

**River Bend Town Council
Work Session Minutes
February 11, 2021
Town Hall
5:00 p.m.**

Present Council Members	Mayor John Kirkland Don Fogle Brian Leonard Bud Van Slyke Barbara Maurer
Absent Council Member	Buddy Sheffield
Town Manager	Delane Jackson
Town Clerk	Kristie Nobles

Discussion– Amendment to Chapter 9.01 Animals

The Manager stated that since last June there have been discussions about horses being allowed in the Northwest Quadrant. The Manager stated that he has received three requests from people interested in keeping horses on property in that area. The Manager presented the Council with a draft amendment to Chapter 9 that would allow horses on lots that were at least 8 acres in size. He stated that this amendment could be changed as they see fit or leave the ordinance as it is which prohibits horses. Councilman Van Slyke asked the Manager if there have been any discussions with the surrounding property owners. The Manager stated that he had not had any. Councilman Fogle asked the Manager how he determined the 8 acres and quantity of horses. He said that 8 acres was basically the smallest acreage lot in the Northwest Quadrant and this size would cover most of the lots. He also said that he had spoken with Craven County Animal Control and they recommend at least one acre per horse. Councilman Van Slyke asked the Manager if there are other properties that this amendment would effect. The Manager stated that there are other properties in Town that this amendment would allow to have horses. Councilman Fogle asked if the amendment would define pets versus farm animals such as horses versus donkeys, mules, and other farm animals. The Manager stated no but the amendment could be amended to state whatever the Council wanted. Councilman Leonard expressed concern for allowing large animals and not small animals. The Mayor suggested that the Town Attorney research language for the amendment that would define exactly what type of animals were allowed and present it next week. The Council agreed. Councilman Fogle asked the potential buyers of the property on Old Pollocksville Road what their use for horses would be. Kim Price and Emma Gatlin answered that their horses would be strictly recreational and not for farm use.

Discussion – Budget Amendment 20-B-05

The Manager stated that a budget amendment was needed next week to recognize the FEMA funding received to pay for debris removal after Hurricane Isaias. The amendment will also recognize funding from storage fees recovered from an abandoned RV and allocate it to the Police Dept. It also moves \$10,000 of existing funding within the general fund to the Public Buildings Department to pay for upgrades to Town Hall.

Discussion – Speeding Enforcement

Police Chief Joll gave a presentation on speeding in the Town of River Bend. In the presentation, he displayed a video of "motion parallax" where items moving at the same speed appear to be moving at different speeds depending on their surroundings. He attributed some of the complaints about speeding in Town to citizens being effected by being close to vehicles, which makes them appear to be moving faster than they actually are. He said it is often times an optical illusion due to the persons proximity to the vehicle. He said that he has done speed monitoring in the Town and the majority of the time most vehicles were not speeding.

Discussion – Developing a Priority List for Future Projects

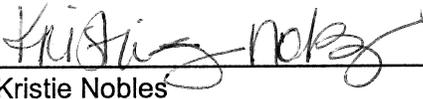
The Manager stated that the Council has been discussing developing a priority list for the top projects in the Town. He asked the Council for direction on developing the priority list. Councilman Van Slyke stated that if this list is not developed at this time that he would like to see it in the future. Councilman Fogle stated that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this was not an ideal time but he agrees with the idea. The Mayor also agreed. The Manager stated that he would re-address this topic in June, after the budget is completed.

REVIEW AGENDA FOR THE FEBRUARY 18, 2021 COUNCIL MEETING

The Council reviewed the Agenda for the February 18, 2021, Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT/RECESS

There being no further business, Councilwoman Maurer **moved to adjourn**. The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.



Kristie Nobles
Town Clerk