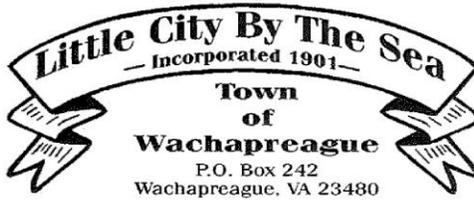




Marina  
757-787-1930



**Little City By The Sea**  
— Incorporated 1901 —  
**Town of Wachapreague**  
P.O. Box 242  
Wachapreague, VA 23480



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  
June 12, 2025  
VIMS SEASIDE HALL**

**Public Hearing on July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 Budget**

Meeting began at 6:30 pm

**Role Call Vote: Approved**

Name	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Craig Bake	X			
Glenn Schagelin	X			
Sandie Puchalski	X			
Bob Hipple	X			
Aileen Joeckel	X			
Bob Bilicki				X
Mayor Elliot (tie)				

**NOTE:** In the interim between meeting the Mayor and Council presented former Councilman Bob Williams with an honorary Key to the City, commemorating his hard work and dedication to the Town of Wachapreague.

**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 – no public comment**

**V. Approval of Minutes**

Town Council Meeting – May 8, 2025

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

**VI. Review of Financial Report**

Town of Wachapreague Financials – May 2025

Councilman Joekel motioned to approve, Councilman Hipple 2<sup>nd</sup>, all voted in favor

Port of Wachapreague – May 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 –** Project complete.

**B. Maintenance –** The Power Washer has been picked up and delivered by Councilman Glenn Schagelin. This will be used to clean the new trash truck, and various other Town properties. Councilman Hipple acknowledged the busy season for staff and that the chain saw safety training would be conducted as schedules permit. Discussion was given to Wachapreague Inn and the possibility of their providing their own green box. Further discussion was given to the amount of taxes paid by the Wachapreague Inn with all in agreement to investigate further with Mary Jo Tatum, Town Treasurer. Councilman Schagelin offered to talk with JD to obtain more detail about exactly how much trash is generated there each week during summer. Councilman Joekel requested some investigation in to why the transient tax is down for the year. The Town Treasurer to be contacted regarding that.

**C. Powell Park –** Vice Mayor Puchalski reported the tennis court repair has been started with one product in particular working well. Repair should be finished by the end of the month, although more material may need to be purchased. No other reporting on Powell Park.

**D. Seaside Park –** Councilman Baker reported the brackets have been found, and the contractor has been paid for the installation, so he will proceed to have installation scheduled, most likely after the carnival. Former Councilman Bob Williams agreed to provide information about the epoxy/contractor used in the past for repairs. Councilman Hipple reported that our VDOT representative Matt Moore has requested we keep the Seaside drains clear of sea grass as that impedes flow back into the Bays.

**E. HRSD –** Mayor Elliott read from an update from Councilman Bob Bilicki:

HRSD: Phase II

All 17 Cover Letters, Grizzly Underground Invoices to each Property Owner were sent via USPS Mail – yesterday 6/11/25 – Suggested Payments: Upon Receipt – Allow 10 days. Once all Invoices have been paid to the Town of Wachapreague, a Performance Bond will be applied for. We anticipate the Drawings, Permits to be submitted with 4 weeks. Once the project starts – we are allowing 10-12 weeks for the construction schedule to reach “Substantial Completion.”

HRSD: Phase I

HRSD and ANPDC (Ann Doyle) need to negotiate an HRSD Invoice for \$80K out and issue the Town of Wachapreague a Credit Memo - \$0.00 Balance \*End of Councilman Bilicki report.\*

Councilman Schagelin asked if the Contractor had in fact been hired, to which Mayor Elliot responded that yes the contractor had and it was Grizzly, Mayor Elliott closed with saying “a lot of the “kinks were worked out.”

**NOTE: Councilman Bilicki’s full report is inserted in this body, at the end.**

**F. Derelict Properties** – Mayor Elliott reported that 7 South St (corner of South and Center) would keep getting reminders. He further reported that grass issues were being monitored and would be addressed. Councilman Joekel inquired if there were any updates on 48 Main Street, there were not.

**G. Marina** – Vice Mayor Puchalski reported the Marina was doing well, with just a few slip holders stilling owing, noting they had until the middle of the month.

**H. Tourism** – Councilman Joekel reported there is a micro business marketing grant opening, with a closing in July and she is currently working on writing that. She noted this would not cover the signs being requested by the Art Community but would cover advertising and could be applied to website work if it applied to tourism. Councilman Joekel further commented it was a \$5,000 grant and could be used to advertise events as well, such as an artist event or a town holiday event. It was noted this is a highly competitive grant that would require showing results. Mayor Elliott commented that the Town of Exmore recently received a grant for entertainment. Councilman Joekel noted Exmore was in Northampton County and that was a Northampton County Grant. Mayor Elliott expressed a desire to have a meeting to discuss future plans for Tourism. Councilman Joekel requested this be held after her grant application, and after the carnival, and late July was agreed upon. Discussion was given to the Tourism website and to the move forward to regain both the Town’s website and the Tourism site. With the invaluable assistance of Jim Bell this is going forward so that total control creative and content of both sites are in the Town’s hand

**I. Floodplain Administration/CRS Coordinator/RAFT** – In Councilman Bilicki’s absence no update was given.

**J. Town Beautification** – Councilman Joekel had nothing new to report. Town Clerk Springer reported the Town Maintenance Supervisor would be taking a flag inventory and additional flags would be ordered.

**K. Safety/Security** – Councilman Schagelin reported no new issues have arisen.

**L. Historic District** – Planning Commission and Historic District liaison Jim Bell was out of town. Town Clerk Springer reported the firm working on our designation will be sending their report to the State Historical Board in September.

**M. Streets and Drainage** – Councilman Hipple reported progress on the South side ditch citing positive reception from many properties and he goes forward with permission for entry. He noted he has been starting with a phone call and will then progress to an onsite meeting. He further noted the main concern was if it would cost the homeowner, which it will not, and touched on the property with the bridge, which will take hand clearing. In the meanwhile, he has been working to clear a few blockage issues, and Matt Moore from VDOT has been attending to collapse off Church St. Councilman Hipple touched on the possibility of using FEMA money to raise, or elevate, some homes and that this will require a comprehensive town wide resiliency plan. Some discussion was given to the state of FEMA and the push to move much of it to the State level. Councilman Hipple touched on a concern of a crushed drain culvert at Powellton and Paul, hoping that the County will come to look at it. Concern was expressed about the state of all culverts and the desire to camera all the culverts. Council Hipple expressed a desire to have the County come in and camera the North to South ditches, and if they are unable to, having a contractor perform that, or have the Town purchase their own camera. It was noted that the AARP Grant was not awarded to Wachapreague, that the awardees had projects that directly involved and benefited Seniors. Councilman Hipple noted he would be visiting a home on Liberty St this week to observe a drainage concern they have in their back yard.

**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 input in July of this year.

**VIII. New Business** – Mayor Elliot brought up the concern of having the curb re-painted at the corner of Main and Brooklyn, at the General Store, so that it is clear that vehicles cannot park where there is yellow curb. Councilman Hipple reported he had reach out to Matt Moore, who referred him to Dale Pusey, who has

not returned his call yet. It was noted the current problem with motor vehicles parking on the sidewalks also needs to be addressed. Mayor Elliott brought up the concern with the Fire Dept. being unable to respond to call due to the parking lot not allowing the truck the radius they need to get the equipment out. The Fire Dept. suggested moving the curb stops back so that parking was further into the Park, giving the Fire Dept. the radius the need. Gravel would be added. The Mayor noted that the Maintenance Supervisor felt the front end loader would be capable to doing this. All agreed to proceed with this plan.

**IX. Adjournment**

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

AGENDA - Town of Wachapreague  
Town Meeting July 12, 2025

**Talk Points – Bob Bilicki reports (since I am unable to attend)**

HRSD: Phase II

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CRS/ CFPF-Grant “Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund - \$50,000.00

The decision to announce the outcomes was scheduled for May 23<sup>rd</sup>

Wachapreague is still in consideration along with 59 others – TBD

CRS/ VERS-Grant “Virginia Energy Resilient” - \$10,000.00

The Town of Wachapreague has been requested to fill out additional form for proper funding. Susan Springer, Town Clerk has completed them & returned- PENDING

Tourism:

I would like to thank the Island House and the Wachapreague Inn for accommodating 9 Fine Artist and 5 spouses, while attending the Current Reflections Fine Arts - 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Paint Wachapreague Plein Air event, for (4) Nights & (3) Days. The average cost per meal being approximately \$40.00 w/ beverages equates to \$360/meal x \$1,100. Lodging approximately \$4,200.00. Not including alternative locations that we painted at Chatham Vineyards – with 15 people attending the Wine Tasting. Catered lunch for all by Mochipongo Trading Post and Buttercups.

This is what the Artisans of Wachapreague see as such a terrific opportunity to grow our community.

#### NEW BIZ:

Dredging Operation- Bradford Bay. I spoke to the Project Manager this weekend as his team is demobilizing. I asked about a few questions, about Depth & Width of the channel between the closest Channel Marker to land (Bayview Ave) and the 3<sup>rd</sup>

Marker. “What is the width of the dredged channel? What is the depth of the channel at Mean Low Tide.” I asked. His response was “The Corps of Engineers has signed off on the project”

I then asked about the previous crew, since I knew from being in the Flounder Tournament, multiple boats were stranded 10 yards from the Channel Marker, due to Low Tide and running aground with only a depth of 2.5 – 3.0 feet. The PM volunteered the following. “Well, that could have been when the previous crew allowed the PVC Pipe to crimp 180’ causing the pump to burn out.” Yes, the Pump did burn out and the crew waited several weeks for a replacement – from their shop in New Orleans.

After our March Meeting when our residents who are Sport Fisherman and have a business of being a Charter Captain, commented on the shifting sand bars and the lack of attention to the Navigational Buoys, which has since been corrected per the US Coast Guards report.

My request is for the Town of Wachapreague to request from the Army Corp of Engineers the Drawings of the Bradford Bay Channel which will show the expected Depths and the Widths of the Dredged Channel. I request that the Army Corps of Engineers submit the Inspection Report indicating the Bradford Bay Channel is compliant. We must hold this company accountable to safeguard Tourism and Recreation in Wachapreague. Those of you who are new to the Town may not recall that in up to the mid 90’s the two marinas had over 80 Charter Captains would fishing charters. Now because of the shifting tides and channels have become to shallow for big boats - If we don’t have accountability then the small boat recreational fisherman will find alternative places to fish, eat at the Island House and not stay at the Wachapreague Inn.

Who on Council will work with the Army Corp of Engineers to obtain a satisfactory report that the Channel has been dredged as per the Contract Documents?