

**Town of Washington Park
Municipal Building
October 4, 2021
7:00 p.m.**

United Bank	General Fund	\$ 278,108.74
United Bank	Capital Reserve Fund/Truck Fund	82,100.00
United Bank	Powell Bill Checking	7,770.38
United Bank	Powell Bill/Saving CD	65,254.23
United Bank	Capital Reserve Fund/CD	76,250.54
United Bank	American Rescue Plan Act Fund	<u>68,219.48</u>
Total		\$ 583,316.99

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 Bowen. Passed by all.

Mayor Richter called upon Phyllis Schulte of 128 Spruce Street for public input. Ms. Schulte said that she was present to discuss the eastern boundary of Washington Park as she is affected by the letter from the new owners of the eastern property on the other side of the ditch of the eastern boundary. Discussion followed. Commissioner Bowen said that he would continue to be the liaison between the Board and the residents on Spruce Street with regard to the issue. Mayor Richter thanked Ms. Schulte and Ms. McLawhorn for coming to the meeting. Mayor Richter called on Bill Rianhard of 322 Isabella Avenue for public input. Mr. Rianhard said that he was present for an update on 320 Isabella Avenue. Clerk Dale explained that at the City of Washington's Building Inspector's suggestion, the Town's attorney was doing a title search on the property to determine ownership of the property. Discussion followed. Mayor Richter thanked Mr. Rianhard for coming to the meeting.

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

Old Business

320 Isabella Avenue: See above.

Dump truck body: The clerk read a letter from Mr. Woolard, Public Works Supervisor, regarding his thoughts on the dump truck body (see attached). Mr. Woolard's opinion was to cancel the work at CAM, and look into finding another garbage truck for backup. Discussion followed. Commissioner Bowen made a motion to cancel the work at CAM. Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Passed by all. The clerk will have Mr. Woolard call CAM and cancel the work.

North side of Isabella Ave East end: Sorrell Surveying will be surveying the ditch soon. Both homeowners are aware of the upcoming survey.

Maple Branch cleanout: Clerk Dale said that the last information she had was that the work should be done in October.

Eastern Washington Park town boundary: see above.

Utility lines underground on Isabella: no update.

Commissioner Nash made a motion to go into closed session for attorney-client privilege. Seconded by Commissioner Cowell. Passed by all.

Commissioner Nash made a motion to go back into regular session. Seconded by Commissioner Dale. Passed by all.

Commissioner Nash made a motion to hire Sorrell Land Surveying to do a survey of the eastern boundary of Washington Park including the "buffer zone" at the edge of residents' properties on Spruce Street for \$1000.00. Seconded by Commissioner Dale. Passed by all.

New Business

Commissioner Bowen reported that the resident at 604 Fairview said that his back property was not draining. Discussion followed regarding ditching and town easements. No action taken.

Reports

Commissioner Cowell – reported that the loose limb in the pine tree and the dead limbs in the other tree at Beech and Pine had been removed by Dudley Landscaping and the charge was \$250.00.

Commissioner Bowen – reported that Dudley Landscaping had done ditch work at the south end of Spruce Street in the Town's right-of-way for \$1046.00. He asked the clerk to ask Mr. Woolard to check out the culverts under the driveways on the south end of Spruce Street. He also reported that several residents were parking commercial vehicles in the town's right-of-way. In checking with the clerk, there is a "no parking in the medians" clause in the Town's Ordinance, but nothing specifically regarding commercial vehicles, nor rights-of-way parking restrictions. Mayor Richter suggested that the Planning Board should look into potential language change in the ordinance. Commissioner Bowen made a motion to have the Planning Board review parking restrictions in the Town's Ordinance. Seconded by Commissioner Dale. Passed by all.

Commissioner Nash – no report.

Commissioner Dale – reported that the Rebh-sponsored wedding took place without incident; that the Hannah's Heroes Glow Run took place; and that William had been stung by ground bees that had made a huge nest on the western end of the waterfront and was fine. Turner Pest Control treated the nest twice for \$150.00.

Clerk's Report

The clerk reported that the Town had received the City of Washington's bill for EMS and fire services for \$43,199 as per the annual contract. The Board voted to pay the invoice by acclamation. The clerk reported that she had attended a NC League of Municipalities American Rescue Plan meeting, but that there still was nothing at this time that the Town could use the money for; that one tennis key sold and one yard sale permit given; that the Town had received \$14,892.15 in ad valorem taxes; and that local option sales tax received was \$14,383.38, and the franchise tax was \$2934.89. She reported that the town had received the first of two Powell bill allocations in the amount of \$6659.62. The clerk reported that she had worked with Jeff Huss with the City of Washington for the Community Rating System audit which resulted in keeping the "8" rating which gives the residents a 10% discount in flood insurance with the National Flood Insurance Program. She thanked Commissioner Dale for his assistance in painting "Drains to River" signs on storm drains on River Road which helped in obtaining "points" for the CRS audit. Clerk Dale reported that the auditor was coming for the entire day on October 12, 2021 to do preliminary audit work. She said that Mayor Richter had received a call from Bunyan Fire Department saying they were burning the hardware store and flower shop for practice on October 9, 2021. The clerk said that the draft minutes were now on display in draft form at the Municipal Building one week before a meeting as well as the agenda being posted on the website one week prior to a meeting.

The clerk said that the municipal election would be held in the Municipal Building on Tuesday, November 2, 2021. She asked if the Town Commissioners would consider moving the next Town Board meeting to the following Monday, November 8, 2021 for ease of setup for the election. The board approved this date change by acclamation.

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

The next regular meeting will be Monday, November 8, at 7:00 pm at the Municipal Building.

Denise D. Dale
Clerk, Town of Washington Park