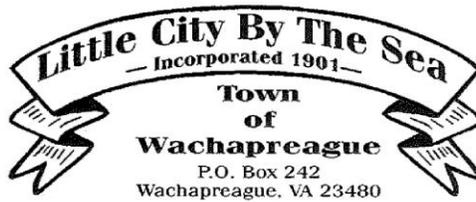




Marina
757-787-1930



Town Office
757-787-7117

Absent: Charles Elliott, Mayor

Town Council Present:

Sandie Puchalski, Vice Mayor

Robert Hipple

Robert Bilicki

Glenn Schagelin

Craig L. Baker

Aileen Joeckel

Clerk: Susan Springer

**TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
September 11, 2025
VIMS SEASIDE HALL**

Town Council Meeting

Meeting began at 7:00

I. Vice Mayor Puchalski called the meeting to order.

II. Councilman Glenn Schagelin led the prayer.

III. Vice Mayor Puchalski led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Public Comments

Resident Margo Digan gave thanks for Richie Puchalski's hard work in rejuvenating the tennis courts, basketball courts, and creating pickleball courts.

Fire Dept. Chief Fate thanked the Council for the expansion of the parking lot in front of the Fire Dept.

V. Approval of Minutes

Town Council Meeting July 10, 2025 – no receipt of addendum from Mayor Elliott

Motion made to postpone by Vice Mayor Puchalski

Motion 2nd by Councilman Bilicki

All in favor

Town Council Meeting August 14, 2025

Motion made to accept as printed by Councilman Bilicki

Motion 2nd by Councilman Hipple

All in favor

VI. Review of Financial Reports

Town of Wachapreague

June 2025 – Incomplete, pending end of year income

Motion made to postpone approval by Vice Mayor Puchalski

Motion 2nd by Councilman Bilicki

All in Favor

August 2025

Motion to approve by Councilman Bilicki

Motion 2nd by Vice Mayor Puchalski

All in Favor

Port of Wachapreague

August 2025

Motion to approve by Councilman Hipple

Motion 2nd by Councilman Baker

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Maintenance

Discussion was given to the repair required of the new trash truck. Arthur and Beth Mendez volunteered to drive the trash truck to the dealer where the part and labor for the cylinder will be covered, then the truck will be returned to Wachapreague by the dealer.

B. Powell Park

It was noted that with the exception of a bit of touch up, the tennis, basketball and pickleball courts are completed. Mulch will be applied in Spring 2026. Gravel will be needed for the area by the concession stand. Placement of the Park AED was discussed and it was noted the electrical work will be forthcoming.

C. Seaside Park

It was noted that Atlantic Granite would be repairing the granite bench as soon as they are able.

D. HRSD

Discussion was given to review of both Sewer II bids received. Emphasis was given to time constraints on the Grants. Scope of work and description differential between the bids was noted by several Councilman and resident Randy Lewis, mainly noting the complete scope of work submitted by John Maynard and the lack of same in the bid submitted by Environmental Solutions. The monetary difference between the low bidder Environmental Solutions and higher bidder John Maynard was discussed. The scheduling of a Public Meeting to vote on awarding the bid on Sept. 25 or October 2 to allow Environmental Solutions time to submit a scope of work was discussed. Also discussed was awarding bid Environment Solutions with the stipulation that a scope must be submitted within 2 weeks or the bid would be awarded to John Maynard Inc. Motion was made by Councilman Hipple to award to Environmental Solutions with requirement of a full scope within 2 weeks.

Motion was 2nd by Councilman Schagelin.

No vote was called or taken.

Discussion continued as to the time constraints involved in extending time on submissions, approvals, and ordering materials and as well as continued review of completeness of scope.

Motion to award to John L. Maynard, Inc. based on completeness of bid was made by Councilman Schagelin.

Motion was 2nd by Councilman Baker.

Vote was called by Vice Mayor Puchalski.

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Sandie Puchalski	X			
Bob Bilicki			X	
Aileen Joeckel	X			
Craig Baker	X			
Robert Hipple	X			
Charles Elliott – if in tie	X			

E. Derelict Properties

Discussion was given to the Old Marina, owned by Paul Morris. It was noted that he had many permits in hand for the bulkhead work, but no evidence of the start of work. It was noted that many residents had seen evidence it was being listed for sale.

F. Marina

Harbormaster Puchalski review the need for expenditures to purchase and install new wood and hardwood for the docks, noting the cost would be between \$1600 and \$2000 and was in the budget.

Motion was made by Councilman Schagelin to approve the expenditure of up to \$2000.

Motion was 2nd by Councilman Bilicki.

All in favor.

It was noted that the no wake signs North of the Marina would be installed as soon as weather permitted. Discussion was given to the urgency of the need to correspond with the Coast Guard and elected officials to keep the Wachapreague Coast Guard Station open and full staffed. It was noted Mayor Elliott did send letters to elected officials. Discussion was given to the recently completed Finney Creek Bradford Bay dredging. It was noted John Joekel also wished the Mayor to correspond with elected officials on this matter. It was noted by Harbormaster Puchalski that the Army Corp of Engineer had recently sent surveyors out to survey the recently completed project.

G. Tourism

Councilman Joekel reviewed the status of the recently applied for grant and the possibility of a grant to use toward festivals. Discussion then continued on to the upgrading up Christmas decorations, the Garland in particular.

Motion was made to approve \$1000 for the garland by Councilman Schagelin.

Motion was 2nd by Councilman Bilicki.

All in favor.

Discussion was given to upcoming visit by well known social media personality Andrew Carter, who is scheduled to visit Sept 26 to Oct 6, spending some time at the Wachapreague Inn and fishing in both Wachapreague and Cape Charles.

H. Floodplain Administration/CRS Coordinator/RAFT

Discussion was given to status of the \$50,00 CFPFA Grant, and the fact that although email award has been given the Town, but the Town is still awaiting a formal written award and further direction forward. The VA Energy Grant for \$10,000 is still going forward with assistance from Sean Fate, Wachapreague Fire Dept. Chief. Discussion was given to the Town Finney Creek bulkhead and its lack of maintenance and how that will affect the Town's CRS rating, with specific concern for the Lilliston Seafood area and it's use of asphalt as fill material.

I. Town Beautification

Discussion was given to the new Banner supporting Town Artisans and the upcoming Artisan's activities.

J. Safety/Security

Nothing new to report, safety and security operating as usual, with the exception of the remaining concerns for speeding.

K. Historic District

The VA Historic Dept of Historic Resources will hold a meeting for public comments at VIMS Seaside Hall Tuesday October 21, 2025 at 6:30 pm. Council and residents were encouraged to attend.

L. Streets and Drainage

Report was given that VDOT has been vigilant and prompt in maintaining the street surface. Discussion was given to the South ditch, with only a few remaining properties needing to give right of entry before the project

can go out to bid. The North ditch has more work to be done, specifically to resolve the large corrugated pipe culvert that will need to be cleared for both drainage and use for the upcoming Marina dredging project.

M. Planning Commission

It was reported that comments from the last Public Meeting on the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Draft are being incorporated in to the plan, and it would be forthcoming to the Council for vote.

VIII. New Business

Concern was raised for the condition of the Town's sign on the northbound side of route 13, with specific concern being raised for the overgrowth of tree limbs obscuring it. It was noted that the sign is VDOT approved non conforming sign and that care would need to be taken to repair carefully, as replacement in like kind would not be an option. It was agreed that the contractor who pruned the trees last time would be contact again to address the current issue.

The revival of the PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) for VIMS was discussed with Planning Commission member Margo Digian and Council member Craig Baker working toward reviving the possibility of that program.

IX. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Baker

Motion 2nd by Councilman Bilicki

All in favor

Closed Session