Town of Washington Park

Municipal Building

April 12, 2021

7:00 p.m.

United Bank General Fund $ 287,095.67

United Bank Capital Reserve Fund/Truck Fund 82,100.00

United Bank Powell Bill Checking 7,770.38

United Bank Powell Bill/Saving CD 65,221.89

United Bank Capital Reserve Fund/CD 76,212.11

Total $ 518,400.05

Present Absent

Jeff Peacock, Mayor pro tem Thomas B. Richter, Mayor

Lee Bowen, Commissioner

Belinda Cowell, Commissioner

Wade Dale, Commissioner

Patrick Nash, Commissioner

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

Mayor pro tem Peacock called for public input. Mr. David Gossett and Mr. Charles Alligood spoke about the ongoing beaver problem and high water in Maple Branch. Mr. Alligood provided pictures of the creek. Clerk Dale reported that Nathaniel Woolard, the District Resource Specialist for the Beaufort County Soil and Water Conservation District has put the area “on the list” for the County. The BCSWCD needs approval from the Corps of Engineers, then approval from the Soil and Water Board, then a contractor would be hired to remove the fallen trees, limbs, and beaver dams. The clerk reviewed what the Town has done: November 2020 someone was hired to clean out beaver dams; early January 2021 another person was hired to trap beavers and break up beaver dams; mid-January 2021, Ross Boyer was hired with five men and a boat who removed four blocked areas before getting to the large area of fallen trees with 20”-24” diameters. It was Ross Boyer’s suggestion that a heavy dragline was necessary to clear the area. Mr. Gossett and Mr. Alligood asked to be kept up to date regarding any activity in Maple Branch. Mayor pro tem Peacock thanked them for their input.

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

Old Business

320 Isabella Avenue: The clerk reported that it was her understanding that the son of the homeowner would be present at the May meeting.

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 he had spoken with the previous homeowner and builder regarding the driveway at 520 Isabella Avenue. Discussion followed. No action was taken.

Ditch erosion east of the residence at 530 Isabella Avenue: Commissioner Bowen reported that he, Mayor pro tem Peacock, and Mayor Richter were still working on drafting a Town policy for ditching expenses and cost-sharing between residents and the Town.

Maple Branch cleanout: see above.

Eastern Washington Park town boundary: no update.

Utility lines underground on Isabella: Clerk Dale reported that she had spoken with Hatteras Brooks, Washington Park’s representative to the Washington Electric Advisory Board. He had no updated information regarding the possibility of underground utility lines.

New Business

SB349/HB401: Commissioner Nash made a motion to approve the attached Resolution opposing the proposed zoning legislation, and send it to Representative Kidwell and Senator Bazemore. Seconded by Commissioner Bowen. Passed by all.

2021-22 Budget requests: Mayor pro tem Peacock asked if there were any requests from Commissioners for the upcoming budget. The clerk will be presenting the proposed budget at the next meeting.

Reports

Commissioner Dale – reported that 400 feet of the windscreens had been installed and that the players are most appreciative. The tennis courts will be cleaned beginning April 14, 2021. It may take four days to totally clean both courts. The clerk will make signs advising players of the scheduled maintenance. Commissioner Dale reported that there will be a wedding on the waterfront on June 25, 2021, and that there will be a Habitat for Humanity 5K Run on October 30, 2021. He also reported that there had been an Easter egg hunt in the playground that was sponsored by a resident.

Commissioner Nash – reported a break-in at 309 College Avenue and the subsequent investigation by the Sheriff’s office.

Commissioner Cowell – no report.

Commissioner Bowen – reported that the resident at 520 Isabella Avenue asked permission to put a bridge over the ditch behind his house. Commissioner Bowen said that he had checked with the clerk who advised the owner that the Town would like a letter releasing the Town from liability arising from the bridge.

Mayor pro tem Peacock – no report.

Clerk’s Report

The clerk reported that ad valorem taxes had been received for $5037.99; and that local option sales tax and franchise tax had been received for $16,179.69.The clerk reported that the town had received $100 in a class action suit with the NC Department of Justice regarding DRAM chip and government purchases; that a fence permit was given to 603 Small Street; that a driveway permit had been issued to 114 Isabella Avenue and a driveway permit to132 Isabella Avenue; that a fence permit was issued to 601 Bank Street; and that one tennis key had been sold this month. The clerk reported that she had spoken with Ms. Warren regarding the Board’s action on estate sales and that Ms. Warren said that she would try to comply. Clerk Dale said that she had received a call from a resident asking about frequent parking on River Road. The clerk said that she had called Mr. Robby Taylor of NCDOT and was waiting for a reply. Clerk Dale reported that she had called the realtor for 404 College Avenue regarding the Zillow listing that said there was a guest cottage with the property. The clerk said that she had informed the realtor about the policy against AirBnB and VRBO rentals in Washington Park.

The clerk gave the supervisor’s report saying that Stuart Dudley had graded a ditch behind the shop and made the water drain better between the buildings.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Mayor pro tem Peacock.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, May 3, 2021, at 7:00 pm at the Municipal Building.

 Denise D. Dale

 Clerk, Town of Washington Park