

**Town of Washington Park
Municipal Building
March 9, 2026, 7:00 p.m.**

With the cancellation of the February 2, 2026 meeting, the account totals as of January 31, 2026 were:

United Bank	General Fund	\$ 416,011.66
United Bank	Capital Reserve CD	85,157.75
United Bank	Powell Bill Checking	60,908.20
United Bank	Powell Bill/Saving CD	11,254.93
United Bank	American Rescue Plan Account	98,354.41
	Total	\$ 671,686.95

As of February 28, 2026:

United Bank	General Fund	\$ 415,906.51
United Bank	Capital Reserve CD	85,157.75
United Bank	Powell Bill Checking	60,908.20
United Bank	Powell Bill/Saving CD	11,254.93
United Bank	American Rescue Plan Account	98,403.45
	Total	\$ 671,630.84

Present: Jeff Peacock, Mayor pro tem; Lee Bowen, Commissioner; Wade Dale, Commissioner; Vail Rumley, Commissioner

Absent: Thomas Richter, Mayor; Trey Howdy, Commissioner

Approve Agenda: Mayor pro tem Peacock called the meeting to order and asked to move the RCCP Living Shoreline presentation on the agenda to follow public input. Commissioner Dale made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Commissioner Bowen. All approved.

Public Input: **Neil Blanton** spoke regarding flooding concerns. **Derek Cooper** stated he was glad the Town is looking into stormwater issues. He is also interested in getting off septic and onto public sewer. Additionally, he has spotted nutria in the creek and suggests contacting the County.

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

Received reimbursements totaling \$70,759.69. Paid RK&K invoices, \$15,797.23 and \$35,882.41; paid MEC invoice for \$1,020. Approximately \$18,300 remaining in grant. The follow-up meeting with the state permitting agencies was held this afternoon.

Gordon Marsh and Jamie Heath were present to provide updates on the 90% plans.

Site 1 (East End): The agencies suggested putting revetments in each area of Site 1, but that is not a viable option for the RCCP grant funding source. The plan now includes pulling the LSL closer to the shore to remove any impacts to the sea grass (SAV); this will address the agencies concerns while allowing the nature-based solution as required by the RCCP grant. The current beach access in Site 1 will not be impeded.

Site 2 (Cove): Similar to site 1, sills are allowed but need to be closer to the shoreline to avoid SAV.

Site 2A: The current groin at Site 2A will be reestablished with an engineered groin.

Site 2B (Point): The agencies asked about the purpose and need of the Point revetment being reestablished, stating the shoreline is not eroding there. However, there is a concern what is currently there may fail one day so there is a need to reestablish it, placing engineered rock plating around the point. Work in this area will provide more resiliency and match with grant funding. While some of the current trees in

the area will need to be removed, they will be reestablished with new plantings; the number of trees that are removed will be replaced with that number or more. Discussion concerning tagging trees to be removed and staking out where new trees can go.

Site 2C (Runyon Creek): The purpose and need of Site 2C was also discussed by the agencies. The creek side shows half of the erosion as seen on the Pamlico River side, which is approximately two (2) feet of erosion a year. Boat activity is a concern in this area; a no wake zone was not approved for the Runyon Creek side of the bridge. However, the City of Washington is considering having the no wake zone extended just past the bridge. If this occurs, the Town could put up a buoy, but it would not be official and there would be no enforcement in the area.

Timeline: Close out current design phase by July; construction phase opens in August with an anticipated decision made by the end of the calendar year. Bid out construction beginning of 2027; depending on moratorium with sturgeon, could have completion of construction by end of 2027. Any damage during storms should not impact the structures; the main concern would be planting and a storm hitting before the bank is established. Can work with the grant agency on the timeframe and storm season.

General Questions: A turbidity curtain is a temporary structure used during construction to keep sediment in place so it does not go into the water. The height of the grasses in the water should be three (3) feet or less. The cost estimate is around \$800,000 for all sites; the RCCP grant is 100% with no match. Minimal maintenance is required upon completion. The current plan does not include removing the old pier remnants. Will need to check best practices for removal, agency preview, and associated costs.

Next steps: Mr. Marsh will work with the Townscape Committee on the trees and plantings. Will also work on refining the plans following the permitting meeting. Residents are invited to provide any previous pictures of the shoreline that might show erosion over time to help establish purpose and need for all sites. Phase 3 (Design) is nearing the end of the allocated funding cycle.

January Minutes and January and February Financial Reports: The January minutes and January and February financial reports were reviewed. Commissioner Bowen made a motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Dale. All approved. Commissioner Bowen made a motion to approve the financial reports. Seconded by Commissioner Rumley. All approved.

Old Business

Townscape Committee Update: The NC Forestry Service Grant for the tree inventory project is no longer available. It was suggested the Town consider "Climb to Tree City USA", a tree maintenance and planting project. After additional review, the Committee is not interested in pursuing that program. Discussion regarding the need to have a certified arborist on call. The Town Board will review the provided information and make a decision. Discussion regarding additional projects and concern with additional work load on staff. The Committee was directed to contact the Town Clerk when they see tasks; work can then be coordinated with staff. Brief discussion regarding potential dead pecan tree in 100 block of Isabella Avenue. Mayor pro tem Peacock verified it is a park tree; since it is a pecan tree, unable to declare it dead at this time. If it does not sprout in a month, will get it removed. Discuss with Commissioner Howdy, new contact for tree concerns, plans for the Dunston memorial next to the tennis courts.

320 Isabella Avenue: Received payment from homeowners for reimbursement of yard abatement (\$300) and \$1400 in fines accrued from November 11, 2025 to January 5,

2026. Letter sent to homeowners notifying them of continued accrual of fines in the amount of \$950 (January 6, 2026 to February 12, 2026 – date letter sent).

320 River Road: Survey completed by Sorrell; now have GPS coordinates for pinned flags designating wetlands. Commissioner Bowen will ask Sorrell to install iron stakes as permanent markers then provide the final map to the Clerk for follow-up compliance.

RCCP Update: Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap (CAWAG) – Wastewater Analysis: Public input meeting held on February 10; over a dozen residents, in addition to supporting staff members, attended the meeting. A copy of the presentation and public input survey has been posted to the website. The PER is being finalized, outlining the three (3) options for consideration. Will recommend sewer connection as the alternative, should applicable grant funding become available in the future. For now, can utilize CWSRF through the County or apply for CWSRF Pilot Program in Washington Park. Next check-in call scheduled for March 23, 2026.

Stormwater Analysis – Phase 3: RK&K selected for the engineering work; contract under new business.

New Business

Contract for Stormwater Analysis Phase 3: RK&K selected for the engineering work. The project will provide a complete analysis of the Town's stormwater drainage system. Commissioner Bowen made a motion to approve the RK&K contract. Seconded by Commissioner Rumley. All approved.

MOA and Resolution NCLM AIM Program: The Town was selected to participate in the AIM program offered by the NCLM. This program provides mentorship, training, and assistance to support the Town's fiscal health. The Town will receive one-on-one coaching along with access to multiple training events, and there is no cost for the Town to participate in the program. Commissioner Rumley made a motion to approve the MOA and Resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Dale. All approved.

MEC Grant Administration Contract Amendment #2 for Living Shoreline Project (Date Only): The LSL grant was extended from March 31, 2026 to July 31, 2026. The current agreement with the MEC for grant administration needs to be extended to coordinate with the new end date of the grant. Commissioner Bowen made a motion to approve the MEC contract amendment #2. Seconded by Commissioner Rumley. All approved.

Discuss Use of Municipal Building: Following a recent request to use the municipal building for a private party, Commissioner Dale asked to add this item to the agenda for discussion. Additional research is needed to review the deed, which may limit the uses of the building. Will follow-up again next month.

Ordinance Review – Set Public Hearing: The current Town ordinances are being updated and revised. Changes are to be discussed during at least two (2) meetings then voted on by the Board. Commissioner Rumley made a motion to schedule the Public Hearing for April 13, 2026, allowing 30 minutes for the hearing, with each person being allowed three (3) minutes to speak. Seconded by Commissioner Bowen. All approved.

Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Dale: Upcoming events include the Rotary 5K on March 14; Exodus Run on April 4; Arts on the Pamlico 5K April 11; private wedding April 12. Recommend purchasing three (3) new benches for the playground. Consider replacing equipment one piece at a time. Mayor pro tem Peacock will explore options for a tool to repair grommets on the windscreens.

Commissioner Rumley: There were no incidents reported for January or February. The Beaufort County Sheriff's Office conducted 35 drive-through checks in January and 29 drive-through neighborhood checks in February. A concern regarding someone entering a home through an unlocked door was reported this week.

Mayor tem Peacock: no report

Commissioner Bowen: Raised the grate at 201 Isabella; may need to be raised a little more. Still working on easement agreement with 404 College Avenue. No update on Spruce Street.

Commissioner Howdy: Absent

Clerk's Report

Deposits received in **January** totaled **\$134,561.80** (Ad Valorem / NCVTS: \$46,082.76; Local Option Sales Tax: \$16,019.35; Reimburse LSL Phase 3: \$70,759.69; 320 Isabella: \$1,700).

Deposits received in **February** totaled **\$37,651.56** (Ad Valorem / NCVTS: \$3,685.15; Local Option Sales Tax: \$14,692.79; Quarterly Solid Waste Tax: \$81.39; Reimburse LSL Phase 3: \$16,817.23; Reimburse SWAP Phase 3: \$2,125.00; Reservation for Waterfront: \$250)

Inspections: The City of Washington is considering getting out of the inspection business; no official contact from the City to date. Can discuss inspections assistance with the County if needed. **City of Washington Electric Utilities Advisory Board:** the Washington Park resident position is currently vacant. Anyone interested can submit the City of Washington application to the Washington City Clerk. **ADA Compliant Website:** The US Department of Justice is requiring municipalities' websites to be ADA compliant by April 2027. Obtaining quotes for work to be included in the FY27 budget. **Powell Bill:** new map of streets required in July; can use Powell Bill funds to pay for the survey. **Rock** was delivered for the rear of the municipal building. **Park area trash receptacles:** ordered 2 new lids for small trash cans around the park; one was missing and one was damaged. **Ethics Training:** available through the MEC. Beginning **budget prep work.** Working on **inventory and disposal of old files;** will contact a shredding company for proper disposal.

Closed Session not needed.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 13, 2026. There being no further business, Commissioner Bowen made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Commissioner Dale. Meeting adjourned.

April S. Alligood, Clerk
Town of Washington Park