

River Bend Town Council
Work Session Minutes
August 13, 2020
River Bend Town Hall
5:00 P.M.

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

**DISCUSSION – REQUEST FROM BRIAN SWICEGOOD TO AMEND CHAPTER 9:
ANIMALS, IN THE TOWN ORDINANCE**

This item had been tabled from the July work session because Mr. Swicegood was unable to attend. Again, Mr. Swicegood was unable to attend tonight's meeting. The Town Manager reminded the Council that Mr. Swicegood has requested that the Town amend Chapter 9 of the Town's ordinance, which prohibits the keeping of livestock in Town. Mr. Swicegood wants to purchase 18 acres on Old Pollocksville Road, build a home, and keep a few animals. The Town Manager explained that Chapter 9 applied to all of Town and if it were amended to remove the prohibition on farm animals it would allow animals in all areas of Town, not just Mr. Swicegood's proposed lot. Councilman Sheffield stated that he thinks the Northwest Quadrant would be a good location for mini-farms and possibly farm animals and should be considered to be rezoned to allow such. The Town Manager stated that the zoning ordinances were not what prohibited keeping animals. He explained that zoning regulations were in Chapter 15 and any amendments of them required Planning Board action, a public hearing and then action by the Council. He stated that even if you changed the zoning, that Chapter 9 would still apply to the area and prohibit animals. He explained that an amendment to Chapter 9 does not require Planning Board action or a public hearing. The Attorney stated that approving Mr. Swicegood's request would require amendments to both ordinances. Councilman Leonard asked about how this possible amendment would impact the property values of the surrounding properties. The Town Manager stated there was no way to predict with certainty what impact it would have. Councilman Leonard reminded everyone that Mr. Swicegood was not a town resident.

MOTION

Councilman McClard **moved to direct the Planning Board to look into possible changes to the Town's zoning ordinance to allow the keeping of livestock in certain zoning districts.**
The motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

The Town Manager explained the items in the proposed Budget amendments and added that changes would be made to reflect the cost of the metal roof and the updated amendments would be ready for Council action next week.

CLOSED SESSION

Councilman Sheffield **moved to go into a Closed Session under NCSG 143-318.11(a)(6), the Attorney Client exemption to the Open Meetings Law.** The motion carried unanimously. The Council entered Closed Session at 6:15 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Councilman Sheffield **moved to return to Open Session** at 6:50 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.


DISCUSSION – OPEN SESSION

The Mayor stated that the Council had agreed to direct the Town Manager to develop new standards, regulations and a permit process to govern the location of mailboxes and other obstructions within the Town's streets and right-of-ways.

The Mayor asked if all Council members agreed with that summation of the directive. They all agreed. The Town Manager stated the he would develop a recommendation for a new policy and present it to the Council for consideration.

ADJOURNMENT/RECESS

There being no further business, Councilman Sheffield **moved to adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.


Ann Katsuyoshi
Town Clerk