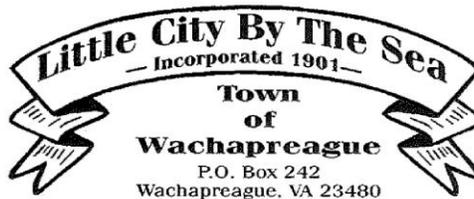




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Town  
of  
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**Charles Elliott, Mayor**

**Town Council Present:**

Sandie Puchalski, Vice Mayor  
Stephen Joseph  
Robert Bilicki  
Glenn Schagelin  
Craig L. Baker  
Aileen Joeckel

Clerk: Susan Springer

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
March 13, 2025  
VIMS SEASIDE HALL**

**Town Council Meeting**

Meeting began at 7:00 pm

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

**II. Councilman Glenn Schagelin led the prayer and acknowledged the time, hard work and commitment outgoing Councilman Steve Joseph contributed.**

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

**IV. Public Comments**

Bob Williams spoke of the Drainage Ditch Committee, reporting the chain saw has been purchased and training of staff has begun. Culver box cleanout should begin shortly and a culvert box grate on Powellton has been replaced. The search for the culvert box on the main line will come next, the main line being from Finney Rd to behind Glenn's house. The Committee asked the Council how much they were behind the Committee, primarily in support, funding and equipment, in their quest to improve drainage of the Town. Bob further stated that coordination with VDOT would be required as the ditches are in their right of way, and some agreement would need to be reached. Mayor Elliott suggested the Committee invite our VDOT contact Cris Isdale to the next Council Meeting. Bob agreed to reach out to Cris Isdale. Councilman Bilicki, as our CRS Coordinator, clarified ROW is the jurisdiction of VDOT, but the culvert infrastructure is the responsibility of the Town. It was in agreement that coordination with VDOT was crucial and they would be invited to the next Council Meeting.

Local resident and artist Carrie Jacobson brought forth her vision for a program featuring local artists and crafters. The idea being to create an artist trail, artist walk, or artist community, that could be marketed through social media, the Chamber of Commer, and the various Tourism Departments. Signage in front of artists homes could be a crucial part of the program and asked the Council for its support in going forward with this organization and planning. Carrie stated the local artist would be brainstorming and thought perhaps the Council could as well. Vice Mayor Puchalski mentioned that the participating artists and crafters would need a business license from the Town. Mayor Elliott suggested this could be pulled in to a Friday Farmers Market or Saturday Market. Councilman Joeckel touched on the Markets and Festivals offered by other Towns and their success. Discussion was given to the possibility of using Town Tourism Funds as well as

applying for Tourism Grants and Programs some of which could go toward advertising and banners. Carrie offered to return after the local artist group has time to talk and formulate their ideas. Carrie was thanked by the Council for presentation and planning.

## **V. Approval of Minutes**

Town Council Meeting -February 13, 2025

Councilman Aileen Joeckel requested Tourism Stats be included in the Tourism portion of the February 13, 2025 Minutes. Clerk Susan Springer agreed to add them.

Councilman Bilicki motioned to approve as amended, Vice Mayor Puchalski 2<sup>nd</sup>, all voted in favor.

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

Town of Wachapreague Financials – February 2025

Councilman Joeckel motioned to approve, Vice Mayor Puchalski 2<sup>nd</sup>, all voted in favor

Port of Wachapreague – February 2025

Councilman Schagelin motioned to approve, Councilman Bilicki 2<sup>nd</sup>, all voted in favor.

## **VII. Vacant Council Seat – Mayor Elliott**

Mayor Elliott announced Councilman Steve Joseph's resignation. Recommendation was made for a replacement of Robert Hipple, a local resident and Town activist.

Vice Mayor Puchalski motioned to approve Robert Hipple for Councilman

Council Craig Baker 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

All voted in favor, in accordance with The Town of Wachapreague Charter, Section 6.

Congratulations was given and new Councilman Hipple was instructed on the swearing in process and the duties to be assigned him in the near future.

## **VIII. Unfinished Business**

- A. Removal of Waterway Markers** – Councilman Aileen Joeckel expressed concern for the wealth of information John Joeckel had forwarded to the Mayor that the Mayor did not share with the Council. This included correspondence with and from the Coast Guard Admiral and County Manager Mike Mason. The Mayor assured he did share all pertinent information. Plans appear to be on tract for the replacement and all agreed to keep the item on the Agenda and follow up on completion.
- B. Maintenance** – Glenn Schagelin informed the Town had taken possession of the new Trash Truck. Discussion was given to lettering the truck and it was agreed that lettering should be done with a minimum of at least the Town Name, possibly with the logo "Little City by the Sea." Councilman Schagelin further reported that the hydraulics needed repair and Tom's Truck Sales would perform the repair under the warranty. In the meanwhile, the old 1985 trash truck is still fulfilling its duties. Councilman Bilicki requested the hydraulic fluid that leaked in front of the firehouse be properly treated with suitable absorption material.
- C. Powell Park** – Councilman Puchalski recommended due to the high cost of bid estimates, that the Town perform in Town Maintenance on the tennis courts. This would involve scraping out damaged court and repairing it with crack sealer and dye. It was suggested to gauge the use of the courts this spring and summer before going forth with any reconfiguring of the lines to add pickleball but lining for pickleball was an option. The cost would be \$4600 for the kit, repair material and new net as needed. Councilman Schagelin motioned to approve. Councilman Bilicki 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted in favor. It was also noted the gravel path to park shed was in need of refurbishing with more gravel. Vice Mayor Puchalski motioned to approve \$350 for gravel to be hauled by the Town F350. Councilman Schagelin 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted in favor.

**D. Seaside Park** – Councilman Bilicki raised the concern of the rusted condition of the baskets inside the Gazebo. It was decided former Councilman Steve Joseph had reached out to the manufacturer requesting replacement stainless steel brackets but the Council was unsure if there was any response. The Mayor offered to contact Steve and Rory to see if they had any knowledge of replacement parts.

**E. HRSD** – Councilman Bilicki reported Phase I, pending close out documents, was nearing completion and reporting requesting holding final payment until the as built are received by the Town. For Phase II Councilman Bilicki reported the management of Phase II has now passed to him with the resignation of former Councilman Joseph. It was reported he and Mayor Elliott are combing over all documents and expressed concern for Grizzly Underground's reluctance to provide the bond documentation required as condition of award of bid. Councilman Bilicki stated we had two qualified bidders and unless Grizzly Underground provides the necessary Bond documentation by noon of tomorrow he will recommend proceeding with the second Contractor and will proceed with negotiating the final price with the second contractor, who had already provided all necessary insurance and bond documentation. Councilman Bilicki further shared that in former Councilman Steve's initial efforts the Contractor would enter into a Contract with each homeowner individually but the Contractor's Bond Agent said it would be difficult to bond individually and recommended the Town enter into Contract Agreement with the Contractor and Manage the Project which would involve the applying the SERCAP Grant Money to project and billing each homeowner the balance who would pay the Town. Councilman Bilicki has recommended the Town manage the project for a cleaner project. It was decided Grizzly would have until 1:00 pm tomorrow to produce the Bond documentation which will consist of a letter confirming bond capacity. If not received negotiations will begin with Underground Utilities LLC. Mayor Elliott explained they would contact each individual homeowner with updates going forward. Councilman Bilicki stated for the record the Town does have a Grinder Pump Maintenance Ordinance that was done with the Commonwealth of Virginia Health Dept. approval.

**F. Derelict Properties** – Councilman Bilicki reported the worse is still the corner of Center and South, with concern that this house will become a tear down due to the structural issues. It was noted Patricia Bragg's property is still on the list. The Mayor reviewed the State Code on Derelict properties and noted that the Town would need to go to Accomack County for assistance for condemnation and or other proceedings. Councilman Joechel raised concern on the derelict Taurus Wagon on Brooklyn. Councilman Bilicki shared a new Ordinance being considered in Nassawadox regarding derelict properties.

**G. Marina** – Vice Mayor Puchalski reported the repair on the floating dock and scraping are completed and Mike Lewis is scheduled to complete plumbing repair at the new floating dock by the end of month. Slip leases are coming in very well. Vice Mayor reported on the Whalers needing repair, further noting the material was in possession, it was just the labor to remove the old, scrape and install the new material. Councilman Glenn Schagelin made the motion to approve \$1000 in funds for the labor. Councilman Bob Bilicki 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted in favor.

**H. Tourism** – Councilman Joeckel reported on the annual Tourism Summit noted it was well attended by Wachapreague. She shared the desire to work with influencer John Park, who has previously covered Tiny Living in Cape Charles as well as the Corner Bakery in Onancock, which was well received.

**I. Floodplain Administration/CRS Coordinator/RAFT** – Councilman Bilicki updated on his Grant work, including an application for a \$10,000 Grant for Communications for greater coverage in the event of a prolonged power outage. He further reported on the lack of knowledge of how many residents are on life support or at risk if without heat or AC, noting this grant could help with that, with one possibility being placing a solar panel on the Fire Dept. roof. The Resiliency Plan Grant has been submitted and we should hear back in early April, this would provide \$50,000 to develop the Resiliency Plan. Councilman Bilicki reported there is a new DEQ Program to monitor our aquifer, including current user and proposed new users. It was reported the Program is trying to assess the needs of both Counties.

**J. Town Beautification** – Councilman Joeckel reported on some spring plantings at the Town Sign.

**K. Safety/Security – No updates.**

**L. Historic District** – Town Clerk Susan Springer reported the State Historic designation representatives were in Town last Wednesday, when they performed their final walk of the Town and visited the last few sites necessary.

**M. Streets and Drainage** – Covered at the start of the meeting.

**N. Planning Commission** – Councilman Joeckel reported the Commission moving along well and should be able to present the plan this summer.

**VIII. New Business** – Councilman Bilicki reported on the Wachapreague Marina (Old Seaside Marina), stating that the sewer is installed and is looking for more momentum from the Owner. Vice Mayor Puchalski requested a list of items to discuss with the new owner and volunteered to contact him. Some discussion was given to the 6 lots being surveyed on Lee Street, at the terminus of Richardson St. Town Clerk reported it was Point North Surveying company that contacted her stating he was surveying them for the owner, and requested the building setbacks for them. Mayor Elliott reported on the property TNC is looking to deed the Town. TNC is still working on it and will give the Town language of what will be permissible uses on the land. Discussion was given to a Spring Easter Egg Hunt. It was determined there was not much interest in it, and not many young children in Town to support. It was decided that the Spring Yard Sale will be scheduled for May 10<sup>th</sup> this year, with the usual town posting and Maps. Discussion of the Atlantic St Camp Ground will be deferred to next meeting with discussion focusing on the state of the drain fields and mobility of the campers. Vice Mayor Puchalski offered to be a point of contact with the owner's son.

**IX. Adjournment**

Councilman Glen Schagelin motioned to adjourn

Councilman Aileen Joeckel 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted in favor.