

RIVER BEND NEWS

FROM TOWN HALL

www.riverbendnc.org



Budget Development 2016 – 2017

BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

During its regular June meeting, the Town Council adopted River Bend's Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Budget. The Council held a Public Hearing on the budget during its May regular meeting. This complies with the North Carolina General Statute which requires that all North Carolina municipalities adopt a balanced budget prior to July first of each year.

The Town has established an orderly process for budget development:

- ◆ In November, the Council informs the Town Manager as to priority items to be addressed in the next budget.
- ◆ The Council sets the schedule of budget workshop meetings that the Council will hold with the Manager and department heads
- ◆ The Council prepares the agenda for budget items to be addressed in each of the scheduled meetings.

With this process, the Council can consider each budget line item as it is developed and how it supports the priorities set for the coming year.

The North Carolina Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act (The Act) mandates how North Carolina cities and towns develop their budgets:

- ◆ The approved budget must be balanced with revenues equaling the appropriations proposed in the budget.
- ◆ In municipalities with the Council – Manager Form of Government, the Manager shall be the Budget Officer.
- ◆ Prior to April 30, department heads shall submit to the Budget Officer departmental budget requests. This departmental request also details the expenditures in the prior fiscal year.
- ◆ The Act also tasks the Manager with presenting the Budget Message. During the April 19 Budget Work Session, the Council reviewed Manager Jackson's

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draft Budget Message. Manager Jackson formally presented the Budget Message at the May 19 Council Meeting prior to the Budget Public Hearing. The Budget Message is available for review on the Town's web page at: (www.riverbendnc.org).

River Bend's usual structure of seven budget work sessions was modified this year because the special Primary Election conflicted with one of the Budget Work Sessions. All other scheduled meetings were held as announced in November. Ultimately, the Council was able to complete FY 2016-2017 budget in six meetings in lieu of the usual seven.

All of the budget meetings are open to the public, and the Council is pleased to receive citizen input. The Town's strong fiscal position is testimony to the integrity of our budget process. Proof of the professionalism of the process is confirmed by the awards that the Town has received for Distinguished Budget Presentation and for our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report by the Government Finance Officers Association for the past five years. Council Members, the Town Manager and Town staff all deserve our appreciation for this professional and critical component of Town Governance. ●



TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

The storm event of July 15th has generated a few questions that were directed to Town Hall concerning trees from a neighbor's property. Weather events such as rain, wind, lightening, hurricanes, floods, tornados, etc. are defined as "Acts of God." Being a town manager in hurricane prone North Carolina for nearly 20 years, I have heard these questions many times during my career following Acts of God. I felt now would be a good time to share a few thoughts about the issue.

One frequent question is, "If my neighbor's tree falls on my house, is he responsible for the damages?" No. It is your responsibility, both to repair any damages to the home and to remove the tree from your property. Most of us have insurance coverage for this type event. If your neighbor offers to pay for it, then of course you can accept his offer but he is not required to do so. You can think of

"If my neighbor's tree falls on my house, is he responsible for the damages?" No. It is your responsibility, both to repair any damages to the home and to remove the tree from your property."

the scenario in terms of just leaves that have fallen from a neighbor's tree. If your neighbor has a tree that sheds leaves onto your property on a regular day, you do not expect him to rake the leaves. If he offers to do so, that is very neighborly but not required. The same applies if the whole tree falls onto your home/property during an Act of God.

The one exception that may affect responsibility is if there was any negligence on the part of the neighbor. If their negligence caused the tree to fall then there may be some responsibility on their part. In that case, it becomes a legal issue between neighbors. The town cannot decide those issues. If you have a question, you should contact your insurance agent.

What if the town owns a tree and it falls into my back yard? Who is responsible? Again, it is the person who owns the property where the tree fell, not the tree owner. In North Carolina, not only is the town not responsible for removing the tree, but it is actually illegal for the town to expend public funds removing

"In North Carolina, not only is the town not responsible for removing the tree, but it is actually illegal for the town to expend public funds removing the tree from private property."

the tree from private property. If the tree is causing a safety or health threat, then the town may legally remove it. In any case, the Town of River Bend is not responsible for removing trees or limbs that have fallen onto private property. We are only responsible for town owned property. During the recent severe weather fair, an insurance representative was in attendance and discussed this scenario.

I realize that this may not be what a resident who has recently inherited a neighbor's tree wants to hear, but it is the reality of the situation. If we all know ahead of time, we can be better prepared to respond if we find ourselves in these unpleasant situations. ●



WRD/PW
JUNE REPORT
BY BRANDON MILLS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works added cypress mulch to the playgrounds at Town Hall in June. We are going to be adding mulch to the Barbara Drive playground soon. We routinely monitor the parks/playgrounds for hazards such as compaction of mulch, choking hazards, sharp objects, etc. This mulch is basically a soft base that can lessen the impact of possible falls during playground activities. Public Works also has been inspecting and

cleaning out stormwater catch basin grates to help with drainage during rain events. We will continue doing what we can do to help improve the drainage around town.

Utility Services has finished with the water tower repairs, and the water tower is back online. The water distribution system flushing will begin in July. Water system flushing will be done at night to minimize any inconvenience to our customers. Again, the purpose of the flushing is to remove any mineral buildup that has occurred over the last year within the distribution system. We also flow test the hydrants for the Fire Department which helps with fire insurance ratings.

If you have any questions about the Water Resources/Public Works Department, please call us at 638-3540, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. After-hours water and sewer emergencies can be reported by dialing Town Hall at 638-3870. You will be instructed to then dial “9” and follow the directions to contact the on-call duty operator. You will be asked to enter your phone number at the sound of the tone. After entering your phone number, the automated system will inform you that your page has been sent. Please, be patient and our utility operator will return your call. If you do not receive a call back within ten minutes, please notify the Police Department at 638-1108. ●

**COMING
EVENTS**

Council Work Session
August 11
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Council Meeting
August 18
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall



**RIVER BEND
NEWS**

FROM TOWN HALL
is published monthly by the
River Bend Town Council for
the residents of the Town of
River Bend.

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John Kirkland

TOWN COUNCIL
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Pat Yocum

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TOWN CLERK
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**Leaf & Limb
Collection
Schedule for
2016-2017**

Residents may begin
placing their yard debris
street side on the dates
indicated in parentheses

Zone 1 Pick Up Begins

- July 11, 2016
July 6, 2016
- September 12, 2016
September 7, 2016
- November 7, 2016
November 2, 2016
- January 9, 2017
(includes Christmas trees)
January 4, 2017
- March 13, 2017
March 8, 2017
- May 8, 2017
May 3, 2017

Zone 2 Pick Up Begins

- July 18, 2016
July 13, 2016
- September 19, 2016
September 14, 2016
- November 14, 2016
November 9, 2016
- January 16, 2017
(includes Christmas trees)
January 11, 2017
- March 20, 2017
March 15, 2017
- May 15, 2017
May 10, 2017

Pinecones, pine straw and
leaves must be bagged. For
additional important informa-
tion about River Bend's Leaf
& Limb collection program,
please see our Ordinance online
at www.riverbendnc.org. ●

**Town Council
2016 Meeting Dates**

- Work Session January 14
- Council Retreat January 21**
- Regular Meeting January 21
- Work Session February 11
- Regular Meeting February 18
- Budget Meeting..... March 8
- Work Session March 10
- ~~Budget Meeting..... March 15~~ Canceled due to
Election Primary
- Regular Meeting March 17
- Budget Meeting..... March 22
- Budget Meeting..... March 29
- Budget Meeting..... April 5
- Budget Meeting..... April 12
- Work Session April 14
- ~~Budget Meeting..... April 19~~ Canceled
- Regular Meeting April 21
- Budget Meeting April 26
- Council Retreat May 12
- Work Session May 12
- Regular Meeting May 19
- Work Session June 9
- Regular Meeting June 16
- Work Session July 14
- Regular Meeting July 24
- Work Session August 11
- Regular Meeting August 18
- Work Session September 8
- Regular Meeting September 15
- Work Session October 13
- Regular Meeting October 20
- Work Session November 10
- Regular Meeting November 17
- Work Session December 8
- Regular Meeting December 15

All Council Work Sessions and Regular Meetings will be held in the River Bend Town Hall beginning at 7:00 p.m. All Council Retreats will be held at the Offices of Sumrell, Sugg, Carmichael, Hicks and Hart, PA, 416 Pollock Street, New Bern, NC beginning at 5:00 p.m. All Council Budget Sessions will be held in the River Bend Town Hall beginning at 4:00 p.m. **3:00 PM at Town Hall.

**Green type indicates a completed leaf & limb collection*

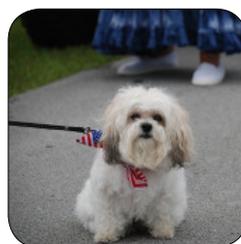


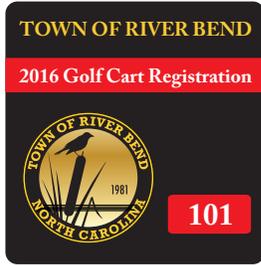
River Bend July 4th Parade & Celebration

River Benders, their guests and other visitors to our Town proudly celebrated our Nation's Independence Day on July Fourth.

Everyone enjoyed a traditional small-town parade and picnic lunch and had a wonderful time.







Golf Cart Registration

Town ordinances allow for residents to drive their properly equipped golf carts on River Bend streets provided that they are inspected by and registered with our Police Department. If you plan to drive your golf cart on the roadways, you must display the 2016 registration decal.

Inspection and registration are required annually. The registration fee for each golf cart is \$10.

For additional information and to make your inspection reservation, please call the River Bend Police Department at 638-1108.



Registration is Required for all Dogs and Cats

River Bend Animal Registrations for 2016 were due by March 31, 2016. All River Bend dogs and cats must be registered annually.

Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. Registration is \$10.00 per pet.

Owners must present proof of rabies vaccination at the time of registration.



Pet I. D. Photos Now Available

The Town of River Bend is now offering residents the opportunity to link a digital photo of their registered pets to our Animal Registration database. When you register your pet this year, you may submit a photo by e-mail, or staff can scan a photo for you if you prefer. This photo database will help reunite lost pets with their owners more quickly in the event a pet becomes lost.

The service is voluntary and free of charge.

DOG PARK AT RIVER BEND



River Bend dogs have their own exercise area where they can play with other canines. Situated between the Town Park and Ritter Field, the dog park gives dogs a chance to run while their owners socialize.

The park is open from sunrise to sunset for dogs with proof of current vaccinations. Separate exercise areas accommodate large and small dogs.

For complete list of rules applicable to dog park use, please visit Town Hall for a brochure or view details on our web site at www.riverbendnc.org. Dog park rules are also posted at the entrance to the park.



Sign up for our
Emergency Notification System
and receive timely notifications by phone, e-mail, text messages and more.

SIGN UP NOW
at riverbendnc.org

this service provided by the Town of River Bend through
Blackboard connect



River Bend has a functional Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). For more information about this group, or to volunteer, please contact the CERT liaison, Police Officer Brandon Rohrs and/or visit our web site.



If you have a medical condition for which you require any type of special medical care during a disaster or if your medical condition requires assistance to evacuate during a disaster, you may wish to apply to Craven County for their Special Needs Registry. The River Bend Police Department can provide you with the appropriate form and provide some basic information about the County's program.



River Bend has a very active Community Watch program, supported by our Police Department. If you are interested in volunteering, call the River Bend Police Department at 638-3870.



River Bend has a skateboard park to meet the needs of some of our more athletic residents.

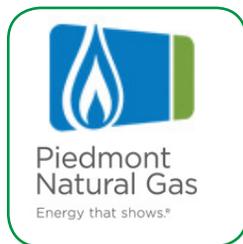
A signed parental approval form is required and helmet use is strictly enforced. For more information about the skateboard park, visit our web site or call the River Bend Police Department at 638-1108.



Our Wildwood Storage Facility offers a variety of indoor and outdoor storage areas to meet all of your storage needs, including parking spaces for RVs and boats. For more information, call 638-3870, ext 216.



The Arbor Day Foundation awarded the Town of River Bend the Tree City USA designation for a seventh consecutive year. River Bend is one of only 86 communities in North Carolina to achieve this designation. To learn more about Tree City USA, visit our web site.



INTERESTED IN NATURAL GAS?

As Piedmont Natural Gas plans expansion of their system, they take into account requests for new customer service. If you are interested in Natural Gas Service, let them know you want their service. Like any other business, they need to invest where there is a higher likelihood of some return on the investment. You can express your interest by calling Piedmont's customer service number and telling them your address and telling them that you would like Piedmont Natural Gas to serve River Bend. The number to call is: 1-800-752-7504.



Solicitation List Update

In accordance with the Town of River Bend Code of Ordinances, § 13.01.006, "Regulation of Solicitors," the Town is currently updating its lists of residents who would like to receive solicitations at their door.

Door-to-door solicitation will be permitted only at those addresses on the list. To add your name to the list of those wishing to receive solicitations please call the Town Clerk at 638-3870, ext. 202 or e-mail her at townclerk@riverbendnc.org. Residents who do not wish to receive solicitations need do nothing.