

**River Bend Town Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
July 16, 2020  
River Bend Municipal Building  
6:30 P.M.**

Present Council Members:	Mayor John Kirkland Don Fogle Brian Leonard Bud McClard Buddy Sheffield Irving Van Slyke
Town Manager:	Delane Jackson
Town Clerk:	Ann Katsuyoshi
Town Attorney:	Dave Baxter
Finance Administrator:	Margaret Theis
Police Chief:	Sean Joll

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kirkland at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 16, 2020 at the River Bend Municipal Building with a quorum present.

**RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY**

Mayor Kirkland addressed the audience saying that this new building will serve the community well and add to the beauty of the Town. He commended both the current and past Council members for their work and foresight in constructing the facility to meet the Town's current and future needs.

The current Council members cut the ribbon to officially open the Municipal Building.

The Council then recessed to reconvene in the meeting room.

**ADDRESSES TO COUNCIL**

Mayor Kirkland reconvened the Council in the Municipal Building meeting room.

Linda Klopff, Red Caboose Library Coordinator, addressed the Council on a plan to reopen the Library. Ms. Klopff said that she had developed a plan to minimize the possibility of infection. Under this plan, only one patron would be allowed in the library at a time. There would one volunteer in the library. All participants would be required to comply with sanitary measures.

The Council discussed this item briefly. They agreed that the plan Ms. Klopff offered was workable and compliant with state requirements

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

The Mayor presented the Council with the Consent Agenda. Councilman Leonard **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 June 11, 2020 Work Session*  
*Minutes of the June 11, 2020 Closed Session*  
*Minutes of the June 18, 2020 Regular Meeting*

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

### **FINANCE – COUNCILMAN IRVING VAN SLYKE, JR.**

Financial Report – Finance Administrator Margaret Theis told the Council that the total of the General Fund Cash Balances as of June 30, 2020 was \$4,327,848. Ad valorem tax collections were at \$655,542.

Vote – Craven County Tax Settlement for FY 2019-2020 – Councilman Van Slyke directed the Council's attention to a statement from the Craven County Tax Collector. Collection for the previous fiscal year was at 98.39%. He **moved to accept the Settlement as presented.** The motion carried unanimously.

### **PARKS & RECREATION/CAC – COUNCILMAN BUD MCCLARD**

Organic Garden – Councilman McClard said that the Garden continues its work. The bee hives have been re-established after being lost last year and the spring crops are coming in.

Vote – Reopening Library - Councilman McClard **moved to approve the Red Caboose Library reopening plan as presented.** Councilman Fogle asked the Town Manager what he thought about the Library's reopening plan. The Town Manager said he thought the plan was thorough, but was still concerned that other groups would also want to re-open. He stated it would be difficult for groups like yoga and The Garden Club to maintain social distance. Councilman Sheffield stated that if those groups wanted to re-open they could submit a plan, for the Council to consider, like the Library did. The motion carried unanimously.

### **PUBLIC WORKS – MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND**

The Mayor said that the next meeting of the Public Works Advisory Board will be August 4. The Board has several openings and solicits volunteers to serve on this Board. If interested please contact Mr. Irvin, Town Clerk or myself. Applying is as easy as filing a form with the Town Clerk then it will be presented to the Council for action.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor said that the July Fourth date has come and our nation living with the new COVID-19 virus is forced to adjust to a health threat never before experienced. The River Bend July Fourth celebration with parade, picnic, and entertainment for children and adults had to be cancelled. The Town has followed the Governor's direction, which is aimed at protecting citizen health and

safety. We thank Councilman Sheffield for his “social distancing compliant” one man drive through parade transporting John Philip Sousa’s Band to the Town’s streets. I am certain that the event left a positive impression on all of us. Our petition to the Almighty is that this pandemic will pass and July Fourth 2021 will return to our norm.

May we all remember and embrace Thomas Jefferson’s words from the Declaration of Independence. “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

All of us owe the Town staff a most sincere expression of thanks for their dedicated and loyal service during this several months long emergency. They have been loyal in attendance and delivered all the normal utility and administrative services for the Town.

Tonight we conducted the Ribbon Cutting opening the new Municipal Building for use. This represents a project that was in planning for a number of years. It provides modern and functional office/administrative space for the Police Department and meeting room space that is flexible and will allow civic meetings to meet here without impacting the limited Town Hall meeting room space.

We all pray that the day will come soon that North Carolina and the Nation will see the COVID-19 virus fade into oblivion and we resume a normal life.

### **ADJOURNMENT/RECESS**

There being no further business, Councilman Sheffield **moved to adjourn**. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

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Ann Katsuyoshi  
Town Clerk