

**Town of Washington Park
Municipal Building
July 3, 2023
7:00 p.m.**

United Bank	General Fund	\$ 422,929.53
United Bank	Capital Reserve Fund/Truck Account	82,100.00
United Bank	Powell Bill Checking	32,397.04
United Bank	Powell Bill/Saving CD	66,080.31
United Bank	Capital Reserve CD	77,158.32
United Bank	American Rescue Plan Act Account	<u>137,141.94</u>
Total		\$ 817,807.14

Present

Thomas 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 Dale made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Bowen. Passed by all.

Mayor Richter asked for public input based on order of arrival to the meeting. Ms. Janet Cooper of 320 River Road said that she was there to speak to the Board about their property. She said that they had been working on the property as suggested by Mayor Richter at his visit earlier in the day. Discussion followed regarding whether the 320 River Road property was in compliance with the Town ordinances. Mayor Richter said that the Coopers were moving toward compliance with the ordinances and that they were making a good faith effort to cooperate with the Town. Ms. Kim Warren asked to speak saying that she disagreed with Mayor Richter and that she felt that there were several areas that were not in compliance. Commissioner Bowen commented that the issue brought before the Town Board should be about compliance with the ordinances, not about disagreements between neighbors. Mayor Richter asked that Ms. Warren write a letter listing areas that she felt were not in compliance. He said that this issue is not about beautification, but rather about compliance. He thanked Mrs. Cooper and Ms. Warren for their input.

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

Old Business

320 Isabella Avenue: Clerk Dale read an email communication from McGregor Bell saying that they had received bids from two contractors for the demolition of the damaged parts on the back of the house. He said that they were waiting for one more contractor's estimate before awarding the final contract. He sent updated drawings from the architect with changes. Mr. Bell also said that he had someone locate the septic

tank which is under the back room of the house which is scheduled for demolition. The septic tank will not be able to be inspected by Beaufort County until after the demolition. He also said that he has been removing furniture and cleaning out items to be thrown away.

North side of Isabella Ave East end: Commissioner Bowen said that he was going to contact a landscape contractor to review the feasibility of placing a driveway drain grate in the driveways versus a 15" tile.

Drainage: no report.

Eastern Washington Park town boundary: the Town attorney is continuing to locate the Flynn heirs.

Parking vehicles in the Town's rights-of-way: Clerk Dale read a report from the Washington Park Planning Board. The Planning board approved a motion to change the wording for §73.02 (10) FROM: "In all medians, except temporarily for special occasions", TO: "In all City-owned rights-of-way, except temporarily for special occasions." Discussion followed. No action taken.

Short-term rentals: The Planning Board report said that the Planning Board had discussed the current regulations, NC House Bill 409, and the NCLM paper about accessory dwelling units. They asked how a community that relies on septic systems fits into this bill. No action taken.

Multi-family housing: The Planning Board report said that the Planning Board would like to hear more of what has happened with other homes in Washington Park. "It seems some houses have more than one family living there, but when others have tried to house others, they have been denied." No action taken.

Washington Park tree cut on College Avenue: no report.

Resilient Coastal Communities Program: Clerk Dale reported that there was no update from the RCCP as of today. They are still waiting for DEQ to finalize contract procedures.

ARPA fund uses: There will be a Planning Board meeting on July 18, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Municipal Building. This meeting will be facilitated by Ms. Pat Harris of the Mid-East Commission. The results of the private survey will be discussed as well as any other possible uses proposed at the meeting.

NC DOT Survey of Streets: Commissioner Bowen reported that the information from Mr. Danny Koonce of NCDOT had been give to the paving contractor. Commissioner Bowen has asked the contractor to give a quote on the single, big project.

Town Clerk search: Commissioner Cowell, Mayor pro tem Peacock, and Mayor Richter volunteered to be the Town Clerk Search Committee and review applicants.

Reports

Commissioner Dale – reported that Clegg's had treated the waterfront and median in the 300 block of Riverside Drive again for fire ants that had reappeared. Commissioner

Dale also reported that the wedding on June 23, 2023, was successful, but that the area needed some additional cleanup from the participants before the deposit check was returned. Commissioner Dale said that new tennis court keys would be available on August 1, 2023 when the lock was changed out.

Commissioner Nash – reported that the Sheriff’s Office has resolved the address problem for reporting crimes in Washington Park. Commissioner Nash also reported that there had been an aggressive dog attacking a resident’s dog. The resident has filed a complaint with Beaufort County Animal Control. Commissioner Bowen added that he had reached out to the Town Attorney regarding the possibility of Washington Park adopting a leash law and whether Beaufort County Animal Control would continue to enforce the Beaufort County Animal Control Ordinance within Washington Park. The answer from Animal Control was “yes.”

Commissioner Bowen – reported that he had spoken with the resident at 602 Hickory regarding the erosion of the ditch there. He will research the use of “geo-cell” for that problem.

Commissioner Cowell – reported that she was waiting for Mr. Flood from ECU for more information on the possibility of having graduate students help with urban landscaping plans for Washington Park.

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

Commissioner Nash made a motion to come out of closed session and return to the regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Bowen. Passed by all.

Commissioner Bowen made a motion for the Town Clerk to confer with the Town Attorney regarding her opinion on side yard setbacks for placement of an outbuilding at 603 Isabella Avenue. Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Passed by all.

Clerk’s Report

Clerk Dale reported that the ad valorem taxes received last month were \$2096.56; local option sales tax \$14,963.28; franchise tax \$4709.94. She reported that one tennis key and one pickleball key had been sold last month. Clerk Dale reported that the annual commercial, wind & hail, auto and Inland Marine insurance had been paid for \$8081.00; that the Town had reimbursed the residents at 602 Hickory for mistaken trash removal; that the ad for Town clerk had been placed with the Washington Daily News for three months for \$600.00, with the NC League of Municipalities for one month for \$100.00; and in the Greenville Daily Reflector for one week for \$135.00. The clerk reminded the Town Board that the filing dates with the Beaufort County Board of Elections for November 2023 would begin Friday, July 7 at noon and end Friday, July 21 at noon. The clerk said that James Woolard had scheduled vacation days through the end of the year and that Todd Askew was aware that he needed to take vacation days as well. Clerk Dale has tried calling Century Link about leaning poles in Washington Park, but has not had success yet. The clerk said that she had contacted Nathaniel Woolard at Beaufort County Soil and Water regarding the Maple Branch cleanout. She asked him whether the contractors would haul away the debris, and was told that they would clean up to ten feet off the bank of the Creek. The clerk said that the new fiscal year had begun on July 1, 2023 and that the audit would be upcoming.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, August 7, 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