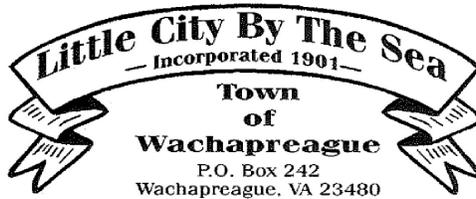




Marina  
757-787-1930



Town Office  
757-787-7117

**Charles Elliott, Mayor**

**Town Council Present:**

Sandie Puchalski, Vice Mayor

Glenn Schagelin

Robert Bilicki

Robert Williams

Stephen Joseph

**Absent: Aileen Joeckel**

**Town Clerk: Sherry Dudas**

**TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
December 12th, 2024**

**Town Council Meeting**

Meeting began at 7:00

**I. Mayor Charles Elliott called the meeting to order.**

**II. Councilman Glenn Schagelin led the prayer** after explaining that a community member complained about the legality of praying at Council meeting earlier on December 12th. He advised that it is not illegal to pray before Council meetings. He further stated that if you want to pray and regardless of your religion you can pray at that time, but he invited anyone who is offended by prayer to step out and come back in after the prayer is over, then the prayer commenced.

**III. Charles Elliott led The Pledge of Allegiance.**

**IV. Public comments.**

No members of the public commented, but Councilman Bob Williams commented, addressing the Community Reports section of the agenda. He stated that when someone from the public speaks during the Public Comments portion of the meeting, Council members are not supposed to answer them at that time. He proposed that Council change the "Community Reports" section to "New Business" and at that point, if the public wishes to stay, they can comment at that time. Councilman Williams made the motion to that effect; Councilman Sandie Puchalski seconded, and all were in favor.

Mayor Elliott took this time at the meeting to recognize Councilman Williams's hard work and contribution to serving the Town as well as on the Town Council for eight years. Councilman Williams thanked the Mayor and stated that being a member of Council was really enjoyable, and he felt it was time to let someone else serve. All Council members thanked Councilman Williams.

## **V. Town Council Meeting**

The November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, minutes were reviewed. Councilman Schagelin motioned to accept the minutes for November; Councilman Williams seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

## **VI. Review of Financial Report**

The Council reviewed the Town's financials for November 2024. Councilman Williams motioned to approve the Town's November financials; Councilman Sandie Puchalski seconded, and all were in favor.

The Council reviewed the Port's financials for November 2024. Councilman Bob Bilicki motioned to approve the Port's November financials. Councilman Stephen Joseph seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

## **VII. Unfinished Business**

### **A. Maintenance**

Councilman Glenn Schagelin reported that the new leaf vacuum is being well-used and he queried whether Council has heard from Treasurer Mary Jo Tatum regarding how much the Town can spend on a new garbage truck; she was going to look into what the Town can borrow from the bank at low interest. Councilman Puchalski replied that she hasn't gotten anything from the Treasurer yet. Town Council feels that a budget of \$125,000-\$150,000 for the purchase of a garbage truck would be appropriate.

### **B. Powell Park**

Councilman Puchalski reported that the Town needs to buy a replacement tarp; one of the tarps in the back also blew off, but it was taken down and flipped so it's not an immediate priority.

Regarding the tennis courts, since the estimates that Councilman Joseph had received were much more than the Town budgeted for filling the cracks, resurfacing with a non-skid surface and painting the lines back on, Councilman Puchalski found an expandable filler. Councilman Joseph said that for the cracks the size of what the Town has on the courts, they would have to be scraped out and filled with cold patch, then a two-part epoxy goes over that and then the surface goes over the top of that. Since its winter and some contractors may be willing to do the work during their slow period, he will continue to work on this issue.

Councilman Puchalski further reported that maintenance staff have cleaned brush out of areas of the park as well as reset the pilings with rope used in the parking area at the Marina, for which she was quite pleased.

### **C. Seaside Park**

Councilman Williams reported that the right railing to the walkway of the gazabo was damaged again, with extra balusters blowing around. A volunteer may help to finish the light project at the gazabo. The new Christmas tree has advanced settings; he recommended that they be set up in standard colored light mode, so the flashing light effect doesn't bother anyone with sensitivities.

Councilman Williams's contact for the bench is Crystal Marsh and the Mayor will contact her. Councilman Schagelin provided a Christmas event update for the December 12<sup>th</sup> event.

### **D. HRSD**

Councilman Bilicki reported that for Phase 1, the last remaining tanks to be installed were done at the firehouse and the Island House's may have been installed. We are coming to the finish of the first phase, so he is asking for the close out documents, warranties and as-built drawings for the project for the grant. Councilman Joseph said the Island House won't come on-line until they close in January. He also said that there is a need to get a notice in the paper for a date for a new bid and we need to put out a new package with more detail. The last four to go on-line before Island House may go on on December 13<sup>th</sup>. The fish house is putting a valve opening in on the same date. Testing will ensue.

The pumping station has been in use for about 30 days. Tommy Richardson and the Mayor had a conversation regarding the Deed restrictions on the property of the pumping station and Mr. Richardson said that there was no height restriction but said that the restrictions said it could not block the view from Pete Peyton's house. Councilman Bilicki disputed this. Councilman Schagelin said that the trees will also create an obstruction. Councilman Bilicki said that the Town has at least \$70 to \$80,000 as the final payment of this packet for this phase that could be held back as this phase was not installed to the Town's criteria. An effort will be made to obtain a copy of the Deed. Councilman Bilicki thinks a public hearing should take place on this matter.

#### **E. Derelict Properties**

Councilman Bilicki said the property located on 47 Main Street has no new activity and the property does not appear to be for sale. Councilman Puchalski said the owner indicated she was going to sell it privately. Councilman Bilicki said jurisdictions have the right to purchase properties and sell to a new party, who is willing to take on the liability for the renovation or restoration, for the land value and the value of the house. Gazelle's property will have caution tape placed around it. A discussion ensued regarding both properties, and the Council agreed to have the Mayor talk to the Town attorney regarding the issue. Councilman Puchalski will talk to the owner of 47 Main Street.

#### **F. Marina**

Councilman Puchalski received an \$1500 estimate from Mike Lewis to redo up to 11 spigots on the floating dock. Councilman Puchalski made the motion to approve the estimate; Councilman Bilicki seconded, and all were in favor. Screw down of the dock boards is complete and wood was purchased for the public floating dock. The video surveillance system needs some replacements and upgrades. A quote was received from **Chuck?** for \$2100 for the installation of a new system with two new cameras; it is a smart system. She further reported that she thought the Town could pay for the system under the VPA account or under the Marine maintenance account. Councilman Joseph made the motion to approve the \$2100. purchase; Councilman Williams seconded; all were in favor. Councilman Puchalski also knows of a VMRC grant that may reimburse the Town as well as a \$500. risk management grant from our insurer, VRSA.

#### **G. Tourism N/A**

#### **H. Floodplain Adm/CRS/RAFT**

Councilman Bilicki updated the Council regarding the VMRC cautioning a business owner's use of salvaged asphalt debris. The owner has also been cautioned by Accomack County not to have these piles as the material has oils in it. The bulkhead restoration grant that Councilman Bilicki looked into was not of interest to this landowner. Councilman Bilicki will present on bulkhead restoration to the Council at its February 2025 meeting.

#### **I. Town Beautification - N/A**

#### **J. Safety and Security - N/A**

#### **K. Historic District**

James Bell updated the Council regarding the proposed Historic District designation. May is the end of the project, and the Town will then know if it was accepted as a Historic District for the National Register as well as for the Commonwealth of Virginia. A \$5000. check from the Town of Wachapreague will be needed for the Town's portion of the grant monies. The donations are really picking up for the \$2500. portion Mr. Bell is raising; the Town has budgeted for the remaining \$2500.

#### **L. Streets and Drainage**

Councilman Williams said that the new committee met and decided to do small projects at a time that will improve drainage. The two first projects to be addressed are the culvert near Moon's property at Powellton Street and the other culvert box down that property as that one may be filled in. In the future, exploratory digging will take place to better

understand the drainage problems. Councilman Bilicki raised the Pearl St. drainage issue; Councilman Williams will see if VDOT has a work ticket on it, and the new Council will follow-up.

**M. Planning Commission**

James Bell relayed that the pump station came up at their last meeting. They're going to be working on the comprehensive plan. Councilman Bilicki would like to see the special use permit that Councilman Joseph recalled was issued for the pump station.

**VIII. New Business/Community Report**

Councilman Bilicki brought up golf cart permits, and Councilman Puchalski reviewed the current law regarding same and stated that the Town is following that law.

**IX. Adjournment occurred at 8:18pm.**

**X. Closed Session to discuss a personnel matter.**