

**Town of Washington Park  
Municipal Building  
May 1, 2017  
7:00 p.m.**

First South Bank	General Fund	\$ 140,872.04
First South Bank	Capital Reserve Fund	75,000.00
First South Bank	Powell Bill Checking	31,596.23
First South Bank	Powell Bill/Saving CD	81,456.34
First South Bank	Capital Reserve Fund/CD	<u>72,483.73</u>
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 401,408.34</b>

**Present**

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

**Absent**

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

The minutes and financial report were approved as presented.

There was no public input.

**Old Business**

FY 2017-18 budget: The clerk presented the preliminary budget for FY 2017-18 which keeps the tax rate at its current level of .29/\$100 of valuation. The clerk reviewed changing the employees' health insurance which would result in a significant decrease in premiums; reviewed a 2% increase in fire/EMS contract; and reviewed putting a 3% COLA and 5% merit award for each employee in the budget. Discussion followed. Mayor pro tem Peacock made a motion to accept the proposed budget as presented and to advertise the Public Hearing for the Budget for the next meeting on June 5, 2017 at 7:00 pm prior to the regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Passed by all.

The clerk will place a legal ad for public notice of the Budget Hearing in the Washington Daily News on May 19. The budget will be available for viewing on May 23 and 24 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Isabella Avenue East drainage: Commissioner Bowen reported that he had generated a design document for Hugh Sorrell to incorporate after the meeting with residents. There would be a 3:1 slope for the residents at 601 Isabella and 605 Isabella and Mr. Few would pay for his own concrete basin which will be incorporated into the project and Mr. Few will tie in and connect with power to his own pump. Discussion followed.

Zoning Ordinance corrections: No report from the Planning Board at this time.

Alley regrading: Commissioner Bowen said that he would ask Mitch St. Clair about regrading the crown. It was suggested that Double-A Hauling be contacted for a free estimate.

### **Reports**

Commissioner Dale – reported that there had been a party for Young Life on Thursday, April 27, hosted by Dixon Davis in the Tot Lot without incident.

Commissioner Nash – reported that he had nothing from the Sheriff's office, but did hear that tools were stolen from a truck at 220 Isabella Avenue.

Mayor pro tem Peacock – no report other than the proposed budget.

Commissioner Bowen – no report other than Isabella Avenue drainage.

Commissioner Cowell – reported that she had spoken with Ross Boyer regarding the money donated to cover the purchase and planting of live oaks. Commissioner Cowell suggested several locations where the live oaks could be planted including Riverside Drive median, Isabella Avenue median, and the Tot Lot. Discussion followed.

Mayor Richter said that he had called CAMA regarding the scrub pines on the waterfront but no one had returned his call yet.

### **New Business**

Mayor Richter said that he had spoken with Jack Mitchell regarding the paving of Shorewood Drive. He said that he had explained to Mr. Mitchell that the residents could pave the road themselves as Shorewood is not included in the current Powell Bill streets map at this time. Discussion followed. No action was taken.

### **Clerk's Report**

The clerk reported that there were pine trees growing in the ditch behind 520 Isabella Avenue; that the Town had received \$3519 in ad valorem taxes; that there had been a complaint of children shooting birds with BB guns on the waterfront; that the garbage truck had been towed to Coastal Diesel in New Bern for \$350 and a repair bill of \$416.11. The clerk said that she had received a request that she approved for a driveway at 416 College Avenue. She also said that the Town had retained a CRS rating of 8 in their five-year review. The refrigerator in the Municipal Building was replaced at a cost of \$408.00.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, June 5, 2017, at 7:00 pm.

Denise D. Dale  
Clerk, Town of Washington Park