

# TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

December 9, 2021

## **COUNCIL PRESENT:**

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

### **I. Town Council Meeting**

Meeting began at 7:00 PM

Councilman Glen Schagelin said the prayer.  
Pledge of Allegiance followed

## **TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE COUNCIL MEETING**

- Mayor Fred Janci called the meeting to order.

### **I. Public comments**

Gene Gibson thanked everyone that participated in meeting today in discussing the problem dealt with the past several years. He also thanked all those who has been involved along the way.

### **II. Town Council Meeting**

- November minutes were reviewed. Councilman Bob Williams motioned to accept the minutes for November 11, 2021. Vice Mayor Puchalski 2<sup>nd</sup>ed the motion, all agreed.
- October 14th minutes were reviewed. Councilman Glen Schagelin motioned to accept October 2021 minutes, Margo 2<sup>nd</sup>ed. All agreed.

### **III. Review of Financial Report**

- Mayor asked to review the town budget.
  - Councilman Bob Williams asked why the transient taxes were down.
  - Council discussed who owed transient taxes. It was requested to see the difference between last year and this year.
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- Mayor Janci asked if everyone had a chance to review the Port Financials for November 2021.
  - Councilman motioned to approve the Budget for the port of Wachapreague.  
Councilman Glen Schagelin motioned to approve the budget. Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski 2<sup>nd</sup>ed the motion, all agreed.

#### **IV. Unfinished Business**

##### **A. Ordinances**

*Councilman Bob Williams stated that very few changes have been made to the ordinances.*

*He reported the leash laws were changed to be compatible with the county.*

*Councilman Bob Williams said he wanted to explain the ordinance, state the number and the title of the ordinance and have Council vote.*

##### *II-1 Motor Vehicle Violation*

*Councilman Margo- Motioned*

*Councilman Glen- 2<sup>nd</sup>ed*

*All agreed.*

##### *I-2 Regulate parking within the town of Wachapreague*

*Councilman Margo –Motioned*

*Councilman Glen- 2<sup>nd</sup>ed*

*All agreed.*

##### *111-3 Vehicle License Tags*

*Vice Mayor Sandie –Motioned*

*Councilman Margo-2<sup>nd</sup>ed*

*All agreed.*

##### *I-4 Removal of Debris*

*Vice Mayor Sandie –Motioned*

*Councilman Margo-2<sup>nd</sup>ed*

*All agreed.*

##### *I-5 Dangerous Structures*

*Vice Mayor Sandie –Motioned*

*Councilman Margo-2<sup>nd</sup>ed*

*All agreed.*

##### *III-1 Boat Operations on Finney Creek-No Wake Zone*

*Councilman Glen -Motioned*

*Vice Mayor Sandie-2<sup>nd</sup>ed*

*All agreed.*

##### *IV-2 Control Animal Waste within the town of Wachapreague*

*Councilman Margo Digan –Motioned*

*Councilman Glenn Schagelin - 2<sup>nd</sup>ed*

*All agreed.*

*IV-3 Control the running of at large domestic canines in the Town of Wachapreague, for the safety of all residents, visitor, and animals.*

*Councilman Margo Digan –Motioned*

*Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski -2<sup>nd</sup>ed*

*All agreed.*

IV-3 Accomack County Ordinance Sec.10-2, running at large of animals and Fowl, including exotic animals, prohibited; keeping poisonous animals prohibited.

Councilman Glen -Motioned

Vice Mayor Sandie-2<sup>nded</sup>

All agreed.

IV-4 Ordinance to endorse code of VA tethering law.

Councilman Margo Digan –Motioned

Councilman Glen-2<sup>nded</sup>

All agreed.

VI-2 Ordinance regarding political posters or advertisements.

Councilman Glen –Motioned

Vice Mayor Sandie-2<sup>nded</sup>

All agreed.

VI-3 Ordinance regarding the noise in the Town of Wachapreague

Councilman Glen –Motioned

Gene asked what we were doing about the noise.

He commented that decibels at Darryl's is at 40 decibels.

He spoke about different scenarios regarding loud noise and what are we going to do about decibels' levels? He was concerned the decibels' levels are too high.

Councilman Steve Joseph asked if someone is disturbing the peace and do we have a recourse?

Vice Mayor Sandie said we would call the sheriff.

Councilman stated if the noise is a nuisance, you can enforce the ordinance.

There was much discussion regarding the ordinance, the decibels and nuisance levels of noise.

Councilman Bob Bilicki motioned removal of the decibel levels in the ordinance and said to just make it a nuisance issue.

Councilman Steve Joseph requested we talked more about this ordinance at the next ordinance meeting.

It was decided that council will discuss this ordinance more thoroughly.

Councilman Glenn Schagelin withdrew his motion. Councilman Margo withdrew her 2<sup>nded</sup>

VI-5 Ordinance regarding curfew for the Town of Wachapreague.

Mayor Janci –Motioned

Councilman Margo -2<sup>nded</sup>

All agreed.

VI-7 Ordinance to change Municipal Elections from May to November. (This ordinance had been previously voted on. The number of the ordinance needed changed.)

Vice Mayor Sandie-motioned

Councilman Margo -2<sup>nded</sup>

All agreed.

Councilman Bob Bilicki asked about putting the ordinances on the website.

Mayor Janci and the council agreed it should be.

Councilman Bob Williams said he would give the book to Charlie to keep at the town hall.

This book is not to be removed from there.

## **B. Grants**

- Cares account has been zeroed out.

## **C. HRSD**

- Mayor Fred Janci said Rob Duma has the final sewer update. Mayor Janci stated he received the report in the email today (Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022) and hadn't had a chance to review.

It was decided the HRSD project would be discussed next town hall meeting.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated he was at a Chamber of Commerce Meeting. He reported that Delegate Rob Bloxom, and Senator Lewis Lynwood were in favor of the grants for HRSD. They are also were supported by Congresswoman Elaine Luria. Councilman Bilicki stated that Delegate Rob Bloxom was looking to bundle Wachapreague, Parksley, Tasley, and the civic buildings of Accomac. He reported that he was sent two links from the Dan Buckley, project manager of HRSD, about grant money possibilities for this project.

Councilman Bob Bilicki forwarded those links to the proper people.

Councilman Glenn stated that Exmore is doubtful that they will get the \$19,000,000 to do their project.

Mayor Fred stated that they have a lot more issues.

- Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that VIMS received a change order to switch from a drain field to a holding tank station. They are having it evaluated by a professional estimating company. Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that it is the intent of Delegate Bob Bloxom and Councilman Bob Bilicki to have the deduction be applied to the HRSD funding.

## **D. Marina**

- Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski stated that they are waiting for estimates for the biannual scraping of the oysters and barnacle on the pilings.
- Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski reported she is waiting on estimates on replacing the pressure tanks. They are looking into doing 2 larger ones versus the 3 smaller ones. She thinks the price will be between \$1000.00 and \$1500.00.  
She is also waiting for an estimate for a light on the T-dock.

## **E. Town Maintenance**

- Council Glenn Schagelin said there is no controversy.
- Councilman Margo Digan spoke about the HR paper and the maintenance agreements.
- Mayor Fred Janci spoke about the garbage truck. He stated that council will go into closed session after the meeting.

## **F. Powell Park**

- Vice Mayor Sandi discussed the right- away used for old dump property. She reported that someone was buying the old dump and would like a gate installed so he may use the easement between his two properties. Vice Mayor reported that the entire cost for the gate and hardware would be under \$600.00. Richie would be happy to install it for free.

Steve Judge, a gentleman in the audience, talked about the easement and the park. He stated there are drain fields under the ballpark. He said the houses around there have a septic tank that pumps to the ballfield.

Steve Judge said that was a deeded easement that belongs to the owner of the dumpsite.

He also said there are property markers that run along the easement.

No one was aware of the information he provided.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that we should do a site plan and have it signed.

Discussion continued regarding the gate. It was decided to do more research on the gate, the easement and the location of the town's property.

It was decided that more research would be completed before a gate would be installed.

#### **G. Seaside Park**

- Councilman Margo spoke about the bids she received from Charles and Donald regarding mowing and cleanup for Seaside Park. They would do it for \$800.00 a month. This would total \$6400.00 for the cutting season. She said this would include the Seaside Park, Dog Park, Marina, Powel Park, and the Bird Outlook.

Councilman Margo and Councilman Glenn Schagelin, both, had another person look at all the areas that are mowed: Seaside Park, Dog Park, Marina, Powel Park, and the Bird Outlook.

They are waiting for estimates.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated these bids need to be in writing, and it should compare "apples to apples".

#### **H. Tourism**

- Councilman Bob Bilicki reported the Robert Sabatini, the new Director of Tourism, and the Chamber of Commerce, will be meeting at the Island House next Friday to discuss what can be asked for in funding. He thought we may be able to get funding for the bird watching site, the kayak launch, and other ideas the planning board may have.
- Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that Randy Lewis is the leaser of the Wachapreague sign. He stated the location is approved by VDOT for a sign. He talked about putting a Wachapreague sign there and incorporating it with another sign. His charges are \$400.00 a month. The town would split this amount, paying only \$200.00 each month.
- Councilman Bilicki spoke about doing a festival of lights in Wachapreague. He stated that there would be people taking pictures of homes with Christmas lights in Wachapreague. He also spoke about doing a Festival of Trees next year. Councilman Stephen Joseph spoke about the Festival of Trees that is celebrated in Nantucket. He said that trees are placed along the road and groups of people are delegated a tree to decorate.
- Councilman Bilicki also talked about a possible boat parade for next year.

#### **I. Derelict Properties**

- Councilman Glen Schagelin inquired about the Vodvarka Trailer Park. Councilman Bob Bilicki reported he was told to stand down. Councilman Stephen Joseph said according to FEMA rules, the trailers are supposed to be moved every six months. This has not happened. They have been in violation for decades.

#### **J. Safety and Security**

- Councilman Bob Bilicki spoke about Allen Stevens' and his witnessing sparks coming from the town's Christmas lights. Councilman Bilicki said that we may want to add new lights to the tourism budget for next year. It was stated that ANEC was contacted for repairs. Councilman Joseph said he spoke with the electrician

who said they would be safe and would not need to be turned off for 2021 Christmas season.

#### **K. Zoning**

- Mayor Janci said he issued a permit for a garage on Main St.

#### **L. Streets and Drainage**

- Councilman Margo asked what was being done regarding cleaning the ditches.  
Mayor Fred said if someone wants his ditch cleaned to call into town hall.
- Councilman Bilicki spoke about removal of trees along the culvert where water travels. He said 2 bushes were added for every tree removed.

#### **M. Planning Commission**

- Councilman Margo stated a meeting was called and only 3 members showed up, plus Jim Bell who is not a member. This has been a recurring event.  
Councilman Margo stated that one letter needs to be sent out to members regarding this problem, and another letter to find members that would like to be a part of the committee.  
Councilman Digan said she would compose the letters.
- Vice Mayor Puchalski asked for direction of the council regarding the gate very soon.  
Councilman Joseph said they would want the schematics.  
Councilman Bob Bilicki said Accumac maps would be a good source.
- Mayor Janci said we need to vote to go into closed session to discuss a lawn maintenance contract.  
Councilman Glenn Schagelin motioned.  
Vice Mayor Sandie 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
All Agreed.