

**Town of Washington Park
Municipal Building
March 6, 2023
7:00 p.m.**

United Bank	General Fund	\$ 427,092.36
United Bank	Capital Reserve Fund/Truck Fund	82,100.00
United Bank	Powell Bill Checking	36,097.04
United Bank	Powell Bill/Saving CD	65,758.45
United Bank	Capital Reserve Fund/CD	76,782.50
United Bank	American Rescue Plan Act Fund	<u>136,776.19</u>
Total		\$ 824,606.54

Present

Thomas Richter, Mayor
Jeff Peacock, Mayor pro tem
Lee Bowen, Commissioner
Wade Dale, Commissioner
Patrick Nash, Commissioner

Absent

Belinda Cowell, Commissioner

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

Mayor Richter called for public input. Peter Farrell of 132 Isabella Avenue spoke about his concern that there be community-wide public input for the spending of the \$136,776.19 in ARPA funds. He proposed that he coordinate a survey, emails, and the Washington Park Neighbors Facebook site to solicit suggestions from the Washington Park residents for the ARPA funds. Mayor Richter thanked Mr. Farrell and said that the Planning Board was already in place to advise the Town Board about issues. Mayor Richter said that he would contact the Planning Board Chairman and charge the Planning Board with this effort.

Frances Hogan of 306 Isabella Avenue said that she was there to follow up on planting trees in the median on Isabella Avenue and also inquire about the possibility of placing the electric trunk lines underground on Isabella Avenue. Mayor Richter said that he had spoken with Macon Respess of the City of Washington Electric Department, but that no meeting had been set up to review the request yet. Discussion followed about maintenance of trees and the possibility of planting shrubs in the medians. Mr. Farrell asked about the Treescape Committee that is in the Washington Park Ordinances. Mayor pro tem Peacock said that the Committee had been abandoned as no one was interested in serving on the Committee, but maybe it was time to try again to get residents involved in landscape decisions. Mayor Richter thanked Ms. Hogan.

McGregor Bell of 320 Isabella Avenue spoke about the structural engineer that had looked at the house and said that he had a contract with an architect. Discussion followed regarding monthly updates on the property by Mr. Bell to the Town Board, as well as a suggestion from Bill Rianhard of 322 Isabella Avenue to check with the

Beaufort County Sanitarian regarding the existing septic system at 320 Isabella Avenue. Mr. Rianhard also said that 320 Isabella Avenue was a security problem, but Mr. Bell said that he was unaware of that. Discussion followed.

Mayor pro tem Peacock made a motion to suspend the demolition order for 320 Isabella Avenue for 120 days, and to revisit this order in 120 days, with Mr. Bell making regular monthly updates to the Town Board. Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Passed by all.

Mayor Richter thanked all the residents for their input.

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

Old Business

320 Isabella Avenue: See above.

North side of Isabella Ave East end: no report.

Eastern Washington Park town boundary: The Town Attorney has spoken with the Flynn heirs and is getting information from the nine heirs.

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

Washington Park tree cut on College Avenue: no update at this time

Washington Park waterfront trees cut down: no updated information to report. Mayor pro tem Peacock made a motion to remove the Crimestoppers sign on the waterfront regarding the trees. Seconded by Commissioner Dale. Passed by all.

Short-term rentals: no update at this time.

Multi-family housing: no update at this time.

Resilient Coastal Communities Program: Clerk Dale reported that the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management approved the application for the NCRCCP. She read a Resolution to accept the technical assistance match with RK&K and the Mid-East Commissioner for the completion of Phases 1 and 2 of the RCCP.

Commissioner Nash made a motion to approve the Resolution accepting the Resilient Coastal Communities Program grant. Seconded by Mayor pro tem Peacock. Passed by all.

New Business

Clerk Dale read a letter from Michele Oros regarding the United Way and Community Impact Conversations. Mayor pro tem Peacock offered to help. Mayor pro tem Peacock made a motion to support Ms. Tidd's efforts with the United Way. Seconded by Commissioner Dale. Passed by all.

Reports

Commissioner Dale – reported that the cracks in the tennis court had been sprayed for emerging vegetation. He said that he was meeting with North State on Friday to see

what can be done about cracks in the courts as well as striping for two more pickleball courts. Commissioner Dale reported that the men had sanded and were painting the “Burger King” slide; that there was a wedding scheduled on the waterfront for May 20, 2023 from 2:30 to 3:30 pm; and that the Exodus F3 5K Run would be held on April 8, 2023 with approximately 50 to 100 participants.

Commissioner Nash – reported that the Beaufort County Sheriff’s office was still trying to get accurate reports for Washington Park. He also asked if anyone knew about the loud explosions that occur infrequently at night. Discussion followed with no definitive answers.

Mayor pro tem Peacock – asked the Board to please think about any budget items that should be included in next year’s budget. The Town Clerk will present the proposed budget at the May, 2023 meeting, and the Public Hearing on the Budget will be held in conjunction with the June 5, 2023 Town Board meeting.

Commissioner Bowen – reported that the erosion control had been mitigated at 116 Isabella Avenue and the concrete pipe had been repaired there; and that the pipe in the driveway at 505 Hickory had been installed. Commissioner Bowen reported that the broken pavement on Riverside Drive and two or three other broken pavement places should be fixed soon and that he would be meeting with the ditch contractor soon also.

The Town Clerk reported for Commissioner Cowell that she had gotten some prices for replacement trees around Washington Park: cherry trees, live oak trees, and Japanese maples. Discussion followed regarding having a landscape plan for Washington Park. No action taken.

Clerk’s Report

The clerk reported that \$4115.51 had been received in ad valorem taxes; that local option sales tax received was \$12,384.66; that two fence permits had been issued and that the leaf machine was completely repaired and working. Clerk Dale reported that the Town’s retirement percentage for FY 2023-24 was increasing from 12.10% this year to 12.85% next year; that the website was currently down and being repaired; and that the gas and diesel costs from October and November were \$1283.83. The clerk said that she was working on the budget for next year and needed input from the Board for tax rates, and employee costs. Clerk Dale said that the garbage truck’s water pump needed replacing and that Elks Garage had towed the truck to Chocowinity to be repaired. Mr. Askew and James will pick up garbage with the dump truck as needed.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, April 3, 2023 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