

**River Bend Town Council
Work Session Minutes
September 8, 2022
Town Hall
5:00 p.m.**

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

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

Members of the Public Present: 5

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kirkland called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 8, 2022 at the River Bend Town Hall with a quorum present.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Vote – Addition to Agenda – Councilman Fogle moved to add Live Streaming Council Meetings between item 10 and 11 on the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

VOTE – Approval of Agenda

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

PUBLIC HEARING – CDBG APPLICATION

Councilman Van Slyke moved to open the Public Hearing to discuss the CDBG application. The motion carried unanimously.

Town Manager Delane Jackson then invited anyone who wished to address the CDBG application to step to the podium to be heard.

With no one stepping forward, Councilman Van Slyke moved to close the Public Hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

The Manager stated that the Town is required to have two public hearings and the second public hearing is scheduled for September 15, 2022.

Discussion – Sign Ordinance Amendment

The Manager stated that the Planning Board has been reviewing the Town's sign ordinance and has approved the revision that is included in the agenda package, sending it to the Council for review. The Manager stated that the major change to the ordinance was regarding political signs. Councilman Leonard asked if allowing offsite signage was addressed in the presented ordinance and the Manager stated that it was not. He stated that the Council had discussed this and he did not know a way to allow offsite signs for a single business. Councilman Sheffield asked if there was a way to allow offsite signs for businesses who are located on a dead end street. The Town

owner's property. The Manager stated that the amended ordinance would be on the agenda for adoption at the following regular Council meeting.

Discussion – Constitution Week Proclamation

The Mayor stated that this is an annual proclamation recognizing Constitution Week that we send to the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR). He stated that the proclamation would be read at the regular meeting on September 15.

Discussion – Designated Authorized Official for Water System Grant Application

The Manager stated that the state of North Carolina has revised the rules to apply for the Fall grant cycle, stated that the state has limited award of funds to distressed communities. He stated that unless you are on the distressed unit list you would not be awarded funding. He stated that the Town of River Bend is not a distressed unit. He stated that applying for the water system grant is at no cost of the Town and he and the engineer felt that the Town should apply for the grant with the hope that the Town would somehow be funded anyway.

VOTE – Designated Authorized Official for Water System Grant Application

Councilman Leonard motioned to approve the grant application resolution as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion – Special Meeting

The Manager stated that the engineer is currently compiling the cost estimate for the Water System Grant Application, and when that is completed, the Manager can complete the application. The Manager stated once that cost estimate is completed the Council would need to meet to approve some details of the application.

VOTE – Special Meeting

Councilman Sheffield motioned to schedule a special meeting on September 27, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. at Town Hall. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion - Budget Amendment

The Manager stated there is a draft budget amendment in the agenda package that includes transferring funds to cover the COLA increase approved by the Council and includes the funding of the part time project manager.

Discussion – Interlocal Agreement for Water Systems

The Manager stated that the interlocal agreement for water systems is included in the agenda package. He stated that this is a component of the Water Systems Grant application, which would get the Town 10 points.

Discussion – Water Resources Department Policy Manual Amendment

The Manager stated the Water Resources Department Policy Manual Amendment, included in the agenda package, allows any developer to apply for allocation from the Town's water and sewer system. He stated if the application were approved, the Town would reserve the amount of water and sewer allocations for that development for three years initially. The Manager also stated that there are some minor changes that also need to be made and those would be included in the amendment at the Regular Council Meeting.

Discussion – Water Conservation Rate Schedule

The Manager presented a chart with the current water rate schedule, displaying normal residential usage in the Town. He stated that the base fee is \$15.24 and residents are then charged for each one thousand gallons of usage. He stated to earn points on the Water System Grant Application the Town would need to adopt a conservation incentive rate structure. Councilman Fogle suggested that the Council increase the 20,001 plus gallons rate in the proposal to \$4.55 per gallon. The Council agreed to the rate increase on 20,001 plus gallons rate.

Discussion – Live Stream Council Meetings

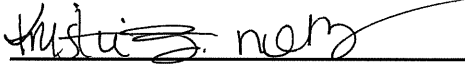
Councilman Fogle stated that at the last regular council meeting it was asked during the public comment section, that the Town consider live streaming all council meetings. Councilman Fogle stated that he would like to hear from the Manager regarding the pros and cons, expenses and get Council input on live streaming. The Manager stated that he was approached about this topic within the past few hours. He stated that C-TV10 records the regular council meetings and he is paid through the North Carolina PEG Funding. The Town of River Bend does not fund the recordings at all. He stated that there are many scenarios that could impact the live recordings provided by any vendor. Councilman Sheffield stated that he would like the Town to look into live streaming. The Town Attorney stated he has many clients who live stream their meetings but there is an equipment investment that would need to be made. He stated that there are numerous cameras that would be placed throughout the room facing different directions; also provide a microphone system that can be linked to the live stream. The Manager stated that he would contact a client of the Town Attorney to get information and bring it back before the Council with a cost estimate.

REVIEW – Agenda for the September 15, 2022 Council Meeting

The Council reviewed the agenda for the September 15, 2022 Council Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT/RECESS

There being no further business, Councilman Sheffield moved to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.



Kristie J. Nobles
Town Clerk