

**Town of Washington Park
Municipal Building
February 1, 2021
7:00 p.m.**

United Bank	General Fund	\$ 260,893.69
United Bank	Capital Reserve Fund/Truck Fund	82,100.00
United Bank	Powell Bill Checking	7,770.38
United Bank	Powell Bill/Saving CD	65,215.02
United Bank	Capital Reserve Fund/CD	<u>76,141.18</u>
	Total	\$ 492,120.27

Present

Thomas B. 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 called for public input. Ms. Tricia Stowe was present asking the Board to see about acquiring some shade trees for the medians on Isabella Avenue. Commissioner Cowell stated that the Town is limited by the power lines that are in the medians on Isabella Avenue. Mayor Richter said that he would initiate conversation with the City of Washington Utilities personnel regarding possible underground positioning of power lines. Mayor Richter thanked Ms. Stowe for coming to the Board meeting.

The clerk distributed copies of a letter from River City Christian Center regarding the eastern Town limit and possible property encroachments by adjoining property owners.

Commissioner Nash made a motion to go into closed session with the Town attorney, Amanda Sasnett. Seconded by Commissioner Bowen. Passed by all.

Commissioner Nash made a motion to come out of closed session and resume the regular meeting. Seconded by Mayor pro tem Peacock. Passed by all.

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

Old Business

320 Isabella Avenue: Mayor Richter reported that there had been no communication with the owner this month. He said that he had taken some pictures that he would send to the owner of the property.

Hurricane Isaias debris pickup reimbursement: The clerk reported that the Town had received the checks from the State of North Carolina for both the debris pickup and

administrative costs totaling \$20,419.40. These checks represent the final costs incurred by the Town for Hurricane Isaias.

Dump truck body: The clerk reported that CAM Enterprises is continuing to work on the new body for the dump truck.

North side of Isabella East end: Commissioner Bowen reported that the neighbors on the east end of Isabella on the north side had reached an agreement regarding drainage into the ditch at the easternmost end of Isabella Avenue.

Ditch erosion east of the residence at 530 Isabella Avenue: Commissioner Bowen reported that no meeting had been held yet with the landscaping consultant.

160D Legislation regarding Zoning Ordinance: Mayor Richter reported that he had taken a class and felt that the project was too big for him. He will speak with the MidEast Commission regarding fees for completing this project. The clerk said that she would speak with Allen Pittman regarding his possible help completing this project and ask for his fee for these services.

New Business

The clerk said that the TAC Board of the MidEast Rural Planning Organization was required to be reappointed by their respective counties and towns. Mayor pro tem Peacock made a motion to reappoint Tom Richter to the TAC Board of the MidEast RPO for one year. Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Passed by all.

Reports

Commissioner Cowell – reported that she had had several residents voice their concern regarding contractors' vehicles making ruts in the medians within the Town. Discussion followed regarding reseeding and putting up barriers to prevent further damage. No action was taken.

Commissioner Bowen – no report. See above.

Mayor pro tem Peacock – no report. He led a brief discussion regarding the annual \$15,000 put into the truck fund. It was decided to keep the "truck fund" separate for viewing in the general fund monies. Mayor pro tem Peacock asked the Board to decide whether to keep the annual premium and coverage for the municipal building or to accept the higher premium and coverage. It was decided by acclamation to accept the current premium for another year.

Commissioner Nash – reported that he had a report of a larceny at 200 Isabella Avenue, but that he was not aware of any other calls to the sheriff's office.

Commissioner Dale – reported that the Town had purchased two brooms and two squeegees for the tennis courts. He said that he had gotten estimates on blue windscreens for the tennis court after receiving suggestions from pickleball players. Mayor Richter said that he would like to have green windscreens as they would be more attractive from the street. Mayor pro tem Peacock will help Commissioner Dale source windscreens not to exceed \$4000.

Clerk's Report

The clerk reported that the Town had received \$27,780.21 in ad valorem taxes this past month; that the Town had received a refund of sales tax for FY 2019-20 for \$2590.20; that the Town had received \$11,528.34 in local option sales tax; that one tennis key had been sold and one fence permit issued. She reported that the final audit payment of \$2100.00 had been paid to Larry Carpenter, CPA; that the Powell Bill fund had been used to pay \$250 for beaver trapping and also \$250 for a partial cleanout of Maple Branch. The clerk reported that as of 1/15/2021, Beaufort County had collected 92.51% of ad valorem property taxes for last year. The clerk read the Supervisor's report which stated that Elks Garage had fixed the electrical problem on the garbage truck by replacing the recently installed alternator. The dump truck is at Elks Garage now for a clutch adjustment. The supervisor said that the tractor, lawnmower, and dump truck had all be serviced, and that the dump truck and chipper had been power-washed. Mr. Woolard was able to get the reverse working on the feeder of the chipper.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Mayor Richter.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, March 1, 2021, at 7:00 pm at the Municipal Building.

Denise D. Dale
Clerk, Town of Washington Park