

**Town of Washington Park  
Municipal Building  
August 1, 2022  
7:00 p.m.**

United Bank	General Fund	\$ 345,147.09
United Bank	Capital Reserve Fund/Truck Fund	82,100.00
United Bank	Powell Bill Checking	20,748.72
United Bank	Powell Bill/Saving CD	65,389.86
United Bank	Capital Reserve Fund/CD	76,352.13
United Bank	American Rescue Plan Act Fund	<u>136,507.40</u>
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 726,245.20</b>

**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.

There was no public present for public input.

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

**Old Business**

320 Isabella Avenue: Clerk Dale reported that on July 19, 2022, the Washington City Building Inspector, Mike Weldin, Mr. Brad Horton of Horton Contractors, and the Town Clerk had inspected the interior of the property pursuant to receiving an Administrative Search Warrant. Mr. Horton has written a letter stating that he had performed a complete investigation and determined what was needed to bring the structure back up to standards. He determined that \$90,000 would be needed and that the cost of these repairs would exceed the 50% threshold of the total building value of \$136,865.00. The Building Inspector will prepare a Finding of Fact letter to be sent to the owner of the property with the decision.

North side of Isabella Ave East end: no report.

Eastern Washington Park town boundary: Commissioner Bowen reported that he had been in communication with the Town Attorney regarding the Town's legal boundary behind the houses on Spruce Street. Discussion followed regarding the differing surveys of the property to the east of the Town. Commissioner Nash made a motion to ask the Town Attorney to investigate the past and recent surveys with the counsel of the NC Surveying Board and absent a negative reply, file a formal complaint regarding the

eastern boundary survey which suggests encroachments by Spruce Street residents. Seconded by Mayor pro tem Peacock. Passed by all.

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

Washington Park Land Use Plan: The Planning Board met on Thursday, July 28, 2022 to discuss the proposed Washington Park Land Use Plan. Mayor Richter reported that the Planning Board had adopted the Land Use Plan as presented. A public hearing for the Land Use Plan will be held after being advertised at a future date to be determined.

Washington Park tree cut on College Avenue: Mayor Richter is awaiting a valuation of the Washington Park pecan tree that was removed.

Washington Park waterfront trees cut down: Commissioner Nash reported that he had met with Sgt. Barrow of the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office. Sergeant Barrow took pictures. Discussion followed regarding offering a reward through Beaufort County Crime Stoppers for information on this event. Commissioner Nash made a motion to advertise for up to \$1000 for information leading to an arrest and conviction for destruction of Washington Park waterfront property. Seconded by Mayor pro tem Peacock. Passed by all.

Rising water and septic systems due to climate change: Mayor Richter met with Beaufort County Manager, Brian Alligood, who said that this was not an immediate concern for the County.

Loose cats in Washington Park: Mayor Richter has spoken with the Beaufort County Manager. Discussion followed regarding the Washington Park resident who is accepting donations for a trap, spay/neuter, and release for these animals. This issue was tabled to be revisited in six months.

### **New Business**

Commissioner Dale voiced his concern about garbage pickup where Town employees go deep into private property to retrieve trash. He said that he feels that it is time to have residents bring their garbage cans to the street. Discussion followed regarding liability as well as medical waivers for those residents with physical limitations. Commissioner Dale made a motion to implement a trash pickup policy where all garbage cans are brought to the road to be emptied by Town employees unless a resident has a "special needs" waiver which will be available from the Town clerk. Seconded by Commissioner Bowen. Passed by all.

This policy will be published on the website, a flyer mailed to Washington Park residents, and an email will be sent to residents' available email addresses. The policy will begin on Tuesday, October 4, 2022, the first regular garbage pickup day in October.

### **Reports**

Commissioner Dale – reported that the 7/16/2022 event on the waterfront went well and the deposit check had been returned to the hosting resident. New tennis court keys are available beginning today, August 1, 2022. This year's court keys have an orange dot on them. The cost remains at \$25 per key. Commissioner Dale asked that the

maintenance men look at the “birdbaths” that pool on the tennis courts after a rain and make the surface slippery. Clerk Dale said that she would take care of this request.

Commissioner Nash – no report from the Sheriff’s Office. He did note that there was a vehicle stopped by the Sheriff’s deputies in the 300 block of College Avenue on July 29, 2022, but did not have any information at this time. He will follow up with the Sheriff’s Office.

Mayor pro tem Peacock – no report.

Commissioner Bowen – no further report. See above.

Commissioner Cowell – no report. Commissioner Bowen asked about the Spanish moss on the Washington Park trees. Discussion followed regarding the moss shading the leaves and leading to tree death. It was recommended that the Town maintenance men periodically remove some of the large amounts of moss to prevent tree death.

### **Clerk’s Report**

The clerk reported expenses were \$4000 more than revenues in July. She reported that the Town had received \$14292.21 in local options sales tax; that the Town had received the second tranche of ARP funds in the amount of \$68,201.25; and that one yard sale permit had been issued. Clerk Dale said that the annual NCLM workers’ comp insurance had been paid for \$3298.71; annual dues had been paid to NCLM, the MidEast Commission, the UNC School of Government, and the NC Association of Municipal Clerks; the annual post office box fee had been paid and the annual termite inspection of the Municipal Building had been paid. She stated that the annual Powell Bill Certified Statement and the Powell Bill annual Expenditures Report had been submitted and accepted; the annual Solid Waste Report had been submitted and accepted; and the annual Community Rating System information for the National Flood Insurance Program had been submitted by Jeff Huss, Flood Plain Manager for the Town of Washington Park and the City of Washington. She reported that Mr. Askew had been put on the Town’s health insurance policy effective August 9, 2022; that she had requested the \$1620 annual recreation allotment from Beaufort County; and that a new weed eater, as well as a new battery for the old Massey Ferguson tractor, had been purchased. The clerk reminded the Town Board that the state-mandated Ethics Training was available on-line and needed to be completed by October 31, 2022. Clerk Dale read the Supervisor’s report which said that all was going well.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, September 12, 2022 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