

River Bend Town Council
Work Session Minutes
April 8, 2021
Town Hall
5:00 p.m.

Present Council Members: Mayor John Kirkland
Don Fogle
Brian Leonard
Barbara Maurer
Buddy Sheffield

Absent Council Member: Bud Van Slyke

Town Manager: Delane Jackson
Town Clerk: Kristie Nobles
Town Attorney: Dave Baxter

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kirkland at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 8, 2021 at the River Bend Town Hall with a quorum present.

Discussion– Parks and Recreation Recommendation for July 4th Activities

The Manager stated that the 4th of July is fast approaching and he is hopeful that the Town would be able to have a fireworks celebration. He contacted the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to inquire about what activities they would be interested in doing. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board responded and said they would suggest the fireworks celebration along with snacks, a magician and a band or dj. The Town Manager contacted the fireworks company that he had communicated with last year and the only available date around the holiday is July 2, 2021. The Manager stated that there is money left in the Parks and Recreation budget from the canceled event last year. The Manager stated that the fireworks display would cost \$7,500 and the contract would need to be executed by next Thursday to secure the date of July 2, 2021. Councilman Leonard asked about the location of the event and the Manager stated that he sent the company a GIS picture of the Town and it was determined that the area by the Public Works Building would be best suited. The Manager stated that attendees would be put in groups of 100 or less based on the Governors Orders on festivities.

Vote – Fireworks Display Contract

Councilman Sheffield motioned to authorize the Town Manager to enter a contract for the July 2, 2021 fireworks display in an amount not to exceed \$10,000. The motion carried unanimously. (see attached)

Councilman Fogle asked the Manager if he had given the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board any direction on what he would recommend for the July 4th festivities. The Manager stated that anything other than the firework display was at the suggestion of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Councilman Fogle asked if there was an estimate of attendees for the event. Councilwoman Maurer stated she had no idea but thought maybe 150-200 people. The Manager stated he thought there would be a larger crowd with maybe 1,000+ attending. Councilman Fogle asked about parking of all the attendees. The Manager stated that he thought most of the attendees would be residents who would walk, ride bikes or golf carts and there would be designated areas for parking. The Manager stated that he would contact the Country Club to see if parking there is an option. Councilman Fogle then asked about a band for entertainment. Councilwoman Maurer stated that a band is not an option this year and that there are two djs that could be a possibility. Councilman Fogle asked if anyone had reached out to Big Jim Collier regarding playing at the event. Janet Nawojski stated that she does not think anyone has contacted him. Councilman Fogle stated he was disappointed the Parks and Recreation Advisory

Board decided that a band is not an option without consulting with the Council first. The Manager stated that he thinks that a band could be secured with the remaining funds. Councilwoman Maurer stated that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board has spent a lot of time working on this and doing as much as they can do. She stated that the estimates for food and snacks is based on 150-200 attendees and if the Council expects more than that the estimate needs to be altered. Councilman Leonard asked about the contract for the fireworks display regarding bad weather and he asked if it could be amended to include Covid if the event has to be canceled. The Manager stated that he would talk to the contractor regarding that situation. The Manager stated that with the \$10,000 for the event and all the changes that need to be made to the estimate submitted, he suggested increasing the amount by another \$5,000 to secure a band. Councilman Leonard stated that he thought it would be a good idea to increase the amount to secure a band. Councilman Fogle stated that in the future he thinks the Council and the Manager should give better direction of expectations to the Advisory Boards for events. Councilwoman Maurer asked if the direction of the Advisory Boards was to do the work and bring the recommendation back to the Council. Councilman Fogle stated that just because that's the way it has been in the past, doesn't mean that it is the best way.

Vote – Increase Event Allowed Amount

Councilman Leonard motioned to authorize up to an additional \$5,000 to secure a band for the July 2, 2021 event. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion – Re-opening Facilities

The Manager stated that the Facilities have been closed since April 6, 2020 due to Covid-19. He stated that he had not had many calls regarding opening Town Hall for daily business, but he has had inquiries to reopen for outside groups to hold meetings. Councilman Fogle stated that he agreed with keeping Town Hall closed and opening the Municipal Building for outside meetings. The Mayor stated that there are still contractors working in Town Hall. Councilman Sheffield stated that he agreed with keeping Town Hall closed and opening the Municipal Building. Councilman Leonard asked if masks would be required. The Town Attorney stated that the Governors recent order states that masks are required. Councilman Fogle stated that with Yoga it would be hard to wear a mask, so he would suggest adding that masks are recommended. Councilman Leonard stated that if the Council chose to make any changes that he suggests following CDC guidelines for masks. Councilman Fogle asked if Yoga would be able to meet. The Manager stated that Yoga is a part of Parks and Recreation and could meet in the building. The Manager asked that the Town Attorney research exercise and mask requirements for the next Council meeting. NO Motion was made.

Discussion – American Rescue Plan

The Manager stated that there has not been any new information on the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and nothing has been confirmed. He stated that he is anticipating receiving about \$900,000 for infrastructure projects in Town. The Manager presented three projects that he felt could be eligible for the funds. These projects include: a sewer project at the waste water treatment plant, a water quality project or building a new Public Works Building. In the past, the Council had discussed all three of these projects. The Manager stated that the funds would have to be spent by 2024. He stated that a water or sewer project would be a difficult project to complete by 2024 because of design and permitting requirements. The Manager stated he needs direction from the Council for which project to pursue when the funds become available from the American Rescue Plan.

Vote – American Rescue Plan

Councilman Leonard motioned to use the American Rescue Plan funds to construct a new Public Works Building. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion – Arbor Day Proclamation

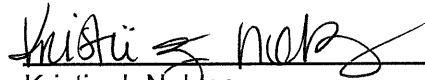
The Mayor stated that the Arbor Day Proclamation was a requirement for the Tree City Award that the Town is awarded annually.

REVIEW AGENDA FOR THE APRIL 15, 2021 COUNCIL MEETING

The Council reviewed the Agenda for the April 15, 2021, Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT/RECESS

There being no further business, Councilman Sheffield **moved to adjourn**. The meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.



Kristie J. Nobles
Town Clerk