



Regular Meeting

April 13, 2026

Parksley Volunteer Fire Company – Banquet Hall

Available via Audio

Roll Call

Council members present: Sam Welch, Janice Welch, Ricky Taylor, Brad York, R. Wayne Marshall Jr., Mark Layne

Staff present:

Lauren Lewis – Clerk

Michael McCready – Public Works Supervisor

Mayor Frank A. Russell II presiding

Call to Order and Invocation

Mayor Russell called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Councilman Welch offered a prayer of thanks.

The Lord’s Prayer was recited, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment – Security Concerns

Mr. Henry Nicholson addressed the Council regarding ongoing security concerns within the Town. He reported multiple incidents, including break-ins and the theft of his vehicle, which was later recovered. He expressed frustration with what he perceives as a decline in safety and noted that these issues have been ongoing since November.

Additional residents echoed concerns regarding theft and security. Suggestions included installing cameras at the town's entry points. The Mayor noted prior grant funding for cameras was denied, though additional funding opportunities are being explored.



Council discussed current efforts, including adjusted police coverage hours and coordination with the Accomack County Sheriff's Office, which is assisting with patrols. Limitations were noted due to having only one Town police officer and difficulty hiring additional personnel.

Residents were encouraged to report suspicious activity.

Congressional Visit and Water Project

Council discussed the recent visit from Congresswoman Jen Kiggans and expressed appreciation for her support of Town infrastructure projects, including the \$750,000 funding award for water system improvements.

Approval of Minutes

Councilman York made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 9, 2026, regular meeting. Seconded by Councilman Marshall.

The motion passed with one abstention by Councilman Taylor.

Approval of Bills

Councilman York made a motion to approve payment of the bills. Seconded by Councilman Marshall.

The motion passed unanimously.

Gazebo and Park Improvements

Council discussed consulting legal counsel regarding a waiver associated with the gazebo project.

Additional discussion included:

- Installation of the heart and wishing well feature
- Request for an update on the electrical service to the area

Fire Hydrant Repair / Replacement

Council reviewed a quote from Beauchamp Construction in the amount of \$22,588 to repair or replace two non-functioning hydrants.



Discussion noted ongoing issues with gate valves and the preference to repair where possible prior to full replacement.

Motion by Councilman Marshall: To proceed with Beauchamp Construction to repair hydrants if possible, or replace if necessary, at the discretion of the Public Works Supervisor.

Seconded by Councilman Welch and passed unanimously.

Public Works Requests and Updates

Equipment Rental

A request was made to rent a lift from Ace Hardware of Pocomoke for maintenance tasks, including lighting repairs. Total cost estimated at \$1,267.

Motion by Councilman Marshall: To approve the rental request.

Seconded by Councilwoman Welch and passed unanimously.

Mini Excavator Purchase

Mr. McCready presented an opportunity to purchase a lightly used mini excavator with trailer for \$6,500.

Discussion highlighted cost savings, increased efficiency, and expanded capability for in-house repairs.

Motion by Councilman Layne: To purchase the mini excavator and trailer for \$6,500 pending inspection.

Seconded by Councilman Marshall and passed unanimously.

Gas Tank Use

Discussion was held regarding refilling the Town's 500-gallon gas tank with non-ethanol fuel to reduce fuel trips and costs. Security measures to prevent theft were discussed. No action taken.

Tennis Nets

A request was made to replace the tennis nets at the park at an estimated cost of \$150.



Motion by Councilman Marshall: To approve the purchase of new tennis nets.

Seconded by Councilman York and carried.

Fire Company Report and Events

The Fire Company reported approximately 150 EMS calls and 20 fire responses for the month.

Upcoming events include:

- May 2 – Motorcycle event- American Legion
- May 9 – Antique car show and Alice in Wonderland themed Tea Party
- May 17 – Memorial flag placement

Additional Discussion

- Easter egg hunt was successful with over 2,500 eggs distributed
- Inquiry made regarding the County ditching program
- Discussion regarding enclosing the farmer’s market structure will be addressed at a future work session

Adjournment 8:01 pm

Councilman Marshall made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilman York. The motion passed unanimously.

X Frank A Russell, ii

Frank Russell, Mayor

X Lauren A. Lewis

Lauren Lewis, Clerk