

**River Bend Town Council
Special Meeting Minutes
January 6, 2022
Town Hall
7:00 p.m.**

Present Council Members: Mayor John Kirkland
Don Fogle
Brian Leonard
Barbara Maurer
Buddy Sheffield
Bud Van Slyke

Town Manager: Delane Jackson
Public Works Director: Brandon Mills

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kirkland called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 6, 2022 at the River Bend Town Hall with a quorum present.

The Town Manager requested adding "LGC loan application approval" to the agenda.

VOTE – Addition to Agenda

Councilman Sheffield motioned to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of loan application approval. The motion carried unanimously.

The Manager informed the Council that the low bid for the water meter replacement project was higher than the grant amount. The Manager stated that the funding source has a low interest loan program which the town can apply for to receive the rest of the funding, which is approximately \$131,000.

VOTE – Loan Application

Councilman Sheffield motioned to approve the loan application and authorize the Mayor to sign. The motion carried unanimously.

VOTE – Site Selection Analysis

Councilman Fogle presented the following motion- I move that if there is a vote tonight and it is not unanimous each alternative that receives a vote shall be forwarded to the engineer for a more detailed analysis. The motioned failed by a vote of 2 to 3. Councilmen Fogle and Van Slyke voting aye. Council members Leonard, Sheffield and Maurer voting nay.

The Town Manager presented a PowerPoint presentation containing maps and information for options A-J as identified:

- A- Wildwood Drive site near volleyball court
- B- Plantation Drive site in northwest corner of soccer field
- C- Plantation Drive where water tank is located
- D- Wildwood Drive where existing basketball court is located
- E- Plantation Drive next to Town Hall where existing picnic shelter is located
- F- Plantation Drive where existing dog park is located
- G- Wildwood Drive immediately in front of existing Public Works Building

H- Plantation Drive requiring land from Robert Davis across the street from existing water tank site

I- Highway 17 site requiring additional land from Frank Effird to be combined with town owned land

J- Highway 17 site near Shell station on land owned by Mattocks Family Properties

There was a lengthy discussion among the Council about the pros and cons of each site and how each site was impacted by the flood maps. Following the discussion, each Council member was given 3 minutes to make remarks. The order was based on the number they drew at the beginning of the meeting.

Councilman Van Slyke stated his preference was option D.

Councilman Sheffield stated his preferred options were I then D.

Councilman Fogle stated his preferred options were H then I.

Councilman Leonard stated his preferred options were I, H and D.

Councilwoman Maurer stated her preferred options were I, H, J then D.

Councilman Sheffield motioned to direct the Manager to further investigate options I, H and D.

During discussion, it was agreed upon by all to check with the landowners of sites I and H to see if the land was available for purchase prior to spending any money investigating those site. The Manager reminded the Council that if necessary the Council could exercise their legal power of eminent domain to secure the property regardless of what the owner wanted to do.

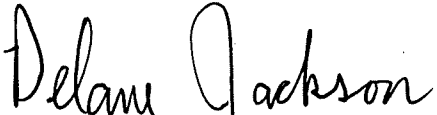
The Mayor called for public comments. Steven Taylor stated that he did not want the town to build on the existing basketball court site. Mary Iorio requested that if the Council selects a site that requires the relocation of an existing town facility that the Council states where the existing facility will be located prior to building the new building. Patty Leonard said she preferred site H.

VOTE – Public Hearing

Councilman Fogle motioned to conduct a public hearing prior to the final vote on the 3 identified sites. Councilman Sheffield stated that he was opposed to a public hearing on multiple sites and that the Council was elected to make these type decisions. The motion passed by a 4 to 1 vote with Council Sheffield voting nay.

ADJOURNMENT/RECESS

There being no further business, Councilman Sheffield moved to adjourn, the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



Delane Jackson
Town Manager