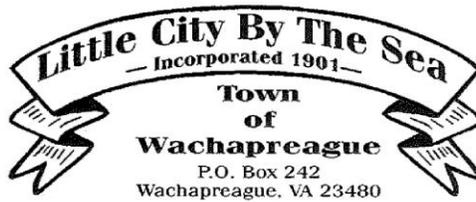




Marina
757-787-1930



Town Office
757-787-7117

Charles Elliott, Mayor

Town Council Present:

Sandie Puchalski, Vice Mayor
Robert Hipple
Glenn Schagelin
Craig L. Baker
Aileen Joeckel

Absent: Bob Bilicki

Clerk: Susan Springer

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
April 10, 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.

III. Charles Elliott led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Presentation by new proprietors of the General Store

Mayor Elliott introduced the new owners of the General Store, Tracy and Zenny Charcas to applause. The Charcas' expressed gratitude for being a part of the Community and outlined their plans to open the Store with something for everyone, pulling from their Saltwater Flower Farm, and benefitting everyone from local farmers and watermen to visiting tourists and local and highlighted their desire easy turn around drinks and food. In addition, the Carcas stated they would have some seating inside and hopefully outside. Councilman Joekel asked for an anticipated opening and the Charcas responded most likely May due to equipment and permitting details to be worked out. The Charcas ended their presentation by thanking everyone for the warm welcome

V. Public Comment

Councilman Schagelin conveyed citizen concerns about traffic speed. Mayor Elliott reported that the State Police have been contacted, and they will be setting up a speed monitoring schedule in Town. Councilman Joekel expressed concern over the boat speeding in front her house and asked that the Marina Crabbers be reminded it is a no wake zone.

Beth Mendez gave an update on the AED project, stating that the two stations and units have been received by the Town and are awaiting the Electrical portion to be completed before they are installed. After installation training will begin. Ms. Mendez was thanked for her hard work in bringing this project to success.

VI. Approval of Minutes

Town Council Meeting -March 13, 2025

Councilman Schagelin motioned to approve, Vice Mayor Puchalski 2nd, all voted in favor.

VII. Review of Financial Report

Town of Wachapreague Financials – March 2025

Councilman Joeckel motioned to approve, Vice Mayor Puchalski 2nd, all voted in favor

Port of Wachapreague – March 2025

Councilman Schagelin motioned to approve, Councilman Baker 2nd, all voted in favor.

VIII. Unfinished Business

A. Removal of Waterway Markers – Vice Mayor Puchalski reported the recent weather has delayed the equipment coming from Cape May to install the ATON Markers but has been assured by Chief Season that she will be notified as soon as the weather permits the equipment to be moved to Wachapreague.

B. Maintenance – Councilman Schagelin informed the Town the new Garbage truck is back and working well. It was further reported that the brush truck was currently in the shop to have a brake fluid leak fixed but would be ready for pick up the morning of Monday April 14th. Councilman Schagelin commented on the good teamwork of the Maintenance employees and Councilman Hipple reported their practical, in the field chainsaw training would commence once the weather allows access to the site for transporting the brush out.

C. Powell Park – Vice Mayor Puchalski reported the tennis court repair was ready and waiting on warmer weather to begin. It was reported that the port a pot at the Marina would be moved to Powell Park next week and the port a pot at Town Hall would be returned than too. Mayor Elliott informed Council that a resident expressed concern about a crack in the playground tunnel that appears to be getting larger. Councilman Schagelin assure Council he would look at. Mayor Elliott commented that the resident also offered to volunteer time to clean and mulch the Park.

D. Seaside Park – Councilman Baker reported volunteers cleaned out the triangle bed in Seaside Park and volunteer Ann Swick requested some mulch be ordered for the bed. Councilman Baker agreed to look into it.

E. HRSD – In Councilman Bilicki's absence Mayor Elliott reported that Contractor scope and price comparison was ongoing but final selection should be soon.

F. Derelict Properties – Mayor Elliott reported that grass violation letters have been sent out and if not response those properties would be mowed by the Town (or its agent) and billed to the property owner.

G. Marina – Vice Mayor Puchalski reported the water was on at the Marina and several minor repairs and adjustments were made by the plumbing contractor, and now the Marina was waiting for the right tide and weather to put the finishing touches on the docks for season.

H. Tourism – Councilman Joekel has been in contact with Carrie Jacobson to have some dialogue regarding the proposed Artisan trail and any activities that might involve. Councilman Joekel then reported on Route 13 sign explaining there will be a \$50 increase this year as well as needed repairs, \$320 for lighting replacement, \$350 for power washing the top and replacing the bottom.

Councilman Joekel motioned to approve \$700 for total sign repair.

Councilman Schagelin 2nd the motion. All approved.

I. Floodplain Administration/CRS Coordinator/RAFT – In Councilman Bilicki's absence there was no update.

J. Town Beautification – Councilman Joekel has nothing new to report other than lovely work the volunteers did at Seaside Park.

K. Safety/Security – Councilman Schagelin reported all was calm and anticipating some traffic speed control by the State Police.

L. Historic District – Planning Commission President Jim Bell reported, he met with the Contractor who performed the surveys on the Town’s Historic properties and they completing their work now including entering every historic property in the State’s database, even if the Town would not get the Grant it is seeking, all those properties will still be in the State’s database. As for the cost share Grant it was reported submitted in January. The nomination to the State Board, as written by the surveying contractor, will be submitted to the State Board for voting in September. A public meeting will need to be held before the State Board and that is anticipated to occur so that the nomination can be voted on in the September meeting. Mr. Bell noted that whole town as incorporated will not be in the nomination as there are significant non-conforming properties, however the contractor is working hard to include as many contiguous properties as possible. Mr. Bell anticipates the designation will be awarded by the State Board in September at which time funds can be raised for signature and other applicable items.

M. Streets and Drainage – Councilman Hipple reported on four points:

1. March 24th VDOT brought equipment to Town, clearing culverts at Lee and Custis and Powellton and Paul. The area has since experienced rain and the work appears to have improved stormwater flow. He noted the VDOT contact Matt Moore oversaw this and did a good job.
2. A March 21st rain highlighted a problem at the South side of a ditch on Custis between Paul and Church. He noted it appeared caused by trailer tires moving soil along the culvert and has restricted flow to almost a stop. His suggestion was that the Town front-end loader could be utilized to restore the soil where it belongs.
3. The Mayor recently noticed a settlement in the asphalt on Atlantic, by the entrance to the campground. Upon asking Matt Moore to investigate it was determined the contractor did not use proper aggregate and compaction, causing the collapse. Mr. Moore had a crew return and utilize a flowable concrete fill followed by an environmentally safe patch on top.
4. County Storm drainage Program Coordinator Bill Savage attended the last Ditch Committee meeting and informed the committee that ditch maintenance should occur 10-15 years and the South Ditch has not been maintained in the last 27 years. Mr. Savage explained the County only utilizes Permanent Maintenance Easements and suggested the solution was for the Town to implement Temporary Maintenance Easements and manage the project, with the County providing approval of contractor and full payment upon satisfactory completion. Mr. Savage walked the entire South Ditch on March 25th. Councilman Hipple read from the report and for accuracy the report is embedded in the Minutes below:

COUNTY OF ACCOMACK

DEPARTMENT OF Public Works

24401 Joynes Neck Rd.

P.O. Box 476 Accomac, VA23301

5/13/2025

Ditch Maintenance Division

Walking Report – Wachapreague_ South Ditch

I walked the South ditch on 3/25. There are some serious overhanging limbs and debris in the ditch, but the primary problems are the standing water upstream and the overall lack of drainage. The culvert that empties into the ditch from Rt. 605 Bradford’s Neck Rd. has 12 inches of sediment build up in it. The water in this vicinity up to the tennis court is just sitting there. It is stagnant and a mosquito breeding ground. The water starts out about knee deep and is barely ankle deep at the outlet on low tide. This ditch is definitely tidally influenced, but that said, if the tide is bringing water in, it should be taking it out and it is not.

While hand crews could trim back the overhanging limbs and cut up fallen snags, they would not be efficient in removing the volume of sediment that is blocking water flow.

So the question is, what do we do? Based on my experience, I would recommend bringing in a large excavator and correct the grade from Bradford's Neck Rd. as far as possible to the last residence. I would remove the snags as you go, and either haul them or at least place them on the field side of the ditch.

There are several home - built bridges that pose an issue. I don't know how deep their 4x4 pilings go down and if they would be exposed with the excavation. The material under each bridge would have to be excavated by hand.

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A couple of areas on the field side of the ditch have also been converted to garden / landowner - maintained sites. A large excavator will need room to work and it is going to leave track marks here. They can be cleaned up, but if you want this section cleaned, it is going to be necessary to work in these areas. No excavator work can be done on the house lot side of the ditch.

I have been unable to establish contact with the new landowners of 113A-A-58C lot at the beginning of the project. The rest of the land owners signed ROE's to walk the ditch, but would now have to sign easements to do any work. To date, I can only offer Perpetual easements, but the town could offer Temporary easements and run the project. The County would have to review the contractor quotes prior to authorizing funding for it. Because this project is tidally influenced, it most likely will require an Army Corps Permit to clean it as well.

Please feel free to let me know your thoughts and if you would like to meet to discuss further.

Sincerely,
William E. Savage
Storm Drainage Program Coordinator
County of Accomack
Phone: 757-789-3127
Email: wsavage@co.accomack.va.us

Councilman Hipple made the motion to approve proceeding forward with the Town obtaining the Temporary Maintenance Easements as the first step in proceeding forward the Maintenance Project of the South Ditch, from Bradford Neck to Bayview.
Vice Mayor Puchalski 2nd the motion. All approved.

N. Planning Commission – Councilman Joeckel and Commission President Jim Bell reported the Commission was losing member Tomeka Williams in May, however resident Margo has agreed to join the Commission. The Council was in agreement to allow Margo to join. It was reported that June was the planned public meeting on the new Comprehensive Plan and closed by reminding Council that Planning Commission meetings were now quarterly and encouraging all to recommend candidates to serve.

IX. New Business – Mayor Elliott reminded Council that it was budget season and the first budget workshop would be in May, after the May Council Meeting. He encouraged Council members to plan their requests and forward them to Treasurer May Jo Tatum as soon as possible.

Mayor Elliott introduced a Franchise Agreement renewal from Spectrum. The original agreement was signed in 2011 and is up for renewal. The agreement does not involve any monetary exchange or guarantee of exclusivity, rather it allows Spectrum to service its customers in Wachapreague.
Vice Mayor Puchalski motioned to approve.
Councilman Joeckel 2nd the motion. All approved.

Councilman Schagelin shared with Council he hosted 4 young men the past weekend who were participating in a disk golf tournament at Exmore. The tournament hosted two categories, amateur and professional, and drew over 70 contestants. He encouraged Council to consider this type of entertainment at Wachapreague. The Council responded with encouragement, and it was suggested looking into the Nature Conservancy property due to be deeded to the Town as a possible location. No further new business was discussed.

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X. Adjournment

Councilman Glen Schagelin motioned to adjourn

Councilman Aileen Joeckel 2nd the motion. All voted in favor.

XI. Closed Session.