

**River Bend Town Council  
Work Session Minutes  
October 13, 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: 7

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Kirkland called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 13, 2022 at the River Bend Town Hall with a quorum present.

**ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA**

**Vote – Deletion to Agenda** – Councilman Fogle moved to delete item 5 – Ribbons in Support of the Ukraine and to add it to the November work session meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

**VOTE – Approval of Agenda**

Councilwoman Maurer motioned to accept the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion – Surplus Property**

The Manager stated that there was a bid opening on October 11, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. for the surplus property located at 111 Starboard Drive. He stated that there was only one bid received in the amount of \$5,100 which is less than half of the amount that the town has invested in the property.

**VOTE – Surplus Property**

Councilman Leonard motioned to reject the bid from Christine Soler for the surplus property at 111 Starboard Drive. The motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion – Water Resources Policy Manual Amendment**

The Manager stated that he and the Council have been discussing and reviewing the current Water Resources Policy Manual. He stated that the amended Water Resources Policy Manual is included in the agenda package. Councilman Leonard asked what payment options does the Town accept and the Manager stated that the Town only accepts payments at Town Hall in the form of cash, check or money order and online through a third party processor for a fee.

**Discussion – Remote Participation Resolution**

The Manager stated that since the State of Emergency for COVID-19 has expired, the ability to meet via remote participation has also expired. He stated that the League of Municipalities is currently accepting requests for items to include in their legislative goals for next session. He

stated that the league asked if the request has the support of the governing body. He stated a resolution of support is included in the agenda package.

**VOTE – Remote Participation Resolution**

Councilman Leonard motioned to approve the Remote Participation Resolution as presented. The motion carried unanimously. (see attached)

**Discussion – AIRBNB Public Hearing**

The Manager stated the Planning Board has been working on an amendment to the town's ordinance to allow AIRBNB rentals in River Bend. He stated that a public hearing would need to be scheduled. Councilman Sheffield stated that this revision is not just for the brand "AIRBNB", it refers to all short-term rentals.

**VOTE – Public Hearing**

Councilman Sheffield motioned to schedule a Public Hearing on short-term rentals on November 17, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall. The motion carried unanimously.

**REVIEW – Agenda for the October 20, 2022 Council Meeting**

The Council reviewed the agenda for the October 20, 2022 Council Meeting.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Councilman Sheffield moved to go into a Closed Session under NCSG §143-318.11(a)(3). The Council entered Closed Session at 5:29 p.m.

**OPEN SESSION**


Councilman Sheffield moved to return to Open Session at 5:50 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

**VOTE – Town Webpage**

Councilman Leonard motioned by recommendation of the Town Attorney to restrict the use of the town's webpage to activities by the town or activities of official groups / organizations of the town until such time that the Council approves a Web Page Use Policy. The motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT/RECESS**

There being no further business, Councilman Sheffield moved to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

  
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Kristie Nobles  
Town Clerk

2022-RES-11

**Town of River Bend Resolution**

**Supporting Remote Participation**

**Whereas**, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, existing language in the State's Open Meeting Law was often cited as authorization for a unit of local government to utilize remote participation by its governing body; and

**Whereas**, specifically the statutory language used to describe an official meeting includes "the simultaneous communication by conference telephone or other electronic means"; and

**Whereas**, during the COVID-19 pandemic, in accordance with NCGS 166A-19.24, many units of local government invested time and resources in developing policies and procedures to allow remote participation by their governing body and purchased specialized equipment to allow for the use of "other electronic means"; and

**Whereas**, since Governor Roy Cooper ended the COVID-19 State of Emergency, there is some uncertainty whether units of local government have the authority to allow remote participation; and

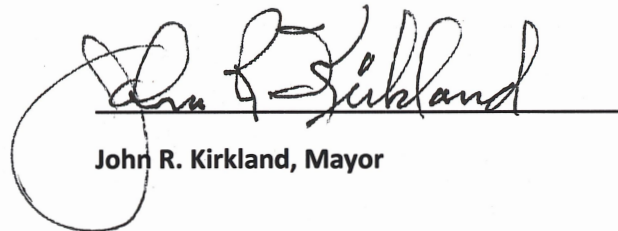
**Whereas**, in order to remove any uncertainty and allow units of local government to utilize technology to conduct official meetings at their discretion,

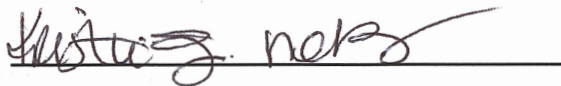
**Now, therefore be it resolved**, by the Town of River Bend Town Council that the Town of River Bend hereby supports the use of remote participation and urges the North Carolina League of Municipality to work in concert with the School of Government to develop clear language that would in-fact authorize remote participation and then lobby the North Carolina General Assembly to enact the said language into law.

Adopted this the 13<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2022



ATTEST:

  
John R. Kirkland, Mayor



Kristie J. Nobles, Town Clerk