

**Town of Washington Park
Municipal Building
March 3, 2014
7:00 p.m.**

First South Bank	General Fund	\$ 100,660.92
First South Bank	Capital Reserve Fund	19,030.78
First South Bank	Powell Bill/Checking	21,373.20
First South Bank	Powell Bill/Saving CD	90,164.79
First South Bank	Capital Reserve Fund/CD	70,941.74
Total		\$302,171.43

Present

Thomas Richter, Mayor
Lee Bowen, Commissioner
Wade Dale, Commissioner
Patrick Nash, Commissioner
Jeff Peacock, Mayor pro tem
Brian Wood, Commissioner

Absent

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

Danny Meadows of Draper Aden Associates spoke regarding the east end of Isabella Avenue drainage. Mr. Meadows presented his preliminary report from his visit on February 14, 2014. He noted that the river was about one foot below normal on that date. He reviewed the current drainage pattern of public water through the ditch along the south side of Isabella, around the private drive at 603 Isabella Avenue, continuing on Isabella Avenue to the canal at Shorewood Drive. He said that increasing the current 6" pipe to a 12" pipe at the private driveway on Isabella Avenue with a functioning flapper valve to keep river water out would help, but not solve the problem. Discussion followed regarding possible solutions for handling water on Town property. Mayor Richter thanked Mr. Meadows for attending the meeting.

Mayor Richter called on John Crew, Chairman of the Planning Board. Mr. Crew said that the mayor had asked the Planning Board to review the Washington Park Ordinance and Procedures for the Planning Board. He reported that the current Planning Board does not have a regular meeting schedule, but rather meets when the Town Board requests a review of specific issues. Mr. Crew also reported that the current Planning Board was receptive to an increase in Planning Board membership (from three to seven members) which would provide demographic diversity. Mayor Richter suggested that he and Mr. Crew meet to go over the Planning Board procedures.

The minutes and financial statements were read and approved.

Old Business

Isabella Avenue drainage: Commissioner Nash asked about an estimate for designing a solution. Commissioner Bowen noted that Draper Aden Associates would prepare an engineering plan at an additional cost. Commissioner Wood made a motion to contract with Draper Aden Associates for a plan with drawings and contours of the drainage of

the south side of Isabella Avenue from Walnut Street to Shorewood Drive not to exceed \$4000. Seconded by Mayor pro tem Peacock. Passed by all.

Railroad crossing at Hudnell and Park: Mayor Richter reported that Brian Alligood, City Manager of Washington is handling this issue with NC DOT.

Planning Board membership: Commissioner Nash said that he had recently spoken with Selden Taylor and Anne Baxter regarding membership on the Planning Board. Selden Taylor asked to be removed from consideration and Anne Baxter asked to take Selden's place. The Board approved this substitution. Mayor Richter will write a letter to the seven Planning Board members inviting them to the April 7, 2014 Board meeting to be sworn in at that time. Commissioner Nash made a motion to abolish the Washington Park ordinance creating the Planning Board and maintain the Washington Park Planning Board consistent to NC GS 160A-361. Seconded by Commissioner Bowen. Passed by all.

Tilter for the garbage truck: Commissioner Bowen has ordered two smaller cylinders for the tilter.

Spruce Street ditch: Mayor Richter will draft letters to Spruce Street residents and deliver them along with the affidavit regarding the historical maintenance of the ditch by the Town of Washington Park.

Fee schedule for facility and waterfront usage – The clerk said that she had been receiving calls from non-residents requesting use of the Town's facilities. Discussion followed. The Board concluded that all facilities' usage requires a Washington Park resident sponsor to make all arrangements for any event. Any cancellation of reservations for facilities would result in a return of half the deposit. The Board approved a \$250 rental deposit for the waterfront with a \$250 cleanup fee. The Board set the "custodial and utility fee" for use of the Municipal Building at \$100.

New Business

Mayor pro tem Peacock distributed copies of a letter that had appeared in the Greenville Daily Reflector about attaching unpaid code violation fees to property tax bills of property owners. Discussion followed. No action was taken.

Reports

Commissioner Dale – reported that the Northside Future Farmers of America 5K race had been cancelled due to weather. It has not been rescheduled at this time.

Commissioner Nash – reported that there had been "break-ins" of unlocked vehicles recently at 408 Riverside, 219 Isabella Avenue recently. He also reported that Leroy Scott's dog had been determined to be a "nuisance" dog by the Beaufort County Animal Control Department. Mr. Scott has been sent a letter to that effect from Animal Control. Commissioner Nash also asked that \$100 contribution for Crimestoppers be included in the upcoming budget.

Mayor pro tem Peacock – reminded the Board to request additions to the upcoming budget as soon as possible. Commissioner Bowen – reported that he had sent Mr. Barwick a second letter but had not heard from him. He also reported that he had

consulted with Mr. Wood and Mayor pro tem Peacock regarding removing the stump, dirt, and other material at 606 Fairview Avenue instead of contracting with St. Clair Trucking. The work will be done by Mr. Wood and Mayor pro tem Peacock as soon as the weather permits. Commissioner Bowen said that he would like to research the erosion stabilization landscape material used by NC DOT on Highway 33 near Chocowinity for possible usage by the Town for erosion control.

Commissioner Dale asked about the second "Welcome to Washington Park" sign. It was suggested by Mayor Richter that the sign be placed in the triangle at College and River Road.

Commissioner Wood – reported that three maple trees and three crepe myrtle trees had been purchased from Terrapin Track Plant Nursery and subsequently planted. He said that he would wait until spring to see what trees showed growth before removing and replacing trees.

Mayor Richter suggested putting some type of collar on the new trees to prevent damage from weed eaters. Discussion followed. It was decided to try collars on a few trees for evaluation purposes.

Clerk's Report

The clerk reported that she had called Ron Buzzeo regarding the political sign obstructing the view onto River Road from Beech Street and that he had removed it. She reported that the baseboards had been replaced as necessary, caulked, and painted in the Municipal Building. She reported that the annual website maintenance fee of \$120 had been paid.

Commissioner Nash asked about the fallen brick fence at 324 Isabella Avenue. Mayor Richter said that he had been unsuccessful in his attempts to speak with the owner, but he will continue to try to contact him. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Denise D. Dale
Clerk, Town of Washington Park