

**River Bend Town Council  
Work Session Meeting  
September 8, 2016**

Present Council Members:	Mayor John Kirkland Bill Camp Buddy Sheffield Irving Van Slyke Pat Yocum
Absent Council Members:	Luci Avery
Town Manager:	Delane Jackson
Town Clerk:	Ann Katsuyoshi
Police Chief:	Ryland Matthews
Finance Administrator:	Margaret Theis

**LEAGUE CONFERENCE**

Mayor Kirkland reminded the Council Members that the League Conference is October 23-25, 2016. Any Council Members who wish to attend should let the Clerk know as soon as possible.

**PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENTIAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD TO RIVER BEND COMMUNITY ORGANIC GARDEN**

Town Manager Delane Jackson told the Council that the River Bend Community Organic Garden has received the Presidential Volunteer Service Award. The presentation will be held at the Regular Meeting on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

**VOTE - BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR TOWN HALL POND PROJECT**

Mr. Jackson said that the Town needs to do some repair work on the docks on the Town Hall Pond. One dock needs to be removed completely and the other repaired to ensure safety. He said that Town staff can make all of the necessary repairs. Mr. Jackson also said that there was a \$2,725 overage in the Teakwood project. All funds to cover the overage and the pond repairs will be made through the General Capital Reserve Fund.

Councilman Van Slyke **moved to approve Budget Amendment 16-B-02 as presented.** The motion carried unanimously.

**DISCUSSION OF FRANK EFIRD REQUEST FOR LAND**

The Town Manager said that, in 1999, Frank Efird donated to the Town a small parcel of land around the pond between Old Pollocksville Road and Shoreline Drive. At that time, the Town agreed to try to improve this wooded area for public uses; and, indeed, had the Boy Scouts clear out the paths surrounding it.

Mr. Efird is now asking the Town to return this parcel, as it is in the middle of land he wishes to develop. He submits that the Town did not fulfill its obligation to improve this parcel. Therefore, as part of the original agreement, it should revert to him. Mr. Jackson pointed out that these conditions were not set forth in the deed, and, therefore, unenforceable. After brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Council not to return the land to Mr. Efird.

**REVIEW AGENDA FOR THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2016 COUNCIL MEETING**

The Council reviewed the Agenda for the September 15, 2016 Council meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT/RECESS**

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

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Ann H. Katsuyoshi  
Town Clerk

**River Bend Town Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
September 15, 2016**

Present Council Members:	Mayor John Kirkland Luci Avery Bill Camp Irving Van Slyke Pat Yocum
Absent Council Members:	Buddy Sheffield
Town Manager:	Delane Jackson
Town Clerk:	Ann Katsuyoshi
Town Attorney:	Jimmie Hicks
Police Chief:	Ryland Matthews
Finance Administrator:	Margaret Theis

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kirkland at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 15, 2016 in the Town Hall Meeting Room with a quorum present.

**PUBLIC ADDRESSES**

Janet Nawojski – Mayor Kirkland presented Mrs. Nawojski with a letter of appreciation from the Council for her tireless work on the Town Hall Memorial Garden. He said that visitors often comment on how beautiful the Garden is and how attractive it makes the Town Hall grounds.

River Bend Organic Garden – The Mayor also presented the members of the River Bend Organic Garden with a Presidential Points of Light Award. This Award is given to organizations that demonstrate exemplary service to their communities.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The Mayor presented the Council with the Consent Agenda. Councilwoman Avery **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 9, 2016 Closed Session*
  - Minutes of the July 14, 2016 Work Session*
  - Minutes of the July 21, 2016 Regular Meeting*

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**FINANCE – COUNCILMAN IRVING VAN SLYKE, JR.**

Financial Report – Finance Administrator Margaret Theis told the Council that the total of the Fund Cash Balances as of August 31, 2016 was \$3,275,753. Ad valorem tax collections were at \$2.481. Ms. Theis reminded the Council that this is the beginning of the fiscal year so tax collections will be negligible.

Report on Vote on Budget Amendment for Town Hall Pond Project – Councilman Van Slyke reported that the Council approved a Budget Amendment at its Work Session to tear down one of the Town Hall Pond docks and repair another. Mr. Van Slyke said that one of the docks has become a hazard and needs to be removed. This Amendment was made by transferring funds that had already been appropriated from one budget category to another.

### **PLANNING BOARD – COUNCILWOMAN PAT YOCUM FOR COUNCILMAN BUDDY SHEFFIELD**

Planning Board Report - There was no meeting in September. The purpose of this report is to correct the record. At last month's meeting Councilman Sheffield reported that all of the members present had voted against changing the Town ordinance to allow backyard chickens. While that was technically correct, Chairman Lippert had polled the entire board prior to the meeting and member Kathleen Flemming had weighed in on the side of recommending the ordinance change.

The next meeting will be October 6th at 7:00 pm. All interested parties are encouraged to attend.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY – COUNCIL MEMBER PAT YOCUM**

CERT - There was no meeting in August. Six new members started training, Monday, September 12 at 6:30 p.m. at RHEMS Volunteer Fire Dept. The meeting times are 6:15 p.m. Any resident who may be interested in information on a particular subject is welcome to attend that session. The scheduled dates and subjects are as follows:

- Sept 12: Disaster preparedness
- Sept 15: Fire Safety
- Sept 19: Medical Operations
- Sept 22: Light SAR  
CERT Org.
- Sept 27: Disaster Psychology  
Terrorism and CERT

Community Watch - The next Community Watch meeting will be October 19. All residents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The Night-Out Event that is sponsored by Community Watch will be on Friday evening, October 7. The Parade will start at 6:00 p.m. The exact Parade route has not been determined but it is expected to follow all the major routes along the Town's perimeter. The Parade will end back at Town Hall where light refreshments will be served along with finger food desserts. Anyone who wishes to join the group are encouraged to come to Town Hall at 6:15 p.m. along with chairs for yourself.

This event is similar to that which is held in other communities, nationally in August. Because of the heat and people away on vacation, we feel October is a better month for this venue. The purpose is to project to citizens inside and outside of River Bend, that CRIME is not tolerated in River Bend and we have a Police Department and team of volunteers who will demonstrate that, by joining together as a visible force.

If you cannot attend, please turn on your street lights as a sign of solidarity.

## **PARKS & RECREATION/CAC – COUNCILWOMAN LUCI AVERY**

Parks and Rec - This Board met on September 7. Plans for fall and winter activities for adults and children were discussed. The always popular Bunco and games afternoon will be September 22 from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. at Town Hall. Activities for October include pumpkin decorating for children on October 15 from 10:00 a.m. till noon to be held at the organic garden and another Bunco and games afternoon on October 18 from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. at Town Hall. The next meeting will be October 7 at 7:00 p.m.

Organic Garden - This group met on September 12. It was announced that for the fourth year the New Bern High School Green Team has entered a partnership with the garden. Students will spend time working in the garden as they learn organic gardening techniques. Plans are being made for fall and winter public education sessions. The first will be October 11 at 6:30 p.m. in town hall. Jane Snider, River Bend resident and Master Gardener and Dr. Tom Glasgow, Director of the Craven County Extension Service, will speak on Gourds and Unusual Squash followed by refreshments. This group has been presented with the Presidential Award For Volunteerism at the gold level. This award is based on volunteer hours, which totaled more than 3000 hours for 2015, and for meeting criteria in two focus areas: environmental stewardship and encouraging healthy lifestyles. The next meeting is October 10 at 2:00 p.m.

CAC - This Board met on September 14. Ongoing plans for improvements to the dog park area and other public areas were discussed. Early planning for Christmas decorations and need for replacements was covered at this meeting. The board reviewed the current operating budget in preparation for work on the next budget proposal. CAC meets bimonthly and the next meeting will be November 9 at 1:30 p.m.

## **PUBLIC WORKS AND WATER RESOURCES – MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND**

The Mayor said that the PWAB did not meet in September. However, they had one member resign. The Chair reviewed several applications and chose Richard Seegar. Councilman Van Slyke **moved to appoint Richard W. Seeger to the PWAB for a term beginning September 15, 2016 and expiring on June 30, 2017.** The motion carried unanimously.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor said that Reporter Jennifer Cannon from the Sun Journal came to Town Hall on Friday morning September 2<sup>nd</sup> and asked to talk to me about the utilization of Town Hall. She said that she had previously talked to Mayors in Oriental and Trent Woods and she subsequently talked to the Mayor of Dover as she prepared this article. Her article appeared in the Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> issue of the Sun Journal.

The quote from the article "A tradition as old as the country itself doesn't appear to be going anywhere, anytime soon." Implies that the four local municipalities still look on their Town Halls in the same fashion as the 1743 community of Pelham, Massachusetts.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Councilman Van Slyke **moved to go into Closed Session under §143-318.11(a)(6), the Personnel Exemption to the Open Meetings Act.** The motion carried unanimously. The Council entered Closed Session at 7:55 p.m.

**OPEN SESSION**

Councilwoman Avery **moved to return to Open Session.** The motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Councilwoman Avery **moved to adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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Ann H. Katsuyoshi  
Town Clerk