

**TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
July 11th, 2024**

COUNCIL PRESENT:

Mayor Charles Elliott, Mayor

Stephen Joseph

Aileen Joeckel

Robert Bilicki

Robert Williams

Glenn Schagelin

Susan Springer

Town Clerk

Absent: Sandie Puchalski

Town Council Meeting

Meeting began at 7:00

TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE COUNCIL MEETING

- I. Mayor Charles Elliott called the meeting to order.**
- II. Glenn Schagelin led the Council in Prayer.**
- III. Charles Elliott led the Council for the Pledge of Allegiance.**
- IV. Public Comments**

Resident Carrie Jacobson inquired if Town employees received wage increases in the new fiscal year and it was confirmed they did. Carrie was grateful her voice was heard.

V. Town Council Meeting Minutes

June 13th, 2024, Town Council Minutes were reviewed.

Councilman Bob Bilicki motioned to accept the minutes for June 13th, 2024.

Councilman Steve Josephs 2nd the motion.

All in favor.

June 20th, 2024 Budget Hearing Minutes were approved with a motion by Councilman Steve Josephs.

Councilman Bob Bilicki 2nd the motion

All in favor.

VI. Review of Financial Report

The Council reviewed the Town's financials for June 2024, which were marked Incomplete due to year end information needing added.

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Councilman Bob Bilicki motioned to refer the vote on Town June 2024 Financial to the August 2024 Town Council.

Councilman Bob Williams 2nd the motion.

All in favor.

The council reviewed the Port's financials for June 2024.

Councilman Steve Josephs motioned to approve the Port's June 2024 Financials.

Councilman Bob Bilici 2nd the motion.

All in favor.

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Maintenance

Discussion was given to the age and condition of the Town Garbage Truck, which is again out for repair (hydraulic hose). Councilman Bob Williams commented that the Town could not afford a new Garbage Truck. Councilman Glenn Schagelin offered to contact a new hauler in Onancock for possible contractor pricing. Resident Carrie Jacobson offered the suggestion of buying a used Garbage Truck and offered to send the links to the local ones she found online. The consensus was to go forward with exploring the option of buying a local used truck.

B. Powell Park

In Councilman Sandie Puchalski's absence Mayor Elliott reported that the graveyard was scheduled for maintenance. Councilman Steve Joseph's reported the search for proposals for the Tennis Court renovations was going well, with a few more quotes due to come, at which point he will submit the whole package to the Council for review.

C. Seaside Park

It was noted the South West side was in need of attention and noted that Donald Motto had submitted a proposal for clean-up and mulching at a cost of \$1200. All agreed this could not wait and a motion to accept the proposal was made by Councilman Steve Josephs and 2nd by Councilman Glenn Schagelin.

D. HRSD

Councilman Bob Bilicki reported an update from Kim Butler (DEQ) and Ann Doyle (A-NPDC). The Town's CO #6 was submitted to DEQ on May 21, 2024, however, despite the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, DEQ will not know how much surplus will be available to distribute to requests such as the Town's CO #6 until Fall. Councilman Steve Joseph was in agreement with the assessment and noted that these items move slow at the DEQ level. It was then reported that the installation of the grinder pumps was ongoing. Some discussion was given to the \$200,000 draw down that would be available for the next phase and Mayor Elliott clarified it would be for the residents who were initially approached about hook

up and emphasized they lie along the sewer collection route now in place. Councilman Steve Josephs reported there would be a letter mailed this week to those parties who would become eligible as residents along the collection system. Councilman Steve Josephs noted this was not an official Town Project as the Grant money would be to the individuals and the Town was just facilitating between the Grant, the residents and HRSD. Some discussion ensued as the vulnerability of the South side of the Town, and the reports published by VIMS and NOAA. Resident Carrie Jacobson offered to place a note regarding Phase II in her next newsletter. Councilman Aileen Jaeger requested the Planning Commission be kept apprised of future Sewer Expansion plans. Planning Commission President Jim Bell inquired about vulnerability of Town water wells, noting they were the only source of drinking water. Some discussion was given to the depth and condition of the lower aquifers and the current permits being requested to draw from it.

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E. Derelict Properties.

The following updates were given by Councilman Bill Bilicki:

1) Tax Map: 113A-A-164, 15 Main: Carr Prop: Front Porch, Back Porch repair and or removal.

Per Mayor Elliot the Porch removals have begun. Mayor Elliot to give them 30 days to complete the projects.

Per Mayor Elliot Tree limbs have been removed, but not trunk. Mayor Elliot to give them 30 days to complete.

2) Tax Map: 113A-A-61, 50 Main St, Patricia Bragg Prop: Not Habitable, No progress on rehabilitation.

Councilman Bob Bilicki made a motion to give owner 30 days notice to rectify the conditions and if there is no compliance the Town will buy the property under Eminent Domain/per house bill #48, and sell to quality Contractor to renovate.

3) Tax Map: 113A-A-184: 6 High St. Susan Hill 3739 Freezeland Dr. Linden, VA 22642 -multiple violations of Ordinance:

Grass Higher than 12” for extended weeks. complete disregard for our Towns Ordinance.

Councilman Bob Bilicki suggested we send a stronger notice to the Owner, notifying them a stronger stance will be

taken and may include Lining the Property, per house bill 755.

4) Councilman Bob Williams suggested adding 7 Center St to the list of Derelict Properties noting that it is overgrown

and the house is no longer secure, one whole corner being missing. It was suggested the owner be given notice they

have 30 days to rectify the situation.

Some discussion was given to the recent spate of dogs running at large. It was noted that is in direct violation of the Town Ordinance. Mayor Elliott responded that Charlie Gible had spoken to the owner recently although he did not know the outcome of the conversation.

Planning Commission Jim Bell made the suggestion that Zoning Administrator Arthur Mendez should be charged with enforcing the Ordinances, the Council concurred. Mayor Elliott agreed to review this with the Zoning Administrator.

F. Marina

Councilman Sandie Puchalski was not in attendance and the Mayor reported the issue with the abandoned Sailboat, which was towed in by the Coast Guard on June 9th. Per law the craft must be held for 60 days and contact attempted with the Owner of record. Once this is completed the Town can apply for an abandoned vessel title. Harbor Master Sandie Puchalski is keeping close records and will proceed after the 60 day wait period.

It was noted by Councilman Aileen Joeckel that the Bradford Bay and Finney Creek dredging was beginning, and Councilman Aileen Joeckel stated she will forward information to Town Clerk Susan Springer to circulate for the notification to local boaters.

G. Tourism

Councilman Aileen Joeckel noted that the Tourism members would like to be a part of the Tourism Website upgrade.

H. Floodplain Adm/CRS

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated there were several issues, including Dan Crane need a 911 address for their new house. It was noted the address is 3 Richardson. Town Clerk Susan Springer noted she submitted a site plan to the County for the house. Councilman Bob Bilicki updated the progress on the CRS report, reviewing the requirements for a building permit for accessory structure. It was noted the County does not require a building permit for under 256 sq ft, but does require a permit for anything larger. Councilman Bob Bilicki will complete the CRS report by the end of July.

I. Town Beautification

Councilman Aileen Joeckel noted the request for more flags on the streets. Town Clerk Susan Springer noted more flags, more poles and more brackets have been ordered, and more can be ordered.

Councilman Bob Bilicki requested an update if the Fire Dept. had begun ordering new lights and outlets for Christmas Lights, noting the need to have them in stock, and reimbursed by the Town, in time for Fall.

J. Safety and Security

Councilman Bob Williams had nothing to report.

K. Historic District

Planning Commission President Jim Bell reported the Historic District Agreement had been signed and submitted. President Jim Bell proceeded with an overview of the Agreement, outlining the 3 parties involved in the cost sharing (Citizens, Town, State) and reviewed the timeline. The bid for Historic Survey will go out and the Grant begin in Fall with completion by March 2025. President Jim Bell reported on boundaries (the whole Town) and that despite some non-conforming homes all would benefit from the designation and noted the Tourism draw of an Historic designation.

L. Streets and Drainage

Councilman Bob Williams reported on the paving progress, Mayor Charles Elliot explained his efforts on creating a Stormwater Draining Committee, suggesting Randy Powell, Bob Hipell, Glenn Rogers and Bob Williams. Randy Powell noted he no longer lives in town, nor own property in Town, any longer. Some discussion ensued as to whether he would still be eligible. It was noted it is a volunteer Committee with no ability to legislate.

M. Planning Commission

Councilman Aileen Joeckel noted the Commission did not meet this month due to the Carnival. She further noted all the STR were in compliance and there was an application for the last permissible STR. The inspection is needed to complete that compliance.

VIII. New Business

A) Mayor Charles Elliott proposed creating an IT Committee for the purpose of investigating and recommending IT initiatives.

Councilman Steven Josephs motioned to form the Committee.
Councilman Bob Bilicki 2nd the motion.
All in favor.

B) Mayor Charles Elliot proposed creating a Drainage Ditch Committee for the purpose of investigating and recommending maintenance and improvement initiatives.

Councilman Bob Bilicki recommended concentrating the drainage easements from East to West. He further recommended concentrating the Town's responsibility then secondly on VDOT's responsibility.

Councilman Bob Williams made the motion to form a Drainage Ditch Committee.
Councilman Aileen Joeckel 2nd the motion.
All in favor.

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C) Virginia State Assembly Bill Updates

1) Short Term Rentals-*House Bill 1461

***Senate Bill 544**

***House Bill 634**

***Senate Bill 308**

2) Derelict Property's-

***House Bill 755**

***Senate Bill 296**

***House Bill 1486**

***Senate Bill 48**

3) Community Revitalization

***House Bill 478**

***Senate Bill 49**

Discussion was given to the overview of the bills and their impact to the Town. Planning Commission Jim Bell assured Council members that the Planning Commission and Zoning Administrator were following the studying the bills.

IX. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn was made by Councilman Steve Josephs and Seconded by Councilman Bob Bilicki. Mayor Elliott called the meeting adjourned.

X. The Council then moved to a Closed Session Meeting to address Personnel issues.