

**Town of Washington Park
Municipal Building
January 7, 2013
7:00 p.m.**

First South Bank	General Fund	\$ 44,979.47
First South Bank	Capital Reserve Fund	19,030.78
First South Bank	Powell Bill/Checking	17,319.21
First South Bank	Powell Bill/Saving CD	89,810.42
First South Bank	Capital Reserve Fund/CD	70,092.25
Total		\$241,232.13

Present

Thomas Richter, Mayor
Jeff Peacock, Mayor pro tem
Lee Bowen, Commissioner
Patrick Nash, Commissioner
Jim Pagnani, Commissioner
Don Wilkinson, Commissioner

Absent

Mayor Richter called the meeting to order and the agenda was approved.

Mayor Richter called on Ryan Cowell. Ryan said that he had his last workday at Three-Acre Wood on December 8, and that he had made his final report to the Eagle Board. He was made an Eagle Scout on December 19. He thanked the Board for their support in his project. He presented a check for \$57.80 to the Town of Washington Park which represented more funds raised than he had used for the project. The Mayor and Board thanked Ryan for all his work.

Mayor Richter called on Dan Winfield who said he was there to complain about his neighbor's yard at 320 Isabella Avenue. He asked if the Board could do anything about the upkeep of that property. H stated that there were limbs and pine straw all over the yard in November and December that were an eyesore. Mayor Richter stated that there was not much we could do because our ordinances did not address the specific problem of appearance, other than the ordinance regarding noxious weeds and height of unmown grasses. Mayor Richter said that the Building Inspector had viewed the property within the past eighteen months and reported that it was not legally deteriorated or dilapidated. Mr. Winfield asked if the Park maintenance people would maintain the Town's right-of-way in front of 320 Isabella. The mayor agreed that the Town's right-of-way would be maintained. He also suggested that the Board could look into possible standards of appearance for property. Mr. Winfield expressed his appreciation to the Board for anything they could do about the problem.

Mayor Richter called on Mr. Wood for his report. He reported that the Municipal Building roof and the equipment shed were finished and that there was a problem with the packing pistons on the garbage truck. He said that Mid-Atlantic Hydraulics could do the repairs for approximately \$800.00 immediately. He reported that 84,000# of garbage and yard debris had been picked up in December. He also stated that some residents were parking in the medians and pulling through the medians to access adjoining roads and that this was causing damage to the medians. Discussion followed. It was suggested by

Commissioner Nash that the affected areas be cordoned off with yellow tape. Commissioner Bowen suggested that we create a “we need your help” laminated sign citing the specific parking ordinance to be placed in those areas or on cars in the medians. Mayor Richter will come up with appropriate verbiage for the sign and get a draft to the Board before implementation. After viewing Mr. Wood’s photographs of medians and parking problems, Mayor pro tem Peacock asked about the unlicensed truck and trailered boat at 220 Isabella Avenue that is parked on the Town’s right-of-way. Commissioner Nash said that he would contact the owners regarding those vehicles.

Mr. Wood also said that two residents had come to him regarding the possible placement of speed humps: one in the median intersection at the corner of College Avenue and Pine Streets, and one in the 400 block of College Avenue. Discussion followed. A motion was made by Commissioner Nash to place a speed hump in the median intersection at College and Pine. Seconded by Commissioner Pagnani. Passed by all.

Commissioner Wilkinson asked if the Park could buy new work shoes for the men when needed at Tetterton’s. Discussion followed. It was decided that the clerk and Mr. Wood would go with the men as necessary to buy shoes instead of giving them money to buy shoes.

Commissioner Bowen said that he would start working on the garbage truck tilter mechanism after he returned from his upcoming tradeshow.

The minutes and financial statements were read and approved.

Old Business

Mac Jones’ ditch: discussion included in Commissioner Wilkinson’s report.

Fences/Trey Smith: Trey Smith was unable to attend this Board meeting. He will be at the February Board meeting. The clerk will email Trey’s local fee schedule comparison to the Board members and mayor.

Municipal Building use policy: Commissioner Bowen asked if the Board would like to explore having the Municipal Building used for purposes other than monthly Board meetings. The consensus of opinion was yes. Discussion followed. Mayor pro tem Peacock said that the last time the Board had the Town Attorney look at this question (1976), the attorney said that the building could not be used for social or private functions. Commissioner Pagnani made a motion for the Mayor to contact the Town Attorney, Sid Hassell, to explore the deed of gift and see if there are legal restrictions for the use of the Municipal Building. Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Passed by all.

Countywide Tourism Board: Mayor Richter said that he had not heard from Bill Rianhard about his acceptance of the position on the Tourism Board.

Reports

Commissioner Pagnani – said that he had prepared a final version of the Performance Appraisal form so that it calculated automatically for percentages for merit award. He will show the clerk how it works.

Commissioner Nash – no report. He said that he had called Animal Control on several occasions and had not received any return calls.

Commissioner Bowen – no report.

Commissioner Wilkinson – reported that he and the clerk had visited with Sandra Edwards, Mac Jones' next-door neighbor who has a dead tree on the edge of the ditch. She gave her permission for the Park to remove the tree at any time. Commissioner Wilkinson said that the ditch on College Avenue that goes to the back of Walt Gerard's house needs serious mechanical cleaning because of silt and sediment backup. Commissioner Nash made a motion to have St. Clair Trucking clean out the ditch behind the Gerard house and put riprap in to prevent erosion and silt. Seconded by Commissioner Pagnani. Passed by all. Commissioner Wilkinson also said that he would get a price from St. Clair Trucking to repair the east side of Walnut Street where tree roots are coming through the asphalt. Commissioner Wilkinson said that he had talked with Ross Boyer about Mac Jones' ditch and had done a drawing which he shared with the Board. Ross has indicated that the remaining \$880 of his estimate on this work would cover grading the ditch, but that he could not give an estimate to fix the yards that would be damaged by the machines doing the grading work. Commissioner Wilkinson will ask Ross whether he could remove the tree behind Sandra Edwards' house. Mayor pro tem Peacock said that he would also contact Stewart Dudley regarding the Edwards' tree and get a price for removal. Commissioner Pagnani made a motion directing Mayor pro tem Peacock to have Stewart Dudley remove the tree. Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Passed by all.

Mayor pro tem Peacock – reported that he is evaluating trees in the medians to be trimmed. Commissioner Wilkinson also said that crape myrtles on the east side of Walnut Street near the Jones residence needs trimming.

Mayor Richter read a letter from the Washington City Manager extending an invitation to attend monthly meetings of the Washington/Beaufort County Human Relations Council. Discussion followed. There were no names volunteered for this activity at this time.

The mayor also discussed his resignation from the Economic Development Council. He asked the Board to be thinking of someone who would represent Washington Park.

Clerk's Report

The clerk thanked the Board members for her merit award, saying that it was most generous and much appreciated. She said that she had put \$15,000 into the Truck Fund portion of the General Fund. She said that she had researched CD rates for the Powell Bill CD which matures on January 9, 2013. She said that she will reinvest with First South Bank at the 7 month rate of .50%, which is the highest rate offered in the area. She added that the roof invoice, the equipment shed invoice, and the fire contract have all been paid. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 4, 2013.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Denise D. Dale
Clerk, Town of Washington Park