

**Town of Washington Park
Municipal Building
November 14, 2022
7:00 p.m.**

United Bank	General Fund	\$ 334,398.13
United Bank	Capital Reserve Fund/Truck Fund	82,100.00
United Bank	Powell Bill Checking	28,422.88
United Bank	Powell Bill/Saving CD	65,431.08
United Bank	Capital Reserve Fund/CD	76,400.25
United Bank	American Rescue Plan Act Fund	<u>136,568.16</u>
Total		\$ 723,320.50

Present

Thomas Richter, Mayor
Jeff Peacock, Mayor pro tem
Belinda Cowell, Commissioner
Lee Bowen, Commissioner
Wade Dale, Commissioner

Absent

Patrick Nash, Commissioner

Mayor Richter called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Cowell made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Mayor pro tem Peacock. Passed by all.

Mayor Richter called on Danna Layne of Nunn, Brashear and Uzzell, PA, to present the firm's audit of the Town for fiscal year 2021-22. Ms. Layne gave a detailed presentation of the audit. She reported that there were no negative performance indicators. Mayor Richter thanked Ms. Layne for the presentation.

Mayor Richter called on Washington Park Town Attorney, Amanda Sasnett, to review the Town ordinance regarding single-family residence limitations. She said that the ordinance clearly states that the residential district is for single family residence only and that accessory buildings are not for use as living quarters. She recommends defining short-term rentals. Mayor Richter made the point that if something is not listed as permitted, it would require a special permitted use. Discussion followed regarding Airbnb's and other short-term rentals considered as commercial enterprises. Ms. Sasnett said that in the preamble to the Zoning Ordinance, the intent is for single family homes, but she would be willing to prepare language for consideration. Commissioner Bowen said that he was interested in finding out what residents want. Mayor Richter thanked the Town Attorney for her help in continuing this investigation.

Public Input: Ms. Pam Klinger said that she was interested in the discussion of multi-family occupancy as she would like to age in place in her home, and might require caregivers to live in her home. Other residents were present, but did not have any specific input or questions for the Town Board. Mr. Bill Rianhard said that he was there to ask about 320 Isabella Avenue. The clerk reported that the Town of Washington Park and the City of Washington Building Inspector had granted the homeowner another thirty

days to bring the house into compliance. The new date for the homeowner is November 30, 2022. Mr. Rianhard said that there were children in the house two to three times a week and that the situation is most unsettling.

The public was thanked by Mayor Richter and the Board for attending the meeting and asking questions and voicing their concerns.

The financial report and the minutes were approved upon motion by Commissioner Dale. Seconded by Commissioner Bowen. Passed by all.

Old Business

320 Isabella Avenue: see above.

North side of Isabella Ave East end: no report.

Eastern Washington Park town boundary: Commissioner Bowen shared a letter from the Town Attorney to Mr. Richardson regarding the boundary, and suggested a two-week response period for Mr. Richardson. Mayor pro tem Peacock made a motion to have the Town Attorney send the letter with the added response period. Seconded by Commissioner Cowell. Passed by all.

Parking vehicles in the Town's rights-of-way: No report from the Planning Board.

Washington Park tree cut on College Avenue: Mayor Richter is awaiting a valuation of the Washington Park pecan tree that was removed.

Washington Park waterfront trees cut down: Mayor Richter and Commissioner Cowell were pictured in an article in the Washington Daily News regarding the sign and reward for information about the trees. No one has come forward to date.

Reports

Commissioner Dale – reported that Mr. Askew had pruned the dogwood tree at the corner of the tennis court and that Mr. Askew and James had painted three benches and put two of them inside the court. Commissioner Dale presented an estimate to replace the six non-LED lights at the tennis court. Advanced Electrical Service, Inc. gave an estimate of \$3728.35 to replace the lights. Commissioner Dale made a motion to accept the estimate to replace the lights. Seconded by Commissioner Bowen. Passed by all.

Commissioner Cowell – reported that the City of Washington Electric had called the clerk and said that they had contracted with a tree trimming group to trim all trees around the electrical lines. This will include cutting back the crepe myrtle trees on Isabella Avenue in the median which have grown quite high. Commissioner Cowell said that she had spoken with Stuart Dudley about Spanish moss and he said that there was a formula for baking soda and water that could be sprayed on the trees that would inhibit the growth of the Spanish moss. She said that she has asked Stuart Dudley for assistance regarding planting trees in Washington Park.

Commissioner Bowen – reported that he will be making a list of repairs for broken pavement and holes in streets so that they can be fixed by contractors. He is waiting for the homeowner at 505 Fairview Avenue to begin the ditch work on Hickory Street.

Mayor pro tem Peacock – reported that Mr. Askew’s six-month probation period had ended. He led a discussion of praise for Mr. Askew’s work ethic, attitude, and recommended a \$1.00/hour raise. He made a motion to give the Public Works Supervisor a \$1.00/hour raise going into immediate effect. Seconded by Commissioner Dale. Passed by all. Mayor pro tem Peacock asked the clerk to excuse herself from the meeting. Commissioner Bowen made a motion to give the clerk and James Woolard a 5% merit award for their work in FY 2021-22. Seconded by Commissioner Cowell. Passed by all with Commissioner Dale abstaining from the vote.

Mayor pro tem Peacock also reported that there were a lot of fire ants on the waterfront properties. He was wondering if there was some way to broadcast a pesticide for fire ants. Clerk Dale said that she would contact the Beaufort County Extension Agent and ask for information about fire ants.

Mayor pro tem Peacock also said that the windscreens had fallen down in a couple of places and asked if the men would please replace the ties. The clerk said that she would take care of it.

Clerk’s Report

The clerk reported that the Town had received \$26, 580.62 in ad valorem taxes; and had received \$14,102.25 in local option sales tax. She reported that the town had paid the annual Fire and EMS contract with the City of Washington for \$44,063.00. The clerk reported that four tennis keys were sold in October; that one fence permit had been issued; that two driveway permits had been issued; and that the town’s Powell Bill Fiscal Data Report had been accepted for FY 2021-22. She said that the Town had renewed their two certificates of deposit at 2% for thirteen months at United Bank.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, December 5, 2022 at 7:00 pm at the Municipal Building.

There being no further business, Mayor Richter adjourned the meeting.

Denise D. Dale
Clerk, Town of Washington Park