

**TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
September 12, 2024**

COUNCIL PRESENT:

Charles Elliott, Mayor
Sandie Puchalski, Vice Mayor
Stephen Joseph
Aileen Joeckel
Robert Bilicki
Robert Williams
Glenn Schagelin

Susan Springer, Town Clerk

TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE COUNCIL MEETING

- I. Mayor Charles Elliott called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.**
- II. Glenn Schagelin led the Council in Prayer.**
- III. Mayor Charles Elliott led the Council for the Pledge of Allegiance.**

IV. Public Comments

Resident Linda Jones inquired about the progress of the next Sewer Phase, how far along it is and if letters would be sent out soon updating residents of the progress. Councilman Steve Josephs responded that the next Sewer Phase would be discussed later in the meeting. No further public comments.

V. Town Council Meeting Minutes

August 8th, 2024, Town Council Minutes were reviewed.
Councilman Bob Bilicki motioned to accept the minutes for August 8th, 2024.
Councilman Bob Williams 2nd the motion.
All in favor.

VI. Review of Financial Report

The Council reviewed the Town's financials for August 2024.
Councilman Glen Schagelin motioned to approve.
Councilman Bob Bilicki 2nd the motion.
All in favor.

The council reviewed the Port's financials for August 2024.
Councilman Bob Bilicki motioned to approve both.
Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski 2nd the motion.
All in favor.

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Maintenance

Councilman Glenn Schagelin reported no residential complaints, all operations normal. He further reported a recent inquiry to a local trash hauler resulted in learning they only do commercial and the plan now is to start looking for a new used trash truck.

B. Powell Park

Councilman Steve Josephs reported there had been some interested in the Tennis Court rehabilitation although no bids had been received to date. A member of the public suggested putting the bid out again and all agreed that would be a good choice and would be looked into. Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski requested the fencing around the truck parking area receive some further weeding and trimming.

C. Seaside Park

Councilman Steve Joseph's reported on the recent landscaping work performed by Donald Motto, stating the mulching is completed and Contractor Ben Nowlan was removing some dead stumps. Councilman Bob Bilicki thanked Ben and commented on the nice job.

D. HRSD

Councilman Steve Josephs reported on HRSD:

- Two bids went out 1) installation of 24 new pumps and corresponding connections, 2) Maintenance of existing 17 pumps. Bids were due and received. Initially there were 4 interested bidders, however two verbally acknowledged dropping out. Two sealed bids were received for each bid. All four bids are line itemed. Motion was made to postpone opening of the new install due to not actually having permission from HRSD yet. No 2nd motion.. Further discussion ensued. Councilman Steve Josephs reviewed the cost of the pumps and the issue with the high cost, and noted reaching out to Rob Bloxom for assistance. It was noted one option was for the Town to buy pumps directly, using the SERCAP Grant funds, with any funds left being used toward installation. Each property is bid separately as each install will be different, as well as it's electrical connection. Motion was then reiterated by Councilman Steve Josephs and Councilman Glenn Schagelin 2nd the motion. All in favor.
- Maintenance Bids were required as a requirement of DEQ Funding. The Maintenance Bids were opened and read line item by line item. The Bids are available for public viewing.
- Bids for Design Build of the 24 new pumps and corresponding connections were opened and read line item by line item. The Bids are available for public viewing.

E. Derelict Properties.

Councilman Stephen Joseph's reported the roof at the Carr property on Main St has now been removed and rebuilt. Vice Mayor Puchalski reported on the condition of 7 Center. Councilman Bob Williams reported he and his wife cleaned that up several times and believes the Town should charge the owner and reimburse them. It was noted an invoice for the work is required to process that. Vice Mayor Puchalski reported on the Johnson Property on Main Street, noting in particular the failing porch. Councilman Steve Joseph's noted he offered to take the porch down but the renters in the property declined any assistance.

F. Marina

Vice Mayor Puchalski reported the ramp scraping will be scheduled as soon as the boat traffic slows down. She further reported a visit to the Marina from Seth Matthews from Accomack County. He had a Questionnaire marked for the Marina, that was designed for Waterfront Businesses. Discussion ensued including Councilman Bob Bilicki's recent attendance at an Accomack-Northampton County Planning Commissions Symposium where the Waterfront Business Grant program was discussed. It was agreed by all to pursue the funds and assess where along the business waterfront the funds could be utilized best.

Vice Mayor reported on the status of the abandoned vessel, stating that the certified letter has been mailed to the last legally registered owner and an ad of abandoned watercraft has been placed in the Shore Post per Virginia Code. She noted this has been accomplished with meticulous note taking and in conjunction with VMRC.

I. Tourism

Councilman Aileen Joeckel reported all advertising was going forward as approved and noted cooperation with Blake of Island House and Nicki of Wachapreague Inn for joint advertising. She also noted Nicki reporting a very good year for the Wachapreague Inn.

H. Floodplain Adm/CRS

Councilman Bob Bilicki reported the annual CRS Report has been signed and submitted. He further reported attending the Accomack Northampton County Training on Community Resilience, which was well attended by local communities including Saxis. The main take away was the availability of 20 million in resources for the Eastern Shore. Councilman asked the Council about thoughts on a campaign to raise awareness about Elevation Certificates, noting that of the 35 properties in VE Flood Zoning, only 4 have Elevation Certificates. Some discussion ensued as to the process and the cost. Further discussion ensued as to how to determine which waterfront businesses should be awarded Grant money. At Councilman Bob Bilicki's suggestion it was agreed upon to discuss projects at the 2025 Capital Projects Meetings.

Final discussion in the above category was on the feasibility of going through the Grant Application process for the Lilliston Seafood property. Councilman Bob Bilicki noted the Grant Application was due October 15, 2024. Mayor Charles Elliott requested a week to discuss with several parties before beginning Grant Application.

I. Town Beautification

Councilman Aileen Joeckel had nothing to report.

J. Safety and Security

Councilman Bob Williams expressed concern for property overgrowth blocking traffic sight distance. Councilman Bob Bilicki noted that due to the life safety concern the property could just be cleaned up and the Owner be invoiced. Councilman Bob Williams has called on several occasions and received an answer. It was generally agreed upon to send a letter confirming Councilman Bob William's phone calls.

K. Historic District

Council Aileen Joeckel had nothing to report.

L. Streets and Drainage

Councilman Steve Josephs reported he had reached out to Jeremy Shifflett of Accomack County, as the County is responsible for maintaining the South Street ditch.

Councilman Bob Williams suggested waiting until the new Council to formally kick off the Ditch Committee. Former longtime resident Randy Powell preferred to go forward right away and inquired if the Town had mapping of the drainage ditches. Councilman Bob Williams responded that the Town does have mapping. It was agreed upon for the Committee to study the maps, but first, form a description of the duties and goals of the Committee. Former longtime resident Randy Powell asked for some guidance from the Mayor and Council as to goals. A Committee kick off meeting was suggested.

It was also noted that Accomack County was actively seeking a Ditch Supervisor, and would not be engaging in any Ditch contracting or repair until the position was filled.

M. Planning Commission

Councilman Aileen Joeckel deferred to Planning Commission member Arthur Mendez, who reported the Committee was meeting regularly and holding workshops on the Comprehensive Plan, which was moving forward nicely.

N. Ditch Committee/Technology Committee

Town Clerk Susan Springer informed members there was a Descriptive overview of the duties and goals of the Technology Committee. She requested Council Members review and direct any questions to Jim Bell, the author of the document.

VIII. New Business

A. Review of Trash pickup outside of the Town (Church St, Melfa)

Mayor Charles Elliott reported his willingness to reach out to Custis St and Church St residents who are not in Town limits to offer them trash service for a fee. The intent is to offer the service and open up a revenue stream.

B. Review of Golf Cart Ordinance

Discussion was given to the current Ordinance which calls for a Golf Cart Inspection. It was generally agreed upon to make sure each cart owner receives a copy of the Ordinance with their sticker.

UPDATE as of 9/16/24 – Councilman Bob Williams has offered to perform the physical checklist inspection for the Town. All Council members thanked him for his offer and time and dedication.

IV. Community Report

A. Christmas/New Year Holiday Trash Pick up Schedule

Town Clerk Susan Springer stated the Holiday Trash Pick Schedule as follows:

Wed December 25th moved to Monday December 23rd

Wed January 1st moved to Monday December 30th.

Flyers will be placed and regular Wednesday pick up will resume January 8th.

B. Community Fall Yard Sale

Town Clerk Susan Springer reported the date for the Fall Community Yard sale has been set for Saturday October 5th. The sign up book is in the Post Office and Flyers will be placed around town.

X. Meeting Adjourned.

Councilman Glen Schagelin motioned to adjourn.

Vice Mayor Sandy Puchalski 2nd the motion.

All in favor.

XI. Closed meeting to discuss Personnel matters.