

# Town of Chesapeake City

## Town Council Meeting Minutes

*Monday, January 12, 2026*

Present: Mayor Rich Taylor, Sarah Ford-Ferrara, Frank Vari, Lee Adams, Ed O'Hara, Tonya Lockwood (staff), Brian Hunsberger (staff), Rob Bernstine (staff), Genevieve Macfarlane (attorney)

Absent: Hunter Dann

Mayor Rich Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Approval of Minutes:

*November 10, 2025, Meeting*

**Motion:** Frank Vari made a motion, seconded by Sarah Ford-Ferrara to approve the minutes from the November 10, 2025, Meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

*No December Meeting or November/December Workshops Held.*

Council Reports:

Lee Adams

Water and Sewer- The WWTP is just about wrapped up, the project cost to date is \$13,220,504.00. USDA Funds (close-out complete) Loan- \$1,500,000, Grant- \$5,208,674 & \$30,000. MDE Funds (close-out in review) Grant- \$6,661,830, Grant remainder \$207,069, Reimbursement due to us- \$554,587. There were a few sewer clogs in November, which were cleaned out, in addition to a lateral clean out at 354 Biddle. There was a pump failure at the South Pump Station in January. Pump 1 was reinstalled, pump 2 is currently with DSI for repairs, we are waiting for a quote. Lee read the WWTP flows for last month from the County Report (distributed). We had to repair a 6" water main break at Second and Bohemia in mid-December. Assisted a homeowner on Biddle with a leaking meter and fixed a service leak on Boatyard.

Planning Commission- The Planning Commission met on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, they reviewed and approved a preliminary site plan for Chesapeake Village II. They also met on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, and reviewed and approved one application for the enclosure of an existing open porch. The Zoning Administrator, Rob Bernstine, approved 0 applications since November 10, 2025.

Hunter Dann

Public Safety- No report given in Hunter's absence.

Sarah Ford-Ferrara

Historic District Commission- The Historic District Commission met on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, they reviewed and approved 2 applications for a fence erected without a permit between two adjacent properties. They also met on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, and reviewed and approved 1 application for the enclosure of an existing open porch.

Docks- Moved the North Dock to South Side for Winter Storage.

Ed O'Hara

Economic Development and Tourism- The Christmas Market was seemingly successful despite the cancellation of the Horse Parade due to the EHV-1 (Equine Herpesvirus). Looking forward we will host the Sip and Stroll and the Snowman Sprint in February and the St. Patrick's Day Parade and Vendor Event in March. The Chamber discussed an antique boat show event possibility at their meeting this month. It would start as a one day event and hopefully grow.

Frank Vari

Public Works- We repaired a stormwater catch basin at Lock and Bank Streets last week. There was a repair done on the Charles Street Sidewalk. We met with SHA regarding parking options along the 300 block of George Street. Yard Waste pick-up resumes on Tuesday, March 3, 2026. Christmas Trees will be picked up on both Tuesdays, January 13 and 27, 2026.

Parks and Rec- Minutes from the Parks and Rec Meeting were distributed. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 19, 2026. We received advance funding for the Helen Titter Playground and paid the first invoice for \$90,613.00 for equipment. The Crab Pot Christmas Tree, which was fully funded by donated pots, looks fabulous. The New Year's Day 5k was a huge success. We had 163 Participants and 54 Sponsors, giving an approximate profit of \$6,000.00. CCEA Spaghetti Dinner will be held on Saturday, January 24, from 4 pm to 7 pm.

Rob Bernstine, Town Manager

The Town Manager's Report was distributed to Council.

Brian Hunsberger, Treasurer

The Monthly Financial Reports were distributed and the account balances as of today were read.

Mayor Rich Taylor

The cancellation of the Horse Parade was beyond the control of the event planner. However, moving forward it would be in the Town's best interest to have a contract.

Action Items:

*Bike Rental Contract*

This is the renewal of the existing 3-year contract with Finn Outdoor Adventures. There are a few changes to include only renting at the North Side Location and to send the Town Payment once a year after the summer season concludes.

**Motion:** Lee Adams made a motion, seconded by Ed O'Hara to approve the Bike Rental Contract of 3-years with the above-mentioned changes. All in favor, motion carried.

*Appointment to Historic District Commission – Lisa Gooding*

Appointment to the Historic District Commission for a 3-year term ending 1/11/2029.

**Motion:** Sarah Ford-Ferrara made a motion, seconded by Frank Vari to approve the appointment of Lisa Gooding to the Historic District Commission, for a term of 3 years. All in favor, motion carried.

Discussion Items:

*Boat Docking Contest Event*

Bud Valichka was here to present the concept for a Boat Docking Contest Event in the basin sometime in the late summer or fall. He has been in contact with a company that organizes these events. They are very interested in doing an event in Chesapeake City. A representative from the company will be in Town this Sunday to take a look at the basin and the Town to confirm that this a viable location. They estimate that the event will bring approximately 3,000 people. Bud would like to have the Mayor and Council approval, along with the Chamber for the event. He would like to have all local vendors. They will certainly need approval from the Corp of Engineers for the use of the Basin.

Overall, Council felt it was a great opportunity to look further into.

Bud also mentioned a waterfowl festival as a possible October Event.

Public Comment:

Council Comments:

Lee Adams: Is very excited to hear about the possible antique boat show event.

Frank Vari: Likes all the event ideas.

Adjourn:

**Motion:** Frank Vari made a motion, seconded by Sarah Ford-Ferrara to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 pm. All in favor, motion carried.

*\*An audio recording of this meeting is available upon request.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Tonya Lockwood

Richard L. Taylor, III, Mayor