

**Town of Washington Park
Municipal Building
February 1, 2016
7:00 p.m.**

First South Bank	General Fund	\$ 107,543.52
First South Bank	Capital Reserve Fund	45,000.00
First South Bank	Powell Bill/Checking	27,108.68
First South Bank	Powell Bill/Saving CD	80,664.05
First South Bank	Capital Reserve Fund/CD	<u>71,810.92</u>
Total		\$ 332,127.17

Present

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

Absent

Jeff Peacock, Mayor pro tem

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

Mayor Richter called upon Alston Tankard, Electric System Engineer, of the Washington Electric Utilities. Mr. Tankard spoke about converting overhead powerlines to underground lines within Washington Park. He presented a preliminary layout for the conversion, saying that it was only preliminary, and not a final layout. He explained that residents who choose to hook up to the underground powerline from their houses would incur the cost of trenching and hookup. Mayor Richter asked how expensive it would be for residents. Mr. Tankard explained that if WEU did the digging, it would be \$4.78/ft. Residents could dig their own 3 foot deep trench for up to 125 feet. The first phase of the WEU project would be Beech Street, the second phase would be the alley, and the third phase would be behind houses on 300 block Isabella/College. These three areas were chosen based on age of infrastructure and vegetation. He pointed out that the main powerline runs from the bridge, then down Isabella Avenue. He asked that the Town of Washington Park give the WEU the go-ahead to begin the underground powerlines conversion which are within the WEU easement. Mayor Richter said that the Town Board would get back to the WEU within 30 to 60 days. Mayor Richter thanked Mr. Tankard for his presentation.

There was no public input or comments from the public.

The minutes were approved after an error was corrected.

Old Business

No wake zone: Mayor Richter said that he had spoken with the Washington City Manager, Bobby Roberson, who would like the Town of Washington Park to spearhead the application for a no wake zone. Discussion followed. Mayor Richter and the clerk will look into the NC Wildlife Commission application process and report back to the Board. Fire contract: Mayor Richter explained that the two-year fire contract with the City of Washington ends on June 30, 2016. He will speak with the Washington City Manager,

Bobby Roberson, regarding keeping the calculations the same for another two years. This year's contract was \$38,359.70. Mayor Richter and the clerk will go to the Bunyan Fire Department meeting on 2/4/16 to speak with them about joining their Fire District. Discussion followed regarding the building of a substation for Bunyan. Commissioner Bowen asked if Washington Park would have to provide funds for land acquisition as well as structure assistance. Discussion followed regarding the level of insurance rating if Washington Park changed fire and EMS providers.

Fence ordinance violation: Mayor Richter said that he had spoken with the Town Attorney regarding the owner at 206 River Road requesting the front of her lot be on Maple Branch, not River Road. The Town Attorney had not gotten back to the mayor at the time of the meeting.

DOT intersection at Edgewater and River Road: Commissioner Bowen reported that Mr. Cabaniss of the NCDOT had spoken with his supervisor who said that if the sight distance at the bridge was enough to allow left turns, then the island could be removed. In the meantime, the NCDOT will place signage in the island on the pole that says "No Left Turn."

Town Attorney: Mayor Richter reported that Keith Mason had agreed to be the Town's attorney on a fee-for-service basis.

Zoning Ordinance corrections: Mayor Richter explained that the corrections were mostly typographical and grammatical errors and said that it was necessary to advertise the Zoning Ordinance changes twice before a public hearing. Jerry Vick, resident, asked why the Board did not address a change to the ordinance regarding River Road residents and fences as he felt that River Road was unlike other roads in Washington Park. Bob Byrd, resident, agreed and said that the speeds and traffic on River Road were much higher than in other parts of Washington Park, and asked about a variance. Mayor Richter replied that variances were usually dimensional and that Ms. Klinger's lot was dimensionally similar to other lots on River Road. Mr. Vick said that he felt that an ordinance could be worded to make a "special district." Mayor Richter said that subject to the response from the attorney, the public hearing for the Zoning Ordinance corrections would be at the March 7th meeting.

New Business

Mayor Richter said that he had received two letters from a resident at North Shores whose property is adjacent to Washington Park at Three-Acre Wood. The resident is complaining that trees on the Washington Park side had fallen onto his property in the past and that he was worried about some potential damage to his fence. Commissioner Dale asked if the Park employees could do the work. Mayor Richter said that they could.

Mayor Richter said that Warren Smith had called the clerk with his intention to resign from the Washington Electric Utilities Advisory Board and that the position needed to be filled. Discussion followed. It was recommended that the opening be advertised in the next Town Crier and that all suggestions for potential candidates be directed to the mayor.

Reports

Commissioner Dale – reported that Heather Perry with Young Life had requested a 5K dusk run on April 9, 2016. Commissioner Dale made a motion to allow the event.

Seconded by Commissioner Bowen. Passed by all. Commissioner Dale reported that the events scheduled for March 26 and May 14 had sent \$250 deposit checks to the clerk.

Commissioner Nash – reported that there was nothing from the Sheriff's office. Commissioner Bowen said that some residents' vehicles had had eggs thrown at them at night. He reported that one incident had occurred on Fairview Avenue and that the Sheriff's office was following up.

Commissioner Cowell – no report, but thanked Mayor pro tem Peacock for filling her in on the tree situation in North Shores.

Commissioner Bowen – Isabella Avenue east end drainage: Commissioner Bowen reported that Hugh Sorrell was designing a drainage solution. There are three proposed designs. 1) is to put a pipe under the private drive and not raise the level of the private drive which would result in almost no flow from the private drive to the creek; 2) put a pipe under the private drive and raise the drive almost 12" to accommodate the pipe to provide a nice flow from one end to the other, and remove the pipe at Woolard and replace it, straighten the ditch from the Few property to the Shorewood canal, and modify the sides of the ditch to a 3:1 slope; 3) put the pipe under the private drive and not change the pipe at Woolard's property, but slope it more and re-sod it. Commissioner Bowen asked for the board to make a decision and then he and the mayor would meet with the homeowners. His recommendation was the second design. At a future meeting, the project would be able to be moved forward, budget for it, and put it out to bid. Mayor Richter asked that the recommended solution be adopted by acclamation and that he and Commissioner Bowen would meet with the homeowners. There were no objections.

Clerk's Report

The clerk reported that as an employee had lost two sets of keys, the building and shop locks had been re-keyed. She reported that the Town had received \$87,565.68 in ad valorem taxes this month; that she had paid the third quarter Workers' Compensation invoice for \$907.00; that the ditch in front of 212 Isabella had been repaired for \$108.00; that the final payment of \$18,359.70 of the fire contract with the City of Washington had been paid; that the trucks had cost \$2,347.00 for tires and the towing to Coastal Diesel in November; that the W2 forms and 1099s had been processed and delivered; and apprised the Board that the Garden Club meeting for March would be on Monday, March 14, 2016, to accommodate the North Carolina Election on Tuesday, March 15. The clerk thanked the Board for the generous donation in memory of her father to the Never Forgotten Honor Flight. The clerk asked if the Town Board wanted to renew the website contract with Ken Robol for 2016. Commissioner Bowen made a motion to renew the website contract with Ken Robol for \$125. Seconded by Commissioner Dale. Passed by all. The clerk gave Mr. Wood's report that the tractor had either a damaged head gasket or cracked block and that Beaufort Equipment would be taking it apart to ascertain repair costs. The next meeting will be March 7, 2016.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Denise D. Dale
Clerk, Town of Washington Park