

**Town of Washington Park
Municipal Building
January 9, 2017
7:00 p.m.**

First South Bank	General Fund	\$ 96,793.36
First South Bank	Capital Reserve Fund	60,000.00
First South Bank	Powell Bill/Checking	31,585.84
First South Bank	Powell Bill/Saving CD	81,201.37
First South Bank	Capital Reserve Fund/CD	<u>72,306.11</u>
Total		\$ 341,886.68

Present

Thomas B. Richter, Mayor
Jeff Peacock, Mayor pro tem
Belinda Cowell, Commissioner
Wade Dale, Commissioner
Patrick Nash, Commissioner

Absent

Lee Bowen, Commissioner

Mayor Richter called the meeting to order. Commissioner Nash made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Mayor pro tem Peacock. Passed by all.

The minutes and financial report were approved as presented.

Mayor Richter asked the guests to speak in the order of arrival. Rich Morin said that he was disheartened by the prospect of privatization of garbage and likes the Park individuals "policing" the Park, and likes the current ambience in the Park. Peter Farrell said that he wants to keep things the way they are and asked if a tax increase had been considered in order to save services. Tim Melton said that he would be in favor of raising taxes to keep personnel as they are because the personnel provide more than just trash pickup. Seth Laughlin said that he understands capital outlays, but respects keeping the old-fashioned ways of the Park. Mac Jones voiced his support of keeping the garbage pickup as it is now. Some other unidentified residents stated their support for continuing current services. Mayor Richter said that the elected officials took an oath to exercise responsible fiduciary duties and as such were looking at all alternatives, but that nothing had been decided. He acknowledged that there are benefits of having staff do garbage pickup as they build relationships with residents. Mayor Richter reassured the residents who were present that there is a plan in place to continue garbage pickup with full time and part time help after Mr. Wood's retirement. Mr. Farrell asked when a decision on garbage pickup would be made. Mayor Richter replied that the Board would probably put the issue to bed one way or another by the next meeting.

Mayor Richter and the Board members thanked the residents for attending to the meeting and said that they appreciated their input.

Old Business

Isabella Avenue East: nothing to report.

Zoning Ordinance corrections: Corrections are finished and awaiting action after Planning Board final recommendations.

River Road Overlay District: waiting for Planning Board recommendations regarding fence styles and landscaping criteria.

Ditch maintenance protocol: Mayor Richter has not yet written the language of the ordinance reflecting the Town maintenance of ditches.

Drainage in right-of-way at 314 College Avenue: The clerk reported for Commissioner Bowen that the work has been finished by Pamlico Turf Management and St. Clair Trucking.

Drainage from Spruce to Bank behind residences: The clerk reported for Commissioner Bowen that the work had been finished by Pamlico Turf Management.

Drainage in right-of-way at 114 Spruce Street: The clerk reported for Commissioner Bowen that the work had been finished by Pamlico Turf Management.

Privatization of garbage: Mayor Richter led a discussion regarding the possibility of surveying the residents to get feedback about garbage pickup. Commissioner Cowell asked if Town is not pursuing private garbage service, then what should happen in the interim. Commissioner Nash made a motion to advertise to replace Mr. Wood as working public works supervisor so that there would be applications to review at the next Board meeting. Seconded by Mayor pro tem Peacock. Discussion followed regarding qualifications and salary range. Passed by all.

Reports

Commissioner Dale – reported that the Race for Epilepsy ½ Marathon, 5K, and 1 mile race would be held on February 25. Commissioner Dale read a request from Manny Vidal of Fitness Unlimited for permission for a swim portion of the CrossFit games to be held on the Washington Park waterfront on June 24. Approved by acclamation. Attendance would be approximately 200-250. Commissioner Dale asked the clerk to make sure that the playground slide dirt was moved back up the hill and that the mulch under the swings was “fluffed.”

Commissioner Nash – no report. Mayor pro tem Peacock said that there were four-wheelers on the waterfront, apparently having driven over the chain.

Mayor pro tem Peacock – reported that Mr. Wood wanted to know if the Town wanted to buy his golf cart for the Park for \$3000. Discussion followed. The Board decided not to purchase the golf cart. The Board also decided that Mr. Wood could leave his tools in the shop for sixty days after his retirement. The clerk was instructed to prepare a Proclamation for Mr. Wood and a retirement bonus of \$600.

Commissioner Cowell – no report but noted that the chain on the eastern waterfront needed to be tightened.

The clerk gave Commissioner Bowen’s report. She reported that the speed humps were ready to be placed and asked that the Board look at the flags on Hickory near Small where the speed hump would be placed. The other speed humps will be placed on the other side of the median on Riverside Drive from the existing speed humps.

Clerk's Report

The clerk reported that \$44,204.12 in ad valorem taxes had been received. She reported that \$205.00 had been received for the Marion Worthy memorial live oak tree(s) and the mayor had acknowledged all gifts by letter and the clerk had sent a letter to both Ford Worthy and Ford Freeman with the names of the donors. She said that the Town had received the Powell Bill allocation of \$7490.56; that the Town had received \$1069.87 in sales tax refund; that she had notified both NC Retirement and MedCost health insurance of Mr. Wood's retirement; that W-2s and 1099s would be available by January 31, 2017; that she would be attending the Hazard Mitigation meeting January 11, 2017, in Plymouth; and that she had called NCDOT about cleaning out the storm drains on River Road.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, February 6, 2017, at 7:00 pm.

Denise D. Dale
Clerk, Town of Washington Park