



## ***Washington Park Town Crier***

### ***June 2025***

1. **Access to Town Information:** As the Town continues to make information available to all residents in a timely manner, it is looking at different options to disseminate information. In addition to the updated Town website (<https://townofwashingtonpark.com>), the Town is trying a new platform, Sender.net. This free resource allows the Town to share information with anyone who has signed up to receive information from the Town. There is a link at the bottom of the webpage ("Join our mailing list"), or you can email the Town Clerk ([aawashpark@outlook.com](mailto:aawashpark@outlook.com)) and ask to have your email added.
2. **Golf Carts:** As a reminder, per the Town ordinances, "No person who is less than 16 years of age or who does not have a valid driver's license ... may operate a golf cart on any public street, road, or highway within the Town or on any property owned or leased by the Town. For purposes of this section, a learner's permit shall not be considered as a valid driver's license...". A complete copy of the Ordinance permitting golf carts can be found under §70.01, §71.02, and §71.03 of the Town ordinances. The Board understands the fun and excitement in driving golf carts; however, the Town has to adhere to NC General Statutes as they pertain to operating them. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in keeping all residents safe.
3. **Washington Park Ordinance Review:** The Town Board is working with the Mid-East Commission to evaluate and update the Town ordinances. The Washington Park Planning Board met this month to discuss the proposed changes; they will meet again on July 29 before the draft is submitted to the Town Board for consideration. Prior to adoption, a public hearing will be held on September 8, 2025, during the regular Board meeting, allowing residents the opportunity to comment. Draft copies will be available on the website and at the Municipal building.
4. **Planning Board Vacancy:** If you would like to be a part of the Town Planning Board, there are now two (2) vacancies. The Planning Board was down to six (6) members when Seth Laughlin, who served on the Planning Board for many years, offered his resignation earlier this month. The Board appreciates all of the time and effort Seth provided during his time on the Planning Board. And now that opportunity is available for you. If you are interested in serving on the Town Planning Board, please reach out to any of the Town Commissioners, or the Town Clerk, to share your interest.
5. **Townscape Committee:** The Committee completed a planting project in front of the Municipal building. Thanks to all of the members who worked on that project; it looks great! The next project will be replanting trees along Isabella Avenue; that project should be completed in the fall. And the grant from the NC Forestry Service to have all the trees on public property inventoried and assessed is on hold for the time being.

6. **Garbage Truck:** The Board approved the purchase of a new garbage truck, a smaller one that does not require a CDL to operate. This new truck will be used to collect household garbage while the current truck will continue to be used for yard debris. With the new truck, the Town will be transitioning to roller carts with properly placed bars that connect on the new tipper for garbage pickup; and garbage will need to be bagged. More information to follow as details are worked out. The anticipated expense for the truck is included in the new FY26 budget.

7. **FY26 Budget:** Speaking of the FY26 budget, the Board adopted the new budget at the June 2 meeting. As most are aware, this was a revaluation year for Beaufort County, which impacted the budget. The revenue neutral rate was approximately \$0.19. After much discussion, the Board voted to set the new tax rate for FY26 at \$0.15, a significant reduction!

### **Change in trash pick-up schedule**

As the July 4th holiday is on a Friday this year, trash pick-up will be on Tuesday (July 1) as normal and then on **THURSDAY (July 3)**. Town offices will be closed Friday, July 4th with no services being provided that day. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as Todd and Nicolas will be able to enjoy a much-deserved holiday!

*Wishing you a safe and happy 4th of July*

