

RIVER BEND NEWS

FROM TOWN HALL

www.riverbendnc.org



Prioritizing Projects & Matching Available Resources In The Budget

BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

Municipal operations are remarkably similar to what each resident goes through in prioritizing a household budget. A listing of decision points for home and municipal budgets would include:

1. Available funds
2. Essential items: home maintenance, utilities, transportation, taxes, education funding, special family events, emergency reserve funds, (many will put charitable gifts in the essential category).
3. Nice to have: new auto, vacation in Europe, club membership, a new personal water craft.

This is not an exhaustive listing of items that could be placed in each category but it demonstrates that we make choices related to personal spending based on a judgment of essential versus nice to have. Municipalities are forced to do the same in the annual budgeting process and there are similar essential and nice to have items for a municipality.

“Our Town Council begins budget discussions with an awareness that “it is all about resources.”

Municipal governing bodies work through the prioritizing of proposed competing budget line items as the final budget is developed.

Our Town Council begins budget discussions with an awareness that “it is all about resources.” The resource for both home and Town is always the available funding. All North Carolina municipalities must submit a balanced budget by the end of June each year.

Availability of labor is another common element to home and municipal planning. At home we can either contract a project or if handy we can accomplish a proj-

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ect in DIY fashion. If you select the DIY route you spend your time in lieu of hiring the contractor and that time is not available for other endeavors. In the municipality a function can be contracted or accomplished by municipal workforce. If contracted it will reduce available funds. If accomplished with the available workforce, that working group is not available to perform other necessary work.

Municipalities must meet Federal and State regulatory and mandatory standards which require considerable resources. The most demanding regulatory mandates relate to the operation of the water and wastewater utilities. Every municipality owns a long list of property and miscellaneous infrastructure that is provided for the “common good” of citizens. All of that infrastructure, like your home, requires maintenance and ultimately replacement and all of it is overseen by regulatory agencies.

“The most demanding regulatory mandates relate to the operation of the water and wastewater utilities.”

I hope that this article may foster an understanding that there are similarities between the budgeting for home and municipal spending. At the same time municipal planning and budgeting are more complicated as a result of State and Federal regulations and mandates.

I believe that your Town staff working with the Town Council has consistently adopted a budget that is presented to our citizens in a transparent manner and that the budget well serves the Common Good of all residents. ●



TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

We are on the cusp of the prime leaf raking season. While we provide year-round leaf and limb collection, the next few months will be the primary season for leaf collection. The Town provides leaf and limb collection through a contractor. Chapter 9.02.030 of the Town Code of Ordinances governs leaf and limb collection. This service is provided six times per year in accordance with the Town's schedule. That schedule was distributed with utility bills in July. The schedule is also available on the Town's web site or you can pick up a copy at Town Hall.

Recently, there have been numerous violations of our leaf and limb ordinance. Now is a good time to remind residents of the rules and their responsibility. The following is not an all-inclusive list but it addresses the most common violations.

Debris cannot be placed by the roadside for collection before the specified date on the schedule. When you do place debris by the roadside, limbs cannot be more than 3 inches in diameter or 6 feet in length and the butt end must be street side. If they are larger than the limit, they will not be collected by our contractor or by town staff.

Leaf and limb is defined as: leaves, pinecones and small tree and shrub limbs. The definition does NOT include construction material of any kind, household trash, tree trunks, lot clearing debris or debris left from commercial contractors.

Leaves and pine cones must be bagged in either a clear bag or in a bag with a label that clearly shows the name and address of the producer of the debris.

Limbs are not to be placed in bags. You cannot place household garbage in the bag. Pet waste, plastic bottles, newspapers, food scraps, and any other man-made items cannot be placed in the bag.

Why the need for these rules? Every bag of yard debris and every limb that we collect is delivered to the local landfill. They are carried to a specific area and go through a grinding process where they are turned into either mulch or compost. Obviously, household trash is not allowed in this process. Before grinding, every bag that is collected from the town is opened and emptied by our contractor. Once opened, any illegal debris is easily noticed by the contractor. If the contractor places illegal debris in the grinding area, he can be fined. The illegal debris such as household trash, slows down the process because it must be separated and removed.

“Leaves and pinecones must be bagged in either a clear bag or in a bag with a label that clearly shows the name and address of the producer of the debris.”

“If a violation is found in your bag, the bag will be returned to you and you will be warned of the violation. The next violation will result in your being fined.”

If a violation is found in your debris pile, it will not be collected from the roadside. It then becomes your responsibility to remove the pile. If a violation is found in your bag, the bag will be returned to you and you will be warned of the violation. The next violation will result in your being fined. The fine for

violations of this ordinance is \$500. The town certainly does not want to fine anyone \$500 for violation of these rules. That can be avoided only if you follow the rules. Currently, the town does not charge a collection fee for this service. It is included in the services that you receive for taxes. Our contractor has not increased

his fee for many years. His contract price is partially based on the expectation that residents will follow the rules. Violations of the rules slow down his process and increase his costs. If his costs increase, yours may also. As the saying goes, “time is money.” It is not the responsibility of the contractor to separate your trash. It is yours.

Finally, you cannot place your debris on the property of another person without their permission. That includes town owned property and vacant lots. If you do not own it or have specific permission to use it, do not place your debris there. ●

“Standing water is a perfect place for mosquitoes to breed. Therefore, if possible, you should eliminate standing water from around your home.”



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

In August Public Works completed the dock removal at the Town Hall pond. The dock removal was approved by the Town Council because it was beyond repair. However, there is still one dock citizens can use at Town Hall that is in good shape. We have purchased some dock restore paint that we plan to apply in the coming month. This paint is designed to protect the wood decking, seal any cracks, and will also enhance the beauty of this dock. Public Works also trimmed

brush around fire hydrants. There are several we still have on our list to trim around Town. Some of these hydrants even had yucca bushes planted around them, which would basically render them useless to the Fire Department in the event of an emergency. Yuccas have

very sharp points and can really injure someone needing to access a fire hydrant in an emergency. I would like to discourage planting anything around fire hydrants. Fire hydrants need to stay visible from the roadway where they can be accessed quickly.

Water Resources replaced both of the water meters in our water treatment plant #1. These meters were budgeted for in this year’s budget. The reason the meters needed to be replaced was because they were reading inaccurately. They actually were reading higher amounts of water than we were actually producing. These high

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readings made it appear as if we had a high water loss issue. While installing these meters, it required one of the treatment plants to be shut down. Since they were shut down, we replaced the rinse valve on filter #2. This valve had become hard to open, and it was time to replace it. Water Resources also had to replace a couple of pump station floats in one of our pump stations. These floats control the on/off function of the pumps. When the floats go bad the pumps will not cut on, or sometimes, cut off. All of this was completed by Water Resource staff.

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. ●

“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 638-387.”

COMING EVENTS

Flu Shot Clinic
October 6
9:00 — 1:00
Town Hall

River Bend
Night Out
October 7
6:00
Town Hall
**CANCELED
DUE TO
IMPENDING STORM**

Hazardous Household
Waste Collection Day
October 8
8:00 — 1:00
Craven Community College

Gourds & Other Unusual
Squash Workshop
October 11
6:30
Town Hall
presented by RBCOG

Council Work Session
October 13
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Pumpkin Party
in the Garden
Family Fun Event
October 15
10:00 — 12:00
Town Hall
presented by RBCOG

GAMES DAY
BUNCO!
and other board games
October 18
1:00 — 4:00
Town Hall

Community Watch
Meeting
October 19
7:00
Town Hall

Council Meeting
October 20
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Community Day
Yard Sales &
Library Book Sale
October 22
Contact
Peggi Robinson
514-0244
psrobinson97@coastalnet.com

Shredding Event
November 5
9:00 — 1:00
Town Commons

Holiday Food Drive
begins
November 1
Please bring your
non-perishable food
donations to
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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**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

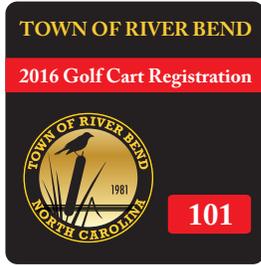
Pinecones, pine straw and
leaves must be bagged. For
additional important informa-
tion about River Bend's Leaf
& Limb collection program,
please see our Ordinance online
at www.riverbendnc.org. ●

**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. Council Retreats will be held at Town Hall at a time to be announced. All Council Budget Sessions will be held in the River Bend Town Hall beginning at 4:00 p.m.

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



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

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 Ernest Thomas 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.

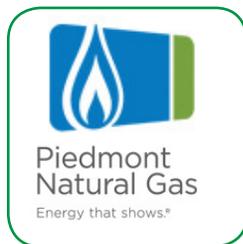
A signed parental approval form is required and helmet use is strictly enforced. For more information about the skateboard park, visit our web site or call the River Bend Police Department at 638-1108.



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 solicitors need do nothing.