

**River Bend Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2022
Town Hall
7:00 p.m.**

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

Town Manager: Delane Jackson
Finance Director: Mandy Gilbert
Police Chief: Sean Joll
Town Clerk: Kristie Nobles

Members of the Public Present: 6

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kirkland called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 19, 2022 in the River Bend Town Hall with a quorum present.

RECOGNITION OF NEW RESIDENTS

Dave Zinni – Gangplank Road
Martin Degraw - Tar Landing

VOTE – Approval of Agenda

Councilman Sheffield motioned to accept the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

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 April 14, 2022 Work Session*
 - Minutes of the April 21, 2022 Regular Council Meeting*
 - Minutes of the April 26, 2022 Budget Workshop*
 - Minutes of the May 3, 2022 Budget Workshop*
 - Minutes of the May 10, 2022 Budget Workshop*

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

The Manager stated that there is a Public Hearing scheduled for the FY22-23 Proposed Budget on June 9, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. He also stated that there is a preconstruction meeting on May 25, 2022 for the ASADRA Grant. The Manager stated that there is a Planning Board meeting on June 2, 2022 at 6: 00 p.m. and they plan to discuss the re-zoning request for the 100 acre Davis Property in the North West Quadrant, short-term rentals and the Special Use Permit from the Town for the construction of a new Public Works Building. He also stated that the new Leaf and Limb contract is effective July 1 with the new regulations, which does not require bagging of leaves and grass clippings.

The Police Chief stated that the Town has been approved for an on-site unused medicine drop off box. He stated that the Police Department would soon have the ability to receive prescription medication for disposal.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION/CAC – COUNCILWOMAN MAURER

Councilwoman Maurer presented the following reports.

Parks & Recreation

Parks and Recreation met on May 4. The next few months will be very active. May 15 - Sunday in the Park – music by Joe Baes, 4-5:30 pm. June 1 & 4 – Christmas globes workshop in conjunction with the CAC. Participants will make two globes, one for the town and the other for themselves. The additional lights will be added to the lights at the front entrance of town during the upcoming Christmas season. On June 11 there will be a *Get to Know Your Neighbors* meet & greet from 9 am to 1 pm. in the River Brew parking lot. There will be live music. More information will be forthcoming in River Bend News, on the town website and in social media. Preparations are progressing for the Fourth of July celebration. To march in the parade, complete the parade entry form that is online on the town website, or download the form and return it to Town Hall. If you want to help with marchers, food and beverage service or activities, contact Gloria Kelly at 252-876-3267 or gloriakelly@gmail.com or me at bmaurer@riverbendnc.org or 252-670-0757. Residents who would like to contribute food or desserts should look for the posters in RB News and social media. On July 9th the annual severe weather workshop will be co-presented by CERT and Parks & Rec. It will be a two hour presentation by the Craven County Disaster Recovery Alliance, starting at 10 am. This is an important informational seminar for people who are not familiar with hurricane preparations or for navigating the myriad bureaucracies necessary to get relief after a major storm. The next scheduled meeting is June 1 at 7pm. Parks and Recreation has one vacancy. Anyone who would like to participate in planning and presenting activities is invited to file an application.

Community Appearance Commission (CAC) The CAC met on May 10.

They are proceeding with projects that were previously approved. Chairperson Brenda Hall made a presentation to the Council at the budget workshop on May 3. The purpose of her power point display was to request an increase in the budget cover the cost of projects they are working on. Projects are Christmas light globes, yard beautification and festive yard awards, and a study and update of Plantation median. The terms of two members expire on June 30. They both agreed to be reappointed. The next meeting is scheduled for July 20 at 4 pm.

River Bend Community Organic Garden (RBCOG)

The regular meeting was held on May 2. The Green Team participated in two sessions in April. The bee hives are thriving. RBCOG had a display table at Earth Day in Union Point Park. It was staffed by two garden volunteers, two members of the Green Team and their teacher-sponsor. The River Bend Garden Club is scheduled to do a garden tour on May 26 starting at 9:30 am. The next meeting is scheduled for June 6 at 1:30 pm.

Red Caboose Library (RCL)

The board met on May 4. Councilman Buddy Sheffield attended the meeting to discuss his one man show, *Mark Twain*, on May 20 and May 21. The show is free but all donations will go to support the library. It is a reprisal of the show he presented in the early days of his career. There will be a Q&A following the show. Light refreshments will be offered. A new children's program is scheduled on June 25 featuring a local author who will accompany his story with music. The date is still tbd for a presentation by the first and only River Bend resident to reside in the red caboose.

All meetings are open to the public and anyone is welcome to attend.

FINANCE – COUNCILMAN VAN SLYKE, JR.

Financial Report – Finance Director, Mandy Gilbert presented to the Council the financial statement for the month of April. She stated the total of the Town's Cash and Investments as of April 30, 2022 are \$4,186,493 and Ad valorem tax collections for FY21-22 were \$712,613 and Vehicle Ad valorem tax collections were \$70,350.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATERWAYS ADVISORY BOARD– COUNCILMAN LEONARD

Councilman Leonard presented the following report. Chairman Stevens called the meeting to order at 7 PM in the small conference room in the municipal building. All members were present. There were no visitors. The minutes from the March 2022 meeting were read and approved. Councilman Leonard gave a status report of the activities of the town Council and town. Old business: Bulkhead survey and canal depths. New business: Water levels in the water supply systems and saltwater intrusion. Volunteer picnic on May 14, 2022. Voted to suspend meetings after the June 2022 meeting until October 2022. The next meeting will be on June 6th, 2022 in the small conference room in the municipal building.

PUBLIC SAFETY –COUNCILMAN FOGLE

Councilman Fogle presented the following reports on Community Watch and CERT.

CERT

CERT did not meet in April. The next meeting is scheduled for May 25, 2022 in the Municipal Building, Large Conference Room. CERT is looking for new members. If you are interested, please contact Chief Joll or Mary Holihan.

COMMUNITY WATCH

Community Watch meets quarterly and did not meet in May. The next meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2022 in the Municipal Building, Large Conference Room. Community Watch is looking for new members. If you are interested, please contact Chief Joll or Egon Lippert.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor presented the following report.

I have had the opportunity to hear the exchange that some angry citizens have with members of the Town staff when they raise their voices and demand a response to a request that is contrary to policy or billing rates that have been set by the Town Council. This type of exchange is not appropriate and does not help the individual making a complaint understand the employee's response. Very often it is apparent the complaining individual does not listen when the explanation is offered. Town Staff members try very hard to explain the rationale for the misunderstood issue that is the basis of a citizen's complaint. But when anger and raised voice enters the beginning of a discussion, very seldom will the citizen leave feeling better informed about the misunderstood issue that led to the visit with the Town Staff Member. We are all surely aware that the television broadcast of citizens addressing members of Congress, members of the General Assembly and general discussions with representatives of any governing body often demonstrate the hostile "raised voice delivery" that I have mentioned earlier. The "social media" is a favored platform to spread the inappropriate nature of the dialogue already mentioned. Therefore many in the general population have come to accept that shouting is the appropriate way to address any government employee when they have a problem. My request is that we in River Bend don't imitate what we see on television by individuals in Washington or in Raleigh. At times even members of the Congress or the General Assembly use voice or gestures in debate with colleagues in a fashion not appropriate in seeking an agreed to resolution to the proposed legislative issue. What is inappropriate in Washington, Raleigh or in River Bend will not be a helpful element of problem solving in any locale. And think of how demoralizing it is to the government or agency employee who must listen to the disturbed citizen. Let us all do better. Thank you for reading and pass these thoughts along to others who may not have access to this web page.

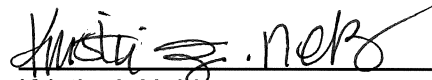
PUBLIC COMMENT

Patty Leonard – Knotline Road – expressed gratitude to the Council and Staff for the volunteer picnic the Town hosted.

Martin Degraw – Tar Landing – expressed the need for a convenience center / trash /debris collection site closer to the Town for residents.

ADJOURNMENT/RECESS

There being no further business, Councilman Sheffield moved to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.



Kristie J. Nobles
Town Clerk