

**Town of Washington Park Special Called Meeting
Municipal Building
October 6, 2025, 6:30 p.m.**

United Bank	General Fund	\$ 346,578.74
United Bank	Capital Reserve CD	84,329.17
United Bank	Powell Bill Checking	64,460.07
United Bank	Powell Bill/Saving CD	11,145.42
United Bank	American Rescue Plan Account	<u>98,139.27</u>
Total		\$ 604,652.67

Present: Thomas Richter, Mayor; Jeff Peacock, Mayor pro tem; Lee Bowen, Commissioner; Wade Dale, Commissioner

Absent: Belinda Cowell, Commissioner; Vail Rumley, Commissioner

Mayor Richter called the meeting to order. Mayor pro tem Peacock made a motion to move into hearing to discuss nuisance abatement for 320 Isabella Avenue. Seconded by Commissioner Bowen. Passed by all. See separate minutes from hearing.

Commissioner Bowen made a motion to come out of hearing and return to the regular meeting agenda. Seconded by Mayor pro tem Peacock. Passed by all

Approve Agenda: Commissioner Bowen made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Dale. Passed by all

Public Input: Peter Farrell thanked the Board for their quick action in extending the grading project along Isabella Avenue to include a portion between Beech and Pine Streets.

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

Old Business

320 Isabella Avenue: Nuisance Abatement hearing held prior to Board meeting; see separate meeting minutes.

Update from Townscape Committee: Isabel Farrell thanked Neil Kirven for completing the edging for the island garden at Beech and College. The crepe myrtle shoots have been sprayed. The trees at Carolina Seasons Nursery will be delivered after November 15. Gene Fox with the NC Ag Extension office will assist with showing how to properly plant and maintain the trees; will still need to purchase soil amendment and mulch for the project. Mayor pro tem Peacock volunteered to use his equipment to dig the holes and pick up the mulch using his trailer. Mrs. Taylor asked about removing the azalea bushes in front of the municipal building. Mayor pro tem Peacock made a motion to remove the two (2) azalea beds. Seconded by Commissioner Bowen. Passed by all.

RCCP Update:**Phase 3 – Engineering/Design of Living Shoreline (LSL)**

Received reimbursement from NCDEQ: \$5,409.88. Received, paid, and submitted for reimbursement invoice from RK&K \$6,045. Submitted initial request for no wake zone. 30% design phase forwarded to Board for review. Commissioner Bowen made a motion to proceed with the plan. Seconded by Mayor pro tem Peacock. Project consultant Gordon Marsh will be present at the November meeting to address any questions about the project. Motion passed by all. Clerk Alligood will work to get proposed plan posted to the website for review. Led to brief discussion concerning establishment of official Town Facebook page; review pros/cons.

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

TEAMS meeting September 22. Discussed septic survey which will include a questionnaire and field work. Will also conduct a public input meeting, potentially in mid-December. Next check-in meeting scheduled for October 27, 2025.

Stormwater Analysis: Contract with DEQ pending.

New Business

Budget Amendment: The General Government – Insurance portion of the FY26 budget needs to be amended by \$3,000.00, due to the purchase of the new garbage truck. Mayor pro tem Peacock made a motion to approve the budget amendment. Seconded by Commissioner Bowen. Passed by all.

Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Dale: The playground diggers are in the process of being replaced. Smoke on the Water 5k scheduled for October 18. St Peter's Eucharist was held at the waterfront on Sunday, October 5; just under 100 people were in attendance. Will be working to order benches for the playground to replace wood ones.

Commissioner Rumley: Absent; Clerk Alligood presented her report. There were no incidents in Washington Park in September and the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office conducted 31 drive-through neighborhood checks. She also wanted to share that Beaufort County is holding a household hazardous waste collection at Southside High School on October 11.

Mayor pro tem Peacock: Met with representatives from NC Capital Management Trust to discuss different options for a savings account; competitive interest rates, easy and next day transfer of funds available. Commissioner Bowen made a motion to move forward with setting up an account with NC Capital Management Trust. Seconded by Commissioner Dale. Passed by all.

Assisted Dan Winfield in removing overgrown bushes in Town's right-of-way that were also impacting sightlines.

Commissioner Bowen: Stuart Dudley completed the drainage work along the median in the 100 block of Isabella Avenue (Edgewater to Beech). While working on that section, residents contacted the Town with concerns about the need for similar work along a section of the 200 block of Isabella Avenue (Beech to Pine). Commissioner Bowen obtained a quote from Dudley to perform the same work (remove grass, grade

and reseed) approximately 300 ft from Beech, for \$4,500. While the equipment and workers were on site, the Board, via email, gave a consensus to authorize Dudley to perform the grading work for 300 feet along the Isabella median, starting at Beech Street.

Continued discussions with Emma Shipley regarding driveway.

Spoke with one of the Small family heirs who indicated they have no plans to convert the house to an Air BNB or a bed and breakfast.

No updates on the Eastern Boundary; will follow-up with Attorney Sasnett.

Commissioner Cowell: Absent. Mayor pro tem Peacock reported Stuart Dudley removed a tree at 201 Isabella Avenue (Kirven) and 202 Riverside Drive (Scott).

Mayor Richter said he had received a couple of complaints regarding Brightspeed service; no one else noted any issues. The Mayor also stated he is researching a federal funding program that focuses on replacing infrastructure in municipalities; he will conduct further research with regard to consideration of a new town hall building.

Clerk's Report

Deposits received in September totaled **\$45,978.55** (Ad Valorem / NCVTS: \$11,481.11; Local Option Sales Tax: \$15,428.53; Quarterly Franchise Tax: \$3,258.84; Reimburse FY2024-2025 Sales Tax: \$1,127.04; Powell Bill: \$8,948.15; Reimb. RCCP: \$5,409.88; Tennis/PB keys: \$75; Deposit for W/F: \$250). Paid City of Washington for annual EMS agreement \$46,760; additional insurance premium for new trash truck: \$2,900; replaced gas line at municipal building: \$961.34.

Ordinance Review: Met with Josh Hollis (MEC) September 11 to review second draft incorporating changes/edits. Sent back out to Planning Board for input. Planning Board meeting October 7 to review second draft and discuss text amendment/rezoning request. Once that is addressed, can coordinate hearing for ordinance review.

Brick Kiln intersection: The local RPO will submit this location to DOT, through spot safety funds, for prioritization of a traffic light at the intersection; add capacity / safety update.

320 College Avenue: Owner called to acknowledge letter and said he is obtaining quotes to have work done on the house.

Roll-out carts: received updated quote; \$15,553.48 for 230 95-gallon roll-out carts; 3-4 week turn around once order completed. Mayor pro tem Peacock made a motion to proceed with purchase of the 230 roll-out carts, color green. Seconded by Commissioner Bowen. Passed by all.

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

Mayor pro tem Peacock made a motion to come out of closed session. Seconded by Commissioner Bowen. Passed by all.

Commissioner Bowen made a motion to give merit awards between 3% and 5% to Clerk Alligood, PW Supervisor Todd Askew, and PW Employee Nicolas Villeda based on their FY25 evaluations. Seconded by Mayor pro tem Peacock. Passed by all.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, November 10, 2025, at 7:00 pm at the Municipal Building. There being no further business, Mayor pro tem Peacock made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Bowen. Passed by all.

April S. Alligood, Clerk
Town of Washington Park