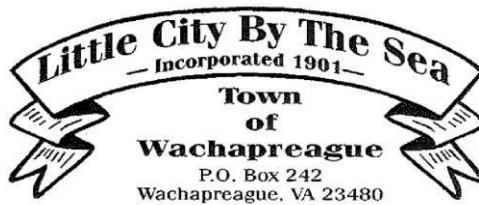




**Marina**  
757-787-1930



**Town  
of  
Wachapreague**  
P.O. Box 242  
Wachapreague, VA 23480



**Town Office**  
757-787-7117

**Absent: Charles Elliott, Mayor**  
**Robert Hipple, Councilman**

**Town Council Present:**

Sandie Puchalski, Vice Mayor  
Robert Bilicki  
Craig L. Baker  
Aileen Joeckel  
Robert Hipple  
Glen Schagelin

Clerk: Susan Springer

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**May 14, 2026**  
**VIMS SEASIDE HALL**

**Town Council Meeting**

Meeting began at 7:00 pm

- I. Vice Mayor Puchalski called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. Councilman Schagelin led the meeting Prayer.
- III. **Public Comments.**

Resident Cindi Bowen shared news and details of a fundraiser she is sponsoring, for a Cure for Coats Disease, Sunday June 21<sup>st</sup> at Powell Park. The fundraiser will feature a 5K walk/run in Town. Planning and Zoning Commission Chair Jim Bell spoke on two issues: 1) items from the July minutes cannot be struck according to State Code, and should be reversed. After discussion Vice Mayor Puchalski determined that since the video shows the presentation the video stands as documentation and nothing further is needed. 2) the Town currently only has 4 members on its Board of Zoning Appeals, 5 are needed to be in compliance with State Code, and encouraged the Council to place that on the their agenda to amend.

#### IV. Approval of Minutes

Approval of Town Council Workshop – April 2, 2026

Motion to accept made by Councilman Joeckel

Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vice Mayor Puchalski

	Yes	No	Absent
Sandie Puchalski			
Bob Bilicki	X		
Aileen Joeckel	X		
Craig Baker	X		
Robert Hipple	X		X
Glenn Schagelin	X		
Charles Elliott – if in tie			X

Approval of Town Council Meeting – April 9, 2026

Motion to accept made by Councilman Schagelin

Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Joeckel

	Yes	No	Absent
Sandie Puchalski			
Bob Bilicki	X		
Aileen Joeckel	X		
Craig Baker	X		
Robert Hipple	X		X
Glenn Schagelin	X		
Charles Elliott – if in tie			X

Approval of Town Council Workshop – April 30, 2026

Motion to accept as amended made by Councilman Joeckel

Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vice Mayor Puchalski

	Yes	No	Absent
Sandie Puchalski			
Bob Bilicki	X		
Aileen Joeckel	X		
Craig Baker	X		
Robert Hipple	X		X
Glenn Schagelin	X		
Charles Elliott – if in tie			X

## V. Review of Financial Reports

Approval of Town of Wachapreague April 2026

Motion made by Councilman Joeckel

Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Schagelin

	Yes	No	Absent
Sandie Puchalski	X		
Bob Bilicki	X		
Aileen Joeckel	X		
Craig Baker	X		
Robert Hipple			X
Glenn Schagelin	X		
Charles Elliott – if in tie			X

Approval of Port of Wachapreague March 2026

Motion made by Councilman Bilicki

Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Schagelin

	Yes	No	Absent
Sandie Puchalski	X		
Bob Bilicki	X		
Aileen Joeckel	X		
Craig Baker	X		
Robert Hipple			X
Glenn Schagelin	X		
Charles Elliott – if in tie			X

## VI. Unfinished Business

### A. Maintenance

Councilman Schagelin reported all equipment was operating and a new employee had been hired to fill the recent vacancy and he was doing well.

### B. Powell Park

Vice Mayor Puchalski reported the tree debris had been picked up and the new mulch delivered and spread. It was noted the playground equipment still needed to be power washed.

### C. Seaside Park

Councilman Baker requested the park be given a little extra care for Memorial Day, nothing further to report.

### D. HRSD

Councilman Bilicki noted that with the completion of Phase II and resolve of billing understanding, this item could be taken off the Agenda.

**E. Derelict properties.** Discussion touched briefly on the condition of the South Marina, and taking a slightly less abrasive approach as a start to address the condition. Vice Mayor Puchalski offered to call Paul Morris on the phone as a start. Discussion was given to the specific items of concern,

including the roof and the pilings, and their potential liability as well as the potential negative effect on the sale of the Island House. It was decided that after Mayor Puchalski completed her phone call the Town would wait 30 days before sending a more forceful message. Discussion was given to the tall grass and condition of the small house at 50 Main Street. Vice Mayor Puchalski noted she needed to talk the owner regarding his slip rental and would bring up the conditions at that property.

#### **F. Marina**

Vice Mayor Puchalski reported the dredging is complete, the soundings have been completed and are good. Reimbursement is forthcoming for the use of the spoils site by the others who dredged, as well as the permit refund from VDOT for road crossing. It was noted the large no wake sign in Finney Creek still needed to be reinstalled. Nothing else to report except that the Marina did well during the flounder tournament and was doing well all around.

#### **G. Tourism**

Councilman Joeckel reported light box updates and the possibility of an event to coincide with the release of Carter Andrew's piece on the Eastern Shore, more on that in the upcoming months.

#### **H. Floodplain Administrator/CRS Coordinator/RAFT**

Councilman Bilicki reported on the CFPF Coastal Resiliency Grant project, noting the recent kick off meeting with the steering committee and the consultant Weston and Sampson. He noted the work with Councilman Hipple to determine the number one concern the Town has to incorporate into the Plan being stormwater and tidal influence. That plan is moving forward with progress and will be featuring an open to the public workshop this summer, where residents can express their concerns and speak with the consultants as well as view the preliminary work by the consultants. From there the consultants will take the input from residents back and incorporate it in to the final draft which should be ready in about 6 months and presented to Council. The final plan, completed by flood plain engineers and specialists, will include outlines and estimates costs, which can then be taken to the State for funding. Discussion then turned to the completion of the sewer system, with the intent to run the collection system throughout town, which the current pump station can support, so that property owners would have the option to tap in should they want to or should they need to due to a failing septic. Discussion then returned to stormwater and tidal influence, and the possibility of using flood gates. Longtime resident Randy Powell shared his experience with flood gates and their failure due to street overwash. It was suggested that perhaps elevation changes would be needed to property engineer flood gates to be effective. Councilman Bilicki reported on the consultant's suggestion that in return for funding to repair his bulkhead, the owner of 27 Atlantic Ave would give a perpetual easement for access on the bulkhead, to facility water front access for viewing and fishing.

#### **I. Town Beautification**

No updates.

#### **J. Safety/Security**

Councilman Schagelin reported the last 30 days were calm with no reports of concerns.

#### **K. Streets and Drainage**

In the absence of Councilman Hipple it was noted that the drainage ditch projects were moving along well now as well as the recent work and attention VDOT has been giving to the town stre

**L. Planning Commission**

Planning and Zoning Commission Chair Jim Bell stated that the Commission was meeting quarterly and suggested the Town Council Agenda be amended to include this item only after the P&Z Commission’s quarterly meetings.

**M. VIMS/PILOT**

No updates.

**VII. New Business**

Discussion was given to the final payment of former Town Attorney Carl Bundick, after discussion the Council chose to go forward with payment in full.

Vice Mayor Puchalski made the statement that per an email received by Mayor Elliott, he was not attending the meeting of May 14<sup>th</sup> because he had not received information he had requested. It was noted that the Mayor has access to all agendas, meeting minutes and reports and is included in all town business emails. Nothing further on this subject.

Discussion was given to the recent interviews with potential Town Attorney Mike Sterling, with positive feedback. It was noted this attorney agreed to help with resolution between Mayor Elliott and the Council and also suggested resolving the issue of the outstanding Petition by Mayor Elliott for Declaratory Judgement and Injunctive Relief (from the censure). VML/VRSA was contacted but the Town policy has an exclusion for that. Vice Mayor Puchalski stated that Mayor Elliott informed her there was a contract with Carl Bundick. It was noted Town Hall does not possess a copy of a contract in the Carl Bundick file, discussion ensued as to who was Town Clerk when Carl Bundick was hired. The Resolution to remove Carl Bundick as Town Attorney was passed at the April Town Council Meeting. Discussion then returned to moving forward with Mike Sterling as the new Town Council.

Motion made to hire Attorney Mike Sterling to represent the Town of Wachapreague as Town Attorney by Councilman Schagelin.

Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Bilicki.

	Yes	No	Absent
Sandie Puchalski			Present but Abstain
Bob Bilicki	X		
Aileen Joeckel	X		
Craig Baker	X		
Robert Hipple			X
Glenn Schagelin	X		
Charles Elliott – if in tie			X

**VIII. Adjournment**

Motion made by Councilman Schagelin to adjourn.

Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Bilicki All in favor.