

**Town of Washington Park
Municipal Building
September 12, 2011
7:30 p.m.**

First South Bank	General Fund	\$ 40,324.82
First South Bank	Capital Reserve Fund	10,851.10
First South Bank	Powell Bill/Saving	6,903.55
First South Bank	Powell Bill/Saving	87,464.26
First South Bank	Capital Reserve Fund	108,183.51
Total		\$253,727.24

Present

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

Absent

None

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

Mayor Richter called for Mr. Wood's report. Mr. Wood reported that the tractor is using a lot of oil. He also reported on the water system designed to water seed and trees on roads and in medians. Garbage hauled away this month was 35,640 pounds, approximately 10,000 pounds more than usual as it was wet, therefore heavy. He will continue to work on the sand and rock bins near the maintenance shed as well as a new flag pole for the Municipal Building. Mr. Wood also reported that he had purchased a personal golf cart to use in the Park with the Board's approval.

Mayor Richter thanked Mr. Wood for his report.

Mayor pro tem Peacock made a motion to recess the regular meeting session and go into a Public Hearing as the Board of Adjustment. Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Passed by all.

Mayor Richter explained that the hearing was for a Zoning Ordinance variance for the undersized lot at 408 Isabella Avenue. He introduced Ernest Larkin and Linda Boyer, the property representatives. They presented their letter addressing the five considerations for a variance. They also said that an approval permit had been obtained from the Beaufort County Health Department for a septic system. Commissioner Nash made a motion to approve the variance for the property. Commissioner Wilkinson seconded. Discussion followed. Passed by all.

Commissioner Pagnani made a motion to come out of the Public Hearing and resume the regular Board meeting. Mayor pro tem Peacock seconded. Passed by all.

Mr. Bob Rhodes asked if the variance went with the lot in perpetuity and was assured that it did.

Mayor Richter asked for public input. Ms. Anita Purser spoke regarding the Washington Montessori Charter 5K Run scheduled for Saturday, October 1. She said that she would like to set up two tents and port-a-potties on the waterfront on Friday, September 30. She also said that participants and spectators would be asked to park at Havens Gardens parking lot.

Karen Ball and Ernie Moore from the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office were introduced by Commissioner Nash to give an update on the recent crime issues in Washington Park, as well give an overview of the Community Watch program. Ernie Moore said that there had been eight larcenies in the past three months and that although there had been a "Crimestoppers" segment run, no tips had been received. He said that the thieves had gone into mostly unlocked cars and taken items (laptop computer, I-Pad, Garmin GPS, I-Pod, and a Glock, as well as money). He also said that there were two suspects that the Sheriff's office was following up on. It was stressed that any suspicious activity should be reported to the Sheriff's Office immediately at 946-0101. It was also suggested that any suspicious vehicles should be identified and license numbers recorded if possible. The Sheriff's Office will continue their increased presence in Washington Park. Karen Ball then outlined how a Community Watch program works. She said that she would come to the Town Picnic on September 18 and give a short program. The initial meeting for Community Watch will be Thursday, October 6th at 7:00 pm in the Municipal Building.

The minutes and financial statement were read and approved.

The clerk was asked to talk about Hurricane Irene costs and reimbursement. The clerk reported that she had paid St. Clair Trucking \$21,816.25 so far. Also, the clerk said that there had been overtime worked by Mr. Wood, James, and CJ on Saturdays and Sundays.

Commissioner Pagnani made a motion to amend the 2011-12 budget to appropriate fund balance of \$40,000 to the general fund for Hurricane Irene debris removal and labor. Seconded by Commissioner Wilkinson. Passed by all.

The Board began discussion of Mr. Wood's personal golf cart. It was decided that he could use it in the Park as his personal vehicle if he had the cart modified to be street legal. The Board also discussed workers' uniforms and their use. It was decided that Clerk Dale would discuss this with the workers.

Old Business

The CAMA permit has been obtained for the multipurpose area on the waterfront. Sutton and St. Clair will be providing estimates for this work.

Mayor pro tem Peacock explained the trash from the Triathlon. He got to the waterfront at 2:00 and picked up trash. By the time Catherine Glover got to the waterfront at 4:00, she thought the area had been cleaned by the event people. Mayor pro tem Peacock will return the gift certificate sent by the Chamber of Commerce.

Mayor Richter reported that Ms. Phyllis Windley Bell had cancelled her visit to her property which has been scheduled for August 27, but said that she will reschedule soon.

The Town Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, September 18, and Sammy Corey is going to cook the pig, some chickens and hotdogs. The tent and chairs will be delivered and set up early on Sunday.

Commissioner Nash reported on boats on the waterfront. Speaking with residents, the consensus seems to be to remove boats once a year from the waterfront, as well as some kind of no-charge registration sticker for Washington Park residents' boats. There was also a suggestion of some kind of key for the chain on the waterfront for larger boat launchings. Commissioner Nash was asked to come up with simple guidelines for registration of boats at no cost with the help of the clerk.

Mayor pro tem Peacock commented on the boats that were left on the waterfront chained to trees during the storm and were damaged. Commissioner Nash will try to determine who owns the boats and contact them.

New Business

Mayor Richter reported on the drainage of water on the newly paved north side of the 300 block of College Avenue. A berm needs to be made to redirect the water. A motion was made by Commissioner Pagnani to accept Ross Boyer's estimate of \$610.00 to make a 5" berm and sod the affected area of College Avenue. Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Discussion followed. Passed by all.

Reports

Commissioner Pagnani – no report.

Commissioner Nash – reported a DWI on College Avenue. The suspect ran away from the ditch (almost ran over child on bike). State Highway Patrol was called and suspect arrested. There was an arrest of a contractor's employee for stealing from a resident on Spruce Street.

Commissioner Wilkinson – reported that the storm ditches drained as well as he expected, and that there was a washout at Bill Page's property. He also said that Maple Branch, from behind Sentry Hardware to the Honey Pod bridge, needed to be cleared of fallen trees to improve drainage. Ross Boyer's estimate for this work is \$1450.00 using three men for two days to be done in November or December. Commissioner Bowen made a motion to clear Maple Branch using Ross Boyer's estimate. Seconded by Commissioner Wilkinson. Discussion followed. Passed by all.

Commissioner Bowen – reported that a heavy duty spring on a playground toy had broken and would cost \$198.00 to replace.

Mayor pro tem Peacock – reported that Mr. Cherry, resident at corner of Walnut and Isabella, wants to remove the maple tree which is overshadowed by the live oak. Mr. Cherry will remove the tree and grind the stump.

Mayor pro tem Peacock also reported that he had gone around the Park assessing storm damage and downed trees. It was decided if fallen trees belong to the Park, we should take care of the removal. There are also huge trees down in the Three Acre Wood. Stuart Dudley will come and look at all "widowmakers" and fallen trees for \$125/hour with his crew. Mayor pro tem Peacock was to ask Dudley to have the cut

trees on the street for St. Clair to pick up. On the ditch behind Spruce Street, the trees that are down are not ours, but we do have an easement for the ditch. Mayor Richter offered to speak with Jim Nance, the property owner of the ditch.

Clerk's Report

The clerk gave an accident report where CJ was mowing, and a rock hit a landscaping contractor's truck headlight. \$269.79 was paid to Williams Body Shop for the repair. The clerk reported that further information was needed from the CRS 8/17/11 meeting with the City of Washington. The clerk reported that Powell Bill funds would now be distributed in October and January. Ken Robol contacted the clerk and said that there had been 44 visitors to the website this month, 27 of them from North Carolina.

Mayor Richter said that he had met with Jim Nance who is very concerned that we do not have sewer in Washington Park. Mr. Nance is still thinking of a lift station on his property east of Washington Park. The mayor invited the Board to consider updating the study that we did eight to ten years ago with a grant from the Rural Center to look at sewer.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Denise D. Dale
Clerk, Town of Washington Park