Town of Washington Park

Municipal Building

October 7, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

United Bank General Fund $ 461,672.55

United Bank Capital Reserve Fund/Truck Account 82,100.00

United Bank Capital Reserve CD 80,392.97

United Bank Powell Bill Checking 50,392.66

United Bank Powell Bill/Saving CD 10,625.19

United Bank American Rescue Plan Act Account 97,904.44

Total $ 783,087.81

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

Mayor Richter called the meeting to order. Commissioner Cowell asked to add two (2) items to the agenda under New Business: parking in the median and sump pump. Commissioner Bowen made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Commissioner Dale. Passed by all.

Public Input: none

Minutes and Financial Report: The September minutes and financial report were reviewed. Mayor pro tem Peacock made a motion to approve the September minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Rumley. Passed by all.

Old Business

Debris Pick-up: Clerk Alligood noted the door tags are being printed and will be available for distribution as needed. PW Supervisor Todd Askew will leave the door tags, notifying Clerk Alligood of the address so she can assist residents when they call.

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

320 Isabella Avenue: Town Attorney Sasnett sent a letter to Mr. Bell as directed at the September meeting. The letter was received on September 24; the 90-day deadline to respond is December 23. Significant work activity has been noticed recently.

Resilient Coastal Communities Program grant projects: The Mid-East Commission submitted a grant administration contract in the amount of $12,300 to administer Phase 3 of the RCCP grant for the Living Shoreline project. This expense is included in the total grant award of $237,300 and will not require the use of Town funds. Mayor pro tem Peacock made a motion to approve the agreement; seconded by Commissioner Cowell. Passed by all.

Update on Speed Bump Request: Commissioner Bowen met with the Wickers and the speed bump is a reasonable request. He recommends placing it south of their driveway; approximately 130 ft from centerline of the intersection. It will require a 20-foot-wide bump. Mayor pro tem Peacock made a motion to purchase the speed bump for a purchase price not to exceed $2,000. Commissioner Dale seconded. Passed by all.

Fee schedule: Review proposed draft and discuss next month.

Town picnic – Following a brief discussion, the Board, by acclimation, will consider a potential date in May for the Town picnic.

New Business

Parking in Median: A car is parked in front of 108 Riverside Drive daily; the median is wearing down, the grass is gone, and water collects there. Discussion regarding a similar concern near 220 College Avenue. The ordinance does read no parking in the median. The Clerk was asked to send letters to those residents, as well as one to the first house on College Avenue.

Sump pump: The sump pump at 212 Riverside Drive runs down the driveway across and into the median; there is consistently water in the median. It has become more of an issue now, with water accumulating there and nothing growing in the median. Water is also spreading to neighbors houses and along the median. Discussion on how sump pumps work. Would have to run a pipe under the road to get to the piece of waterfront property. The neighbor ran one previously with permission from the Town. Mayor and Mayor pro tem will work with the Clerk to prepare a letter to the residents to discuss the matter.

Commissioners’ Reports

Commissioner Dale: Smoke on the water 5K scheduled for October 19. October 20, St. Peter’s prayer event at the waterfront. Tennis court update – contractor has three (3) jobs in front of us; doing projects in order received them; fire hydrant adapter available when needed; will be shipping some materials directly to worksite. PW Supervisor sprayed the playground for ants; ask him to rake out under the swings. Power take-off on tractors – no new information available; obtain update from PW Supervisor.

Commissioner Rumley: Rash of break ins recently due to unlocked vehicles. Suspicious person seen going door to door; ended up being a Brightspeed representative. Complaints of a man driving around slowly in red car; was son of a resident riding around to smoke. Deputy City Manager Stacey Drakeford indicated the speed feedback signs would be in the $4,000 - $5,000 range. Led to discussion of a permanent stop light at Brick Kiln road; consider reaching back out to DOT and/or Representative Keith Kidwell. Intersection of Edgewater and Isabella has been on off flooded past 3 weeks; reached out to NWS as to why this is happening now. Led to discussion regarding scraping the edge of Isabella. Commissioner Bowen will reach out to Stuart Dudley to scrape just that end for now. Beaufort County Sheriff’s Office – still trying to coordinate a community watch meeting.

Mayor pro tem Peacock: Nicolas Villeda doing good; Clerk Alligood will research process for him to get his CDL.

Commissioner Bowen: no report

Commissioner Cowell: Townscape planting day this Sunday, October 13 at 2p. NC Forestry service grant proposal in next phase. Isabel Farrell working on additional information needed. Committee members also working on signs; sandblasting the old signs and coordinating having them repainted.

Clerk’s Report: Deposits received in September totaled $45,879.56 Ad Valorem $8715.04; NCVTS $1849.58; local option sales tax $15,231.33; quarterly utilities tax $3361.63, tennis / pickleball keys: $105.00, County recreation fund: $5,000; transfer from ARPA: $1,930.36 – island project; NCLM Workers Comp refund: $585.92; Powell Bill installment: $9,100.70. Reminder that Ethics workshop course due December 1; FY24 audit to be performed October 16. Received notification that the Town has been approved to move forward in the next steps of the EPA’s Closing America’s Wastewater Access Gap grant imitative; move information to follow.

Closed session: Commissioner Bowen made a motion to go into closed session. Seconded by Mayor pro tem Peacock. Passed by all.

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

The next regular meeting will be Monday, November 11, 2024, at 7:00 pm at the Municipal Building. There being no further business, Mayor pro tem Peacock made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Bowen. Meeting adjourned.

April S. Alligood, Clerk

Town of Washington Park