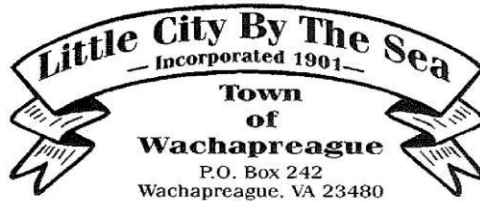




**Marina**  
757-787-1930



**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  
Glen Schagelin

Clerk: Susan Springer

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**March 12, 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.**

Wachapreague Inn owner Chris Wardius spoke on the positive happenings in Town, and stressed despite the Island House closing there are still 18 restaurants within a 10 mile radius of the Town. He described recent renovations to the Office, Gift shop and Guest Rooms and invited all to tour the exciting changes.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

Approval of Town Council Meeting – February 12, 2026

Motion to accept made by Vice Mayor Puchalski

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

	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
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Approval of Town Council Meeting – July 10, 2025 – No Action taken

**V. Review of Financial Reports**

Approval of Town of Wachapreague February 2026

Motion made by Councilman Bilicki

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

	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 February 2026

Motion made by Councilman Schagelin

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

	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**

Mayor Elliott submitted updates via email prior to the meeting and the updates are contained in Attachment A.

**A. Maintenance**

Councilman Schagelin informed members of the possibility of an employee needing several weeks of medical leave. The Council agree to go in to an Executive Session at the end of the Council Meeting to further discuss. Discussion then turned to a continued issue of household trash not being bagged and the problems caused by loose trash debris in trash cans when dumped. The option of leaving courtesy notices was discussed and all agreed to look in to a Town Ordinance to govern trash can weight and use.

**B. Powell Park**

Vice Mayor Puchalski reported on the tree damage by the recent storms. Discussion was then given to the upcoming delivery of mulch for the playground and the need to clean the storm drain ditch that empties in to the Bayview ditch.

**C. Seaside Park**

Councilman Baker noted no news at Seaside Park, however the broken granite bench has still not been repaired by the company that had committed to the repair. Comment was given to the plastic chair now sitting in the Gazabo. All agreed it has been there long enough and could just be removed.

**D. HRSD**

Project Assistant Arthur Mendez reported that everyone on Phase II was hooked up and operational on the sewer system. He noted the only remaining work was some final end of project paperwork. Councilman Bilicki reviewed recent correspondence with HRSD regarding the billing process for Phase I and Phase II and stressed his request to work with HRSD to assure the very lowest rate for the Town in consideration of it being a small community with no metered water. Recent correspondence is Attachment C to these minutes.

**E. Derelict Properties.**

See Attachment A.

**F. Marina**

Vice Mayor Puchalski reported that all VDOT crossing permits had been obtained for the dredging and the dredger was on schedule to arrive by the end of March and complete the work in time for the Capt Zeb’s Flounder Tournament. She noted that the VPA application for next year’s Grant for building maintenance had been submitted and should be approved by end of May. The closed by informing council she would be equipping the Marina with a water proof spill kit to be available for any who signed the fueling waiver.

**G. Tourism**

Councilman Joeckel opened her report with the recent Tourism Commission meeting and their desire to assist Wachapreague in their Tourism endeavors. The Commission offered a bundle package for the Town to pay for the Route 13/Wachapreague Road Light Box (\$2,000 annually) and the Tourism Guide advertising (\$1,250 annually). This would provide 4 rack card spaces for the Light Box (of the Town’s choosing and could highlight the Coffee Shop, Artisans, Fishing etc), the printed advertising in the Tourism Guide as well as features on the Tourism Commissions TV Monitors.

Motion made by Councilman Schagelin to approve a budget of up to \$3150 for the annual light box and travel guide package by the Tourism Council.

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

	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

Discussion then moved to the Island House Restaurant and the possibility of having an international business broker assist however all agreed to give the current owner some time before doing so.

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

Councilman Bilicki reported on the February 18<sup>th</sup> Coastal Resiliency Plan committee kick off meeting and reviewed the representatives from DCR, TNC, A-NPDC and a retired international engineer and survey. He noted recent collaborative efforts with Bob Hipple and his oversight of the storm drain culverts and reviewed the importance of Stormwater Management as well as Tidal Surge Management. He explained that the

Resiliency Plan Engineers, Weston and Sampson, could include a plan for the East to West ditches that could include Tidal surge barriers, or gates. He noted that any such project would have to be a part of the plan in order to qualify for any grant funding and emphasized the importance of being included in the Resiliency Plan Discussion continued as to the issue of the stormwater ditches being owned by private land/homeowners and Councilman Bilicki explained this would be part of the discovery phase if the Resiliency Plan. He further explained that the Engineer would open a portal for input, so the Engineer could sort through the priorities of the plan, including the high priority of stormwater management.

**I. Town Beautification**

No updates.

**J. Safety/Security**

Councilman Schagelin reported no new incidents or concerns have been reported. Councilman Bilicki discussed the recent changes in the street light bulb by his residence and the detriment they are to local wildlife. He explained A&E told him they could be changed back if the Town requested it. Town Clerk Springer encouraged Council, if they agreed, to send the language used (and list of the light poles) they would like changed back to Town Hall email and she would forward it to A&E through the Town email.

**K. Streets and Drainage**

Councilman Hipple submitted updates via email prior to the meeting and the updates are contained in Attachment C.

**L. Planning Commission**

Councilman Joeckel reported the Commission was meeting quarterly and would meet again on the first Tuesday of April. Councilman Bilicki asked if the Finney Creek Property being conveyed to the Nature Conservancy (and ultimately the Town) was on the Commission's agenda, and if not he requested it be added.

**M. VIMS/PILOT**

Councilman Joeckel stated nothing new to report. Councilman Baker stated he investigated further and VIMS does not participate in PILOT programs at any of their campus'.

**VII. New Business**

Discussion was given to the possibility of having the Town purchase the equipment and subscription to produce the meeting live on a platform such as Zoom.

Councilman Joeckel reported on her recent outreaches to various Attorney's for the possibility of Town representation as the Town Attorney and Council discussed recent cases and concerns needed attorney guidance.

There being no further business:

**VIII. Adjournment**

Motion made by Councilman Joeckel to adjourn.

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

**Council adjourned to Executive Session.**