

**Town of Washington Park  
Municipal Building  
March 3, 2025, 7:00 p.m.**

United Bank	General Fund	\$ 497,145.58
United Bank	Capital Reserve Fund/Truck Account	82,100.00
United Bank	Capital Reserve CD	82,197.93
United Bank	Powell Bill Checking	56,411.92
United Bank	Powell Bill/Saving CD	10,863.74
United Bank	American Rescue Plan Account	98,167.55
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 826,886.72</b>

**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. Mayor pro tem Peacock made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Dale. Passed by all.

**Public Input:**

**Derek Cooper** provided an update from the Townscape Committee. He reviewed drawings of the proposed planting project for the municipal building; two beds in front of the building to include a camelia, holly bushes, and gardenias, spacing plants to allow for growth. Mulch would also be added. Fabric can be added if that is what the Board prefers; fabric and edging material not included in \$1,800 estimate. Prefer to remove current plants then proceed with purchasing and planting new plants as soon as possible. Stuart Dudley quoted \$550 to remove the current plants; however, the Board would prefer PW staff remove them. Discussion regarding water issues around the building and on the sidewalk. The Board will review the water issues, exploring the possibility of gutters, during the next two weeks. The Board discussed setting a budget of \$2,500 for the planting project; however, they did not vote on it since they were in public input and not a regular business item. The Townscape Committee update will be added to the regular agenda, to provide updates, and to allow the Board to vote on items as needed.

**Kim Warren** spoke on various Town services – building code enforcement handled by City of Washington Inspections; read language regarding junk motor vehicles, scrap materials, and summary abatement of materials dangerous or prejudicial to public health; has pictures to send. Referenced 602 Small Street, 320 Isabella Avenue, 300 Riverside Drive, and 511 Hickory Street. Abandoned structure on Riverside Drive – taken pictures all around the house; she will contact the City of Washington. All of these things are affecting her property value.

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

## **Old Business**

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

**320 Isabella Avenue:** The clerk received an email update from the homeowner - the front door has been refurbished and they anticipate having it installed this week; still plan to rehab and preserve the home.

### **Resilient Coastal Communities Program grant projects:**

#### Phase 3 – Engineering/Design of Living Shoreline

RK&K conducted property survey; submitted invoice in the amount of \$3,838.23. Invoice paid and submitted for reimbursement.

#### Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap (CAWAG) – Wastewater Analysis:

The “stop work” order has been lifted; waiting on confirmation of next scheduled meeting.

#### Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities (BRIC) Stormwater Action Plan:

Received invitation to apply; draft application due March 21, with final application due April 9.

**602 Small Street:** Clerk Alligood is waiting on direction for next steps from Attorney Sasnett.

**320 River Road:** Commissioner Bowen conducted additional research and spoke with the Town attorney concerning proposed amendment language; he presented a copy of the US Fish and Wildlife map showing an estimate of the wetlands zone near 320 River Road, where wetlands appear to go up to about 50 feet behind the residence. Extended discussion on marking/defining wetlands and impacts on other properties within the Town. David Lekson is the retired Chief of the US Army Corps of Engineers Washington Field office, whose job entailed delineating wetlands. Commissioner Rumley will reach out to see if he might be able to assist at 320 River Road.

## **New Business**

**§93.027 Noxious Growth Ordinance Amendment:** Following the discussion for 320 River Road, Mayor pro tem Peacock made a motion to table any amendments for further consideration, as there are too many unknowns for now. Seconded by Commissioner Rumley. Passed by all.

### **Waiver of Conflict Statement – Attorney Sasnett**

Continue

## **Commissioners' Reports**

**Commissioner Dale:** Anticipate seeing work on tennis courts in next three weeks. St. Patrick's Day 5K scheduled for March 15; anticipate 300 participants.

**Commissioner Rumley:** On January 28, there was a call for service on River Road; nothing more specific provided. On February 9, a residential burglary was reported on Bank Street.

**Mayor pro tem Peacock:** Researching options for another trash truck. Received quote for a new truck: \$187,491. Found a ten-year-old truck with 150,000 miles for \$90,000. Other options to explore include a tow behind option or unit that fits in a truck bed; both, would require a 1-ton pickup. Will continue research to explore available options.

**Commissioner Bowen:** no report

**Commissioner Cowell:** 314 College Avenue, 308 College Avenue, corner Isabella and Beech - trees suffered damage from the recent ice/snow storm, requiring limbs to be removed or trimmed. Talked with owner at 123 River Road – tree cut, leaving 8-ft. stump; owner plans to have stump removed in the future. Location for Washington Park sign marked in island; ok to proceed with having Todd and Nicolas install the sign.

**Clerk's Report:** Deposits received in February totaled \$36,727.71 (Ad Valorem / NCVTS: \$22,199.62, local option sales tax: \$14,420.24, quarterly solid waste disposal tax: \$72.85, tennis key: \$25.00, fence permit: \$10.00). Received notice of credit in the amount of \$500 for City of Washington fuel bill; new vendor discounted rate passed along to Town. Gravel for back parking lot: received quotes between \$6,000 - \$8,000; requested Stuart Dudley price a couple of loads of gravel/rocks and have staff spread them out. Mayor pro tem Peacock made a motion to spend up to \$2,500 for rock behind the municipal building. Seconded by Commissioner Bowen. Approved by all.

Kim Warren asked why no parking in the right of way was removed from the agenda; Commissioner Bowen noted the Town's current ordinance does not prohibit parking in right of way, only prohibits parking in medians, which the Mid East Commission will address in the re-write of the ordinances. She asked about the benches in the playground; Commissioner Dale will look at them. She then asked for information on a tiny house referenced in the February minutes.

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

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

The next regular meeting will be Monday, April 7, 2025, 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 Dale. Passed by all.

April S. Alligood, Clerk  
Town of Washington Park