

TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

May 13, 2021

COUNCIL PRESENT: Sandie Puchalski, Vice Mayor; Robert Williams;
Robert Bilicki; Glenn Schagelin; Stephen Joseph, Margo Digan
COUNCIL ABSENT: Fred Janci, Mayor
TOWN CLERK: Charlie Gibble

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

- **Call to Order** – Fred Janci, Mayor called to Order the Town Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 12th, 2021, in the Wachapreague Vol. Fire House in Wachapreague, VA.
- **Pledge of Allegiance** – Mayor Fred Janci led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- **Opening Prayer**- Councilman Glen Schagelin led the meeting in prayer.
- **IV Public Comments** – Mayor Janci welcomed everyone and opened the floor for Public Comments.
 - Bonnie Hill had complaints regarding the home on 1 Custis St. The lawn isn't cut right. They have an electric mower and have only mowed part of it. She also complained about an unregistered car in their yard.
 - Mayor Fred Janci stated that we do not have any ordinance that stipulate unregistered cars are not allowed on their owner's property.
 - Bonnie Hill also complained about overgrowth of ivy, growing up on trees, and bamboo.
 - Councilmen Bob Bilicki stated there are ordinances regarding the overgrowth of Bamboo in VA.
 - Councilman Bob Williams said Tomeka Watkinson is working on updating the ordinances and it will take time to have this completed.
 - Councilman Bob Bilicki asked Charlie to send a letter to the owner of the house on 1 Custis St.
 - The neighbor residing next to Powell Park Basketball Court had complaints regarding the basketball courts located there. She said they use bad language, play loud music, leave trash at the court, and use their headlights to shine on the courts at night.
 - Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski said they have spoken to them and there are signs up regarding these actions and what times they are allowed to use the Park.
 - Also, there is no excuse for their actions.
 - Mayor Fred Janci suggested padlocking the gates.
 - Councilman Margo suggested locking the courts up at a certain hour every day. It was the concern of several councilmen who would be responsible of locking up the basketball court.
 - Mayor Fred Janci stated he would head over to the basketball court after the meeting to speak to them.

- Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski asked to give them a month to resolve this issue
- Mayor Fred Janci stated he will tell the group that they need to be out by dark, no foul language, and clean up their trash.
- A conversation ensued as to having a set time to close the park instead of saying the park is closed after dark.
- Vice Mayor Sandie stated the Coastguard, also, uses the basketball court.
- The neighbor asked why they don't move the basketball court there.
- Vice mayor said they tried but other people were using the court and the Chief had it removed.
- Councilman Margo Digan said they have been fighting this for 2 years. She suggested we make it for residence only.
- Vice Mayor Puchalski said that would not work because the courts are used for other activities such as Pickle Ball and several of these people are from out of town.
- The Neighbor suggested taking the hoops down.
- Vice Mayor Sandie said, " Let's give it 30 days."
- Mayor Fred Janci said again he would go over and speak to the kids playing basketball after the meeting and set them straight on the rules. He asked the woman who lives next door what time she would like the court closed. She said 7:00 pm. Mayor Fred Janci asked for feedback and to put it on the agenda for the June 10th meeting.
- Councilman Margo Digan did not want to give them 30 days.
- Mayor Fred Janci said they have 30 days, and it will come back as old business next month.
- Councilman Stephen Joseph asked if we could vote on taking the basketball rim down now.
- Mayor Fred Janci said we need to put it on as old business for our next meeting, June 10th in order to vote on it. He stated we cannot at this time.

V. Council Meeting

Mayor Janci asked if April Minutes were reviewed.

- A motion to accept minutes was made by Councilman Bob Bilicki, seconded by Councilman Margo. A vote was taken and all approved.

VI. Review of Financial Report

Mayor Janci asked if everyone had a chance to review the Town Financials for April 2021.

- Mayor Janci reviewed *Profit and Loss vs. Actual*. He stated that we are constrained by the budget, and we base our budget on that. There was a complaint from a public member that they did not like how we reviewed the budget. They wanted actual figures not what was in the budget. Council will continue to review the budget as they always have done. Mayor Janci asked if everyone had a chance to review the Town Financials for May 2021. He stated we are 80% into our year, and we have far exceeded what we expected in our meals tax revenue and business licenses. We are running ahead on our property taxes. He reported legal fees are up do to legal revues of ordinances. Conversation amongst the councilmen ensued regarding where to transfer the funds to cover the legal fees. Mayor Janci stated we have only used 38% of the miscellaneous fees. Mayor Janci questioned the \$3882.56 fee from A-NPDC.
- Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski said she would ask Mary Jo about that expense.

- VM Puchalski made a motion to accept financials and Councilman Margo Digan seconded the motion. A vote was taken and all approved.

Mayor Janci asked if everyone had a chance to review the Port Financials for May 2021.

- Mayor Janci reviewed Profit and Loss vs. Actual. He stated we are up 77%.
- VM Puchalski stated Marina is doing very well. She stated transient slips income is up and the outstanding balance has been paid.
 - Vice Mayor Sandy Puchalski made a motion to accept May 2021 financials and Councilman Margo Digan seconded the motion. A vote was taken and all approved.

VII. Unfinished Business

A. HRSD

- Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that he gave every one an update from the kick-off meeting on May 12th. Rob Duhma will be available to speak at VIMS Seaside Hall for the June for the Zoom meeting at VIMS Seaside Hall.
- Mayor Janci stated that there was nothing on the commitment letter from VIMS stating that they will cover the \$150,000-\$200,000 needed for the pump and haul. He inquired if VIMS were going to pick up the financial responsibilities and/or apply for a grant to cover the \$200,000 needed.

B.

C. Marina

- VM Puchalski stated marina is doing well.
- VM Puchalski said all the work has been done.
- VM Puchalski said that the flounder tournament did well. They had one snag the last day due to the dog run and parking issues.

D. Town Maintenance/Garbage (Repairs)

- Councilman G. Schagelin stated the guys are fine. He stated that JD wanted to know what the town was going to do for them regarding a cost of living raise.
- Time clocks were discussed and what the job description for the maintenance crew is.
- Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that Dave Shields always has about eight bags of trash at his home that is from construction work from other areas.
- Councilmen Glen Schagelin said he would stop by and talk to Dave.

E. Powell Park

- VM Puchalski reported that she has seen people using the new Doggie Park. She stated Powel Park is fine.

F. Seaside Park

- Councilman Margo Digan stated that she thought that Stephen Joseph was in charge of Seaside Park.
- Councilman Stephen Joseph said no one had assigned that to him.
- Councilman Margo Digan stated the town sign needed repairs. She asked if there was extra money in tourism to make repairs on the sign.

- Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that Andy from the Eastern Shore Company was to repair the sign.
- Councilman Margo Digan asked to have the Bocce Ball court rolled. It cost \$10.00 a day to rent a roller. She asked Councilman Stephen if he would rent one and use the money from the budget for Seaside Park. Councilman Stephan Joseph agreed.

G. Town Beautification

Councilman M. Digan said Town Beautification was covered under Seaside Park.

H. Tourism

- Councilman R. Bilicki stated that he liked Councilmen Margo Digan's idea of doing Movies in the Park.
- Town Clerk Charlie Gible suggested building a wood frame and stretching a screen over it to show the movies due to the fact the area is windy.
- Council members liked the idea of doing a movie night for the town of Wachapreague July 4th. Councilman Bob Bilicki will do further investigation.

I. Derelict Properties

- Councilman R. Bilicki reported several derelict properties that need letters sent to and files started regarding Joe Vodvarka, Birdnest Investments Corp, Susan Brown, Gazelle, and Patricia and John Bragg.
- Councilman Bob Bilicki also spoke about the FEMA rules regarding the mobile homes on Joe Vodvarka's property. He stated they need to be mobile and moved every 180 days.
- Councilman Bob Bilicki reported that several mobile homes at Fisher's Lodge are situated on drain fields.

J. Safety and Security

- Councilman Bob Williams spoke about an email that Town Clerk Charlie had sent him regarding a dog that came after a women on Liberty St. Wachapreague. He suggested sending a letter to the tenants of 19 Liberty St.
- Councilman Bob Bilicki also stated that one should be set to the owner, Matt Hart.

K. Zoning Administrator's Report

- Mayor Janci stated he had nothing new to report.

L. Streets and Drainage

- Councilman Bob Williams spoke to Councilman Glen Schagelin regarding a ditch on Liberty St near the compound that needs cleaned out.

M. Floodplain Administrator/CRS Coordinator/ A-NPDC/RAFT

- Councilman R. Williams reported that there was nothing new to report on RAFT.
- Councilman R. Williams reported that the CRS rating will stay the same.

N. Planning Commission

- Councilman M. Digan said they would be rescheduling their meeting. They had to cancel due to an illness.

O. Historic District

- Vice Mayor reported the Jim Bell sent a letter regarding the Historic District; it was included in the packet for the meeting.

P. CARE Grant

- Nothing to report

Q. Birdwatching Platform

- Councilman Bob Bilicki reported he spoke with the group involved in this project and stated they have a few other projects they are doing but they are still working on the Birdwatching Platform.
- **R. Truck on Atlantic**
- Councilman Margo Digan stated she read the minutes through last July to see if there were any open items that had not been closed. She inquired what was being done regarding the Box Truck on Atlantic Avenue that is partially parked on the road and nor registered.
- Mayor Janci said It was decided by council that the ordinances needed to be updated before we can proceed further regarding unregistered cars on properties.

R. Seaside Park

- Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski stated there should be a fee for Seaside Park just like there is for Powell Park.

S. Table at Town Hall

- Bob Bilicki stated he will take care of the table.

T. \$1000 will be donated to the Fire Department.

U. Yard Sales in Wachapreague

- Council agreed to have a town yard sale on June 12th from 8 am to noon.

V. Signers for Town and Marina

- Council agreed to appoint Treasurer Mary Jo Tatum as custodian for the town of Wachapreague and Marina bank accounts.

W. Public Budget meeting was scheduled for 6:30 followed by town meeting and update from Hotel feasibility available on zoom at VIMS Seaside Hall.

XII. Adjournment

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Sandy and second by Mayor Janci. All approved.

MAYOR

TOWN CLERK

6/10/2021