

**Town of Washington Park  
Municipal Building  
September 13, 2021  
7:00 p.m.**

United Bank	General Fund	\$ 263,298.80
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	76,244.07
United Bank	American Rescue Plan Act Fund	<u>68,211.07</u>
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 562,878.55</b>

**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 Bowen made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Commissioner Cowell. Passed by all.

Mayor Richter called upon Peter Farrell for public input. Mr. Farrell stated that he did not feel that there was enough information available to the public regarding the Town Board's agendas. He voiced his concern that the minutes were not timely being posted to the website as well. He suggested that a complete agenda be posted on the Town's website one week prior to a scheduled Board meeting. He also suggested that a draft of the unapproved minutes be made available on the website. Mayor Richter thanked Mr. Farrell and called upon Mr. Jerry Vick. Mr. Vick reiterated Mr. Farrell's concerns. Mayor Richter thanked Mr. Vick for his input.

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

**Old Business**

320 Isabella Avenue: The clerk reported that two of the certified letters addressed to the owner had been returned as undeliverable (one at Raleigh address, one at Washington address). She reported that the third letter addressed to the owner's son was signed for on July 24, 2021. The owner's son has not responded to the letter in any form of communication. At the Town's attorney's suggestion, Commissioner Dale made a motion for the clerk to contact the City of Washington Building Inspector to request a formal inspection of the property to determine whether the property meets the requirements for condemnation. Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Passed by all.

Dump truck body: no update.

North side of Isabella Ave East end: no update.

Maple Branch cleanout: Clerk Dale reported that she had spoken with the Beaufort County Soil and Water District and that letters about allowing a contractor onto the affected homeowners' properties had been sent. The contracted work may begin in October.

Eastern Washington Park town boundary: Commissioner Bowen reported that no new letters have been received by affected homeowners yet.

Utility lines underground on Isabella: no update.

Auditor: The clerk reported that the firm of Nunn, Bradshear & Uzzell of Goldsboro had agreed to do the 2020-21 audit for \$7,000.00. Commissioner Nash made a motion to approve the auditing firm of Nunn, Bradshear & Uzzell to prepare the FY 2020-21 audit for the Town of Washington Park for \$7,000.00. Seconded by Commissioner Dale. Passed by all.

### **New Business**

Mayor Richter initiated a discussion about publishing the Town Board meeting agenda on the Town's website one week prior to the scheduled meeting. Discussion followed. Commissioner Bowen made a motion to publish the same draft agenda that the Town Board receives from the clerk on the website one week prior to the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Dale. Passed by all. Mayor Richter initiated a discussion regarding posting unapproved drafts of minutes on the Town's website. After lengthy discussion, it was decided that the unapproved draft of minutes would be available for viewing in the Municipal Building one week prior to a scheduled meeting, but would not be posted on the website.

### **Reports**

Commissioner Dale – reported that the wedding sponsored by Ms. Silvestri on September 18, 2021, had been changed and was being sponsored by Ms. Rebh for the same date. He asked the Town Board for guidance regarding the Town Picnic which is scheduled for October 3, 2021. Discussion followed. By acclamation, the Board recommended that the Town Picnic be cancelled for this year because of the continued risk for COVID-19 exposure.

Commissioner Nash – no report. There is still a problem with the Sheriff's Office and Washington Park incident reporting. Commissioner Nash did report a disturbance on September 11, 2021 involving loud music and noisy ATVs being driven throughout the Park very late at night. A concerned resident called the Sheriff's Office and they responded.

Commissioner Bowen – reported that Dudley Landscaping would be doing some drainage and ditch work toward the south end of Spruce Street.

Commissioner Cowell – reported that the tree had been removed at the driveway at 200 Isabella Avenue. The homeowner has paid the Town for half of the price of removal. She said that the loose limb in the tree at Isabella and Pine and the dead limbs in the other tree there had not been removed. Clerk Dale will follow up with Dudley Landscaping.

### **Clerk's Report**

The clerk reported that the Town had renewed the .10% for six months Powell Bill C/D at United Bank for .30% for seven months; that she had completed the North Carolina Solid Waste Report and it was filed with the State; and that she had completed the annual Workers Comp self-audit report and it was filed with the NC League of Municipalities. The clerk also reported that the Town had received \$2,812.36 in ad valorem taxes this month; that the Town had received \$12,845.29 in local option sales tax; and that five tennis keys and two pickleball keys had been sold this month. She reported that the direct deposit of employees' paychecks was doing well; and that she had written two letters of Zoning Compliance for building permits for outbuildings: one each from 322-1/2 River Road and 219 College Avenue. The clerk also reported that the Community Rating System visit for the National Flood Insurance Program had been rescheduled to September 23, 2021. The clerk gave the Supervisor's report that said that the garbage truck engine had been flushed and the exhaust muffler brackets had been replaced. Mr. Woolard also reported that the entire waterfront would be cleaned and trash, logs, and washup would be removed next week.

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

The next regular meeting will be Monday, October 4, 2021, at 7:00 pm at the Municipal Building.

Denise D. Dale  
Clerk, Town of Washington Park