

**Town of Washington Park
Municipal Building
June 7, 2021
7:00 p.m.**

CresCom Bank	General Fund	\$ 286,169.71
CresCom Bank	Capital Reserve Fund/Truck Fund	82,100.00
CresCom Bank	Powell Bill Checking	7,770.38
CresCom Bank	Powell Bill/Saving CD	65,237.79
CresCom Bank	Capital Reserve Fund/CD	<u>76,224.85</u>
	Total	\$ 517,502.73

Present

Thomas B. Richter, Mayor
Lee Bowen, Commissioner
Belinda Cowell, Commissioner
Wade Dale, Commissioner
Patrick Nash, Commissioner

Absent

Jeff Peacock, Mayor pro tem

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

Mayor Richter asked for public input. Mr. and Mrs. Bob Byrd were present to discuss four different trees around Beech Street and Isabella Avenue. Discussion followed. Commissioner Cowell said that she would contact Stuart Dudley as soon as possible to scope out the dangerous branches and dying tree. Commissioner Cowell reiterated the Town policy of trees on Town property that are dead, dangerous, or diseased being removed at Town's expense. Discussion followed regarding the tree that is next to the proposed driveway at 200 Isabella Avenue. Mayor Richter suggested that if the contractor feels that the tree will die because of the driveway work, that the contractor should write a letter to that effect for the Board. Mr. and Mrs. Byrd agreed to ask the contractor to write a letter. Mayor Richter thanked the Byrds for coming.

Commissioner Bowen made a motion to go into a Public Hearing on the proposed 2021-22 Budget. Seconded by Commissioner Cowell. Passed by all. There was no public present. Commissioner Nash made a motion to close the Public Hearing on the budget. Seconded by Commissioner Bowen. Passed by all.

Commissioner Dale made a motion to approve the FY 2021-22 budget as presented and set the tax rate at \$.29 per \$100 of valuation. Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Passed by all.

Commissioner Bowen made a motion to give all full-time employees a 3% raise as included in the adopted FY 2021-22 budget beginning in July. Seconded by Commissioner Cowell. Passed by all, with Commissioner Dale abstaining.

Commissioner Bowen made a motion to go into a Public Hearing on the proposed amended language for 160D mandated Zoning Ordinance. Seconded by Commissioner Cowell. There was no public present. Commissioner Bowen made a motion to close the hearing on 160D Zoning Ordinance amended language. Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Passed by all.

Commissioner Bowen moved to adopt a resolution adopting the Washington Park 160D mandated Zoning Ordinance amended language. Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Passed by all.

Commissioner Dale made a motion to go into a Public Hearing on the addition of freeboard in the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. Seconded by Commissioner Bowen. Passed by all. There was no public present. Commissioner Nash made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Seconded by Commissioner Bowen. Passed by all.

Commissioner Nash moved to adopt a resolution adopting the addition of freeboard into the Washington Park Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. Seconded by Commissioner Dale. Passed by all.

The financial report and the minutes were approved upon motion by Mayor pro tem Peacock. Seconded by Commissioner Bowen. Passed by all.

Old Business

320 Isabella Avenue: No update.

Dump truck body: no update.

North side of Isabella Ave East end: Commission Bowen reported that specs had been created for three bids for the work and that the bids should be received by next month's meeting.

Ditch erosion east of the residence at 530 Isabella Avenue: Commissioner Bowen reported that the Town Attorney, Ms. Sasnett, had reviewed the Ditch Erosion & Maintenance plan and felt that it was too restrictive. She suggested a special assessment program to address large projects so that if the Town decides to put in a bulkhead, the Town does the work and then assesses the homeowner accordingly. Discussion followed regarding Town responsibility for maintaining easements and major erosion remediation. Commissioner Nash made a motion to approve a one-time payment of 25% of the cost of the bulkheading at 520 Isabella Avenue and 530 Isabella Avenue. Seconded by Commissioner Dale. Passed by all.

Eastern Washington Park town boundary: no update.

Utility lines underground on Isabella: no update.

Mayor Richter asked to be excused from the meeting due to illness. Commissioner Nash, the senior Commissioner present, chaired the rest of the meeting.

Reports

Commissioner Dale – reported that the waterfront wedding on October 2, 2021 had been cancelled. He suggested that the annual Town Picnic be scheduled for Sunday, October 3, 2021, with a rain date of October 10, 2021. The date was set by acclamation. He also reported that there was a wedding scheduled for June 26, 2021, and that a waterfront wedding had been held on May 15, 2021. There will be a 5K for Habitat for Humanity run through Washington Park on October 31, 2021.

Commissioner Nash – reported that the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office had been called because of a disruptive gathering on the waterfront in May.

Commissioner Cowell – reported that there was a tree covered in poison ivy on the waterfront and that it should be sprayed.

Commissioner Bowen – no further report.

Clerk's Report

The clerk reported that \$1962.83 in ad valorem taxes had been received; that revenues of \$9802.51 for local option sales, \$81.02 for solid waste, and \$1787.56 for beer and wine taxes had been received; that two fence permits had been issued; and that the Public Hearing ad for the budget was \$91. She reported that Ready Hire Staffing provided temporary garbage day help while James was on vacation for a total of \$216. The clerk reported that she was in the midst of ARP documentation to receive funds; that she had ordered a new Powell Bill Street Map from Hugh Sorrell which would include the newly acquired portion of Shorewood Drive; and that it cost \$107.39 to clean the mildew off of the tennis courts. She also reported that she had been contacted by Mike Weldin, Chief Building Inspector for the City of Washington, regarding the upcoming five-year Community Rating System verification. Mr. Weldin told her that the City of Washington was going to get an outside contractor and that the cost to the Town of Washington Park would be \$10,000. The clerk stated that this was all new information to her, and that the City of Washington had not corresponded with her at all about this. The clerk said that she would be contacting Jonathan Russell, Washington City Manager, and Mike Dail, Chief Planner, to get more information.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Nash.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, July 12, 2021, at 7:00 pm at the Municipal Building.

Denise D. Dale
Clerk, Town of Washington Park