

**Town of Washington Park
Municipal Building
August 5, 2024, 7:00 p.m.**

United Bank	General Fund	\$ 445,841.08
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	10,173.41
United Bank	American Rescue Plan Act Account	101,227.30
	Total	\$ 760,235.96

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

Absent: Wade Dale, Commissioner

Mayor Richter called the meeting to order. Commissioner Cowell made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Rumley. Passed by all.

Mayor Richter called on Melanie Sawyer, Beaufort County Animal Services Manager; see New Business - Animal Protective Services.

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

Public Input: None

Old Business

Contractor vs. Resident Debris Pick-up: updated language for tags to include a timeframe regarding removal of debris. Clerk Alligood reviewed fee schedules from other communities. Discussion held. Commissioner Bowen made a motion to charge a minimum of \$100 for the first 30 minutes and an additional \$100 for every additional half hour to pick up and remove debris, once notice has been given. Seconded by Commissioner Rumley. Passed by all.

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 have narrowed the list to two (2) potential contractors; speaking with them to see where they can cut costs as the quotes came in higher than expected.

Resilient Coastal Communities Program grant: Awarded grant in the amount of \$237,300 for engineering and design work of a living shoreline to reduce shoreline erosion. A copy of our conflict policy has been requested. Upon review, it will need to be updated to list contacts by position instead of by specific name. Discussion held. Commissioner Bowen made a motion to update the policy to remove reference to former clerk Denise Dale and Mayor Thomas Richter, and to just list work positions. Also update additional sections to reflect notification to the Board instead of to the Clerk. Seconded by Commissioner Cowell. Passed by all.

ARPA funds: No update. Can remove from future agendas.

New Business

Animal Protective Services: Melanie Sawyer, Beaufort County Animal Services Manager, and Haley Hardison, Animal Services Officer, were present to answer questions regarding animal concerns in the community. When a complaint is received, an officer is sent to speak with the complainant; they then make contact with the owner of the animal. If a dog bites a person, the dog is typically quarantined for 10 days, per state statute. Rabies shots are also updated, if needed. It does help to try to get pictures or videos when possible; suggested security camera footage as an additional source of documentation. They are not law enforcement officers, but are there to enforce the ordinances. They cannot charge felonies, but can misdemeanors. Briefly discussed previous bite case. The incident was not reported to Animal Services until two months later; at that point, not much they could do. They did speak with the dog owner. With regard to the more recent posts on Facebook, no one called animal control to report anything. Animal services cannot do anything if they are not contacted. They do not take anonymous complaints; they will need the name, address and phone number of the complainant. If a dog comes after another dog on a leash, report it to Animal Services. Even though there is no leash law, pet owners still have a responsibility to keep dogs under control. A lot of variables are in play for a dog to be deemed dangerous. Most felonies consist of neglect, animal cruelty, bad boarding. They receive calls about cats every day. If you start feeding an animal, after 72 hours, it is considered your pet. Paws in Love is a local TNR program. Dog barking complaints – nothing they can do regarding noise.

Mid-East Commission MOA for EPA's Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap grant application: The Board commented the fee is a reasonable cost in order to start the conversation and obtain accurate information regarding wastewater treatment. Mayor pro tem Peacock made a motion to enter into an agreement with the Mid-East Commission for the EPA's Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap grant. Seconded by Commissioner Bowen. Passed by all.

Budget Amendment - Professional Services: The Town received an invoice, in the amount of \$5,000, from Sorrell Land Surveying for work done regarding the Charlotte Flynn heirs tract on the eastern end of town. The Board authorized this work in September 2023 with a limit of \$3,500. Commissioner Bowen made a motion for a budget amendment for \$5,000 to pay the current invoice from Sorrell Land Surveying. Seconded by Mayor pro tem Peacock. Passed by all.

Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Cowell: Discussion regarding moss overtaking the crepe myrtles on the waterfront. Spoke with new residents at 125 Isabella regarding the tree they cut down. It was a Park tree but was dead; they do plan to replace it. Approved to remove dead limbs from the Park pecan tree on that lot.

Commissioner Bowen: Attorney Sasnett is still waiting on additional information from the surveyor with regard to the eastern town limits. Spoke with Shipleys at 607 Small Street regarding their drainage question; driveway washes out, want an additional tile to fill it in. Sent an email to Jason Shipley to discuss; have not heard back yet.

Mayor pro tem Peacock: Would like to research options for a smaller trash truck, possibly one that will not require a CDL to operate. Keep the big truck for yard debris or larger loads, but use a smaller one for trash only. Consider both new and used options. Sign on waterfront at eastern end is hidden – will relocate.

Commissioner Rumley: Not looking at too much inundation from Tropical Storm Debby. A dirt bike was stolen, but recovered. Safety references noted on Facebook: install more street lights, security cameras at entrances, part-time security at night; Pine Street speeding concerns. Discussion regarding recent incident of kids riding around in a golf cart pulling a toy car; Sheriff spoke with involved parents directly.

Commissioner Dale: Absent; Clerk Alligood provided updates on his behalf. Changed out lock, new keys for tennis court; wedding held August 2-3 on waterfront; received a separate request to take photos at the waterfront on August 3; still waiting for clearing on Spruce St. extension to be scheduled; will need to order additional pickleball nets once work on tennis courts is completed.

Clerk's Report: Deposits received in July totaled **\$16,493.10** (ad valorem: \$872.73; NCVTS: \$1,752.10; local option sales tax: \$13,788.27; tennis/pickleball keys: \$80.00); Insurance renewal: additional cost to increase coverage to \$218K = \$29.00; Transfers between accounts to pay the street paving invoice: approx. \$37,000 to PB checking from ARPA; \$58,000 to PB checking from PB CD; Paid annual dues/fees for NCLM, NC Mayor's Association, NC Municipal Clerk's Association, annual Terminix fee, annual WC fee; Bucket on tractor messed up picking up larger pile, estimated cost to replace \$2,500; CDs: Powell Bill matures August 8; Capital Reserve matures on August 13; Placed ad for Les' position, ran July 11 through July 31; submitted certified statement and expense report for Powell bill; Townscape Committee: grant submitted to NC Forestry Service requesting \$27,000 for Park tree inventory. Reminder: Ethics workshop course due December 1. Next session of Clerk School week of August 26; will attend virtually. Vacation week of September 23.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, September 9, 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