

River Bend Town Council
Work Session Minutes
January 10, 2019
River Bend Town Hall
7:00 P.M.

Present Council Members:	Mayor John Kirkland Bill Camp Bud McClard Buddy Sheffield Bud Van Slyke
Town Manager:	Delane Jackson
Town Attorney:	Dave Baxter
Town Clerk:	Ann Katsuyoshi
Police Chief:	Sean Joll

COUNCIL RESIGNATION

Town Manager Jackson announced that he had received a call late in the afternoon from Councilman Wanamaker. Mr. Wanamaker said that he will not be returning to River Bend. He and his wife have decided to live in Arizona. His resignation is effective immediately.

Councilman Sheffield **moved to accept Councilman Wanamaker's resignation effective immediately.** The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF JONES COUNTY WATER TREATMENT FACILITY, TYNDALL LEWIS, MCDAVID ASSOCIATES

Town Manager Delane Jackson told the Council that he was recently contacted by Jones County regarding a new water treatment facility that they plan to construct just across the Craven County line in Jones County. He introduced Mr. Tyndall Lewis of McDavid Associates.

Mr. Lewis said that this new facility will produce a backwash effluent that needs to be discharged somewhere. Our wastewater treatment plant is the closest permitted facility. Jones County is interested in discharging into our treatment plant. Our plant has more than enough capacity to handle the additional inflow and this would create a new sewer customer for us. However, Jones County does soften their water which means that we would have to remove the additional salt before it was discharged. This is a process that the Town currently does not do for its own water and would involve much more processing than normal.

The Council discussed this item briefly. Councilman Van Slyke **moved to deny Jones County's request to discharge into our wastewater treatment plant at the current time.** The motion carried unanimously.

AUDIT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Mr. Jackson reminded the Council that former Councilman Bauer had been a member of the Audit Committee. With his resignation, a new Council member needs to be appointed to that position. Councilman Sheffield said that since Councilman McClard had taken over all of Councilman

Bauer's other duties, it would be logical that he assume this one as well. Councilman Sheffield **moved to appoint Councilman McClard to the Audit Committee effective immediately.** The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITY CHART

The Manager presented the Council with a new Council Responsibility Chart. He said that this new chart assumed that Councilman McClard would, in fact, take over Councilman Bauer's previous responsibility. However, Mr. Jackson wanted the Council's approval before posting the Chart. After brief discussion, Councilman Sheffield **moved to appoint Harry McClard to the positions previously held by Gene Bauer on the Council Responsibilities Chart as presented.** The motion passed unanimously.

BUDGET KICK-OFF

Manager Jackson presented a short PowerPoint presentation outlining the usual budget process. The Council reviewed their Priorities and Vision Statement and the proposed meeting schedule. With no objections or changes, this will be the schedule that is posted.

ADJOURNMENT/RECESS

There being no further business, Councilman Sheffield **moved to adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Ann Katsuyoshi
Town Clerk

**River Bend Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2019**

Present Council Members:	Mayor John Kirkland Bill Camp Bud McClard Buddy Sheffield Irving Van Slyke
Town Manager:	Delane Jackson
Town Clerk:	Ann Katsuyoshi
Town Attorney:	Dave Baxter
Police Chief:	Sean Joll
Zoning Assistant:	Allison McCollum

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kirkland at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 17, 2019 in the Town Hall Meeting Room with a quorum present.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Mayor presented the Council with the Consent Agenda. Councilman Sheffield **moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.** The motion carried unanimously. Within this motion the following items were approved:

- A. Approve:
Minutes of the December 13, 2018 Work Session
Minutes of the December 20, 2018 Regular Meeting

MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Delane Jackson reported to the Council that several of our residents still have piles of storm debris on their property. The Town's pick up of this debris ended last November and it became the residents' responsibility to dispose of the material. Mr. Jackson suggested to the Council that enough time has passed since the storm that we now need to set a deadline for removal of this debris.

The Council discussed this issue briefly. Councilman Sheffield **moved to set a deadline of 45 days from today for storm debris removal and that the residents be advised of this deadline.** The motion passed unanimously.

Assistant Zoning Administrator Allison McCollum gave the Council members an update on the number of homes that were damaged by Hurricane Florence and the number of permits the Town has issued for repairs.

The Manager then reminded the Council members of the process for filling a Council vacancy. He said that applicants will be interviewed at the February Work Session and a selection will be made at the February Regular Meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY – COUNCILMAN BUDDY SHEFFIELD

Councilman Sheffield had no report.

PLANNING BOARD – COUNCILMAN BUDDY SHEFFIELD

Councilman Sheffield had no report.

PARKS & RECREATION/CAC – COUNCILMAN BUD MCCLARD

Parks and Recreation – Councilman McClard said that Parks and Rec met January 9 and discussion was centered around the upcoming year's budget and some of the planned activities. The budget will likely again be less than \$2000 for all activities for the entire year. The Board is currently three members short but one person has applied to be appointed. This leaves two openings and we are seeking volunteers.

Red Caboose Library – The Library has moved into its new location across from Town Hall. This location is smaller and a bit cramped but the rent is a little over half of the prior location. The library continues to be funded entirely by donations. The library has open Wi-Fi available and it is looking into other ways to serve River Bend.

CAC - The CAC meets Wednesday January 16 to review design of the entrance to River Bend.

Organic Garden - The garden has been quiet during hurricane recovery and the holidays but a small winter garden is doing well. The spring-summer garden is planned and ready, with the first vegetables scheduled to be planted by the end of this month (January).

Two community workshops will be offered this winter. The first one is the Fifth Annual Roundtable on Tuesday, February 12 at 6:30 pm. The theme will be “getting your garden on track to grow healthy herbs and vegetables following last year’s destructive storm.” Information will be posted in the E-News and on the town website and RBCOG Facebook page. Reservations are suggested. Contact Dee Smith at 252-349-4000.

PUBLIC WORKS AND WATER RESOURCES – MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

PWAB Report – The Mayor had no report.

ENVIRONMENT/WATERWAYS – COUNCILMAN BILL CAMP

EWAB Report – Councilman Camp reported that the EWAB met on January 15. Under Old Business they discussed the following items.

- 1) Signs for the channel markers NO Wake Zone have been approved. Ralph will check with the town manager and check on their status.
- 2) Canal dredging and ownership was discussed. As a first step the board believes a survey of the channel system would be required to ascertain if dredging is needed. Brian Leonard

offered to check with his contacts at DNR (Dept. Natural Resources) and ask their advice as to how we should proceed in this matter.

- 3) The kayak ramp repair is on hold until the contractor is in the area.

New Business topics included:

- 1) Ralph will look into transporting Christmas Trees to Morehead City to help in their beach erosion project. They use the trees under sand dunes to help secure the dunes.
- 2) A copy of the Comprehensive Plan will be again distributed to the board. The board has new members not familiar with the Comprehensive Plan. Bryan has emailed all members copies of the current plan.
- 3) The proposed EWAB Budget for next fiscal year was discussed and approved.

FINANCE – COUNCILMAN IRVING VAN SLYKE, JR.

Financial Report – Town Manager Jackson told the Council that the total of the General Fund Cash Balances as of December 31, 2018 was \$4,348,535. Ad valorem tax collections were at \$450,568.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor said that it is hard to realize that four months have passed since Hurricane Florence visited River Bend. This hurricane was the most destructive storm to hit the area in recent years. Certainly the most destructive to hit River Bend during its years as an incorporated municipality. Four months past the hit by Hurricane Florence, recovery efforts are evident and progress is being made; however, there is a long way to go to complete the recovery effort. Patience needs to be a characteristic to be practiced by all residents during this prolonged period.

Residents of River Bend with homes in the floodplain area of Town experienced significant damage. Most homes not in the floodplain had little or no damage. Please show compassion and understanding to those working through rebuilding efforts if you are one of the fortunate homeowners without damage.

Council Members Gene Bauer and Bill Wanamaker had homes that experienced severe flooding and both have decided to move to other locations. Gene has relocated to Goldsboro, NC and Bill to Phoenix, AZ. The Council took action under the ordinance for appointing a Council Member to the position vacated by Mr. Bauer at the December meeting. Mr. Harry McClard was selected from among five applicants for that position. Mr. Wanamaker resigned just before the December Council Meeting and his position will be filled by the Council during the January Council Meetings. Information about this process is posted on the Town's web page. We thank both Gene and Bill for their service to the Town during their tenure as Council Members. Their commitment to the citizens of River Bend during this period of service is greatly appreciated and we wish them the best in their new homes.

The decision process required for homeowners to make the refitting of homes is a difficult one and contractors and tradesmen to accomplish the work associated with refitting are in short supply. These factors demand patience and acceptance that normal conditions throughout Town will take some time to be realized. I am certain that residents struggling with the rebuilding process

would appreciate the understanding and support of Town residents who have not experienced loss or damage in the hurricane.

The Town staff has performed in an exemplary fashion during the hurricane event and through the recovery period. They have worked long hours and have performed their normal duties as well as the demands of this emergency event. Please express appreciation to these staff members as you encounter them in the normal course of business.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilman Sheffield **moved to adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Ann H. Katsuyoshi
Town Clerk

River Bend Town Council
Work Session Minutes
February 14, 2019
River Bend Town Hall
7:00 P.M.

Present Council Members:	Mayor John Kirkland Bill Camp Bud McClard Buddy Sheffield Bud Van Slyke
Town Manager:	Delane Jackson
Town Attorney:	Dave Baxter
Town Clerk:	Ann Katsuyoshi

GRANT AGREEMENT RESOLUTION

Town Manager Delane Jackson presented the Council with a copy of the Resolution approving the Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of River Bend and the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency for a grant in the amount of \$300,000. This grant will permit the Town to employ two people on a temporary basis and buy one truck.

LOAN AGREEMENT RESOLUTION

Mr. Jackson also gave the Council a copy of the Resolution approving the Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of River Bend and the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency for a no interest loan in the amount of \$800,000. This loan is to replace part of the monies spent by the Town during the Hurricane Florence recovery. It will be paid back to the State when FEMA reimbursements are received.

DISCUSSION OF ZONING COMPLIANCE DEADLINES

The Manager said that last month the Council approved a 45-day extension for hurricane related debris removal. That expired on March 3, but since that is a Sunday, it will expire on March 4, which is 46-days. The Council also discussed the fact that there is a one-year grace period for those residents who are using temporary housing. Mr. Jackson wants to send out a notification about these deadlines including to those residents who have placed temporary storage units on their property. However, the temporary storage units have not been previously discussed.

It was the Manager's recommendation to the Council that temporary storage units be granted the same grace period as temporary housing. This would set the deadline for removal of such structures as October 11, 2019. After brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Council that the deadline for removal of temporary housing and temporary storage units be October 11, 2019.

ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Parks and Rec has three vacancies and the EWAB has one. The Town sent an e-news advertising these vacancies and the notices have been placed on the Town's website. Thus far, only one application has been received.

RED CABOOSE AWARD

The Red Caboose has received recognition for its past restoration. This applies to the physical structure of the Caboose. The Mayor and Egon Lippert attended the awards ceremony and accepted on behalf of the Town.

BUDGET AMENDMENT

Mr. Jackson said that there will be a Budget Amendment presented at the next Council meeting. This Amendment is needed primarily to deal the architectural costs needed for the Police building.

TOWN COUNCIL APPOINTMENT INTERVIEWS

Mayor Kirkland reminded the Council that, due to the resignation of Bill Wanamaker, interviews to fill that vacancy will be conducted at the Regular Council meeting. He also pointed out that both of the applicants were interviewed previously for the vacancy left by Gene Bauer's resignation. The Mayor also thanked both residents who applied for this vacancy for their willingness to serve.

The process then began with each candidate, in turn, addressing the Council about his experience and skills, followed by questions from the Council members. After both applicants had spoken, the Mayor again thanked them and reminded the Council that they will make their final decision at the Regular Meeting on February 21.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilman Sheffield **moved to adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Ann Katsuyoshi
Town Clerk

**River Bend Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2019**

Present Council Members:	Mayor John Kirkland Bill Camp Bud McClard (by phone) Buddy Sheffield Irving Van Slyke
Town Manager:	Delane Jackson
Town Clerk:	Ann Katsuyoshi
Town Attorney:	Dave Baxter
Police Chief:	Sean Joll
Finance Administrator:	Margaret Theis

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kirkland at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 21, 2019 in the Town Hall Meeting Room with a quorum present.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Mayor presented the Council with the Consent Agenda. Councilman Sheffield **moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.** The motion carried unanimously. Within this motion the following items were approved:

- A. Approve:
 - 1. *Minutes of the January 10, 2019 Work Session*
 - 2. *Minutes of the January 17, 2019 Regular Meeting*

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION/CAC – COUNCILMAN BUD MCCLARD

Parks and Recreation – Councilman McClard said that Parks & Rec met on Feb 8. Two applications have been received for new members of the board. They are planning a Bunko event for either March 20 or 27; announcement will be sent via River Bend. Also plans are being finalized for the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday April 20. The Segals have offered to donate a bronze statue to the town, more details from Town Manager.

Community Appearance Commission – The CAC will meet again March 20.

Library - The Library is continuing at its current location. The latest report is that they have 38 volunteers actively working with the library.

Organic Garden - Spring is starting in the garden. Four varieties of onions and a set of leeks were planted. Spring and summer vegetables and herbs will be planted starting in early March.

A work day is scheduled for Friday, March 1st at 9 am. Anyone who is interested is invited to come to help or just offer encouragement. Drop by, work for an hour or stay for the morning. All are welcome.

The Fifth Annual Roundtable was presented on Tuesday, February 12. Audience members were invited to ask gardening questions and to share their own knowledge. Winter themed refreshments were served following the discussion.

The next workshop *Five Questions for a Better Garden* is scheduled for Tuesday, March 12th at 6:30 pm. Information will be posted in the E-News and on the town website and RBCOG Facebook page. Reservations are suggested. Contact Dee Smith at 252-349-4000.

Vote – Parks and Rec Appointments – Mr. McClard said that the Parks and Rec Board currently has two applicants. He **moved to appoint Patty Leonard and Meg Williams to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for a term beginning February 21, 2019 and expiring on June 30, 2020.** The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS AND WATER RESOURCES – MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

PWAB Report – The Mayor said that the Board’s February meeting was held on February 5. Public Works Director Brandon Mills gave the Board an update of his department’s hurricane recovery activities and the major effort to mark Town utility installations prior to the boring work being accomplished by Suddenlink and Piedmont Natural Gas.

Manager Jackson reported that a contract has been awarded to repair the Public Works/ Police Department building. He also reported that the Town has been awarded a grant and a zero interest loan that will bridge the time it takes to receive reimbursement from FEMA for hurricane recovery expenses paid for by the Town.

The Board reviewed portions of the Town’s Comprehensive Plan and agreed to minor modifications to the Manager who will take those modifications to the Planning Board.

Board Member Steve Dentico asked if action could be taken to correct the “eye sore” represented by the former River Bend Market. He continued in stating that the bulkhead surrounding a portion of this property is in dangerous condition. The Manager responded that the Council would need to act on this property.

The Mayor advised the Board that while some may be critical of the progress being made to achieve “normal” appearance in Town, the process is clearly impacted by the non-availability of contractors.

Chairman Bruno informed Board Members that the next scheduled meeting would be April 2.

ENVIRONMENT/WATERWAYS – COUNCILMAN BILL CAMP

EWAB Report – Councilman Camp reported that EWAB met on February 4, 2019.

Under old business, the Board members discussed the kayak launch raft, as well as Channel Marker Number 7 have both been repaired and returned to service. They also discussed the No Wake Zone signs are to be ordered. Ralph will talk to the manager regarding their status. Dates for inspections and dredging of the canals were discussed. The Comprehensive Plan seems to cover this issue. Fine tuning may be required as to frequency of depth soundings and who is qualified to make those measurements.

Responsibility regarding stormwater drainage and culvert maintenance was discussed. Should the Town of River Bend take over this responsibility? More information regarding cost and properties affected are needed.

Under new business, the topic of fallen trees both on land and adjacent to the water are an issue in some parts of Town. Properties affected will have to be identified and ask owners to remedy their problem areas. The Board will schedule Canal Inspection and Cleanup Day this spring. All interested parties are invited to participate in this event. The dates will be published on the Town website.

There is one vacancy on the Environmental Waterways Board. Residents of River Bend are encouraged to apply. The next meeting is scheduled for March 4th. All residents are invited to attend.

FINANCE – COUNCILMAN IRVING VAN SLYKE, JR.

Financial Report – Finance Administrator Theis told the Council that the total of the General Fund Cash Balances as of January 31, 2019 was \$4,288,698. Ad valorem tax collections were at \$534,668.

Vote – Approve Budget Amendment 18-B-04 – Councilman Van Slyke said that, as discussed at the Work Session, this Amendment will move monies to areas where it was needed for the hurricane clean up. He **moved to approve Budget Amendment 18-B-04 as presented.** The motion carried unanimously.

Vote – Grant Agreement Resolution – Also discussed at the Work Session was this Grant which will provide for two temporary employees and a vehicle. The Town will be permitted to retain the vehicle after the grant has expired. Mr. Van Slyke **moved to approve the Resolution approving the Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of River Bend and the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency for a grant in the amount of \$300,000 as presented.** The motion carried unanimously.

Vote – Loan Agreement Resolution – Councilman Van Slyke reminded the Council that this loan is meant to replace funds that were expended on Hurricane Florence and its aftermath. They will be repaid when the Town receives its funding from FEMA. He **moved to approve the Resolution approving the Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of River Bend and the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency for a no interest loan in the amount of \$800,000 as presented.** The motion carried unanimously.

PLANNING BOARD – COUNCILMAN BUDDY SHEFFIELD

Councilman Sheffield said that the Police Department's move to more suitable temporary facilities has allowed the regular meeting schedule to resume in the Town Hall conference room. The Planning Board held its regular meeting there on Feb. 7th at 7:00pm. A quorum was present as were two interested citizens who are new to River Bend.

Chairman Lippert called the meeting to order and welcomed the visitors. Assistant zoning administrator McCollum briefed the board on recent building permits, which were numerous due

to Hurricane Florence. Councilman Sheffield brought the board up to speed on actions by the Town Council.

Under old business, the Board continued its work on the Comprehensive Plan, which is a five year update. Board members who had attended recent meetings by Town advisory boards reported on suggestions by those boards for additions and/or deletions to the Comprehensive Plan. After discussion of those suggestions and completing its own work on the plan it was decided that Ms. McCollum would create a new draft of the revised plan that will be submitted to the Town Council who, after a public hearing, will be able to vote on its adoption.

Under new business there was discussion of a property on Rockledge Road which the Town has received complaints due to excessive front yard decorations. There was much discussion. It was ultimately decided that, although the situation at the residence is unfortunate and probably decreases the value of nearby properties, it would be impossible to deal with the problem through a new ordinance. To do so would amount to an attempt to codify taste, which is inherently subjective. No action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting is set for March 7th. As always, the public is invited to attend.

COUNCIL VACANCY

Vote – Approve Voting Process to Fill Vacancy – The Mayor pointed out that each Council member had been provided with a copy of the Process to Fill a Vacancy. He said that the Council needed to approve that Process before beginning the nominations. Councilman Sheffield **moved to approve the Voting Process to Fill a Vacancy as presented.** The motion carried unanimously.

The process began with the Clerk asking each Council member for a nomination. The final count was tied and the Mayor asked that the Council members say a few words supporting their nomination beginning with Councilman Sheffield. Councilman Sheffield said that he had been impressed with Mr. Fogle's statements about bringing the Town together and thought he would make a good addition to the Council. Following Councilman Sheffield's statement, Councilman McClard changed his vote and the count was three aye and one nay (Van Slyke) in favor of Mr. Fogle.

Mr. Sheffield then **moved to appoint Don Fogle to the Council vacancy for a term beginning February 21, 2019 and ending on December 12, 2019.** The motion carried unanimously.

Administer Oath of Office to New Council Member – The Town Clerk then administered the oath of office to Don Fogle and he took his place on the dais.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor said that time does move along and what we do each day is very important in establishing the improving future of any organization. That statement is true for River Bend's hurricane recovery effort. The Town staff has worked diligently to restore and improve the Town's infrastructure. Individual homeowners are working with stressed general contractors and independent tradesmen to rebuild their homes. These trying conditions dictate that all players

need to exercise much patience and control as the time required for total recovery turns out to be much longer than anticipated.

The FEMA staff assigned to work with River Bend following the hurricane functioned well and were helpful to residents within the constraints of law and the FEMA regulations. Many property owners have made decisions important to the future of their damaged property.

A very positive improvement in utility service to the Town is happening at the present time. It is probably not directly related to the hurricane but it will certainly improve utility service when total recovery is achieved.

Suddenlink had begun the installation of a conduit system throughout Town in August. This is the orange colored "pipe" that is being bored in on all streets. The completed system will allow the utility to pull a fiber optic cable to all customers.

Piedmont Natural Gas has in a similar fashion committed to providing gas service to the entire Town. This installation is the yellow pipe that is being bored in the street right-of-way on our streets. The gas company is pressurizing sections as they are completed so some areas will receive service before the entire system is completed.

Both of these installations will provide better service to residents. Return to "normal" is some time in the future and it is not possible to predict that date with any certainty. We should each pray that those who work hard to achieve the "normal" will not face any disruption.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilman Fogle **moved to adjourn**. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Ann H. Katsuyoshi
Town Clerk

River Bend Town Council
BUS Minutes
March 14, 2019
River Bend Town Hall
5:30 P.M.

Present Council Members:	Mayor John Kirkland Bill Camp Don Fogle Bud McClard Buddy Sheffield Bud Van Slyke
Town Manager:	Delane Jackson
Town Clerk:	Ann Katsuyoshi
Police Chief:	Sean Joll

DISCUSSION – UPDATE FROM LAST BUS MEETING

Town Manager Delane Jackson reminded the Council that on August 30, 2018, the Council agreed to a slight modification of the floor plan. Those changes are shown on Plan B. The Council also discussed, but did not make a final decision, on the Town Hall component of the BUS Plan.

Further consideration of this matter was postponed because of Hurricane Florence.

Mr. Jackson also pointed out that no final decisions have been made on the floor plans or the financing of this project. Nor have any decisions been made about timing or use of space once the project is completed.

CONSIDERATION OF FLOOR PLANS

The Manager said that Floor Plan A represents the plan that was discussed at the June 25th meeting. Plan B represents the plan discussed at the August 30th meeting which included changes from the June meeting. Floor Plan C shows staff recommended changes since the lessons that were learned following Hurricane Florence, specifically the need for emergency shelter for staff to be on hand during emergency response. He said that Plan C rearranges the bathrooms and adds a small kitchen back into the plans. Mr. Jackson pointed out that many of the functions held in the activities room would likely involve food, so why not plan for that scenario. Also, by adding the kitchen, this facility could be used as an emergency center.

Estimates are that the total cost of Plan B would be \$704,910. The total estimated cost of Plan C is \$764,350. However, Mr. Jackson reminded the Council that we will not know the exact cost until the project is bid.

DISCUSSION – UPDATE ON FUND BALANCE POSITION AFTER LAST AUDIT

Mr. Jackson pointed out that the Town's 2017 audit report showed an unassigned fund balance of \$1,242,235.

DISCUSSION – UPDATE ON POSSIBLE GOLDEN LEAF FOUNDATION FUNDING

The Manager said that we are still awaiting a decision by the Golden Leaf Foundation regarding funding to build the new facility, but he does not expect to receive any funding.

DISCUSSION – NEXT STEP

Councilman Van Slyke said that he liked Plan C and thought it was better for the Town and the Police Department. He pointed out that the Town is still setting aside the \$52,000 that we used to pay on the barn mortgage. That would be enough to pay the loan on construction.

Councilman Sheffield said that he is concerned about spending down the reserves. He asked if the Town could get a USDA loan for this project. The Town Manager said that the Town could get a loan.

CLOSED SESSION

Councilman Sheffield **moved to go into Closed Session under NCGS 143.318.11(a)(5) to instruct staff on negotiating price for acquisition of real property.** The motion carried unanimously. The Council entered Closed Session at 6:30 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Councilman Sheffield **moved to return to Open Session.** The motion carried unanimously. The Council entered Open Session at 6:50 p.m.

MOTIONS

Councilman Van Slyke **moved to approve building Plan C as presented and to proceed with bidding preparations.** The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman McClard **moved to designate the current site of the basketball court as the location for a new building and to relocate the basketball court to the old barn site.** The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilman **Sheffield moved to adjourn.** The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Ann Katsuyoshi
Town Clerk

River Bend Town Council
Work Session Minutes
March 14, 2019
River Bend Town Hall
7:00 P.M.

Present Council Members:	Mayor John Kirkland Bill Camp Don Fogle Bud McClard Buddy Sheffield Bud Van Slyke
Town Manager:	Delane Jackson
Town Clerk:	Ann Katsuyoshi
Police Chief:	Sean Joll

DISCUSSION – TOWN ORDINANCE 3.01.037 – FILLING VACANCY

Town Manager Delane Jackson said that he and the Town Attorney have made some changes in the wording of the Town Ordinance that lays out the process for filling a Council vacancy. He believes that these changes will make the replacement of a Council member less cumbersome in the future.

DISCUSSION – WORK SESSION FORMAT

Mayor Kirkland told the Council members that the Town began video recording of Work Sessions approximately two years ago. It was thought that this might allow more residents to view the more informal Work Session proceedings. However, the needs of video recording required that the Council members sit on the dais instead of at tables on the floor of the meeting room. Recently, some members have expressed a wish to go back to the previous format because it offered them the opportunity to discuss items face-to-face with their fellow Council members. Since there is no real evidence that video recording Work Sessions increases viewership, the Mayor suggested that the Council may wish to revert to the previous practice.

VOTE – UPDATE COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES CHART

The Mayor said that when a Council vacancy is filled it has been the practice that the new Council member take over the responsibilities of the person they are replacing. Therefore, this chart shows Don Fogle replacing Councilman Wanamaker as the liaison for Public Safety. Mr. Kirkland also suggested that Councilman Fogle also assume the responsibility as the backup for Public Works/Water Resources to relieve Councilman Sheffield, who is currently serving as the backup for three Advisory Boards.

Councilman Van Slyke **moved to approve the Mayor-Council Responsibilities Chart as presented.** The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION – RIVER BEND BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLAN

The Town Manager reminded the Council that the New Bern Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) had hired Alta Planning and Design to survey all municipalities in Craven County and develop a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for each one. Alta has submitted their plan to River Bend.

Mr. Jackson said that, in order for Alta to be paid for this project, the Council will have to approve the plan. He reminded the Council that their approval will in no way obligate the Town to institute the plan or any part of it.

CLOSED SESSION

Councilman Fogle **moved to go into Closed Session under §143-318.11 (a)(3), the Attorney-Client Privilege exception to the Open Meetings Law.** The motion carried unanimously.

OPEN SESSION

Councilman Sheffield **moved to return to Open Session.** The motion carried unanimously. The Council entered Open Session at 8:00 p.m.

MOTION

Councilman Sheffield moved to direct the Town Manager to acquire a performance bond before issuing any permits for home construction in the Virginia Court Subdivision unless the developer completes all necessary components of the subdivision. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilman Sheffield **moved to adjourn.** The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Ann Katsuyoshi
Town Clerk

**River Bend Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2019
River Bend Town Hall
7:00 P.M.**

Present Council Members:	Mayor John Kirkland Bill Camp Don Fogle Bud McClard Irving Van Slyke
Absent Council Member:	Buddy Sheffield
Town Manager:	Delane Jackson
Town Clerk:	Ann Katsuyoshi
Town Attorney:	Dave Baxter
Police Chief:	Sean Joll
Finance Administrator:	Margaret Theis

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kirkland at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 21, 2019 in the Town Hall Meeting Room with a quorum present.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

The Town Manager asked to add an item under Finance to discuss the Election. Councilman Camp **moved to add an item under Finance to discuss the Election.** The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Mayor presented the Council with the Consent Agenda. Councilman McClard **moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.** The motion carried unanimously. Within this motion the following items were approved:

- A. Approve:
Minutes of the February 14, 2019 Work Session
Minutes of the February 21, 2019 Regular Meeting

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

PUBLIC WORKS AND WATER RESOURCES – MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

PWAB Report – The Mayor said that there was no PWAB meeting in March. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 2nd in the Town Hall conference room. This is an open meeting and citizens are welcome to attend.

Vote - Town Ordinance 3.01.037 – Filling Vacancy – The Mayor said that this item was discussed at last week’s Work Session. Councilman Camp **moved to approve the amendment to the**

Town of River Bend, Code of Ordinances, Chapter 3.01.037, Filling Vacancies of an Elective Office, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Vote – Work Session Format – Again, the Mayor said that this item was discussed at the Work Session. Councilman McClard **moved to discontinue the videotaping of Council Work Sessions by Channel 10 effective immediately.** The motion carried unanimously.

FINANCE – COUNCILMAN IRVING VAN SLYKE, JR.

Financial Report – Finance Administrator Theis told the Council that the total of the General Fund Cash Balances as of February 28, 2019 was \$4,195,688. Ad valorem tax collections were at \$636,832.

Vote – Budget Amendment 18-B-05 – Manager Jackson said that this Amendment is to transfer funds into Public Buildings to cover the contract with the Walker Group. Councilman Van Slyke **moved to approve Budget Amendment 18-B-05 as presented.** The motion carried unanimously.

Vote – Contract with Walker Group – Councilman Van Slyke said that this contract was agreed to at the BUS meeting on March 14. He **moved to approve the contract with the Walker Group to provide architectural design and construction administration as presented, in an amount not to exceed \$58,328.00.** The motion carried unanimously.

ELECTION

The Town Manager told the Council that the Town has received an estimate of the costs of our municipal election on November 5, 2019 from the Craven County Board of Elections. That estimate is approximately \$9,700. Mr. Jackson said that that sum includes approximately \$6,000 for absentee (mail in) voting. He also pointed out that, at the 2018 election, there were approximately 35 mail in votes for River Bend.

The Manager said that currently the only two municipalities in Craven County that pay for absentee voting are River Bend and Havelock. Therefore, the total cost is split evenly between the two. Should Havelock decide to opt out of absentee voting this year, then River Bend would have to pay the full cost of nearly \$12,000. The Manager suggested that, for such a small number of ballots, this is a very high price and the Council may wish to opt out of absentee voting for this election.

After brief discussion, Councilman Van Slyke **moved to adopt the Resolution to “opt-out” of absentee voting.** The motion carried unanimously.

PLANNING BOARD – COUNCILMAN VAN SLYKE FOR COUNCILMAN BUDDY SHEFFIELD

The Planning Board held its regular meeting on March 7th at 7:00pm. A quorum was present as was Barbara Maurer.

Chairman Lippert called the meeting to order and welcomed the visitors. Assistant Zoning Administrator McCollum briefed the Board on recent building permits. Councilman Sheffield brought the Board up to speed on actions by the Town Council.

The Board continued its work on the Comprehensive Plan. All changes and additions to the plan were reviewed. The Board also considered changes suggested by former Council person Maurer. Ms. McCollum was tasked with creating a new draft of the plan incorporating all of the changes. Chairman Lippert suggested that the plan be submitted to the Council by June.

It was decided that the Board will review a plan developed years ago for development in the Northwest Quadrant.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is set for April 4th. As always, the public is invited to attend.

Vote – Approve Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan – As was discussed at the Work Session, adoption of this plan does not oblige the Town follow any of the recommendations. This is merely the method for getting the design firm paid for their work. Councilman Van Slyke **moved to approve the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan as presented.** The motion carried unanimously.

PARKS & RECREATION/CAC – COUNCILMAN BUD MCCLARD

Parks and Recreation – Councilman McClard said that Parks & Rec met at Town Hall at 7pm on March 6 for about an hour. The two new members are a welcome addition but there is still one slot vacant. The biggest upcoming activity will be the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday April 20, and much of the discussion was centered around logistics, prizes, and other details for the event. Specific information will be released by the Town. The next meeting is April 3 at 7pm and public is welcome to attend.

Community Appearance Commission – The CAC met Wednesday, March 20. Several topics were discussed including replacement plants for the few that were damaged in the Plantation Drive median. Residents Jon and Karen Segal offered to donate a bronze statue for the Dog Park and the CAC accepted. The Town Manager will check on utility costs to install the statue. The River Bend entrance upgrade project was also discussed at length but the project was put on hold pending feedback from the Town and cost projection. There was a large amount of interest in doing something about the remaining small debris including little bits of broken glass along several streets where debris piles had been picked up. A rep will check with Town Manager to see if any of the CAC ideas for cleanup are viable alternatives.

Library - The Red Caboose Library continues its self-funding via donations. Membership is open to any resident family and it is at no charge to the family. The volunteers are actively looking for a way to help more with Parks and Recreation activities.

Organic Garden - Garlic, leeks, onions, lettuce, kale and radishes are currently growing. Tomatoes and peppers have been started and they will be transplanted into the garden next month. Seed potatoes will be planted later this month. New bees for the beehives have been ordered and should arrive by April. Because some regular attendees are still displaced due to Florence, the March workshop has been postponed until the fall.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor said that many areas of the Town are now in normal or near normal condition while other areas still have a significant number of homes that remain unoccupied. The work associated

with the restoration of water damaged homes is dependent on the availability of necessary contractors and tradesmen. Both are in short supply. It is not possible to predict when the “normal” condition will return to the entire Town.

The Town was fortunate that our water supply was never compromised during or after the hurricane event. The wastewater treatment plant was off line during the height of hurricane flooding but was returned to normal operations shortly after the flooding conditions receded. The Town’s water/wastewater staff deserves credit for their management of this emergency and minimizing the total impact to residents and to the environment.

The Public Works and Water Resources building was flooded with two feet of flood water during the hurricane. The restoration of this building will be complete in the near future.

Town Manager Delane Jackson ably leads the staff and our contractors during the difficult times of restoring every element of River Bend to the conditions that existed on September 1, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilman Camp **moved to adjourn**. The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Ann H. Katsuyoshi
Town Clerk

**River Bend Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2019
River Bend Town Hall
7:00 P.M.**

Present Council Members:	Mayor John Kirkland Bill Camp Don Fogle Bud McClard Buddy Sheffield Irving Van Slyke
Town Manager:	Delane Jackson
Town Clerk:	Ann Katsuyoshi
Town Attorney:	Ross Hardeson
Police Chief:	Sean Joll
Finance Administrator:	Margaret Theis

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kirkland at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 18, 2019 in the Town Hall Meeting Room with a quorum present.

GRAND MARSHAL

Mayor Kirkland announced that Ms. Luci Avery has accepted the Council's invitation to serve as Grand Marshal at this year's July 4th parade.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Mayor presented the Council with the Consent Agenda. Councilman McClard **moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.** The motion carried unanimously. Within this motion the following items were approved:

- A. Approve:
 - 1. *Minutes of the March 14, 2019 BUS Meeting*
 - 2. *Minutes of the March 14, 2019 Work Session*
 - 3. *Minutes of the March 14, 2019 Closed Session (2)*
 - 4. *Minutes of the March 21, 2019 Regular Meeting*

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

EWAB – COUNCILMAN BILL CAMP

Councilman Camp reported that the main topic was canal maintenance. Local resident Dick Irwin was in attendance and addressed the canal issues in Island Lake. The access to the Trent River has narrowed to the point that only small outboards can be used. A lengthy discussion followed stressing the importance of depth sounding to maintain our waterways.

The Town Manager is looking into funding for this project as well as local companies capable of performing this work. This is an ongoing issue affecting all our waterways.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 6th at 7:00 p.m.

FINANCE – COUNCILMAN IRVING VAN SLYKE, JR.

Financial Report – Finance Administrator Theis told the Council that the total of the General Fund Cash Balances as of March 31, 2019 was \$4,749,818. Ad valorem tax collections were at \$641,413.

Vote – Call for Public Hearing on the Proposed 2019-2020 Budget – Councilman Van Slyke moved to schedule a Public Hearing on the Proposed FY 2019-2020 Budget for Thursday, May 16, 2019 beginning at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be reached.
The motion carried unanimous.

PARKS & RECREATION/CAC – COUNCILMAN BUD MCCLARD

Parks and Recreation – Councilman McClard reported that he was unable to attend the April meeting of Parks and Recreation. They met April 3 at 7:00 p.m. Discussion centered around the Easter Egg Hunt that will be held Saturday, April 20. Times for events:

- 10:30am – Ages 1 to 4
- 10:45am – Ages 5 to 8
- 11:00am – Ages 9 to 12
- 11:30am – Special Needs

Organic Garden - The organic garden is now harvesting kale and waiting for radish to mature. A workshop is scheduled for May 14 at 6:30 p.m. and the topic is 5 Questions to a Better Organic Garden by Sam Bean.

Library – There was no meeting this month.

Community Appearance Commission – The next meeting is May 15.

Vote – 2019 Arbor Day Proclamation – Councilman McClard **moved to approve the 2019 Arbor Day Proclamation as presented.** The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS AND WATER RESOURCES – MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

PWAB Report – The Mayor said that the April PWAB meeting was cancelled due to a conflict in scheduling with the planned date and time of the Budget Work Session.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor said that time certainly moves at a fast pace. The passage of time for River Bend also moves at an even faster pace. The Manager, Council and Staff have almost completed the drafting of the budget that will guide Town spending both in the general fund and in the water and wastewater enterprise funds in fiscal year 2019-2020. The four budget work sessions were

attended by several citizens who were welcomed to provide remarks on the budget process. This year's discussions were mindful of the uncertainties that are in play following the hurricane Florence impact as related to Town's financial position. It certainly became apparent how important it is to maintain a healthy fund balance in all budget sectors.

The planning for July Fourth parade and celebration is in the planning stage. Residents that were impacted by the hurricane continue to accomplish repairs to homes. This process has been painfully slow for these homeowners due to the limited number of contractors and the commitment of time those contractors to take on projects. All of us in River Bend need to respect the flood impacted home owners and understand the frustration that they live with day by day. Spring seems to finally be here and recovery is happening.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilman Sheffield **moved to adjourn**. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Ann H. Katsuyoshi
Town Clerk

River Bend Town Council
Work Session Minutes
May 9, 2019
River Bend Town Hall
7:00 P.M.

Present Council Members:	Mayor John Kirkland Bill Camp Don Fogle Bud McClard Buddy Sheffield Bud Van Slyke
Town Manager:	Delane Jackson
Town Clerk:	Ann Katsuyoshi
Police Chief:	Sean Joll

BUDGET MESSAGE PRESENTED

Town Manager Jackson reminded the Council that the Public Hearing for the Proposed 2019-2020 Budget will be held at the Regular Meeting next Thursday. He still has not received definitive numbers from the Craven County Tax Office, but will update the Budget as soon as he receives them.

DISCUSSION OF CANAL MAINTENANCE PLAN

The Manager said that the area around Island Lake has silted up to the point that boats cannot get in and out. He noted that the Town adopted a Canal Maintenance Plan in 2010 and established a CIP. That CIP currently has approximately \$66,000 in it. Mr. Jackson proposed to the Council that estimates be sought to dredge out the Island Lake area. After a brief discussion, the Council unanimously concurred.

DISCUSSION OF ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT AFTER HURRICANE FLORENCE

Mr. Jackson told the Council that nearly eight months after Hurricane Florence we still have residents with boats parked in their front yards and construction debris piles. This far exceeds the six months the Council had allowed to correct such violations. The Manager said that, without objection from the Council, the Zoning Assistant will be sending out letters to each of the property owners who are in violation and giving them a finite date by which the problem must be corrected or fines will be imposed.

DISCUSSION OF ARTWORK FOR DOG PARK

Town Manager Jackson showed the Council members a photograph of the statue donated by the Segals for the Dog Park. Mr. Jackson noted that the Segals will also donate the costs associated with placing the statue. Unfortunately, when the statue was received it was cracked, so the foundry is taking it back for repairs.

DISCUSSION OF BANKING RESOLUTION/SIGNATURE CARD

Since Councilman McClard has taken over former Councilman Bauer's position as Deputy Budget Director, it is necessary to add his name to the Bank's approved signature card. Councilman Van Slyke **moved to approve the BB&T Resolution and Agreement for Deposit Account as presented.** The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF POLICE DEPARTMENT RENTAL

The Manager said that the rental agreement for the Police Department office is about to expire. The owner has agreed to a six-month renewal of the current lease with an option for an additional six months. Since work has not begun on the new Police building, Mr. Jackson recommended that the Town accept the renewal contract. Councilman Sheffield **moved to renew the lease with Business Plaza, LLC for the rental of Unit 114, South Business Plaza for an additional term of six months with a six-month renewal option, if necessary, at the rate of \$750 per month, and to authorize the Town Manager to execute the lease.** The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilman Sheffield **moved to adjourn.** The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Ann Katsuyoshi
Town Clerk

**River Bend Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2019
River Bend Town Hall
7:00 P.M.**

Present Council Members:	Mayor John Kirkland Bill Camp Don Fogle Bud McClard Buddy Sheffield Irving Van Slyke
Town Manager:	Delane Jackson
Town Clerk:	Ann Katsuyoshi
Town Attorney:	Dave Baxter
Police Chief:	Sean Joll
Finance Administrator:	Margaret Theis

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kirkland at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 16, 2019 in the Town Hall Meeting Room with a quorum present.

PUBLIC HEARING

Councilman Van Slyke **moved to open the Public Hearing to discuss the Proposed 2019-2020 Budget.** The motion carried unanimously.

Town Manager Delane Jackson directed the Council's attention to the copy of the proposed budget and gave a brief outline of its contents. He said that there is a 2¢ tax increase proposed for the next fiscal year. There are no suggested changes to water and sewer charges or fee charges.

Councilman Van Slyke then asked anyone who wished to speak to this issue step to the podium and be heard. With no one stepping forward, Councilman Van Slyke **moved to close the Public Hearing.** The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Mayor presented the Council with the Consent Agenda. Councilman McClard **moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.** The motion carried unanimously. Within this motion the following items were approved:

- A. Approve:
Minutes of the April 18, 2019 Regular Meeting

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

FINANCE – COUNCILMAN IRVING VAN SLYKE, JR.

Financial Report – Finance Administrator Theis told the Council that the total of the General Fund Cash Balances as of April 30, 2019 was \$4,877,868. Ad valorem tax collections were at \$644,330.

PLANNING BOARD – COUNCILMAN BUDDY SHEFFIELD

The regular meeting of the Planning Board was held on May 2 at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall. A quorum was present. Chairman Lippert called the meeting to order. Allison McCollum gave the report of building permits issued. The volume continues to be high due to Hurricane Florence.

Councilman Sheffield briefed the Board on recent actions by the Council then gave a report on CARTS based on questions that had come up during preparation of the Comprehensive Plan. There had been interest in determining if River Bend could have a regular CARTS stop. According to CARTS director, Kelly Walker this would depend on demand.

Also arising from work on the Comprehensive Plan there was discussion of a shelter for the dog park, the overall mission statement, stormwater and pollution control and the bike and pedestrian plan.

There was discussion of whether potential development of the Northwest quadrant would be adequately covered by existing ordinances concerning subdivisions or if new ones might be needed. No action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned. The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 6th.

PARKS & RECREATION/CAC – COUNCILMAN BUD MCCLARD

Parks and Recreation – Councilman McClard reported that Parks and Rec met Wednesday, May 1, at Town Hall. There was a detailed debriefing regarding the previous Easter Egg Hunt, Concert in the Park, and July 4th activities and focus on streamlining upcoming events. The Concert in the Park on May 5 had good attendance and the weather cooperated. Initial plans for the July 4th parade and some ideas for some improvements were discussed.

Library - The Red Caboose Library has added two new volunteers in April and two more will be orienting very shortly.

Ten more books have been donated and added to our “Great American” read feature. The library now has more than half of the PBS listing.

On June 1, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to noon the Library will host an Open House which will include a Book Sale, Yard Sale, and Library T- Shirt Sale.

The River Bend Garden Club will also hold a Bake Sale at the same date and time and place at 50 Shoreline Drive.

Community Appearance Commission - The CAC met Wednesday afternoon at 1:30 PM.

Organic Garden - The Organic Garden will host a workshop at town hall Tuesday, May 14 at 6:30 p.m. titled "Five Questions for a Better Garden." Attendees are asked to call Dee Smith at 349-4000 or email howwwdeeee@embarqmail.com for reservations.

PUBLIC WORKS AND WATER RESOURCES – MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

PWAB Report – The Mayor said that the PWAB did not meet in May.

EWAB – COUNCILMAN BILL CAMP

Councilman Camp reported that EWAB met on May 6, 2019. Topics discussed included the signs for the no wake zones have been designed and priced by a vendor. Their status will be determined. The Island Lake dredging and a survey of our channel system was discussed. Delane has a company in mind for the dredging job and is waiting on their quote. He is also looking into funding options from in the state and other sources. Canal and bank cleanup has not been scheduled. Recruiting volunteers for this project has been in issue in past years. The next meeting is scheduled for April 3rd at 7:00 p.m.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor said that the Town Council at the June meeting will vote to adopt the Town's 2019-2020 budget. This document is the result of several meetings of the Council with Town Manager Jackson and Town Staff department heads. These working meetings began in March. When adopted the budget provides the Manager the financial resources to direct the Town's work to implement the projects and programs that Council accepted during the several Budget Work Sessions already mentioned. When deviations from planned programs occur the Manager presents an appropriate budget amendment document to the Council for debate and approval. Historically there are few budget amendments voted on in the River Bend budget during any fiscal year.

The other aspect of the budget that is worth comment is the "fund balance." The maintenance of a healthy fund balance is appropriate for River Bend and for every municipality. The Town's "municipal bond rating" represents the rating agency's evaluation of the Town's ability to repay debt. A recent example of utilization of fund balance was the occasion of Hurricane Florence storm debris removal. The contract for this work alone cost \$680,000. Total hurricane related expense is expected to be \$1,000,000. This obligation was met without borrowing. The funds paid for this service should be repaid by FEMA, however, the processing of our claim may take more than a year. This time estimate is based on experience with reimbursement associated with earlier hurricanes. In short, the "bond rating" impacts the Town's borrowing interest rate when borrowing is necessary. A good bond rating demonstrates a history of sound financial management thus every year our budget process puts our fiscal management documents on record for public review.

The Town Staff continues to work with homeowners in the post hurricane recovery process. Good progress is being made but there is still much work to be accomplished. Recovery is a multi-step process and there is no way to shorten the time to reach the finished product. River Bend is very

fortunate to have a high quality Staff. We are also fortunate that damage to the Town's infrastructure was minimal.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilman Sheffield **moved to adjourn**. The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Ann H. Katsuyoshi
Town Clerk

River Bend Town Council
Work Session Minutes
June 13, 2019
River Bend Town Hall
7:00 P.M.

Present Council Members:	Mayor John Kirkland Bill Camp Don Fogle Bud McClard Buddy Sheffield Bud Van Slyke
Town Manager:	Delane Jackson
Town Clerk:	Ann Katsuyoshi
Police Chief:	Sean Joll
Town Attorney:	Dave Baxter

FISCAL YEAR 2019 – 2020 BUDGET ORDINANCE

Town Manager Delane Jackson presented the Council with his recommendations for next year's budget. He told them that the only parts that had changed since their last discussion are those necessitated by Craven County's reduced property values. He said that the estimated revenues from property tax are down \$20,680, and the numbers have been adjusted to reflect this.

ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Jackson reminded the Council that Advisory Board reappointments will be made at the Regular Meeting. He asked those who have not yet gotten them in, to do so.

OFFER TO PURCHASE TOWN-OWNED LAND

The Manager said that he has received an Offer to Purchase for one of the properties in the Colonies that serves as a home to a sign. The Council approved of disposing of the properties last year. There are still a few legal requirements that must be met such as advertising that the property is for sale and permitting others to bid. He will keep the Council apprised of his progress.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FOR OLD POLLOCKSVILLE ROAD AREA

Manager Jackson pointed out the map of the area proposed for this Block Grant. He told the Council that the required notice of Public Hearing has been published and that Mr. Floyd Adams will be here to address the Council at the Regular Meeting.

2019 – 2020 LEAF AND LIMB PICK UP SCHEDULE

Mr. Jackson said that this schedule must be adopted by the Council each year. The proposed schedule is similar to those of preceding years.

CODE ENFORCEMENT ON ABANDONED AND DILAPIDATED PROPERTIES

The Manager told the Council that there are still several properties in Town that have not been cleaned up or repaired since Hurricane Florence. He said that enforcement action could entail fines and other remedies. Councilman Sheffield said that the Town should take whatever legal steps it has available to enforce the Town's Ordinances.

CLOSED SESSION

Councilman McClard **moved to go into Closed Session under 143-318.11(a)(3), to consult with the Attorney.** The motion carried unanimously. The Council entered Closed Session at 7:20 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Council Sheffield moved to return to Open Session. The motion carried unanimously. The Council entered Open Session at 8:05 p.m.

DISCUSSION

The Town Manager informed the Council that he had recently discussed the dilapidated condition of the bulkhead at 46 Shoreline Drive with property owner, Roland Pridgen. Roland informed the Manager that he was not certain that he is in fact the owner of the bulkhead. The Manager informed Roland that a recent survey indicated that he was the owner. The Manager told Roland that he would soon be getting a letter from the Town notifying him of the Town's Ordinance violation as it pertains to maintenance of bulkheads. The Manager stated he believed the Ordinance could be amended to make it clearer. The Town Attorney said he thought the current Ordinance was adequate and suggested contacting the Town engineer to inspect the bulkhead and provide documentation to the Town if it were dilapidated to a degree that it was causing erosion into the canal. If that is the case, then a violation does exist and the Town could take enforcement action. Councilman Fogle asked if the Town is just focusing on this bulkhead or all bulkheads. The Manager explained that he had noticed this bulkhead due to its proximity to the Town's recently completed bulkhead repair project. He added that in the past EWAB had inspected all bulkheads in Town and provided a report of their findings to the Manager. Councilman Camp stated that those inspections had been performed by EWAB and that he would get the results to the Manager. The Manager said once he has the report, he will inspect the bulkheads noted by EWAB, and if he thinks a violation exists, he will then ask the Town engineer to inspect them.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilman Sheffield **moved to adjourn.** The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Ann Katsuyoshi
Town Clerk

**River Bend Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
Jun 20, 2019
River Bend Town Hall
7:00 P.M.**

Present Council Members:	Mayor John Kirkland Bill Camp Don Fogle Bud McClard Buddy Sheffield Irving Van Slyke
Town Manager:	Delane Jackson
Town Clerk:	Ann Katsuyoshi
Town Attorney:	Dave Baxter
Police Chief:	Sean Joll
Finance Administrator:	Margaret Theis

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kirkland at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 20, 2019 in the Town Hall Meeting Room with a quorum present.

ADDRESSES TO COUNCIL

Mary Iorio reminded everyone about the July 4th parade and picnic. She invited all residents and their guests to come.

PUBLIC HEARING

Councilman Van Slyke **moved to go into a Public Hearing to discuss the Community Development Block Grant for the Old Pollocksville Road Area.** The motion carried unanimously.

Town Manager Delane Jackson introduced Floyd Adams, owner of Adams Company. Mr. Adams told the Council that there is a program offered through the Department of Commerce to communities to offer home repair or rehabilitation to low/moderate income families. This is a grant that does not require a match by the Town and can be up to \$750,000.

When asked how they would determine which properties might be eligible, Mr. Adams said that a committee would be formed to determine the participants. A question was then asked about whether homeowners would be required to participate. Mr. Adams said no. The offer of funding would be made and the property owner had the right to refuse.

Councilman Van Slyke then asked that anyone who wished to speak to the matter, step to the podium and be heard. No one stepped forward. Councilman Van Slyke **moved to close the Public Hearing.** The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Mayor presented the Council with the Consent Agenda. Councilman Van Slyke **moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.** The motion carried unanimously. Within this motion the following items were approved:

- A. *Approve:*
 - Minutes of the May 9, 2019 Work Session*
 - Minutes of the May 16, 2019 Regular Council Meeting*
- B. *Advisory Board Appointments and Reappointments*
 - PLANNING BOARD: Reappoint Keith Boulware, Kathleen Fleming, Robert Kohn and Kelly Latimer beginning July 1, 2019 and ending on June 30, 2021;*
 - PARKS AND RECREATION: Reappoint Janet Nawojski, and Francine Rice to terms beginning July 1, 2019 and ending on June 30, 2021;*
 - ENVIRONMENT AND WATERWAYS ADVISORY BOARD: Reappoint R. Karl Lichty and Alan Gazey to terms beginning July 1, 2019 and ending on June 30, 2021;*
 - COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION: Reappoint Judi Lloyd, Lona Farula and Lynn Torgersen to terms beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2021. Appoint John Meehan as a full-time member for a term beginning July 1, 2019 and expiring on June 30, 2020, and appoint Nancy Del'Aria as an alternate member for a term beginning July 1, 2019 and expiring June 30, 2021;*
 - PUBLIC WORKS: Reappoint Steven Dentico, Lou Colombo, Buck Irvin and Richard Seeger to terms beginning July 1, 2019 and ending on June 30, 2021;*
 - BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT: Reappoint Cinda Hill and Helmut Weisser to terms beginning July 1, 2019 and ending on June 30, 2022 and appoint Barbara Maurer as a full-time member to a term beginning July 1, 2019 and expiring on June 30, 2021;*
 - AUDIT COMMITTEE: Reappoint Councilman Irving Van Slyke, Councilman Harry McClard, Margaret Theis, the Town Manager and L.J. Danehy to terms beginning July 1, 2019 and expiring on June 30, 2020.*

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

PLANNING BOARD – COUNCILMAN BUD MCCLARD FOR COUNCILMAN BUDDY SHEFFIELD

Planning Board - The Planning Board met June 6 with Councilman McClard filling in for Councilman Sheffield who was ill. Mayor Kirkland also attended by invitation.

The Mayor gave a report on the New Bern Metropolitan Planning Organization (NBMPO) and how it relates to the CARTS bus service. The Board reviewed three final written updates to the Comprehensive Plan and agreed to update some of the pictures and make a few editorial corrections.

The July meeting was cancelled due to a conflict with July 4th.

PUBLIC SAFETY – COUNCILMAN DON FOGLE

CERT - CERT met at Town Hall on May 22 with 14 members in attendance. New members were introduced and given official CERT backpacks, tee shirts and other gear. The majority of the meeting was spent reviewing roles and responsibilities of the team regarding the Severe Weather Safety Fair. The actual Safety Fair was held on June 1 and went well. There were some empty chairs so more community members could have attended.

In the days prior to the CERT meeting, Harry McClard inspected and tested the team's projector and radios. He determined that all the CERT to CERT radios were ruined in the flood and needed to be replaced. Up to 12 may be requested. One of the four EMS radios was ruined, but that still leaves the team with three working radios for the incident commander/team leader. No replacements will be requested.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 26, at 7:00 pm. People interested in CERT and/or becoming new members are invited to attend.

PARKS & RECREATION/CAC – COUNCILMAN BUD MCCLARD

Parks and Recreation - Mary Iorio will be retiring from Parks when her current term ends this summer and we thank her very much for her years of service.

The bulk of the meeting was devoted to preparations for the July 4th parade and picnic lunch following the parade. The parade starts at 10:30 a.m. and lunch at Town Hall is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. We encourage the speakers to condense their speeches to limit the time between the parade and the lunch.

Parks and Recreation will hold a special meeting on Monday, June 24 at 1:00 p.m. to make certain all bases for the July 4 events have been covered. Bud said he had a work assignment in Pennsylvania that week and cannot be there.

CAC – The following member actions were recommended:

- John Meehan, currently an alternate, appoint to full member.
- Nancy Del'Aria, Appoint to alternate.
- Susan Broderick, term expired and elected not to continue
- Judi Lloyd: Re-Appoint to 2 year term
- Lona Farula: Re-Appoint to 2 year term
- Lynn Torgersen: Re-Appoint to 2 year term

The next meeting of Community Appearance Commission will be Wednesday, July 17 at 1:30 p.m.

Library - The Red Caboose Library had its Open House, Yard Sale and Book Sale on June 1st.

The event was well publicized by Sun Journal and Shopper ads, River Bender article, Press Release, social media platform (Facebook) and River Bend News and No Politics list serve, as well as posters. The weather was a bit dicey during set-up the day before but was accomplished with secure waterproof tarping and immediate storage of sale articles in the Library proper. Volunteers also stored sale items in their vehicles to complete the setup very early on June 1st. The Red Caboose Library thanks the many dedicated volunteers who worked so diligently to make this event happen. We had an overwhelming response from the community for donations of yard sale items and books. Again, the community has demonstrated very strong support for the Library through its enthusiastic participation, attendance and interest as well as their monetary support. We also, again, added a new volunteer to our roster this month.

The Library thanks the Town of River Bend for its gracious invitation to participate in the 4th of July Celebration Parade. We are strongly considering a plan for a parade entry.

Organic Garden - Update: Everything has started to grow quickly. We are fighting lots of pests with dipel, neem, water spray and hand-picking. There was also another breach, this one on Catherine's side. The fence was torn but there was no incursion. Dee and Christy repaired it. Chris finished rebuilding the redesigned irrigation system at the front of the garden. Dee learned how to repair a broken irrigation line. We are harvesting garlic, leeks, onions, cukes, pole beans, potatoes, tomatoes and herbs.

Workshop – The May workshop was well presented and well-received.

Green Team & Monarch Habitat – Six students showed for the last session of the GT. They asked to do a summer program. They will be invited to volunteer during the summer but there will not be a formal program. The planting area of the monarch habitat has been enlarged. So far there have not been many monarchs or any caterpillars in the garden. Dee and Chris are working on a plan for a building to house and observe the monarchs.

Bees – The surviving hive is thriving. Dick will try to split the hive into two.

New Business: Field Trip – Approximately 30 children aged 9-12 from the Child Care Network are scheduled to visit the garden on Thursday, June 27.

Workday – We need a workday but could not determine a date prior to the next scheduled meeting. Gardeners are encouraged to come and help when they can. Plant management and harvesting are priorities and maintenance needs to be ongoing.

PUBLIC WORKS AND WATER RESOURCES – MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

PWAB Report – The Mayor said that the June PWAB meeting was held on June 4. The Manager briefed the Board on the continuing work involved in restoring damages that resulted from Hurricane Florence. He also distributed copies of the draft 2019-2020 budget to Board members. A discussion about probable reduction in the Town's tax listing value was responded to by the Manager who estimated that the listing may see a reduction of between 15 and 20 million dollars.

Superintendent Mills reported that his staff is very busy marking utility line locations for Piedmont Natural Gas and Suddenlink as those utilities are working throughout Town. He said that the gas utility planned to complete work in June.

Board Member Dentico raised the question about the differential of connection fee for water tap if the water main is across the street. Superintendent Mills explained that the across street connections involve the added cost of contract street cut or line bore under street.

Chairman Bruno announced that the next meeting would be on August 6.

Vote – 2019-2020 Leaf and Limb Pick Up Schedule – Councilman Van Slyke moved to approve the 2019-2020 Leaf and Limb Pick Up Schedule as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

EWAB – COUNCILMAN BILL CAMP

Councilman Camp reported that Ralph Iorio opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m. A quorum was present. Also attending was Councilman Don Fogle.

The Island Lake inlet dredging was discussed. Hiring a company capable of performing the dredging operation and clearing the spoils has been challenging. It is a very small job for many companies. The channel markers leading into Island lake canal are in need of repair. Until the canal is dredged, access and repair cannot be accomplished.

The orange buoy, signifying a hazard, located in the Trent River is off station. This buoy is just east of the Main Canal. The Coast Guard Auxiliary has alerted the proper authorities.

Next meeting is July 1, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. All are invited to attend.

FINANCE – COUNCILMAN IRVING VAN SLYKE, JR.

Financial Report – Finance Administrator Theis told the Council that the total of the General Fund Cash Balances as of May 31, 2019 was \$5,780,625. Ad valorem tax collections were at \$645,513.

Vote – Proposed 2019-2020 Budget – Councilman Van Slyke moved to adopt the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget Ordinance as presented and the Fee Schedule, and to authorize the Mayor to sign contracts, as needed, to complete projects authorized therein. The motion carried unanimously.

Vote – Sale of Town-Owned Property – Councilman Van Slyke moved to accept the offer to purchase as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor said that tonight the Council has approved the 2019-2020 budget for the Town. This action completes the work began in March with weekly meetings. The budget will guide the Town Manager in the work to be accomplished during the budget year. The approved budget covers the spending in the general fund departments and in the water and wastewater enterprise funds. The budget work sessions were attended by several citizens who were welcomed to provide remarks on the budget process. This year's discussions were mindful of the uncertainties that are in play following the Hurricane Florence impact as related to Town's financial position. The hurricane event certainly made apparent how important it is to maintain a healthy fund balance in all budget sectors.

Residents who were impacted by the hurricane continue to accomplish repairs to homes. This process has been painfully slow for these homeowners due to the limited number of contractors and the commitment of time those contractors need to take on projects. All of us in River Bend need to respect the flood impacted homeowners and understand the frustration that they live with day by day. Summer seems to finally be here and recovery is happening.

CLOSED SESSION

Councilman Sheffield **moved to go into Closed Session under North Carolina General Statutes 143-318(3)(5)(6) Consult with Attorney/Personnel.** The motion carried unanimously. The Council entered Closed Session at 8:15 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Councilman Sheffield **made the motion return to Open Session.** The motion carried unanimously. The Council re-entered Open Session at 8:40 p.m.

Vote - Employment Contract - Councilman Van Slyke **moved to renew the Town Manager's 2-year-employment contract as presented.** Motion carried unanimously.

Vote - Merit Bonus - Councilman Sheffield **moved to award additional merit-based bonuses of \$550.00 for the Zoning Assistant and \$450.00 for the Finance Assistant and also to pay a merit-based bonus to the Town Manager of \$3,000.00 net of all required Local, State and Federal withholdings.** Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilman Sheffield **moved to adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Ann H. Katsuyoshi
Town Clerk

River Bend Town Council
Work Session Minutes
July 11, 2019
River Bend Town Hall
7:00 P.M.

Present Council Members:	Mayor John Kirkland Bill Camp Don Fogle Bud McClard Bud Van Slyke
Absent Council Members:	Buddy Sheffield
Town Manager:	Delane Jackson
Town Clerk:	Ann Katsuyoshi
Police Chief:	Sean Joll
Town Attorney:	Dave Baxter

PUBLIC HEARING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

Councilman Van Slyke **moved to go into a Public Hearing to discuss the Community Development Block Grant.** The motion carried unanimously.

Town Manager Delane Jackson introduced Floyd Adams, owner of Adams Company. This is the second required Public Hearing for this Grant. Mr. Adams told the Council that, since the Public Hearing last month, they have identified six properties that meet the criteria for a Community Development Block Grant. Three of these properties would be suitable for repair and three for rehabilitation. All six of the property owners have agreed to participate in this program. The estimated cost for all six of the projects is \$750,000. The Town will not be required to contribute any funds to the project, but will be asked to provide administrative services.

Councilman Van Slyke then asked that anyone who wished to speak to the matter, step to the podium and be heard. No one stepped forward. Councilman Van Slyke **moved to close the Public Hearing.** The motion carried unanimously.

VOTE - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT RESOLUTION

Councilman Van Slyke **moved to approve the Community Development Block Grant Resolution as presented.** The motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET AMENDMENT 19-B-01

The Town Manager told the Council that everything in this Amendment is just projects that were previously approved for funding, but were not completed in last year's budget. There is no new funding in this Amendment. We are merely re-appropriating the funds into the current budget to continue the projects.

Councilman Van Slyke **moved to approve Budget Amendment 19-B-01 as presented.** The motion carried unanimously.

VOTE - SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

Mr. Jackson said that this is just a small piece of land on Pinewood that we propose to sell to the adjoining landowner. The required ad was placed in the paper and, as expected, there were no upset bids. Councilman Van Slyke **moved to approve the sale of the real property located at the corner of Pinewood and Plantation Drive, Parcel ID number 8-200-K-065, in the amount of \$200, and authorize the Mayor to sign on behalf of the Town.** The motion carried unanimously.

BUS BID RECOMMENDATION

The Manager reminded the Council that he planned to have a bid tabulation at the Regular meeting.

COG APPOINTMENT

The Town Manager said that Scott Showalter is the current appointee. He has said that he is willing to continue serving in this capacity. After brief discussion, the Council agreed to having Mr. Showalter serve as the Town's representative to the COG if he is willing. However, they would like to offer the position to other residents before making a final decision.

LEAF AND LIMB AMENDMENT

Mr. Jackson reminded the Council that our leaf and limb policy is by Ordinance that requires residents to bag leaves and pinecones. Should the Council decide to eliminate the bagging requirement, he would also suggest a couple of minor wording changes. Mr. Jackson asked that the Council review the proposed changes so that they can make a decision at the Regular meeting.

MPO UPDATE

Mayor Kirkland provided the Council with copies of the routes of the two CARTS lines. He said that the MPO is still considering a stop in River Bend.

APPROVE 2018-2019 CRAVEN COUNTY TAX SETTLEMENT

Mr. Jackson reminded the Council that they are required to approve the Craven County Tax Collector's settlement of taxes each year. This will be presented at the Regular meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

Councilman Van Slyke **moved to go into Closed Session Under North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3).** The Council entered Closed Session at 7:50 p.m.

Councilman Van Slyke **moved to go into Open Session.** The Council entered Open Session at 8:15 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilman Van Slyke **moved to adjourn.** The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Ann Katsuyoshi
Town Clerk

**River Bend Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 18, 2019
River Bend Town Hall
7:00 P.M.**

Present Council Members:	Mayor John Kirkland Bill Camp Don Fogle Bud McClard Irving Van Slyke
Council Members Absent:	Buddy Sheffield
Town Manager:	Delane Jackson
Town Clerk:	Ann Katsuyoshi
Town Attorney:	Dave Baxter
Police Chief:	Sean Joll
Finance Administrator:	Margaret Theis

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kirkland at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 18, 2019 in the Town Hall Meeting Room with a quorum present.

ADDRESSES TO COUNCIL

Phyllis Hoffman, 105 Lantern Lane, thanked the staff for all of their work during and after Hurricane Florence. She asked the Town to support a volunteer day to clean up the small bits of debris that are still present in the hard hit areas of Town.

Jeaninne Billingsley, 306 Rockledge Road, said that Town staff are not enforcing the Ordinances and cited several address where she believed violations existed.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Mayor presented the Council with the Consent Agenda. Councilman McClard **moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.** The motion carried unanimously. Within this motion the following items were approved:

- A. Approve:
Minutes of the June 13, 2019 Work Session
Minutes of the June 20, 2019 Regular Council Meeting

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY – COUNCILMAN DON FOGLE

CERT – CERT met at Town Hall on June 26, 2019. The meeting started with an after-action report-style discussion of the June 1, 2019 Severe Weather Safety Fair. Early and late arrivals of some presenters created a challenge to keep the Fair on schedule. This was unnoticed by the attendees due to the quick thinking of the CERT team to fill time gaps and move speakers as

needed. Lack of attendance by residents was discussed. There were numerous opinions as to the reasons, including competing events with the Red Caboose Library and the belief by some residents that since they survived Florence, they were prepared for future storms. Another reason was that the Fair was too long. CERT will be considering having multiple, shorter meetings rather than an all-day Fair in the future.

CERT also planned to have an information/recruitment canopy placed adjacent to the food line at the July 4th celebration. The information/recruitment canopy will also be in place at the August 6, 2019 National Night Out manned by CERT volunteers. Because of the CERT participation in the National Night Out event, no meeting is scheduled for July.

PARKS & RECREATION/CAC – COUNCILMAN BUD MCCLARD

Parks and Recreation – The Parks and Rec Advisory Board met on June 24, 2019 in Town Hall. The primary focus of the meeting was to identify tasks necessary to make the July 4th celebration successful. It was Mary Iorio's last meeting and she did her best to share years of event planning wisdom with the group. As tasks were identified, volunteers were assigned to the tasks. The meeting ended with a confident team ready to create a successful celebration.

CAC – The next meeting will be in August.

Library – The Library continues to operate in its self-funding manner. More volunteers have committed their time and book donations continue to help.

Organic Garden - The monthly meetings in July and August are cancelled. The next regular meeting will be on Monday, September 9, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. in the Town Hall conference room.

Onions, garlic, leeks and potatoes have been harvested. Cucumbers, pole beans, tomatoes, red noodle beans and herbs are producing well. The sweet potatoes, cantaloupes, watermelons, peanuts, peppers and eggplants are all healthy. We have sugar baby watermelons in a couple of locations. Many thanks to the volunteers.

The bee hive is very active and healthy.

Garden maintenance is ongoing and the results are gratifying. There are very few weeds and the garden looks good. Most of the resting beds have had compost and decomposing hay added and have been covered with a heavy layer of dry hay. A few sacrificial brussels sprouts, bok choy and lettuces were left to attract pests away from the summer crops and it seems to be working, more-or-less. Many paths now have landscape cloth covered with wood mulch. That project will be continued as time and temperature allow. We need to replace two sections of fence netting and the line around the top of the fence. There are other tasks on the To-Do list but they will have to wait. Watering, harvesting and plant care are garden priorities. Some days there are only three gardeners; other days we have had as many as eight or nine. It feels good to see our garden family working together.

Please stop by to help or say hi and pick up some vegetables.

PUBLIC WORKS AND WATER RESOURCES – MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

PWAB Report – The Mayor said that the PWAB did not meet in the month of July. Their next scheduled meeting will be August 6 at 3:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room.

Vote – Approve Leaf and Limb Amendment – Manager Jackson offered the Council two options for leaf and limb. Option A was the version that removed the requirement for bagging leaves and pinecones. Option B would keep the bagging requirement in place, but add specific language allowing bagging of grass clippings, requiring that all bags have labels and specifying that small limbs and twigs were not to be bagged. Both versions also contained a few other minor changes that were not related to bagging.

The Council members discussed this at some length. Most said that their constituents were overwhelmingly in favor of bagging. Councilman Van Slyke **moved to approve the Ordinance Amendment that did not require bagging (Option A)**. The motion failed.

Councilman Van Slyke then **moved to approve the Ordinance Amendment that required bagging (Option B)**. The motion carried unanimously.

EWAB – COUNCILMAN BILL CAMP

The next EWAB meeting will be in September

FINANCE – COUNCILMAN IRVING VAN SLYKE, JR.

Financial Report – Finance Administrator Theis told the Council that the total of the General Fund Cash Balances as of June 30, 2019 was \$5,025,785. Ad valorem tax collections were at \$648,517.

Vote – Approve 2018-2019 Craven County Tax Settlement – Councilman Van Slyke **moved to approve the 2018-2019 Craven County Tax Settlement as presented**. The motion carried unanimously.

PLANNING BOARD – COUNCILMAN BUDDY SHEFFIELD

The Planning Board did not meet in July.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor said that the July Fourth Parade and Picnic were once again a great success. All of this after the devastation visited on us by Hurricane Florence. The volunteers of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and their recruited additional volunteers performed a great serving of food under Chair Mary Iorio. The Community Watch members led by Egon Lippert provided assistance to the police department in directing traffic. We had the usual support from Rev. Simpson of the River Bend Baptist Church, the Marines from MCAS Cherry Point Air Station again led the Parade and joined us for lunch and several County Commissioners joined in the parade. The entire event was what a July Fourth Celebration should present to attendees.

The Town staff led by Manager Jackson provides critical support for this and other Town events. These long serving and dedicated staff members are critical to the smooth delivery of many Town

celebrations. They have borne the extra duties demanded for hurricane recovery while performing their normal duties. They have all performed in an outstanding fashion. We should all hope that there will be no hurricane in 2020 and that all Florence damage will be completely restored by July 4, 2020.

The work demanded for recovery from Hurricane Florence moves along. The staff, assisted by contractors, has restored most of the Town's infrastructure. Residents still work at restoration and the non-availability of contractors has slowed this recovery. A look at other area municipalities demonstrates that River Bend is not alone in this delay.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilman Fogle **moved to adjourn**. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Ann H. Katsuyoshi
Town Clerk