman Hobbs presented 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 second reading, by title only.

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

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

A motion by was made by Councilwoman Hobbs and seconded by Council President Binkoski to adopt O-16-26 on second and final reading.

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

Council President Binkoski introduced O-17-26, “Ordinance of the Borough of Wharton, in the County of Morris, New Jersey Approving a Tax Exemption and Authorizing the Execution of a Financial Agreement with Pillar Wharton Inc.,” on first reading, by title only.

A motion was made by Council President Binkoski and seconded by Councilwoman Jones to adopt O-17-26 on first reading.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 4	NAY: 1	ABSENT: 1	ABSTAIN: 0
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Mayor Chegwidden set the date of July 20, 2026 for second and final reading.

Resolution

Councilman Yeager introduced R-113-26, “Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of Police Sergeant.”

A motion was made by Councilman Yeager and seconded by Councilwoman Wickenheisser to adopt R-113-26.

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

Councilman Yeager introduced R-114-26, “Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of Police Sergeant.”

A motion was made by Councilman Yeager and seconded by Council President Binkoski to adopt R-114-26.

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

Councilman Yeager introduced R-115-26, “Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of Police Sergeant.”

A motion was made by Councilman Yeager and seconded by Councilwoman Jones to adopt R-115-26.

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

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

Approval of Minutes: 6/8/26

R-116-26: 2026 Water Service Replacements Bid Award

R-117-26: Appointing Administrative Agent of Affordable Housing

R-118-26: Liquor License Renewals

R-119-26: Tax Sale Redemption TSC 25-00012 Pro Cap 8 FBO

R-120-26: Changing Custodian of Petty Cash Fund

R-121-26: NJDOT Grant Application- Elizabeth St. & Sunset Dr.

R-122-26: NJDOT Grant Application- Old Irondale Rd., Mill St. & Bartek Ln.

R-123-26: Appoint Municipal Housing Liaison for COAH

R-124-26: Bulletproof Vest Partnership

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

Council Reports

Council President Binkoski: He expressed sincere appreciation to retired Officer Steve Machuga and Lieutenant Michael Arroyo for their swift, life-saving actions in rescuing an individual from the Canal on June 12. He also thanked Kathy Machuga and Sandy Hayes for their assistance during the incident, and commended the Fire and Police Departments for their rapid emergency response.

He addressed resident concerns regarding potential overcrowding in several local homes. After consulting with Housing Official Leon Stickle, investigations were initiated. One case has been resolved and closed, as it was confirmed that the residents are family members and the home is compliant with occupancy limits; the remaining investigations are ongoing. Council President Binkoski urged residents to report municipal concerns directly to the Borough rather than posting on social media, emphasizing that the Borough thoroughly investigates all officially submitted complaints.

He toured the new Recycling Center with Mr. Quillinan and reported that the transition is proceeding smoothly.

He noted that construction on the new Pine Street parking lot in the center of town is progressing at a steady pace.

He reported that the summer concert series continues to be highly successful. Despite a brief rain shower during the last event, attendance was excellent. He thanked the

Department of Public Works (DPW) for opening the garage to provide shelter for attendees, and noted that several neighboring municipalities are now modeling their own concert series after the Borough's.

He declared the 250th Anniversary Parade and subsequent celebration at Betty Poyer Field a great success and enjoyed the opportunity to connect with residents. He extended his gratitude to Councilwoman Wickenheisser, the Police Department, and all municipal departments that collaborated to execute the events.

Councilwoman Hobbs: She reported that she attended the recent Sewer Authority meeting. She attended the Ice Cream Social celebrating the last day of school and noted excellent parental turnout at the 8th-grade graduation. She extended her official congratulations to the graduating Class of 2026. She attended America's 250th Anniversary Celebration, describing it as a wonderful event. She commended Councilwoman Wickenheisser for her leadership and coordination of the festivities.

She attended the recent Board of Education meeting and noted during public comment, residents strongly urged Board members to collaborate effectively to resolve internal conflicts. Members of the public expressed frustration regarding a lack of transparency, citing confidentiality constraints that prevent a full understanding of current Board issues. She reported that following an executive (closed) session, the Board voted to place the Superintendent on paid administrative leave. She announced the next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for July 23rd.

She concluded her report by wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable Fourth of July.

Councilwoman Jones: She attended the June 12th concert and noted that despite a brief 10-to-15-minute downpour, the weather cleared quickly, resulting in a successful and well-enjoyed event. She expressed her appreciation for being part of the 250th Anniversary parade and the celebration that followed. She extended her gratitude to Councilwoman Wickenheisser and everyone whose hard work made the successful events possible. She reported that she attended the recent meetings of both the Library Board and the Board of Education.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: She expressed her gratitude to Steve and Kathy Machuga, Lieutenant Michael Arroyo, and Sandy Hayes for their heroic, life-saving actions during the incident on June 12.

She thanked Mayor Chegwiddden for the opportunity to spearhead the 250th Anniversary event, noting how everyone collaborated enthusiastically on the planning and details. She extended her appreciation to everyone involved in making the celebration a success, offering special thanks to the Police Department, Department of Public Works (DPW), Fire Department, American Legion, Morris County Pipes and Drums, and the many volunteers whose efforts made the day truly memorable.

She noted that the Summer Recreation program would be closed on July 1 and July 2 due to the heatwave.

She announced that judging for the House and Senior Door decorating contests was wrapping up. She commended the local seniors for doing an outstanding job with their doors and requested volunteers to drive around at night to judge the participating houses that featured light displays.

She announced that Phase II of the Veteran Banners program is now open.

She urged the community to support local small businesses participating in the "Taste of 1776" event, highlighting Sussex Market as the current spotlighted business offering a special featured item.

Councilman Yeager: He attended the 250th Anniversary Parade and Celebration, noting that it was an excellent event. He expressed his gratitude to Councilwoman Wickenheisser for her extensive efforts and hard work in organizing the successful celebration.

He reported on his attendance at the recent Morris County League of Municipalities meeting, which focused on sexual harassment in the workplace. He noted that reported incidents are on the rise, particularly within municipal governments and school boards, and emphasized that this is a critical issue of which the Borough must remain vigilant and aware.

Mayor Chegwidden's Report: He highlighted the resolution passed at the previous meeting concerning Sewerage Authority mediation. This mediation is part of the ongoing, approximately 30-year litigation involving Jersey City.

He reported that construction on the Pine Street parking lot is progressing well. Once completed, the 67-space lot will be lined with pine trees, feature a small dining/eating area, and include the return and reinstallation of the town clock.

He noted that construction is moving forward on the Route 15 property (formerly the Townsquare Diner). He highlighted that a long-standing lawsuit regarding this property was recently ruled in the Borough's favor, allowing the development to proceed.

He announced that the 180-unit development currently under construction on Harry Shupe Boulevard will significantly assist the Borough in meeting its affordable housing obligations.

He noted that an ordinance introduced this evening regarding the Pillar development will secure an additional 11 units of affordable housing for the community.

He extended his gratitude to Councilwomen Wickenheisser and Gonzalez, the 250th Anniversary Committee, and the many volunteers for their collaborative efforts in executing a highly successful and flawless celebration. He expressed his pleasure at seeing so many residents stay long after the formal event concluded to enjoy the community atmosphere.

Open to the Public

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

Colleen Pascale, 4 Sunset Drive: She introduced herself as a resident who moved to the Borough a few years ago and expressed her desire to become more involved in the community. She thanked Councilwomen Wickenheisser and Gonzalez for welcoming her and including her on the 250th Anniversary Committee. She also extended her gratitude to Municipal Alliance Coordinator Paola Vasquez for reaching out and involving her in the planning of this year's Municipal Alliance Carnival.

Mayor Chegwidden noted that the funds raised from the Municipal Alliance Carnival also went toward supporting the 250th Anniversary Celebration.

Ms. Pascale concluded by thanking Mayor Chegwidden and the Council for helping her find ways to serve the community.

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 Councilwoman Jones. The motion was approved via voice vote.

June 29, 2026

ATTEST:

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR

Cheryl Muzzillo,
Borough Clerk