

**Town of Washington Park
Municipal Building
July 1, 2024, 7:00 p.m.**

United Bank	General Fund	\$ 457,430.51
United Bank	Capital Reserve Fund/Truck Account	82,100.00
United Bank	Capital Reserve CD	79,602.21
United Bank	Powell Bill Checking	41,291.96
United Bank	Powell Bill/Saving CD	68,173.41
United Bank	American Rescue Plan Act Account	<u>138,037.26</u>
	Total	\$ 866,635.35

Present: Thomas Richter, Mayor; Jeff Peacock, Mayor pro tem; Lee Bowen, Commissioner; Belinda Cowell, Commissioner; Wade Dale, Commissioner; Vail Rumley, Commissioner.

Absent: None

Mayor Richter called the meeting to order. Mayor pro tem Peacock made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Dale. Passed by all.

Minutes and Financial Report: The June minutes and financial report were reviewed. Mayor pro tem Peacock made a motion to approve the June financial report and June minutes; seconded by Commissioner Bowen. Passed by all.

Public Input: None

Old Business

Contractor vs. Resident Debris Pick-up: Commissioner Rumley drafted language for tags to leave with residents regarding contractor debris; copies were provided to the Board for review. Discussion held. Commissioner Rumley was asked to edit the proposed wording to reflect a certain timeframe to remove debris or a fee will be charged for removal. Clerk Alligood was asked to obtain fee schedules from other communities for review/consideration.

Drainage North side of Isabella Ave East end: No report.

320 Isabella Avenue: Clerk Alligood received an email update from Laurie and MacGregor Bell. They are still waiting on the final quotes from the potential contractors; they hope to select a contractor soon.

Resilient Coastal Communities Program grant: A Resolution to adopt the overall Resilience Strategy plan was presented. Commissioner Bowen made a motion to approve the Resolution; seconded by Commissioner Cowell. Passed by all. Commissioner Rumley suggested thank-you notes be sent to the RCCP Committee members for their time and efforts related to the project.

ARPA funds: No update.

New Business

Townscape Committee: On behalf of the Townscape committee, Isabel Farrell requested authorization from the Board to apply for a grant from the NC Forestry Service, to conduct a complete tree inventory on public property in Washington Park.

Discussion held regarding parameters of the grant. There is no financial match due from the Town for this grant. One component involves a software program to manage the inventory; Committee member Derek Cooper has volunteered to manage the program. The cost for the software is included in the grant; however, after the grant term, the Town would be responsible for the annual fee, if it wanted to continue with the inventory program. The anticipated cost of the fee is \$3,600/year. A quote was obtained from Davie Tree Service to perform the work, up to 1,000 trees. Ms. Farrell also spoke with Macon Respass with the Town of Washington, and he is willing to assist as needed. Commissioner Bowen made a motion to authorize Ms. Farrell to complete the grant application on behalf of the Town of Washington Park; seconded by Commissioner Rumley. Passed by all.

Committee member Francis Hogan then presented information on the “College Avenue Entrance” project the Committee is planning for the island area at the end of College Avenue near River Road. This project involves removing the current plantings and providing new landscaping. The plan includes low maintenance and drought tolerant plants, and will leave a border of ten feet on all sides. The anticipated cost for the project is \$4,000 and work would not be performed until September or October. If the Town were to receive the Forestry Service grant, there is a possibility this project could also be funded through the grant. The Committee plans to make this a community project, to encourage residents to participate and assist with the planting. Commissioner Cowell noted her only concern would be compliance with any DOT criteria. Commissioner Cowell made a motion to approve the plan and the expense of \$4,000. Seconded by Commissioner Rumley. Passed by all.

Commissioners’ Reports

Commissioner Dale: Upcoming 5ks planned for September 21 (Hannah’s Heroes Glow Run), September 28 (Ovarian Cancer), and October 19, 2024 (Smoke on the Water); tennis court work delayed until September.

Commissioner Rumley: Report of attempted theft of catalytic converter; report of a false alarm fire call. Spoke with Chris Newkirk, Beaufort County Emergency Services Director to coordinate Chief Sawyer, Animal Protective Services Manager, attending the August 5, 2024, Town Board meeting. Commissioner Rumley will speak with Public Safety Director Stacy Drakeford regarding speed limit feedback signs.

Mayor pro tem Peacock: Has received complaints regarding resident Jason Woolard leaving a jet ski trailer on the waterfront; modify the previous requested letter to Mr. Woolard regarding removal of posts, to include asking him to remove the trailer.

Commissioner Bowen: The paving project is complete and came in under the quoted price. A section of Fairview could not be milled because pipes running underneath were too close to the road surface, so that section was overlaid instead, which resulted in significant savings. Will monitor that section for the next couple of years. Nice job with roots along Beech Street. Will still need to have the cracks tarred; Tripp Brothers does not perform that function and it was not included in the proposal. The Board asked that a thank-you letter be sent to Tripp Brothers, Inc. for the job well done; the Board also thanked Commissioner Bowen for his work in overseeing the project.

Commissioner Cowell: Reiterated her thanks to the Townscape Committee for the work they are doing. Asked PW Supervisor Askew to spray down the area in the median where the crepe myrtles were removed.

Clerk's Report:

- Deposits received in June totaled \$22,075.96 (ad valorem: \$632.52, NCVTS: \$1,477.70, local option sales tax: \$14,831.28, quarterly franchise tax: \$5,124.46, tennis/pickleball keys: \$5.00, yard sale permit: \$5.00).
- Insurance renewal premium was paid to Bragaw for the new fiscal year. Noted the building value in the Tailored policy is \$211K and \$218K in the wind/hail policy, because wind/hail usually puts in an inflation guard. The Board asked Clerk Alligood to obtain a quote on what it would be to increase the Tailored policy to \$218K for the building, to match the wind/hail policy.
- 511 Hickory update: Mr. Zienty came to NC to retrieve some of his belongings; planning another trip in July to continue preparations for placing the house on the market.
- Complaint of excessive dog barking - 215 College; resident contacted animal control.
- Received request to place additional signs along Riverside Drive "area for park residents only". Discussion held regarding limiting what can occur on the waterfront area and when; mentioned possibly having the Town attorney review.
- FY25 Budget – will receive \$5,000 from County, not requested \$15K.
- Paving job invoice totaled \$94,871.55; available funding includes the Powell Bill CD and Powell Bill checking account. Commissioner Bowen made a motion to take approximately \$58,000 from the CD, and the balance of the invoice (approximately \$37,000) from ARPA funds to pay for the paving job; additionally take \$4,000 from ARPA funds to pay for the previously approved landscape project; Seconded by Commissioner Dale. Passed by all.

Closed session: Commissioner Bowen made a motion to go into closed session per N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(5), and (6). Seconded by Commissioner Rumley. Passed by all.

Mayor pro tem Peacock made a motion to return to open session. Seconded by Commissioner Bowen. Passed by all.

Mayor pro tem Peacock made a motion to increase Les Woolard's hourly rate to \$18/hour, effective July 1, 2024. Seconded by Commissioner Rumley. Passed by all.

Mayor pro tem Peacock made a motion to give the two full-time employees a 4% COLA for this fiscal year. Seconded by Commissioner Rumley. Passed by all.

Commissioner Dale mentioned an incident of parking in the median and possibly sending a letter. It was recommended that they wait until the ordinance review has been completed.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, August 5, 2024, at 7:00 pm at the Municipal Building. There being no further business, Mayor Richter adjourned the meeting.

April S. Alligood, Clerk
Town of Washington Park