

**Town of Washington Park
Municipal Building
October 2, 2023
7:00 p.m.**

United Bank	General Fund	\$ 437,271.75
United Bank	Capital Reserve Fund/Truck Account	82,100.00
United Bank	Powell Bill Checking	38,904.03
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>137,366.75</u>
Total		\$ 839,590.03

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

Mayor Richter asked for public input. There was no public input.

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

Clerk Dale reported that Mr. George Barnes who was on the agenda to speak about the commercial property at 512 River Road had decided not to come before the Town Board at this time. She explained that the current owner of the property had questions about deed covenants for this property and was investigating them with his attorney.

Old Business

320 Isabella Avenue: Clerk Dale read an email from McGregor Bell regarding the demolition contract that had not yet been signed. Discussion followed regarding the 90-day extension which expires on November 5, 2023. Mayor Richter will write a letter this week on behalf of the Town Board to Mr. Bell outlining the concerns and deadline for receipt of a signed demolition contract.

North side of Isabella Ave East end: no report.

Drainage: see Commissioner Bowen's report below.

Eastern Washington Park town boundary: Commissioner Bowen reported that he had spoken with Sorrell Surveying and that they will finish putting a quote together for the survey.

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

Short-term rentals: no report.

Multi-family housing: no report.

Washington Park tree cut on College Avenue: Commissioner Cowell will speak with Dudley Landscaping again to get an approximate cost for tree replacement, transportation, and planting. Discussion followed regarding size of a live oak tree to replace the pecan tree that had been cut as well as coordination of planting.

Resilient Coastal Communities Program: Clerk Dale reported that there would be an initial Community Action Team meeting on Wednesday, October 4, 2023 at 10:00 am at the Municipal Building.

ARPA fund uses: Commissioner Bowen is continuing to research prices for updating drainage issues in Washington Park.

Town Clerk search: Mayor Richter introduced April Alligood who will be replacing the current Town Clerk. Ms. Alligood will be working with Clerk Dale until December 31, 2023 when Clerk Dale retires.

New Business

Mayor pro tem Peacock made a motion to pay Wade Dale the same rate as Brian Wood for driving the garbage truck. Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Passed by all. Mayor Richter thanked Mr. Dale for his help with storm debris. Mr. Dale offered to drive the truck as needed in the future.

Commissioner Dale reported that there were landscape contractors dumping yard debris after Town staff normal work hours. Discussion followed regarding engaging the Sheriff's Office for enforcement of illegal dumping. Commissioner Nash suggested that Community Watch members be alerted to any possible dumping and be asked to provide photographs when witnessed.

Mayor Richter initiated a discussion of the rear yard of the property at 320 River Road. He raised the possibility of amending the current noxious weed growth ordinance to address wetlands and riparian buffer zones. Following discussion, Commissioner Bowen made a motion to have homeowners with questions about wetlands/riparian buffer areas contact the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ), have the NCDEQ report any findings to homeowners, and have homeowners forward any reports to the Washington Park Town Board. Seconded by Commissioner Dale. Passed by all.

Reports

Commissioner Dale – reported that there were 78 people at the St. Peter's waterfront service; that the Hannah's Glow Run took place with 43 people, and that there is a wedding scheduled on the waterfront for Sunday, October 22, 2023. He said that he had spoken with the tennis/pickle ball contractor who will be repairing the courts in late March or early April.

Commissioner Nash – reported that there had been an aggressive dog reported in the 600 block of College Avenue; that there had been increased NC Highway Patrol presence regarding speeding on River Road; and that there had been one report of a suspicious person by the Community Watch team.

Commissioner Bowen – reported that he had met with Dudley Landscaping to get an estimate for cleaning ditches throughout Washington Park. Mr. Dudley wants to quote prices on a ditch-by-ditch basis as some places will require big excavating equipment while others require little excavators. Commissioner Bowen reported that he had one more contractor who will provide a quote on the paving and repair of streets.

Mayor pro tem Peacock – no report.

Commissioner Cowell – reported that she had received an outline from William Lowry from East Carolina University for the waterfront tree evaluation project.

Clerk's Report

Clerk Dale reported that the ad valorem taxes received last month were \$23,677.52; local option sales tax was \$15,837.60, franchise tax was \$2960.79. She reported that State Auto had refunded \$683 in July, and then State Auto had billed for a revised premium of \$1007 for an increase of \$324 for property insurance. Clerk Dale reported that a new router had been purchased for the Municipal Building; that the final month of the clerk ad had run; that a new mower belt had been purchased for \$122.08; that one pickleball and two tennis court keys had been purchased. The clerk said that the auditor from Nunn, Brashear, and Uzzell would visit to go over documentation for the FY 2022-23 audit. Clerk Dale said that she had personally taken the check for \$44,944.00 to the City of Washington for the FY 2023-24 Fire and EMS Contract.

Commissioner Nash made a motion to approve the budget amendment for the tennis court repairs in the amount of \$13,500. Seconded by Commissioner Cowell. Passed by all.

Commissioner Nash made a motion to approve the budget amendment for the clerk in the amount of \$17,104.00. Seconded by Commissioner Bowen. Passed by all.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, November 6, 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