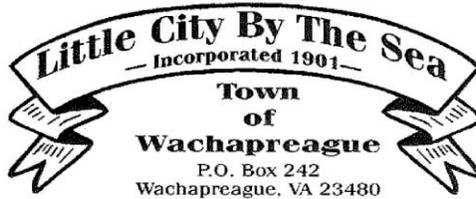




Marina
757-787-1930



Town Office
757-787-7117

Charles Elliott, Mayor

Town Council Present:

Sandie Puchalski, Vice Mayor

Glenn Schagelin

Robert Bilicki

Robert Williams

Absent: Aileen Joeckel & Stephen Joseph

Town Clerk: Vacant

**TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
November 14th, 2024**

Town Council Meeting

Meeting began at 7:00

I. Mayor Charles Elliott called the meeting to order.

II. Glenn Schagelin led the prayer.

III. Charles Elliott led The Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Public comments.

Keith Neal spoke about the Aton's Navigation Aids/Buoys and how they have benefited all boaters that use our inlet, and now they are all missing. He expressed how much the Aton's Navigation Aids are needed for safety. Dale Dirks also spoke about the need for the Aton's Navigation Aids, and how much they benefit Wachapreague. Otis Evans, Ron Greaser, Bill Miller, JR Ruppard, and Arthur and Beth Mendez also showed their support for getting back the Aton's Navigation Aids to our inlet.

V. Town Council Meeting

October 10th, 2024, minutes were reviewed. Councilman Bob Bilicki motioned to accept the minutes for October 10th, 2024. Councilman Bob Williams seconded the motion. All agreed.

VI. Review of Financial Report

The Council reviewed the Town's financials for October 2024. Councilman Glen Schagelin motioned to approve the town financials. Councilman Bob Bilicki seconded the motion. All agreed.

The Council reviewed the Port's financials for October 2024. Councilman Sandie Puchalski motioned to approve the Port's October financials. Councilman Glenn Schagelin 2nd the motion. All agreed.

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Maintenance

Councilman Glenn Schagelin reported that he had a letter from JD Bradshaw, our maintenance supervisor, about his take on the Exmore garbage truck that is going up for auction. JD wrote that he would need to get his CDL air brake endorsement to operate this truck, and that would take about 3 months. JD also said he would want \$18 an hour in pay to operate that truck. The truck will need new tires, and he is concerned that it is larger than what the town needs, and that it may not fit in the fenced area that the town keeps the trucks in at Powell Park, and that would be unsafe. Sandie Puchalski stated that the truck needs at least 2 new tires, but it wouldn't be a bad idea to replace all the tires. She also said that the opening bid for the garbage truck would start at \$10,000. and be a sealed bid, held at the Exmore town office, and will start in December.

Glenn Schagelin also spoke about how well our new maintenance worker Dylan is doing, and that the maintenance workers have been using the leaf vacuum to clean out town ditches.

B. Powell Park

Councilman Sandie Puchalski reported that she found an expandable filler that can be used to fill in the court cracks. As the estimates that Stephen Joseph had received were much more than what we were budgeted for, and that it could be used in the meantime, until we can work out the best repair for the tennis court resurfacing. The expandable filler is \$300. for a 5-gallon bucket, and she said she wasn't sure how many they would need to fill all the cracks in the court, but it would be good if Stephen Joseph could go look at it with her to figure it out. Also, it wouldn't be done until the weather was warmer, so we have some time to figure things out for the repair. Sandie also stated that one section of the barrier tarp is in need of replacement, and costs \$500.

C. Seaside Park

Bob Williams asked if the town could get a new Christmas tree for the gazabo. He said he found one on sale at Walmart for \$89. All council agreed for Bob to purchase the new Christmas tree.

D. HRSD

Mayor Elliott stated that the bids received for the HRSD Phase 2 work should be rejected, as information was missing, inconsistent between RFP responses. All council agreed to put the work needed out for bid again. Councilman Bob Bilicki reported on the HRSD Phase 1 progress and mentioned that the pump station is different than what was originally approved. There was an agreement that there would not be anything higher than a 3-ft high doghouse on a 50'x50' lot on the corner of Riverview & Brooklyn (not the entire lot). Should be two ft. so as not to obstruct the view of the property across the street and maintain a residential neighborhood, not an industrial commercial site with landscaping that camouflages and has a clear obstruction. Bob stated that he thinks there should be a public meeting about this issue.

E. Derelict Properties.

Bob Bilicki asked if there was any progress on the sale of the Bragg property located on Main Street. Sandie Puchalski said she hasn't heard of anything yet.

F. Marina

Councilman Sandie Puchalski reported that she had looked into a salvage company to remove the abandoned sailboat. She said that it would cost the town over \$6000. dollars if we tried to do it ourselves because of all the rental equipment that the town would need, such as a dumpster, an excavator and power saws. She said she found a salvage company called Matt's Marine Salvage and got an estimate of \$1900. to remove the sailboat. Sandie motioned to hire the salvage company for \$1900; Bob Bilicki seconded and all were in favor.

Sandie also talked about the work needed at the marina. She said that underneath all docks is in need of scraping, and that it hasn't been done since early 2022. She said there are six areas, and the cost would be \$500 a section, for a total of \$3000. The other work needed is the repair/replacement of the deck boards on the gangway and floating dock, as the wood used to repair them in 2016 was not marine-grade treated, and they are all cracking and splitting. She said she ordered the marine grade boards from OBS and they should be here next week. The cost for the boards is \$962.- and the labor estimate. is \$2890. That is to pull out the floating dock and gangway into the ramp and remove and replace all deck boards. The other work would be to replace the damaged support whalers, but that wouldn't be evaluated until the scraping is finished so they can get a clearer look at what supports need replacing.

Sandie made a motion to approve the \$1900. for the salvage company to remove the abandoned sailboat; Bob Bilicki seconded and all were in favor.

Bob Bilicki motioned to approve \$3000. for scraping; Bob Williams seconded and all were in favor.

Bob Bilicki motioned to approve the \$962 for deck boards and \$2890. for the floating dock and gangway repair, Bob Williams seconded and all were in favor.

Sandie also reported that she received a quote for a new video recorder, as the one at the marina is not functioning properly, and the DVD drive is unable to record/burn on a disk anymore and that is needed. The quote from US Electric was \$2100. That included a new video recording system and 1 new replacement camera. The council asked to look into other options before deciding to purchase a new system.

Sandie Puchalski spoke in support of Keith Neal discussing the need to have the Aton's Navigation Aids replaced, and said she will reach out to County Supervisor Donald Hart. Keith Neal stated that reaching out to a State Representative might also be helpful in getting something done on this issue.

G. Tourism N/A

H. Floodplain Adm/CRS

Bob Bilicki spoke about Lilliston's bulkhead restoration, and the grant application that he tried to help them get was denied. So, they will be doing a study on it. Bob is asking for a grant that can be used for a resilience plan for the waterfront. Sandie Puchalski motioned for a grant for preparation of a resilience plan. Glenn Schagelin seconded and all were in favor.

I. Town Beautification- N/A

J. Safety and Security N/A

K. Historic District N/A

L. Streets and Drainage – Bob Williams said that the first committee will meet next week, and that he is looking forward to working with the committee. Bob also mentioned that he was happy that our maintenance workers are using the leaf vacuum to clean the ditches.

Mayor Charles Elliott said that Jill Bieri from the Nature Conservancy has funding that can help. He also mentioned that the Nature Conservancy might be donating property to the town, such as the Bird Overlook Lot on Atlantic Ave, and Finney Creek.

M. Planning Commission – N/A

N. New Business –

The Exmore Garbage Truck auction - Council decided to hold off on it. Bob Bilicki mentioned that there will be an Artist Gild Studio Tour on November 29th & 30th.

Bob Williams brought up the Christmas lights for Main Street, as they have been put off and we need to talk to the Fire Chief about them.

N. Adjournment