

**Town of Washington Park
Municipal Building
July 11, 2022
7:00 p.m.**

United Bank	General Fund	\$ 358,092.99
United Bank	Capital Reserve Fund/Truck Fund	82,100.00
United Bank	Powell Bill Checking	20,748.72
United Bank	Powell Bill/Saving CD	65,376.43
United Bank	Capital Reserve Fund/CD	76,336.44
United Bank	American Rescue Plan Act Fund	<u>68,296.05</u>
Total		\$ 670,950.63

Present

Thomas Richter, Mayor
Belinda Cowell, Commissioner
Lee Bowen, Commissioner
Wade Dale, Commissioner
Patrick Nash, Commissioner

Absent

Jeff Peacock, Mayor pro tem

Mayor Richter called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Cowell asked that trees on the waterfront and cats be added to the agenda. Commissioner Bowen made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Dale. Passed by all.

Mayor Richter called on Mr. Bill Rianhard for public input. Mr. Rianhard voiced his concern over rising flood waters and septic systems. Discussion followed. Mayor Richter said that he would speak with the Beaufort County Manager, Brian Alligood, to see what State or County initiatives are available.

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

Old Business

320 Isabella Avenue: Clerk Dale reported that the Washington City Building Inspector, Mr. Brad Horton, the Town Clerk and the Town Attorney were working to coordinate a date with the Magistrate for the Administrative Search Warrant.

North side of Isabella Ave East end: no report.

Eastern Washington Park town boundary: Commissioner Bowen reported that the Town Attorney would be contacting the River City Christian Church's attorney to discuss the title opinion and options for the respective property owners.

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

Washington Park Land Use Plan: No report from the Planning Board yet.

New Business

Commissioner Cowell reported that approximately twenty (20) trees had been chopped down on the eastern waterfront across from Pine Street and Riverside Drive between July 10 and July 11, 2022. The clerk said that she had contacted CAMA as well as the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office to report the vandalism. She said that Kelly Spivey of CAMA had directed her call to the Department of Water Resources and that agency would contact her. Commissioner Nash offered to follow up with the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office.

Commissioner Dale reported that several residents had asked him to ask the Town Board about the number of feral cats in Washington Park. He said that a resident is trapping and having the cats neutered and returned to Washington Park. Mayor Richter will ask the County Manager, Brian Allgood about cats when he speaks with him about rising waters and septic tanks.

Reports

Commissioner Dale – reported that there would be a private fundraiser sponsored by a resident on Saturday, July 16, 2022. He also reported that the annual Hannah's Heroes Glow Run will be on September 10, 2022. Commissioner Dale said that the playground mulch was good, but that there needed to be another quarter truck load to completely finish the playground area. The cost would be under \$2000 and that was within the budget for the recreation for this fiscal year. Commissioner Dale said that Mayor pro tem Peacock had been contacted by a resident asking if the Pungo Christian Academy tennis team could use the Town's courts for practice. Discussion followed. It was decided to deny the school team practice hours as that would leave no free courts for town residents.

Commissioner Nash – no report from the Sheriff's Office. He said that he had made a claim with the Sheriff's Office regarding the unsanctioned tree removal at 211 College Avenue. Discussion followed regarding having the Town Attorney draft penalty language in the Town ordinances. Mayor Richter said that he was getting an arborist to value the tree and provide a report.

Commissioner Bowen – reported that there were several spots in roads that needed fixing and asked the clerk to ask the men to identify those spots. Discussion regarding ditch work was initiated by Commissioner Dale. Commissioner Bowen asked the clerk to ask CAMA about permits for bulkheading and ditch work within "blue line" ditches. Commissioner Bowen also asked about plans for edging streets with the tractor and a box blade. Clerk Dale will follow up with Mr. Askew.

Commissioner Cowell – reported that there is a tree in the 500 block of Isabella Avenue near a power line that had lost all its leaves. She will contact Stuart Dudley to look at the tree.

Clerk's Report

The clerk reported ad valorem taxes collected were \$2802.25; that local option sales tax received was \$14,192.74; and that franchise tax received was \$4170.90. She reported that one yard sale permit and one pickleball key had been sold; that the commercial

liability, auto and fire, wind and hail insurance had been paid for the year for \$6989.00; and that the State-mandated ethics training for the board was \$450. Clerk Dale reported that expenses were \$1384.11 more than revenues for the month of June. The clerk reported that the Powell Bill certified statement for Fiscal Year 2022 had been completed, and the Powell Bill Expenditure report was in process. The clerk also reported that she had finally submitted the ARP report with the help of the Treasury Department and the State of North Carolina. The clerk initiated a discussion of gratuities and gifts being given by residents to the Town employees. Discussion followed. Commissioner Bowen made a motion to amend the personnel handbook to reflect that gifts or money would not be accepted by employees except during the month of December. Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Passed by all.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, August 1, 2022 at 7:00 pm at the Municipal Building.

Denise D. Dale
Clerk, Town of Washington Park