

**Town of Washington Park
Municipal Building
September 11, 2023
7:00 p.m.**

United Bank	General Fund	\$ 412,212.95
United Bank	Capital Reserve Fund/Truck Account	82,100.00
United Bank	Powell Bill Checking	31,397.04
United Bank	Powell Bill/Saving CD	66,407.33
United Bank	Capital Reserve CD	77,540.17
United Bank	American Rescue Plan Act Account	<u>137,293.40</u>
Total		\$ 806,950.89

Present

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

Absent

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

Mayor Richter asked for public input. Vail Rumley thanked the Town Board for putting a trash receptacle at the corner of Spruce and College.

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

Old Business

320 Isabella Avenue: Clerk Dale read an email from McGregor Bell. Discussion followed. Mayor Richter said that he and Clerk Dale would write a letter to Mr. Bell outlining what the Town Board expected to be finished within the ninety-day extension. The expectations are the completion of demolition at the house and the beginning of the reconstruction by November 5, 2023.

North side of Isabella Ave East end: no report.

Drainage: no report.

Eastern Washington Park town boundary: Commissioner Bowen reported that he had spoken with the Town Attorney and that she was optimistic about quit claim deeds. Commissioner Nash made a motion for Commissioner Bowen to get a survey with Sorrell Land Surveying with a \$3500 limit in price. Seconded by Commissioner Dale. Passed by all.

Parking vehicles in the Town's rights-of-way: Clerk Dale reviewed the Washington Park Planning Board's suggestion that there not be any parking in the Town's rights-of-way. Discussion followed. No action taken.

Short-term rentals: Mayor Richter reported that no action had been taken in the North Carolina legislature regarding Accessory Dwelling Units. No action taken.

Multi-family housing: Mayor Richter said that this issue was closely related to the pending Accessory Dwelling Units legislation. No action taken.

Washington Park tree cut on College Avenue: The Town Attorney will be sending a letter to the resident regarding replacing the tree. Commissioner Nash will also be speaking with the Sheriff regarding the rights-of-way and Town trees.

Resilient Coastal Communities Program: Clerk Dale reported that she had spoken with Jamie Heath of the MidEast Commission and that a Community Action Team (CAT) from Washington Park needed to be appointed by the Town Board. Discussion followed. The entire Town Board will be part of the CAT, in addition to Clerk Dale, Beth Byrd, Paul Kennedy, and Bren Whitford. Clerk Dale will reach out to Ms. Byrd, Mr. Kennedy, and Ms. Whitford to ask if they would like to serve on the Committee.

ARPA fund uses: Mayor Richter led a discussion regarding drainage in Washington Park. Commissioner Bowen will look into prices for cleaning out ditches and sloping ditches correctly as well as fixing culverts within the Town.

NC DOT Survey of Streets: Commissioner Bowen has received a quote from Tripp Brothers for \$77,368 for the paving and repair of streets within the Town. He is waiting for Bennie Randolph's quote for comparison with Tripp Brothers and Ammex Paving.

Town Clerk search: The Clerk Search Committee has interviewed five candidates to date.

Reports

Commissioner Cowell – reported that Mr. Flood at ECU has three students that will begin work evaluating the waterside trees and landscaping options. She reported that there was the possibility of a second group of ECU students who would be looking at median trees and possible replacement options. She reported that she and Mayor pro tem Peacock had looked at a Town pecan tree at 132 Isabella Avenue which the homeowner said was leaning. Commissioner Cowell said that it appeared healthy, but that she would continue to monitor it. She also reported that Dudley Landscaping had been contacted to cut branches throughout the Town.

Commissioner Bowen – see above.

Mayor pro tem Peacock – no report.

Commissioner Nash – reported that a Community Watch and Crimestoppers meeting had been held in the Municipal Building on August 15, 2023 with approximately twenty people in attendance. He thanked Sammy Corey for coordinating the meeting. He also reported that the Highway Patrol had been active with controlling speeders on River Road. Commissioner Nash reported that the Sheriff's Office now had a viable option to report crime activities in Washington Park.

Commissioner Dale – reported that the Hannah’s Glow Run would be held on September 16, 2023 at 7:00 pm. He also reported that Coastal Courts Contractors had provided an estimate for repair and painting of the tennis courts for \$13,500.00. Commissioner Nash made a motion to accept the Coastal Courts Contractors bid to repair and paint the tennis courts for \$13,500.00. Seconded by Mayor pro tem Peacock. Passed by all. Commissioner Dale will call the contractor tomorrow to arrange a date for the work.

Clerk’s Report

Clerk Dale reported that the ad valorem taxes received last month were \$5078.80, that the local option sales tax was \$14,879.54, and that the solid waste tax was \$78.37 in income. She reported that ten tennis keys had been sold in August, that the resident at 402 Walnut had received a fence permit, that State Auto Insurance had issued a refund of \$683 for a cancelled policy; and that Brian Wood had driven and repaired the truck for \$207.00. Clerk Dale reported that the NCLM self-audit for Worker’s Comp Insurance was completed and sent to NCLM; and that a new gearbox for the mower had been purchased for \$1891.98 as well as \$227.90 for new mower tires.

Mayor pro tem Peacock made a motion to go into closed session for a personnel issue. Seconded by Commissioner Bowen. Passed by all.

Mayor pro tem Peacock made a motion to come out of closed session and return to the regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Cowell.

Mayor pro tem Peacock made a motion to make an offer to a candidate for the clerk position based on the closed session terms. Seconded by Commissioner Bowen. Passed by all.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, October 2, 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