

**River Bend Town Council
Budget Workshop Minutes
April 27, 2021
River Bend Town Hall
4:00 P.M.**

Present Council Members:	Mayor John Kirkland Don Fogle Brian Leonard Barbara Maurer Buddy Sheffield Bud Van Slyke
Town Manager:	Delane Jackson
Town Clerk:	Kristie Nobles
Finance Assistant:	Mandy Gilbert

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 4 p.m. The Mayor stated- "This is the most important thing that the Council does in the whole year. You put this budget in place and once it's approved the Manager executes it and if you, the Council, add any additional projects to it, it has to be covered with a budget amendment." He then recognized the Town Manager.

The Manager presented a resolution in opposition to House Bill 401 and Senate Bill 349. Councilman Sheffield motioned to approve the resolution as presented. The motion was unanimously approved. (see attached)

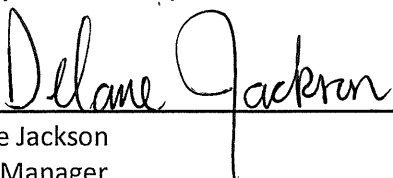
The Manager then began discussions of the Proposed Budget for FY2021-2022, which included a PowerPoint presentation. The Manager presented the Council's priorities and vision statement that were approved at the January 21, 2021 budget kick-off meeting.

The Manager followed the advertised agenda and presented details related to employee compensation, staffing levels, capital improvement plans, utility and fuel prices, the vehicle replacement plan, IT and various budget related topics. That was followed by a detailed discussion of the following departments: governing board, administration, finance, tax listing, legal services, elections, street maintenance, storm water, public works and public buildings.

During the meeting the Manager stated that the proposal would return the Public Works department to its pre-Hurricane Florence level when the NCORR grant expires. There were some discussion about the fund balance in the general fund. Councilman Leonard stated that he thought that having a target dollar amount of cash on hand was more important than having a percentage as our target for fund balance. Councilman Fogle said that if we do decide to make a specific dollar amount as the target, that we should officially make that statement at a Council meeting.

The Manager ended the session with a slide that showed a summary of the departments that had been discussed and asked if there were any questions.

Councilman Sheffield motioned to recess the meeting until May 4, 2021 at 4 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting recessed at 6:18 p.m.



Delane Jackson
Town Manager



**RESOLUTION OPPOSING HOUSE BILL 401 AND SENATE BILL 349 OF THE
2021 NORTH CAROLINA LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

WHEREAS, recognizing the importance of zoning to the peace, prosperity, and happiness of North Carolina's municipalities, for generations the State of North Carolina has allowed municipalities to regulate local development, which in turn, residents have relied upon in making one of their most important financial investments, the purchase of their homes; and

WHEREAS, the Town of River Bend has responsibly exercised the zoning and land use authority granted to it by the State of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the Town of River Bend's zoning ordinances have been approved with extensive community involvement and neighborhood-appropriate considerations; and

WHEREAS, municipalities in the State of North Carolina have their own unique characteristics and challenges so that "one size" does not "fit all," and statewide zoning mandates thus may have unintended negative consequences for the residents of the State; and

WHEREAS, HB401/SB349 is now pending in the North Carolina General Assembly, and would force municipalities to allow duplexes, triplexes, quadplexes, and townhouses into all residential zoning districts, for the stated purpose of expanding housing opportunities in cities; and

WHEREAS, although HB401/SB349 has been touted as a way to provide "affordable housing", in actuality there is nothing in the bill which actually controls costs or ensures affordability; and

WHEREAS, HB401/SB349 is an attack on local land-use planning and the ability of local government, the government closest to the people, to hear from and respond to the needs of our citizens in the long-standing planning and zoning forums granted by law,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of River Bend, North Carolina as follows:


1. That the General Assembly not adopt either HB401 or SB349;
2. That if passed, the Governor, the Honorable Roy Cooper, veto these measures;

Approved this 27th day of April, 2021.



ATTEST:


Kristie J. Nobles, Town Clerk


John R. Kirkland, Mayor