

REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
OCTOBER 27, 2025

Mayor Chegwidden called the Meeting to Order.

Mayor Chegwidden read the Open Public Meeting Statement.

Roll Call

Mayor Chegwidden requested Roll Call:

Council President Norton - Present
Councilman Binkoski - Present
Councilwoman Jones - Present
Councilwoman Vasquez - Present
Councilwoman Wickenheisser - Present
Councilman Yeager – Present

Also in attendance were Deputy Borough Clerk Cheryl Muzzillo and Attorney Roman Hirniak.

Flag Salute

Mayor Chegwidden led those present in the Salute to the American Flag.

Minute of Silence

Mayor Chegwidden led those present in a minute of silence to honor the memory of Borough Administrator Joseph Kovalcik and former Fire Department Chiefs Adam Cables and Connie Yellinski.

Open to the Public

In accordance with Local Ordinance O-18-03, “Persons making public comment at the first public portion shall be limited to five (5) minutes. During the second public portion the presiding officer shall have the discretion to terminate any repetitive, irrelevant or excessive public comment in the interest of permitting all members of the public time to speak on any governmental issue and completing the public business within a reasonable period of time.”

Mayor Chegwidden opened the meeting to the public.

Paul Breda, 6 Potter Lane: Mr. Breda expressed his condolences to Mr. Kovalcik’s family and the Borough.

Mayor Chegwidden closed the meeting to the public.

Ordinance

Councilman Binkoski presented O-14-25, “An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Sign an Agreement with the Wharton Borough Teamsters Union Local 469,” 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 Binkoski and seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt O-14-25 on second and final reading.

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Ordinance - Withdrawn

Ordinance 15-25, “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 315, Article II, Section 7” was withdrawn from the agenda.

Ordinance

Councilman Yeager presented O-16-25, “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 322, Section 1,” on second reading, by title only.

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

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

A motion was made by Councilman Yeager and seconded by Councilman Binkoski to adopt O-16-25 on second and final reading.

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

Councilman Yeager introduced O-17-25, “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 315, Article II, Section 7 and Article III, Section 18,” on first reading, by title only.

A motion was made by Councilman Yeager and seconded by Councilwoman Jones to adopt O-17-25 on first reading.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 6	NAY: 0	ABSENT: 0	ABSTAIN: 0
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Mayor Chegwiddden set the date of November 17, 2025 for second and final reading.

Resolution

Councilman Binkoski introduced R-130-25, “Resolution Authorizing Appointment of Interim Chief Financial Officer.”

A motion was made by Councilman Binkoski and seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt R-130-25.

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

- Best Practices: The Mayor and Council acknowledged receiving and reviewing the 2024 Best Practices.
- Proposed 2026 Meeting Dates were discussed.

Motion to Move & Amend Resolution

Councilman Binkoski moved to remove R-134-25 from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

A motion was made by Councilman Binkoski and seconded by Councilman Yeager to amend R-134-25 by changing the Borough’s appointed Commissioner to the North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefits Fund from Joseph Kovalcik, Jr., to David Young.

The motion to Amend carried by a vote of 6-0.

Resolution

Councilman Binkoski introduced R-134-25, “Resolution to Appoint Commissioners to the North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefits Fund”, as amended.

A motion was made by Councilman Binkoski and seconded by Councilman Yeager to adopt R-134-25.

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.

<p>Approval of Bills: Approve all bills referred to the Finance Committee Approval of Minutes: 7/14/25, 8/18/25, 9/15/25</p> <p>R-131-25: Amend Borough Personnel “Policies and Procedures Manual” R-132-25: Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2024-007 R-133-25: 2026 Health Benefits Opt. Out R-134-25: Appoint HIF Commissioners – removed for discussion/amendment & vote R-135-25: Audit R-136-25: Corrective Action Plan R-137-25: Resolution Changing Custodians of Petty Cash Funds R-138-25: Authorizing Signatures on Borough Checks R-139-25: Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2022-012 R-140-25: Resolution to Obtain PCard R-141-25: Resolution to Establish PCard Policies & Procedures R-142-25: Authorize Mayor to Sign Agreement MUA Recycling R-143-25: Tax Sale Redemption TSC 2024-010 Christiana R-144-25: Accepting Sidewalk & Sight Triangle Easements from Wharton Investors II, LLC R-145-25: Wharton LE Carpenter Non Recourse Bond Resolution R-146-25: Award Bid Baker Avenue Improvements 2025 R-147-25: Adoption of County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update R-148-25: Appoint Assistant Business Administrator R-149-25: Appoint Administrative Assistant R-150-25: Appoint Building Inspector R-151-25: Amending Police Policy and Procedures R-152-25: Authorizing Participation in the NPPGov Co-Operative Purchasing Program</p> <p>Approve Fire Department Application Matthew J. Pomroy</p> <p>A motion was made by Council President Norton and seconded by Councilman Binkoski to approve all items listed on the Consent Agenda.</p> <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0</p>

Correspondence

- MCMUA Notice of Public Hearings to Amend 2026 Rate Schedule
- Morris County Board of County Commissioners – Notice of Hearing to Amend the 2007 Morris County Official Map

Council Reports

Council President Norton: No Report

Councilman Binkoski: He expressed his condolences to Mr. Kovalcik’s family and acknowledged the many individuals who have stepped up to maintain operations in his absence.

He also reported that interviews for the Administrative Assistant position are currently underway. Finally, he attended Hallowharton and shared his thanks with everyone who worked to make the event a success.

Councilwoman Jones: She expressed her condolences to Mr. Kovalcik's family. She attended the Library's Spanish Heritage night, which was fun and well-attended. She also participated in Hallowharton and attended the most recent Library Board meeting.

Councilwoman Vasquez: She expressed her condolences to Mr. Kovalcik's family and thanked Councilman Binkoski for his efforts during this difficult time.

She also reported that the Zoning Officer is doing a great job. Finally, she shared that she attended Hallowharton and thanked everyone involved for organizing such a successful event.

Councilwoman Wickenheisser: She expressed her condolences to Mr. Kovalcik's family and thanked everyone for pulling together as a team to keep things moving forward.

She also attended the safety presentation by Corporal Duffy, noting that he did a great job and the event was well attended. Additionally, she attended Hallowharton and expressed her appreciation for everyone's efforts. Finally, she thanked the Fire Department for everything they do.

Councilman Yeager: He expressed his condolences to Mr. Kovalcik's family. He attended Hallowharton and thanked the Police Department and FOP for their contributions to the event.

He explained that false alarms and false calls made up the largest portion of Fire Department calls for August and September.

He called on Chief Young to share a letter from the Netcong Fire Department regarding a donation of used equipment from Wharton's Fire Department.

Chief Young also expressed his condolences to Mr. Kovalcik's family.

Mayor Chegwidden's Report: He expressed his condolences to Mr. Kovalcik's family and also thanked Councilman Binkoski for all of his efforts during this time.

Open to the Public

In accordance with Local Ordinance O-18-03, "The presiding officer shall have the discretion to terminate any repetitive, irrelevant or excessive public comment in the interest of permitting all members of the public time to speak on any governmental issue and completing the public business within a reasonable period of time."

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

Jennifer Hobbs, 40 Fern Ave.: Ms. Hobbs asked when the 2026 meeting dates would be published on the website.

Paul Breda, 6 Potter Ln.: Asked what the HIF Commissioner position is. It was explained that the position is related to our health insurance. He also asked about the appointments of interim CFO and Borough Administrator.

He asked a question about the State average taxes and was pointed to the Division of Taxation, which could provide the answer he needed.

Mayor Chegwidden closed the meeting to the public.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Binkoski and seconded by Councilwoman Wickenheisser.

October 27, 2025

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

ATTEST:

Cheryl Muzzillo,
Deputy Borough Clerk

**WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,
MAYOR**