

**Town of Washington Park
Municipal Building
January 9, 2023
7:00 p.m.**

United Bank	General Fund	\$ 386,882.79
United Bank	Capital Reserve Fund/Truck Fund	82,100.00
United Bank	Powell Bill Checking	36,097.04
United Bank	Powell Bill/Saving CD	65,431.08
United Bank	Capital Reserve Fund/CD	76,400.25
United Bank	American Rescue Plan Act Fund	<u>136,700.73</u>
Total		\$ 783,611.89

Present

Thomas Richter, Mayor
Jeff Peacock, Mayor pro tem
Belinda Cowell, Commissioner
Lee Bowen, Commissioner
Wade Dale, Commissioner
Patrick Nash, Commissioner

Absent

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 for public input. Ms. Tricia Stowe and Ms. Frances Hogan said that they were there to protest the cutting of the crepe myrtles in the medians on Isabella Avenue. They said that they would like the Town to pursue burying powerlines in the median on Isabella. Mayor pro tem Peacock said that the last time the Town had investigated this possibility, the City of Washington said that it was too expensive to bury trunk lines. Mayor Richter explained that the City of Washington has a permanent easement for power lines in that area and that the Town of Washington Park had granted that easement many years ago. Ms. Stowe and Ms. Hogan voiced their concern that there were no shade trees in the median. Mayor Richter said that he would reach out to the Washington City Manager and ask about burying lines and also would look into the possibility of Electricities having grant money to bury lines. Commissioner Nash suggested looking into planting shade trees on corners on Isabella Avenue. Commissioner Cowell will follow up with addressing appropriate trees that could be planted in the Isabella Avenue medians and corners. Mayor Richter thanked them for their continued interest in this issue. Mayor Richter called on Moses Moye, a local contractor, who said that he was interested in renovating 320 Isabella Avenue but was unable to get any further information from the owner. He had spoken with both the owner and her son, but had no contact with them recently. Mayor Richter thanked Mr. Moye for attending the meeting.

Commissioner Nash made a motion to go into closed session for an attorney-client privileged discussion. Seconded by Mayor pro tem Peacock. Passed by all.

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

Commissioner Bowen made a motion to have Sorrell Land Surveying finish the survey of the eastern boundary to the Pamlico River and have the Town Attorney contact the Flynn heirs regarding the eastern boundary of Washington Park. Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Passed by all.

The financial report and the minutes were approved upon motion by Mayor pro tem Peacock. Seconded by Commissioner Bowen. Passed by all.

Old Business

320 Isabella Avenue: Commissioner Dale made a motion for the Town to advertise for informal bids for demolish 320 Isabella Avenue. Seconded by Commissioner Bowen. Passed by all. The clerk said that she would have the advertisement published within the next ten days.

North side of Isabella Ave East end: no report.

Eastern Washington Park town boundary: Commissioner Bowen reported no response had been received yet from Mr. Richardson.

Parking vehicles in the Town's rights-of-way: No report from the Planning Board. Clerk Dale will follow up with Beth Byrd and Seth of the Washington Park Planning Board.

Washington Park tree cut on College Avenue: Commissioner Bowen made a motion to pursue legal action with a \$1000 value of the tree. Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Passed by all.

Washington Park waterfront trees cut down: no updated information to report. Commissioner Nash asked if the sign on the waterfront could be corrected to not include Lt. Cox as he is no longer with the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office. Clerk Dale will fix the sign to reflect this information.

Short-term rentals: Mayor Richter reported that he had spoke with Mr. Hornik of the Brough Law Firm regarding auxiliary dwelling units and that Mr. Hornik would come to the next meeting for a fee of \$1000. Commissioner Nash made a motion to pay Mr. Hornik to come to the next board meeting and speak about short-term rentals and multi-family housing. Seconded by Commissioner Dale. Passed by all.

Multi-family housing: see above.

Reports

Commissioner Dale – reported that Advanced Electrical Services had replaced the tennis court lights with LED lights and that all were operating. He also reported that Cathy Waters was sponsoring a waterfront wedding on June 23, 2023.

Commissioner Nash – reported that he was trying to get a new resource for reports from the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office. He will ask Sheriff Hammonds to attend the March 6, 2023 meeting.

Mayor pro tem Peacock – no report.

Commissioner Bowen – reported that he was completing a review of streets to determine repairs to be made. He also said that he had spoken with Beth Byrd regarding the Washington Park sign with the dogwood and cardinal at River Road and Brick Kiln Road. Clerk Dale will have Mr. Askew remove the sign and clean it and re-hang it.

Commissioner Cowell – reported that she would look into different plantings of shade trees for Isabella Avenue and throughout Washington Park.

Clerk's Report

The clerk reported that \$12,575.33 in ad valorem taxes had been received; that the second allocation of the Powell Bill had been received for \$7,674.16; that the sales tax refund for 2021-22 had been received for \$1395.89; and that the local option sales tax of \$14, 137.71 and franchise tax of \$3,035.22 had been received. She reported that one yard sale permit had been sold in December and that Mayor Richter had sent a letter to the NC Highway Patrol requesting more aggressive enforcement of speed limits on River Road. The Clerk reported that she had filed the LGC-203 report to the Local Government Commission; that she had sent a request to the NC Department of Agriculture at the suggestion of the Beaufort County Soil and Water for possible clean-up of debris in Maple Creek; and that W-2s would be available the last week of January. Clerk Dale presented a Budget Ordinance Amendment for postage and clerk's health costs.

Commissioner Nash made a motion to approve the Budget Ordinance Amendment as presented. Seconded by Mayor pro tem Peacock. Passed by all.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, February 6, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Municipal Building.

There being no further business, Mayor Richter adjourned the meeting.

Denise D. Dale
Clerk, Town of Washington Park