

**River Bend Town Council  
Work Session Minutes  
May 11, 2023  
Town Hall  
7:00 p.m.**

Present Council Members: Mayor John Kirkland  
James Castranova  
Brian Leonard  
Barbara Maurer  
Buddy Sheffield  
Jeff Weaver

Town Manager: Delane Jackson  
Finance Director: Mandy Gilbert  
Town Clerk: Kristie Nobles  
Town Attorney: Dave Baxter

Members of the Public Present: 16

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Kirkland called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 11, 2023 at the River Bend Town Hall with a quorum present.

**ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA**

**VOTE – Addition to Agenda**

Councilman Leonard motioned to add item 7, discussion about the monument for Mr. Frank Efirid and move item 7 to item 8. The motion carried unanimously.

**VOTE – Approval of Agenda**

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

**Discussion – Draft Red Caboose Library Contract**

The Manager stated that at the direction of the Council the Town Attorney has created a draft contract for the Red Caboose Library and the Town of River Bend. The Manager stated that in the absence of Linda Klopf, Gloria Kelly with the Red Caboose Library was present to answer any questions the Council may have. The Town Attorney stated that the contract lists the Red Caboose Library but there is no such corporation or registered entity as the Red Caboose Library. He stated he has concerns about entering into a contract with an unregistered entity. Councilman Weaver asked if the Red Caboose Library could create an LLC and the Town Attorney stated that they could, but it is not a requirement for the contract. He stated that creating the LLC would hold people responsible for the contract, not just an unaffiliated group of people. Councilman Sheffield stated that the library does not meet until the following week and then they can review the contract. The Manager stated that the budget starts on July 1 and the Council could adopt the contract at any time. Councilman Weaver stated that an entity would need to be finalized or agreed upon before finalizing the contract and the Town Attorney agreed. Councilwoman Maurer asked if the Red Caboose agreed to the contract, but in the future found a permanent location, would they be allowed to become a part of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board again. The Town Attorney stated that the contractual relationship would not prevent them from requesting that. The Manager asked Gloria Kelly if she knew of any questions or concerns, and she stated that she did not know of any.

### **Discussion – Lead and Copper Rule Update**

The Manager stated that the Environmental Protection Agency has issued lead and copper requirements. He stated that the Town will have to access every water meter in Town to check for lead or copper lines. He stated that if they find lead lines, it will have to be replaced and if there are copper lines downstream from the lead it will have to be replaced also. The Manager stated that he is completing the application for a principal forgiveness grant to cover the cost of the assessment.

### **Discussion – Leaf and Limb**

The Manager stated that there was a rash of leaf and limb violations this month. He stated that the current leaf and limb rules were adopted by the previous Council, and he wants to confirm that the current Council agrees to the rules. Councilwoman Maurer stated that she would like to change the schedule to allow placement of debris 7 days prior to pick up. The Manager stated that the Council can revise the schedule when the schedule is proposed.

### **Discussion –Rezoning Procedure**

The Manager stated that there is a scheduled public hearing on the rezoning of the lot described by Craven County PIN 8-206-083 on May 18, 2023. He asked the Council if they would like to vote on the rezoning at that meeting or postpone the vote until a later meeting. With the consensus of Council, the vote will be postponed to a later meeting.

### **Discussion – March 9, 2023 Council Minutes**

The Manager stated that the March 9, 2023, Council Minutes were removed from the consent agenda at the April 20, 2023, Council meeting. He stated that the minutes in question and the transcript are included in the agenda package today. The Manager asked the Council for direction on whether to add to the minutes to the May 18 consent agenda. Councilman Leonard stated that minutes are not required to be a verbatim transcript of the meeting. The Manager agreed and stated there is no requirement for the minutes to be verbatim, but actions such as motions and votes are required to be in the minutes. Councilwoman Maurer stated that she feels what was in the minutes was an accurate depiction of what was said. Councilman Leonard stated that he felt that an apology was due to staff for accusations that they put words in people's mouth. Councilman Castranova stated that he didn't feel any of that language in the minutes is necessary and it is a departure from what is normally captured in the minutes. He stated he felt he was targeted with that level of detail. He stated it wasn't exactly accurate and because it did not reflect an actual vote of the Council it should be removed. He stated he did not accuse the staff of anything and he resents that accusation. Councilman Leonard stated that Councilman Castranova said that the minutes were not an accurate representation of what he said, but the transcript showed that it was an exact representation of what he said. Councilman Castranova stated that if they print the exact dialogue then it should be printed exactly the way it was spoken, but none of that is necessary, and to include that is only an attempt to portray him as a hypocrite and a fraud. Councilman Weaver stated that the details in the minutes are included because of Councilman Castranova's continuing threats of legal actions, so they are trying to capture these issues and if that is the case it is documented. He stated that Councilman Castranova keeps accusing everyone of defamatory behavior and malicious statements. Councilman Castranova stated that the letter that Councilman Weaver wrote that is apart of the record contains untrue statements. Councilman Castranova stated that the letter is a misrepresentation of the truth, and it is a defamatory statement and Councilman Weaver knew it when he wrote the letter. Councilwoman Maurer stated that what was written in the minutes is a depiction of what was actually said, it was recorded, and it was determined that it is accurate. Councilman Castranova stated that it was not exactly accurate. Councilman Weaver stated that it stated in the minutes that Councilman Castranova said, "it is perfectly legal" and he stated he did not say that. It was then transcribed, and he said, "it is perfectly legal".. Councilman Castranova stated that he objects to the way the minutes were actually wrote. He stated that the level of detail is a complete departure from the level of detail in other minutes regarding statements made by Council members that do not affect an actual vote. Councilman Castranova stated that he is being

targeted again and it improperly betrays him of being a hypocrite when he has not been a hypocrite and he feels it needs to be stricken. Councilman Leonard suggested that the Council vote to accept the minutes and note Councilman Castranova's objection. The Manager stated that the Council can add the March 9, 2023, Council meeting minutes to the consent agenda for the May 18 meeting and if Councilman Castranova does not approve of that he can vote nay.

**VOTE – March 9, 2023 Council Minutes**

Councilwoman Maurer motioned to add the March 9, 2023, Council Minutes to the consent agenda for the May 18 meeting. The motion passed with 4 ayes and 1 nay with Councilman Castranova voting nay.

**DISCUSSION – Frank Efirid Monument**

The Mayor stated that Mr. Frank Efirid was the original developer of the Town of River Bend. He stated that he has received a quote for a monument in recognition of Mr. Frank Efirid to be displayed at Town Hall. After a brief discussion regarding the size and layout of the monument the Mayor stated that it will be added to the agenda for next week's meeting.

Councilman Weaver stated that regarding the March 9 Council Minutes, the letter stated that Councilman Castranova was "cautioned" not "counseled". Councilman Castranova asked Councilman Weaver to read the entire sentence and Councilman Weaver stated that the letter said "Councilman Castranova has been cautioned in the past about his personal attacks against members of this body due to differing viewpoints and his inflammatory behavior that has caused unnecessary disruption between the members of our community." Councilman Castranova asked Councilman Weaver when was he cautioned by the body and Councilman Weaver stated that he would send him the meeting videos that are on the website. Councilman Castranova asked if it was an official action of the Council that cautioned him and Councilman Weaver replied "no", but Councilman Castranova is claiming that he is being targeted and there is a fundamental difference in feeling targeted and being targeted. Councilman Castranova asked Councilman Weaver to explain how he was cautioned and what the personal attacks were. The Mayor stated that they needed to have a private discussion. Councilman Leonard asked to move on to the next item on the agenda.

**REVIEW – Agenda for the May 18, 2023 Council Meeting**

The Council reviewed the agenda for the May 18, 2023, Council Meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT/RECESS**

There being no further business, Councilman Sheffield moved to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

  
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Kristie J. Nobles, CMC  
Town Clerk