

**River Bend Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2021
River Bend Town Hall
7:00 P.M.**

Present Council Members: Mayor John Kirkland
Buddy Sheffield
Don Fogle
Barbara Maurer
Irving Van Slyke

Absent Council Member: Brian Leonard

Town Manager: Delane Jackson
Town Clerk: Kristie Nobles
Town Attorney: Dave Baxter
Finance Director: Margaret Theis
Finance Assistant: Mandy Gilbert
Police Chief: Sean Joll

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kirkland called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 16, 2021 in the Town Hall Meeting Room with a quorum present.

ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Council Sheffield stated that he would like to add a Special Recognition Resolution to the agenda as item 3A.

Vote – Agenda Addition – Councilman Sheffield motioned to add a Special Recognition Resolution to the agenda as item 3A as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Van Slyke read the Special Recognition Resolution in honor of the Finance Director Margaret Theis upcoming retirement.

Vote – Approve Special Recognition Resolution – Councilman Van Slyke motioned to approve the Special Recognition Resolution as presented. The motion carried unanimously. (see attached)

The Mayor presented Ms. Theis with the Special Recognition Resolution and stated that with over 24 years of service she is the longest serving employee in the town's history. The Council all thanked Margaret for her hard work and dedication to the Town of River Bend.

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 August 10, 2021 Special Council Meeting
Minutes of the August 12, 2021 Special Work Session
Minutes of the August 19, 2021 Regular Council Meeting*

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

The Manager stated that the 2021 Wastewater System Report was included in the recent utility billing mailing, noting there were no violations for the town during that reporting period.

The Manager stated that three grant applications are due by the end of September including the two AIA Grants the letter of intent to apply for the BRIC grant.

The Manager stated that he met with The Walker Group today and plans to meet with them again next week with Brandon Mills, Director of Public Works to discuss the construction of a new Water / Sewer Administration Building that was designated as the town's ARPA project by Council.

Police Chief Joll stated that the River Bend Police Department recently had an audit on training standards and he is pleased to announce that the department's files were complete and in compliance with NC Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission requirements. The Police Chief stated the National Night Out is scheduled for October 2, 2021, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building and soccer field area.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION/CAC – COUNCILWOMAN MAURER

RBCOG – River Bend Community Organic Garden –

The regular meeting was rescheduled to Tuesday, Sept. 7 due to the Labor Day holiday. Some crops have reached the end of their lifecycle. Peanuts and sweet potatoes should be ready to harvest next month. Fall planting will begin during September. Teamwork day was very successful. Volunteer work hours totaled 213 for August. Food donations have resumed to Interfaith Refugee Ministries. The butterfly habitat and bee hive are both very active. Visitors are always welcome at the garden or at the monthly meetings of garden volunteers on the first Monday of each month at 1:30 pm in the Municipal building.

Red Caboose Library -

The board met on September 2nd. Board members continue to update their inventory which is too extensive for the size of their space. The Library Volunteer Appreciation gathering is scheduled for Tuesday, October 12. Plans are in process for the book sale on Community Day, October 23. The next board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 7th at 2 pm.

CAC – Community Appearance Commission –

The CAC is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, September 22nd at 4pm. There are three vacancies. If you are interested in joining this board, you can obtain an application from the Town Clerk.

Parks & Recreation -

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board met on Sept. 1st. Bunco is scheduled for September 23. Information is posted on the town website and published in River Bend News and social media. River Bend Community Yard Sale Day is scheduled for Saturday, October 23 from 7 am to 3 pm. Information on how to sign up to be placed on the map is posted in River Bend News, on RB Facebook and other social media. Saturday, October 30 is the date for the annual Trunk or Treat event. Flyers about the event will be posted in mid-September. The next scheduled meeting is Wed. October 6 at 7pm.

FINANCE – COUNCILMAN VAN SLYKE, JR.

Financial Report – Finance Director, Margaret Theis presented to the Council the financial statement for the month of August. She stated the total of the General Fund Cash Balances as of August 31, 2021 are \$3,769,882 and Ad valorem tax collections for FY21-22 were \$3,827 and Vehicle Ad valorem tax collections were \$6,616.

Vote – Participation in Debt Setoff Program – Councilman Van Slyke motioned to authorize the Mayor to sign the reenrollment documents for the 2022 North Carolina Local Government Debt Setoff Program. The motion carried unanimously. (see attached)

PLANNING BOARD – COUNCILMAN SHEFFIELD

Councilman Sheffield stated that the regular meeting of the River Bend Planning Board was held on Sept. 2nd at 6:00pm in the Community building. Mayor Kirkland was present to swear in two new planning board members. He also gave brief remarks about ethics. Chairman Lippert called the meeting to order. A quorum was present, as was, Mr. Norville, a business owner in the River Bend ETJ.

The usual reports were given and the last meeting's minutes approved.

Mr. Norville was invited to speak to the board regarding his issue with the town's fence ordinance. The board decided to further study Mr. Norville's issue and be prepared to present a possible solution at the October meeting.

The board reviewed changes to title 15 of the town ordinances. The changes were approved and sent to the council for final passage.

The board then reviewed changes to the town ordinances regarding advisory boards. The board made suggestions for minor changes.

The meeting was adjourned. The next regular meeting is set for October 7th at 6:00pm. The meeting is open to anyone interested.

PUBLIC SAFETY – COUNCILMAN FOGLE

Councilman Fogle stated that CERT and Community Watch did not meet in July. CERT is scheduled to meet on September 22, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building and Community Watch is scheduled to meet on October 20, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. He also stated that Community Watch is in need of volunteers.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Stormwater drainage can be a problem for River Bend and for many other communities both in coastal areas and in valleys with streams that run through them. This article will address the stormwater issues that we sometimes face in River Bend.

Typically, the stormwater flooding that we face results from either rain events that deposit large rain fall amounts in a short period of time or surge water driven on shore from hurricane-type events.

The primary way to discharge excess stormwater is to deliver that water to the Trent River when its level is at a stage that allows our drainage system to flow into it. Often, excess stormwater will

follow the impact of a hurricane and be the result of both rain and surge driven by the hurricane wind. This high water level will be different for each storm and may occur without a hurricane if a very large rainfall occurs. The hurricane surge height will result when strong wind comes from the northeast and drives the water from the Pamlico Sound up the Neuse and Trent Rivers. Slow moving hurricanes can produce the highest storm surge.

The drainage pipes along Channel Run, Plantation Drive and Shoreline Drive and other streets, move water from the streets to the Plantation Canal or the Trent River. These pipes will also allow water to flow into the Town's streets from the canal or the river if the water level rises higher than the level of the pipe. We may wish that this was not the case, but it is. Fortunately, during most of the time the water will flow from streets to the receiving river or canal. On those occasions when the flow is in the wrong direction, the water will follow the path of least resistance and settle in the lowest areas and may cause flooding in those areas.

The original developers of the Town planned streets and drainage with little regard to managing drainage. The Town Council has recently made the management of the drainage swales a responsibility of the Town rather than the individual home owner. For a number of years the Town has been making substantial improvements to drainage structures that had impeded the flow of stormwater to a discharge point. Now the emphasis will be on improving the grading of swales to allow water to flow more freely toward the point of discharge.

All homeowners must refrain from planting any trees, shrubs and flower beds in the drainage swales. These plantings slow the flow of stormwater and will collect floating debris which may significantly reduce flow and may in some cases actually dam the flow. When the Town staff encounters plantings in the swales those plants will be removed.

We all have a role in improving and maintaining stormwater management. The Town will continue to work on improvement by a prioritized approach to improve and maintain the total system.

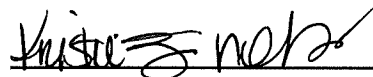
The Mayor presented the Constitution Week Proclamation. He stated that the proclamation is requested by the Daughters of the American Revolution annually. There is no action needed on this proclamation. (see attached)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Iorio, 209 Teakwood, addressed the Council concerning the room use fees at the Municipal Building. She asked that the Council reconsider the fee amount.

ADJOURNMENT/RECESS

There being no further business, Councilman Sheffield moved to adjourn, the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.



Kristie J. Nobles
Town Clerk



TOWN OF RIVER BEND

45 Shoreline Drive
River Bend, NC 28562

T 252.638.3870
F 252.638.2580

www.riverbendnc.org

Town of River Bend Resolution Honoring Margaret Theis for Her Service

WHEREAS, Margaret Theis began her career with the Town of River Bend on February 3, 1997, and

WHEREAS, Margaret Theis will retire as Finance Director from the Town of River Bend on September 30, 2021, and

WHEREAS, Margaret has worked for the Town of River Bend for over 24 years, thus earning her the title of the longest-serving employee in the history of the Town of River Bend, and

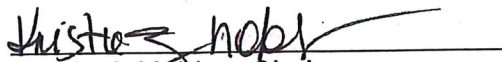
WHEREAS, during her tenure as an employee she was also a River Bend resident who was actively involved in many community organizations such as Community Watch, The River Bend Community Organic Garden and The River Bend Garden Club;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Governing Board of the Town of River Bend do hereby officially recognize and express our gratitude to Margaret Theis for her dedicated and lengthy service to the Town of River Bend on the occasion of her retirement.

Adopted this the 16th day of September, 2021


John R. Kirkland, Mayor

ATTEST:


Kristie J. Nobles, Clerk



Town of River Bend

CONSTITUTION WEEK PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, September 17, 2021, marks the two-hundred and thirty-four anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Convention; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to accord official recognition to this magnificent document and its memorable anniversary; and

WHEREAS, to the patriotic celebrations which will commemorate the occasion; and

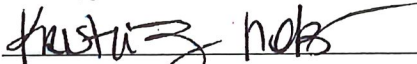
WHEREAS, Public Law 915 guarantees the issuing of a proclamation each year by the President of the United States of America designating September 17 through 23 as Constitution Week;

NOW, THEREFORE I, John R. Kirkland by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the Town of River Bend in the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim the week of September 17 through 23 as CONSTITUTION WEEK in River Bend and urge our citizens to reaffirm the ideals of the framers of the constitution in 1787.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Town of River Bend to be affixed this 16th day of September of the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-one.




John R Kirkland, Mayor


Kristie J. Nobles, Town Clerk