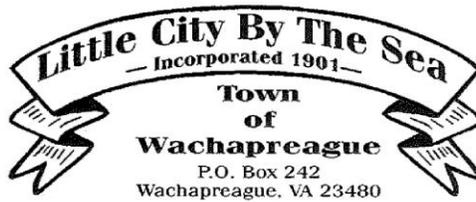




Marina  
757-787-1930



Town Office  
757-787-7117

**Charles Elliott, Mayor**

**Town Council Present:**

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

Clerk: Susan Springer

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
May 8, 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. Public Comment** – Resident Linda Grover spoke of her attendance in desire to learn updates about the next Phase of Sewer and her desire to hear about both the Contractors the Town is considering as well as have a voice in that consideration. Councilman Bilicki assured her he would cover it in his HRSD report later in the meeting. New Zoning Administrator Donald Motto was introduced and welcomed.

**V. Approval of Minutes**

Town Council Meeting – April 10, 2025

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

**VI. Review of Financial Report**

Town of Wachapreague Financials – April 2025

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

Port of Wachapreague – April 2025

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

**VII. Unfinished Business**

**A. Removal of Waterway Markers** – Vice Mayor Puchalski reported all ATONS are now back in place although their accuracy may need to be checked as they seem fine at high tide however may not be fully accurate at low tide.

**B. Maintenance** – Councilman Schagelin showed Council a pressure washer available at the local Ace Hardware and explained the need expressed by Maintenance Supervisor JD Bradshaw. The cost of the model recommended was \$379.99.

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

Discussion was given to the disposition of the old Garbage Truck. It was decided to explore the possibilities of disposal, either sale or scrap but in the meanwhile have it available for the Carnival this year. Discussion then turned to issue of the Wachapreague Inn going commercial and privatizing their garbage pick as does the Island House and Lilliston Seafood. Council discussed the possibility of a letter to the Wachapreague Inn to open the dialogue, whether it be privatization, or extra billing, or other means. It was decided to discuss this further while discussing the Tourism portion of the budget at May 13<sup>th</sup>'s budget work session.

**C. Powell Park** – Vice Mayor Puchalski reported the weather has been uncooperative to begin work on the Powellton Park Tennis Courts but is hopeful the weather will improve in the next few weeks and work can begin. The material has been received; the weather just needs to improve. It was noted the playground equipment needed some repair and that while weeding was completed mulch was needed, approximately 6 yards. It was agreed to order the mulch and have it designated as playground mulch.

**D. Seaside Park** – It was noted the mulch had been delivered and spread around the Seaside Park Sign. Councilman Baker. It was also noted that the marble bench has been restored. Councilman Baker reported his inspection of the Gazebo and noted the rusted brackets. He stated they could be taken down one at a time and sand blasted but suggested getting a price to replace all of them with stainless steel. Councilman Bilicki commented on the cost of stainless steel and recommended contacting the manufacturer and requesting they address the rusted brackets. It was also noted that Rory had ordered brackets in the past but their location was not known. Councilman Schagelin offered to contact Bob Williams and inquire about them, as well as Steven Joseph. At Councilman Bilicki's request this item will be kept on the Old Business list of needing resolution.

**E. HRSD** – Councilman Bilicki reported since taking Phase II over from Steven Joseph he has had to do a lot of project investigation and clarification both with the Contractors and HRSD. He noted he and Mayor had met with both Contractors to assure their scope of work matched and apples were being compared to apples. Both Contractors have submitted their best and final offer and can be compared equally. He noted that of the 17 properties, 16 of them have dwelling structures on them now. He recommended the vacant property, which is requesting two pumps and is owned by Front Row LLC, be required to pay full price for the two pumps, the Mayor is in agreement. The SERCAP Grant money will be used for pumps for the 16 properties that contain existing dwelling structures already.

Councilman Bilicki made a motion to require Front Row LLC to pay full price for their request of two pumps and receive no SERCAP funds toward their purchase and installation. Councilman Joekel 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor.

Councilman Bilicki explained his recent RFI to HRSD and his quest to find a solution to the \$17,000 cost to add the extension to Grover and Linda Jones property. He has received confirmation from HRSD a solution has been found, and that additional cost will be negated. As that issue has now been resolved Councilman Bilicki is seeking to organize a kickoff meeting between all property owners so that the entire scope can be presented using each Contractor and identifying the cost for each owner, using the Grant money divided among the 16 properties with dwellings and the amount left over being for the individual property owner to pay. It was clarified the SERCAP Grant money would be pay for the pumps with the remainder left being divided amount each of the 16 property owners. Councilman Bilicki plans to have an invoice for each homeowner at the meeting and further explained the Town's role as project manager. The discussion was completed by saying the Contractor will have an onsite preconstruction meeting with each property owner so they will know exactly what will be happening before any digging begins. The schedule will also be further discussed at the kickoff meeting. It was requested that Councilman Bilicki confirm with the Health Dept., prior to the kickoff meeting, whether the existing private septic system could stay intact or if it had to be removed or otherwise crushed and filled.

**F. Derelict Properties** – Mayor Elliott reported the house of concern on Center Street is showing signs of improvement, with clean up and contractors working there. It was noted no improvement to 48 Main Street, and no improvement in the round house just outside of Town limits. Mayor Elliott noted that Accomack County Zoning has been notified of the grass and weed issues with that property. Vice Mayor Puchalski

inquired about the other property just outside of Town where it appears individuals have taken up residence in campers. Mayor Elliott disclosed that those individuals have purchased the property, but the County Zoning Administrator has informed them they cannot live in a camper on it and they have 30 days to rectify that. It was noted the owners can construct a shed and keep items there, but they cannot live there without a dwelling. 48 Main St was further discussed, and a plan of action was decided for Mayor Elliott to contact the Accomack County Zoning Administrator for guidance or possibly enforcement, noting that the property is vacant and without power.

**G. Marina** – Vice Mayor Puchalski reported the full Grant (100%) was approved for dredging next year, as well as the VPA Maintenance Grant. It was noted that the deepest that can be dredged is 6' above mean low tide, that is regulated by VMRC. Vice Mayor closed by saying the tournament was a success again this year and that the kickoff to the fishing season has started strong.

**H. Tourism** – Councilman Joekel reported the new ESVA Tourism brochures will be released soon. She also noted that the Chesapeake Bay Magazine, an online publication, has expressed interest in featuring Wachapreague. Discussion was given to the requirements and enforcement of a Town Business License and in particular parking and consistency.

**I. Floodplain Administration/CRS Coordinator/RAFT** – On CRS Councilman Bilicki reported he has applied for Grant through the VA Energy Resources and received tentative approval of the \$10,000 for the Study. He further reported the DCR Grant applied for in February to repair the bulkhead would be awarded in mid-July and these, if awarded, would also be for an initial study.

**J. Town Beautification** – Councilman Joekel had nothing new to report.

**K. Safety/Security** – Discussion was given to the continued issue of excessive speed, with suggestions of additional speed limit signs and the possibility of having stop signs installed at intersections. It was suggested Craig Baker take over the control and maintenance of the speed capture device at the entry into Town. Craig Baker agreed and it was noted the laptop and manual used by Bob Williams was turned into Town Hall.

**L. Historic District** – Planning Commission and Historic District liaison Jim Bell was out of town.

**M. Streets and Drainage** – Councilman Hipple reported the Committee received notice of the resignation of Bob Williams and thanks was given to all his hard work for the Town over the years. He noted Maintenance Supervisor JD Bradshaw did an excellent job repairing the Culvert on the South side of Custis. He noted the work VDOT performed has helped as shown by recent rains. He further noted a Temporary Right of Entry template was received and packets would be created for the homeowner's giving the Easement and with the help of the Mayor signatures would be obtained soon. The packet will contain the plan of action from County as well as contact information for the County and Town representatives involved. After the Temporary Easements are obtained the next step will be secure a qualified contractor. It was noted that once the job is completed to the County's satisfaction the contract amount will be paid to the Town, who will then pay the Contractor. This plan of action is due to the County's Policy that only allows for Permanent Easements of drainage ditches, which would be a hinderance to obtaining permission from property owners. All agreed the project should go forward and go forward as quickly as possible. Councilman Baker noted all the hard work and dedication Bob Williams gave to the Town and suggested a letter of appreciation or proclamation should be given to Bob Williams. All agreed. Town Clerk Springer to research suggestions.

**N. Planning Commission** – Councilman Joeckel reported the Commission was hopeful the Planning Commission could wrap up the Comprehensive Plan and schedule a public meeting for it in June of this year.

**VIII. New Business** – Councilman Joekel asked if the Town and Fire Co could look in to Garland for Christmas. The lights are full but the Garland could use some work.

Councilman Bilicki requested we extend the flags for Memorial Day and Fourth of July and suggested using Steve Joseph's lift to hang them. Mayor Elliott reminded all of the May 13<sup>th</sup> Town wide yards and also announced the arrival of bound copies of the 2024 Town Audit. Anyone wanting to review a bound copy may contact Clerk Springer. The Mayor touched on VA House Bill 2383 (electronic copies were sent to Council) and noted that Clerk Springer would be sending out a packet to all STR owners by July 1<sup>st</sup> when the bill takes effect. Mayor Elliott expressed a desire to set a budget for Abbey for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade and picnic. All agreed that the figure spend last year would suffice. The status of AED's was discussed, with everything in place waiting for the Electrician to return from out of town to begin the install process. Councilman Bilicki inquired if anyone had looked in to the PILOT program (payment in lieu of taxes. Mayor Elliot responding he was looking into it. No further new business.

**IX. Adjournment**

Councilman Glen Schagelin motioned to adjourn. Vice Mayor Puchalski 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor.