

**Town of Washington Park
Municipal Building
December 5, 2022
7:00 p.m.**

United Bank	General Fund	\$ 373,786.26
United Bank	Capital Reserve Fund/Truck Fund	82,100.00
United Bank	Powell Bill Checking	28,422.88
United Bank	Powell Bill/Saving CD	65,431.08
United Bank	Capital Reserve Fund/CD	76,400.25
United Bank	American Rescue Plan Act Fund	<u>136,625.30</u>
Total		\$ 762,765.77

Present

Thomas Richter, Mayor
Jeff Peacock, Mayor pro tem
Belinda Cowell, Commissioner
Lee Bowen, 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.

There was no public present for public input.

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

Old Business

320 Isabella Avenue: The clerk reported that the Town Attorney had sent some information for an Ordinance for Demolition. Discussion followed. Commissioner Dale made a motion to authorize the clerk with the advice and consultation of the Town Attorney to proceed to affect the demolition of 320 Isabella Avenue. Seconded by Mayor pro tem Peacock. Passed by all.

North side of Isabella Ave East end: no report.

Eastern Washington Park town boundary: Commissioner Bowen reported that a letter had been sent to Mr. Richardson from the Town Attorney but that no response had been received yet.

Parking vehicles in the Town's rights-of-way: No report from the Planning Board. Clerk Dale will follow up with Seth Laughlin, Chairman of the Washington Park Planning Board.

Washington Park tree cut on College Avenue: no report.

Washington Park waterfront trees cut down: no updated information to report.

Short-term rentals: Mayor Richter led a spirited discussion regarding pros and cons of short-term rentals. He will contact someone with the NC Department of Commerce to come and speak to the Board at an upcoming meeting. No action taken.

Multi-family housing: Mayor Richter led a discussion regarding possible changes to the Town's Zoning Ordinance to reflect updated definitions of "family." No action taken.

New Business

Mayor Richter led a discussion regarding a letter from the residents at 101 Edgewater Drive asking the Town Board to consider lowering the speed limits in Washington Park and on NC32 (River Road). The Town Board decided not to take any action on this matter as the NC32 roadway is under the purview of the NC Department of Transportation. Mayor Richter will write a letter to the State Highway Patrol requesting more aggressive enforcement of the speed limits on NC32.

Reports

Commissioner Dale – reported that the windscreen on the west side had been repaired and Advanced Electrical Services was scheduled to do the tennis court lights.

Commissioner Nash – reported that Lt. Kelly Cox of the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office is now in Craven County, so he will report the updated contact when he is informed. Commissioner Nash reported that there had been an incident on Riverside Drive where a person parked in a car was yelling out the window and was reported to the Sheriff's Office. Beaufort County Sheriff's Department sent officers who removed the individual.

Commissioner Bowen – reported that he was completing a review of streets to determine repairs to be made. Mayor pro tem Peacock made a motion to have Commissioner Bowen get contractors' bids for repairs. Seconded by Commissioner Cowell. Passed by all. Commissioner Bowen said that he would be asking Dudley Landscaping to give a quote on the driveway ditch work on the Hickory Street side of 505 Fairview Avenue and the driveway ditch work at 116 Isabella Avenue.

Commissioner Cowell – reported that she had spoken with ReLeaf of Washington and they were interested in working with the Town of Washington Park to get trees planted throughout the town.

Mayor pro tem Peacock – no report.

Clerk's Report

The clerk reported that the Town had received \$48,608.86 in ad valorem taxes, \$14,154.35 in local option sales tax, \$73.60 in solid waste tax, and \$315.09 from NCLM Workers' Compensation Fund. She reported that three tennis keys and two pickleball keys had been sold in November and that there was one yard sale permit sold. Clerk Dale reported that Mr. Askew was off probationary employment as of 11/9/2022 and was given a \$1.00 per hour raise in pay as well as seven months' reimbursement for fuel. She reported that the audit invoice for \$7750 was paid and that James and Clerk Dale

were most grateful for the merit awards given by the Town Board. The clerk reported that she had called the Beaufort County Extension Office regarding fire ants and was told that a landscaper can broadcast "Top Choice" which provides 12-18 months efficacy. Clerk Dale reported that she had finished and submitted the Annual Financial Info Report for the US Census through the NC State Treasurer portal; she said that she had called Nathaniel Woolard at Beaufort County Soil and Water District regarding funding for cleaning Maple Branch; and she reported that the certificates of deposit at United Bank paid interest quarterly, not monthly. Clerk Dale also reported that William Ore would be retiring from part-time work in Washington Park at the end of December.

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

Commissioner Nash made a motion to return to the regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Bowen. Passed by all.

Mayor pro tem Peacock made a motion to pay the increased amount of the clerk's insurance for one year. Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Passed by all with Commissioner Dale abstaining from voting.

Mayor pro tem Peacock made a motion to give Christmas checks to Mr. Askew, James, and William. Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Passed by all.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, January 9, 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