

TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

May 12, 2022

COUNCIL PRESENT:

Fred Janci Mayor,
Robert Williams,
Robert Bilicki,
Stephen Joseph
Glenn Schagelin,
Margo Digan

Absent: Sandie Puchalski, Vice Mayor

I. Town Council Meeting

7:00 PM meeting began

Councilman Glen Schagelin prayed.
Followed by Pledge of Allegiance.

TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE COUNCIL MEETING

- Mayor Fred Janci called the meeting to order.

I. Public comments

Mayor Janci said we will not interject during public comments.

Anne Swick read a letter regarding the basketball hoop. It was a favorable letter to keep the hoops. The letter is attached to the minutes. She spoke about a petition signed by neighbors supporting the hoops. She sent it to the planning commission.

Elena Elliott read a letter submitted by Gregory Stratton. He was unable to make the meeting. This letter spoke about two family members who received scholarships from playing basketball. He is very frustrated with the basket hoops being taken down. He would like a public hearing regarding putting the hoops back up. His letter is also attached and is part of the minutes.

Charlie Gibble was requested to read a letter that was given to her at the start of the meeting. The letter was in favor of keeping the hoops. Anne Swick stated the letter was written by Richie Puchalski. It is attached to the minutes.

Carrie Jacobson lives two doors down from the court. She stated that I work outside in the building behind my house. A lot of the time my windows are open. She says she rarely hears any noise from the court. Once in a while, she might hear yelling and a swear word. She said this basketball stuff has never bothered her. She stated by the time they drive by her house they have slowed down.

She said there is one trash can at the court. Carrie stated a porta pot would be great. She said I am a representative of someone who lives nearby and hope we can work something out.

Melissa who lives next door said it isn't basketball that bothers her. She stated she hasn't seen the coastguard or small children there. Her complaint isn't about the people playing there, it is the loud vulgar music, swearing, drug use, the trash they are leaving and public urination. Melissa said they are urinating right on the court. She said the town has ordinances regarding noise. It needs to be enforced.

Stephanie stated that we need to be careful of the ground we tread on. This issue looks like a racial issue. Racism is illegal and this is how our black community is viewing this.

Elizabeth Mott spoke about moving back to Wachapreague after serving in Iraq and Syria. She likes playing basketball at the courts with her sons. Elizabeth stated she has not seen bad behavior at the court. She stated, "of course I don't live next door to the court." Elizabeth went on to speak about the legality. She talked about how the town receives money from the county, state, and federal government. She said if we are perceived as being racist, whether it was racially motivated or not we could be penalized. The town could be sued by the Federal government. We could lose our government funding. We could be open to civil lawsuits. This has happened. If you provide activities to one group, it has to be provided for all. It doesn't matter where you come from, you have the right to use the facilities.

Aleena talked about Gregory Stratton's reaction to taking the hoops down. He wanted to know why the public hadn't been notified about this action. Gregory had said to Aleena, "why didn't they notified the church outside of town? We would have spoken to the kids about their behavior."

Aleena said, "we need to take action against illegal activities. The actions should be recorded on camera and the police should be called. The people with the negative actions would be held accountable and the hoops would be available to the people who behave correctly."

Aileen Joeckel asked if the town residences would be able to vote on whether sewer was going to come to town. She stated that Mayor Fred Janci said that at two public meetings the town would be able to vote.

Mayor Fred Janci said, "there would be public hearings but not necessarily a vote".

Aileen Joeckel reported she was sure it was in the minutes that the town would be able to vote on this issue and if she could listen to them, she would be able to find where that was stated.

Councilman Margo Digan stepped down from council to public status to speak during the public comments. She stated, "we have worked on this for three years trying to correct the bad behavior at the court."

She said that Mayor Fred Janci has spoken with them numerous times and the sheriff has been called several times. The sheriff would not respond because they do not have the resources and it wasn't a strong complaint. She said that this decision was not made suddenly.

Margo Digan stated, "if you came to council meeting, or read the minutes, you would know this has been a problem for some time. The minutes are online."

Margo Digan went on to say that it took nine months to approve the bocce court. She was not on council at that time. She also stated that the dog park was Richie and Sandie Puchalski's idea. Councilman Margo Digan thought it was a great idea and donated to the project. "It's in the minutes."

II. Town Council Meeting Minutes

March 12 Meeting.

Councilman Bob Bilicki motioned to approve the March 10th meeting.

Councilman 2nd.

All agreed.

April 14 Meeting

Changes were made to the minutes

Councilman Margo Digan made the motion to approve the minutes for the April with the changes.
Councilman Glenn Schagelin 2nd the motion. All agreed.

III. Review of Financial Report

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that there should be a town operating expense and a town tourism.
He said there have been miscellaneous items have been charged to tourism.

Councilman Glenn Motion motioned to accept.
Councilman Bob Williams 2nded. All Agreed.

- Mayor Fred Janci asked to review the port financials.
Councilman Margo Digan motioned to accept the marina financials.
Councilman Glenn Schagelin 2nded. All agreed.

IV. Powel Park

Charlie Gible read a statement written by Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski, who said, “after much feedback from residents we should put the basketball hoop back up”.

Mayor Fred Janci said there are two sides to everything. There is a lot of noise and disruption to people that live near it.
The other side is there are people who like to use the hoops and obey the rules.

Councilman Bob Williams spoke about an idea to build a maintenance building to store town records and town machinery.
A new basket court could be put next to it. The building could then be used as a buffer. He said that we have the money in an account to do this.

Mayor Fred Mayor said we should have the community involved. He suggested to do in in a 2- stage process.: basketball court first and maintenance building second.

Mayor Fred Janci stated the basketball court would not have to go to the planning commission, per Aileen Joeckel, because it is a park already. The maintenance building would need to go to the planning commission.

Councilman Stephen Joseph reported on figures he was working on for a half court, 47X54 with a 2 -foot apron on each side of the line. He said that his cost, not the public cost would be \$5432.00 just for concrete. He asked Chaney if he would be willing to donate a portion of that. He said yes but he needs to talk to the proper authorities regarding that.
Councilman Stephen Joseph stated, regarding the cipher, that he spoke to Brian Cobb who is probably the most reasonable. The cost should be under \$1000.00. Stephen is waiting to hear from Brian. Councilman Stephan Joseph will talk to him about getting reduced rate, or a donation from him. He thought fast growing trees around the court would help buffer. Councilman Stephen Joseph spoke about a place to place the court.

Councilman Bob Bilicki said we need to put the court where it will not get flooded. He said it needs to be placed where it will not cause a problem in the future. He said we need to include a geo tech report.

Mayor Fred Janci said we need a committee for the basketball court.

Aleena replied that her daughter was doing research and found a grant the town may be able use towards the parks.
Many people want to be on the committee. Several people signed up, and the list was given to Councilman Bob Williams.

V. HRSD

Mayor Fred Janci said, “ we are not going to have a public meeting regarding the sewer until all of our ducks are in a row. Everything is stalled.”

Originally Governor Northam had allocated 3.6 million in the proposed budget for the town’s sewer. The new governor Youngkin saw that we were 500 million underfunded. The town got chopped to 2.7 million dollars.

Mayor Fred Janci stated, "nobody is going to be required to tie in. The only place you could tie in is on Atlantic and Brooklyn and terminating at E Riverview. Maybe 5 to 10 years the town's residents will decide to hook up to the sewer. That's up to the town's people and the council to decide in the future. We are waiting to hear if we are getting the financing. We do not want to come to the town until we know we have the money. It's in a special session. The budget has not been approved yet."

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that when the budget was going to be cut, ANPDC and the Town of Wachapreague applied for a supplemental grant with the federal government through Congresswoman Elaina Luria. The intent is to have this available for back fill for money that wasn't available from the State. The contractor for HRSD, Garney will be speaking about a change order if we are successful at getting the funds. He will talk about the town using them as the town contractor. This will take place at a meeting with the ANPCD. Councilman Bob Bilicki had been invited to this meeting. Mayor Fred Janci asked to go, also.

Town Clerk Charlie Gible told the public that she has maps at town hall that show the proposed sewer line.

VI. Seaside Park

Councilman Margo Digan had nothing to report.

VII. Beautification

Councilman Margo Digan had nothing to report.

VIII. Planning Commission

Aileen Joeckel stated that they are working on the survey. They currently had 66 surveys returned.

She said, "everyone will be heard."

Aileen stated they hoped to have the comprehensive plan by September.

The plan is to have the information from the survey on the website.

IX. Ordinance

The ordinances are on hold until the budget is complete.

X. Marina

Town Clerk Charlie read a statement written by Vice Mayor Sandie. The letter said the flounder tournament went well.

Turnout was great at the marina. She collected a lot of ramp fees and sold many ramp permits. Sandie also had in her notes that she was still waiting to hear about VPN grant for dredging. She should know soon.

Mayor Fred Janci thanked the people for coming for the meeting.

XI. Maintenance

Councilman Glen Schagelin stated the time clock is being punched on time.

He also spoke about a huge hole in the base of the garbage truck.

Mayor Janci asked if he should speak to Chris Johnson. He had welded a plate on to it before.

XII. Raft/CRS

Councilman Bob Williams spoke about the ditch with the blue barrel.

Councilman Stephen Joseph said it may cause more problem removing the barrel.

He stated there is a root that should be removed there.

Mayor Fred Janci said he would like to dig a test hole by Philips garage to see what the diameter is of the pipe is.

Mayor Janci stated we should put in our ordinance that nobody can fill in their culverts.

Councilman Bob Williams made a motion to not exceed \$600.00 to do ditch work behind the Bogetti House and Phil's Property.

Councilman Margo Digan 2nded the motion. All Agreed.

Councilman Bob Williams said, "you can take that out of RAFT".

Councilman Bob Bilicki said the directive is to have a flush curb at Brooklyn, and Riverview. Even though VDOT missed it, it will need to be corrected at VIMS expense.

Discussion ensued regarding another home that has drainage issues. Councilman Bob Williams spoke about a resolution that was signed and sent to VDOT regarding Center Street. Councilman Bob Williams stated that he was awaiting their response. He spoke about Lynn Rodgers problem in her back yard. He believes that there was a pipe there that was crushed.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that this was not a VDOT problem.

Councilman Bob Williams and Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that a garage was built over the drainfield.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated the culverts were inundated of rain. He stated he was monitoring the amount of rain for VIMS and it was 7 ¼ inches of rain, the day that Lynn Rodgers had flooding.

Mayor Fred Janci stated we need to reinforce our ordinances regarding the culverts.

Councilman Bob Williams asked if we had a price for digging out the ditches.

Mayor Fred Janci replied, "we do not have a price for the South ditch. The work will not be done until the fall because of the turtles living there."

Alene Elliott said she would have Charles put together an estimate.

XIV. Derelict Properties

Councilman Bob Bilicki spoke about a letter that was sent by Charlie Gible and signed by Mayor Fred Janci regarding 6 High St. Bob asked, "could we have JD and John cut the grass. It should be cut at least three times."

Mayor Fred Janci stated, "we will have the guys do the mowing at the \$300.00, owner's expenses."

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that not much progress has been made on the Old Buddy Barnes home.

Mayor Fred Janci reported the new owner cannot work on the home due to injuries. We will give him some time.

XV. Tourism

Councilman Bob Bilicki spoke about a sign that the town would sublet from Wardius along route 13. He is getting pricing for the sign. It will be an aluminum painted sign.

Councilman Bob Bilicki wanted to open discussion and call for a vote.

Councilman Margo Digan spoke about another sign that also needed repairs.

Mayor Fred Janci stated we need a presence on 13.

Wardius stated Wachapreague will be on top of the sign. The Inn will take the bottom area. The size is 7X16.

Councilman Bob Bilicki made a motion to spend no more that \$2500 on the sign.

Councilman Glen Schaglin 2nd.

Vote was taken.

Councilman Bob Bilicki	Yes
Councilman Glen Schagelin	Yes
Councilman Stephen Joseph	Yes
Councilman Bob Williams	Yes
Councilman Margo Digan	Yes
Vice Mayor Sandi Puchalski	Absent

Councilman Bob Bilicki spoke about the CBES Rider event that will happen in October.

XVI. Safety and Security

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated there were some street lights that needed repair.

Councilman Glen Schagelin asked about the speed sign. He inquired as to whether we had the information to call the sheriff.

Councilman Bob Williams stated the police usually will not give tickets unless the driver is going over 10 miles per hour. He said they will not put a patrol car in town until we can show a significant amount of people driving 10 miles over the speed limit.

Mayor Fred Janci spoke about Charles Elliott being a police officer for the town.

Elena Elliott said he had been an S cop.

Mayor Janci spoke with Belle Haven Mayor, who would be interested in hiring our police officer to help with our speeding, basketball court etc. Mayor Fred said he was planning on contacting other small towns in the area to see if they would be interested in sharing our police and expense. Mayor Janci asked Councilman Margo to check for a used police car.

XVII. Streets and Drainage

Councilman Margo spoke about a pot hole in front of Joe's house. She said that it is bad.

Councilman Bob Williams said he will look at the pothole and see what VDOT will do.

XVIII. Zoning Administrator

Mayor Fred Janci asked if the Zoning Administer job had been posted.

T.C. Charlie Gible said yes it had been posted in the Eastern Shore Post.

Mayor Fred Janci spoke about the dredge spoil site. He had a survey that showed the town's boundaries. He said extensive research has been done regarding the towns survey

He pointed out the 7 acres that the Byrds are claiming as their property. He said their survey just shows a few plots, and it was not a very thorough survey.

Mayor Janci stated we need to take this to an attorney.

Discussion ensued regarding what town attorney we should use. Mayor Janci said we need to replace Attorney David Rowen. Janci would like to stick with someone local. Mayor Janci asked Councilman Bob Bilicki if he would contact

Attorney Custis. Council Bob Bilicki said they have used him and he specializes in land. He will check into it.

Councilman Bob Bilicki reported the Fishbacks are selling their home to VIMS. He has commitments from the Dean and the CFO of VIMS for the spirit of the idea to move the house. They will turn it over to a demo contractor to either demo the house or move it. He thought the ideal one would be Robin Straka. They have the red trailer on 36 Brooklyn.

He also spoke to Lyndsay Paul about moving it to his property.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that we need to put a line around VIMS regarding expansion.

Mayor Fred Janci stated that we need an area that is zoned intuitional. He said, "there are new people on the planning commission. They have some experience and may look at things a little differently."

Mayor Fred Janci and Councilman Stephen Joseph said we should outline what VIM currently owns and "hem" them in so they cannot spread. Councilman Bob Bilicki agreed. Do the line straight down Brooklyn where VIMS start and go straight down.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that he thinks the property along Main Street, where Patricia Braggs, Teaser's, and Glenn's place are, should all be zoned commercial.

Councilman Bob Bilicki spoke about a letter he received from John Joeckel regarding a pilot program in lieu of taxes for VIMS. He spoke with an attorney to protect himself. He is working on a program. Now we are losing another home that paid taxes.

XIX. Historical District

Town Clerk Charlie Gible read a letter that was submitted by Jim Bell regarding the progress of the Historic District. He would like to do a presentation at the June Town Council Meeting.

XX. July 4th

Town Clerk Charlie stated that they were planning a 4th of July Parade. She suggested the weekend of the 4th.

Council members stated that they always tried to do it on the 4th. TC Charlie Gible stated, "end the parade at Powel Park because it would be shadier".

Mayor Fred Mayor said, "the town needs to be involved. It cannot just fall on the council."

Councilman Margo said we thought about going down main and ending at Powel Park.

Mayor Fred Janci said they started the parade at Quimby Road.

Councilman Stephen Joseph stated that Norfolk used to have a picnic where everyone would bring their own food and Decorate their table with themes. The tables would be judged.

XX1 New Business

Councilman Bob Bilicki talked about a meeting regarding the Birdwatching platform to be held June 10th from 4 to 6 pm at Seaside Hall. He will be advertising this in the Eastern Shore Post.

XX. Adjournment

Councilman Glenn Schaglin motioned to adjourn

Councilman Bob Bilicki 2nded. All Agreed.