Town of Washington Park

Municipal Building

January 6, 2014

7:00 p.m.

First South Bank General Fund $ 44,469.71

First South Bank Capital Reserve Fund 19,030.78

First South Bank Powell Bill/Checking 21,560.00

First South Bank Powell Bill/Saving CD 90,164.79

First South Bank Capital Reserve Fund/CD 70,941.74

Total $246,167.02

Present Absent

Thomas Richter, Mayor Lee Bowen, Commissioner

Wade Dale, Commissioner

Patrick Nash, Commissioner

Jeff Peacock, Mayor pro tem

Brian Wood, Commissioner

Mayor Richter called the meeting to order and the agenda was approved. The minutes and financial statements were read and approved.

Old Business

Railroad crossing at Hudnell and Park: Mayor Richter will call Mayor Mac Hodges of the City of Washington regarding sending a joint letter to NCDOT and the railroad.

Speeding on Bank Street and College Avenue: The Sheriff’s office has removed the malfunctioning speed wagon. Commissioner Nash will contact Sgt. Zerniak regarding having it placed on streets in the Park if there are further complaints.

Spruce Street ditch: Mayor Richter will contact Sid Hassell, Town Attorney, regarding attending a future meeting on this issue.

Chickens: Mayor Richter is working on a draft of a postcard and draft of a cover letter and will email it to the Board prior to any mailing to residents.

Planning Board membership: The clerk reported that there had been two volunteers from the Town Crier article. Commissioner Nash recommended an extension of one month for volunteers for these positions.

Boats on the waterfront: Commissioner Nash presented proposed guidelines that had been distributed to the Board regarding registering Washington Park residents’ boats on the waterfront and asked for comments. Discussion followed regarding storage of unregistered boats, potential damage to boats and possible liability, locks and chains on boats that are not registered, and charging for key to chains on waterfront. No action was taken and Mayor Richter asked the Board to revisit this issue at the next meeting.

Drainage on the east end of Isabella Avenue: The clerk reported that Commissioner Bowen had spoken with CT Engineering and it was his recommendation that the Town pay for this engineering survey. The Board agreed to wait until Commissioner Bowen was present to discuss this further.

Commissioner Nash made a motion to go into closed session for a personnel issue. Seconded by Commissioner Peacock. Passed by all.

Commissioner Nash made a motion to come out of closed session and return to the regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Bowen. Passed by all.

Reports

Commissioner Wood – reported that there was a large fallen limb about 40’ up in a tree in Three Acre Wood. He said that the men could not reach it and he would like to contact Dudley Landscaping to have this limb dropped.

Mayor pro tem Peacock – no report.

Commissioner Nash – reported that on December 15, 2013 a car had slammed into a utility pole on River Road which caused a power outage in Washington Park. There was also a report of vandalism of a truck at 220 College Avenue.

Commissioner Dale – reported that FinishStrong had sent a $1000 check to reserve the waterfront for the Triathlon on June 27 and 28, 2014. He reported that he had spoken with Amie O’Kane about the fundraising 5K run she had organized and that she had thanked Washington Park for allowing the event. He also asked if the clerk could make sure that the mulch under the swings in the Tot Lot was “fluffed” regularly as a safety precaution.

The clerk reported that Commissioner Bowen wanted to contract for repairs of the speed hump and other areas with James Barwick, but was that he is going to review specific contract language with Selden Taylor before doing so.

Clerk’s Report

The clerk reported three fence permits in December at 407 River Road, 308 River Road, and 106 Spruce Street. She reported that Dudley Landscaping had taken down the two trees behind 706 Shorewood Drive (in Three-Acre Wood); that Washington Park had not received the bulk of the ad valorem taxes in December, but that she had been assured by the Assistant County Manager that they would be sent in January and February. She reported that she had paid Bragaw & Company for the commercial liability, fire, and wind insurance in full for the year at a cost of $4640, up $660 from last year. She said that she had contacted the NC League of Municipalities for a quote which was $7259 for the same coverage. She updated the Board regarding the annual National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System review, noting that on 12/10/13 Washington Park had been reviewed by the CRS and would continue with an 8 rating. The clerk asked Board members to begin thinking about areas of expense in anticipation of the 2014-2015 budget preparations.

The clerk gave the supervisor’s report saying that there were no manpower issues, but the dump truck was producing smoke upon use, and that perhaps injectors or valve guides were the problem. Mr. Wood will take the truck to Commercial Truck or Coastal Diesel Service for evaluation of the problem.

Commissioner Nash asked about the brick fence that had fallen down on Walnut Street. Mayor Richter said that he would write a letter asking about the fence.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Denise D. Dale

 Clerk, Town of Washington Park