

**TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
February 8th, 2024**

COUNCIL PRESENT:

Charles Elliott, Mayor
Sandie Puchalski, Vice Mayor
Glenn Schagelin
Stephen Joseph
Aileen Joeckel
Robert Bilicki

Absent:

Robert Williams

Town Council Meeting

7:00 PM Start of Meeting.

TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE COUNCIL MEETING

II. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Charles Elliott

III. Councilman Glen Schagelin began the meeting with a prayer.

IV. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

V. Public comments

Bo Lusk, TNC Coastal Scientist, and Marine Field Technician talked about completion of the Wachapreague Oyster & Marsh restoration project and the positive impact it will bring to the town. Libby Bieri, a former UVA researcher also spoke about the project and the benefits it will bring to the town of Wachapreague, and that there will be an Event supporting this project at the Island House on March 25th, 2024.

Town Council Meeting

VI. January 11th, 2024, minutes were reviewed.

Councilman Bob Bilicki motioned to approve the minutes.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin 2nd the motion.

All agreed.

VII. Review of Financial Report

Mayor Charles Elliott asked the council to review the Town's financials for January 2024
Councilman Glenn Schagelin motioned to approve the town financials for January 2024.
Councilman Bob Bilicki 2nd the motion.
All agreed.

Mayor Charles Elliott asked the council to review the Port of Wachapreague Financials for January 2024.
Councilman Glenn Schagelin motioned to approve the town financials for January 2024.
Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski 2nd the motion.
All agreed.

IV. Unfinished Business

A. Maintenance

Councilman Glenn Schagelin stated that Robert had done well while JD was on leave from work.

B. Powell Park

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski said that the 6 damaged trees have been cut down / cut up, and most of the debris has been cleaned up, except for behind the graveyard area.

C. Seaside Park

Councilman Stephen Joseph said there was nothing to report.

D. HRSD

Councilman Steve Joseph spoke about the HRSD sewer project and that they may be finished 7 months early. He also said that they are still waiting for some paperwork to be signed. Councilman Bob Bilicki also talked about the HRSD project, and the remaining work needed.

E. Derelict Properties. / Nothing to report

F. Marina

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski talked about the Bathroom work to be done at the town marina, and that it will be done in March, before the water gets turned on. She also said that the Contractor for the VPA project will be bringing the barge to start project asap.

G. Tourism

Councilman Aileen Joeckel talked about upcoming events at the Island House. There will be a Tourism Summit on February 26th and a Nature Conservancy event on March 25th.

H. Floodplain Adm/CRS / There was nothing to report.

I. Town Beautification / There was nothing to report.

J. Safety and Security / There was nothing to report.

K. Historic District – Jim Bell talked about the State opening a grant program & that the Town will need some contributions. He said that Blake McDonald is looking for more funding for the town to help with the Town costs, and he would like a resolution from the town for commitment to the project.

L. Streets and Drainage / There was nothing to report.

M. Planning Commission

Councilman Aileen Joeckel reported the planning commission is short on members, and they will need to get 2 more members.

N. Delinquent Taxes / There was nothing to report.

O. New Business

A. Council discussed number of VIMS properties that pay for trash pickup.

B. Council discussed the 3 properties that the Nature Conservancy has offered the town, and Mayor Elliot requested that council vote on agreeing to accept the 3 properties.

Councilman Bob Bilicki motioned to accept the 3 properties from the Nature Conservancy

Councilman Stephen Joseph 2nd the motion

All agreed.

IX. Community News

Councilman Bob Bilicki talked about the trees that are supposed to act as a barrier for the Chicken plant on Rt 180, and that most of those trees are dead. He said that he would like to look into a new buffer-trees, as the Chicken plan is required to have some type of buffer between the plant and Rt 180.

X. Adjournment

Councilman Glenn Schagelin motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Councilman Stephen Joseph 2nd the motion.

All agreed.

Closed Session (Council to go into executive session regarding employee matters)