



TOWN OF RIVER BEND

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River Bend, NC 28562

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RIVER BEND TOWN COUNCIL PROPOSED AGENDA

Work Session Meeting

May 9, 2024

River Bend Town Hall – 45 Shoreline Drive

7:00 p.m.

1. **VOTE** – Agenda: Additions / Deletions / Adoption
2. FY24-25 – Budget Workshop Session IV - Jackson
3. **VOTE** – Budget Amendment 23-B-07 - Jackson
4. **VOTE** – FY24-25 Leaf & Limb Schedule - Jackson
5. Discussion – Parks & Recreation Survey Results / Recommendation Project - Weaver
6. Discussion – Parks & Recreation Social Media Request – Weaver
7. Discussion – Parks & Recreation Father's Day Event – Weaver
8. Discussion – Parks & Recreation July 4 Celebration Change of Venue Request - Weaver
9. REVIEW AGENDA – Nobles
10. **CLOSED SESSION** – NCGS § 143-318.11(a)(3)

Pledge: Benton



**TOWN OF RIVER BEND
BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT 23-B-07
FISCAL YEAR 2023 - 2024**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Town of River Bend, North Carolina that the 2023-2024 Budget Ordinance as last amended on March 18, 2024, be amended as follows:

Summary

General Fund	2,280,923
General Capital Reserve Fund	56,900
Law Enforcement Separation Allowance Fund	12,685
Water Fund	655,804
Water Capital Reserve Fund	10
Sewer Fund	679,504
Sewer Capital Reserve Fund	1
Total	3,685,827

Section 1.

General Fund

Anticipated Revenues

AD VALOREM Taxes 2023-2024	935,566
AD VALOREM Tax-Motor Vehicle	90,000
Animal Licenses	1,500
Sales Tax 1% Article 39	195,868
Sales Tax 1/2% Article 40	114,635
Sales Tax 1/2% Article 42	97,901
Sales Tax Article 44	13,090
Sales Tax Hold Harmless Distribution	108,195
Solid Waste Disposal Tax	2,200
Powell Bill Allocation	100,486
Beer and Wine Tax	13,225
Video Programming Sales Tax	49,621
Utilities Franchise Tax	112,169
Telecommunications Sales Tax	6,725
Court Refunds	500
Zoning Permits	7,000
Federal Grant (2024 Byrne/Jag Grant)	23,364
Miscellaneous	16,200
Interest- Powell Bill Investments	50
Interest-General Fund Investments	31,000
Contributions	901
Wildwood Storage Rents	18,144
Rents & Concessions	18,000
Sale of Fixed Assets	4,600
Transfer From Capital Reserve Fund	43,504
Transfer From PW Capital Projects Fund	57,720
Appropriated Fund Balance	218,759
Total	2,280,923

**23-B-07
PROPOSED
CHANGES**

23,364

23,364

Section 1. General Fund (continued)

**23-B-07
PROPOSED
CHANGES**

		23-B-07 PROPOSED CHANGES
Authorized Expenditures		
Governing Body	47,350	
Administration	332,000	
Finance	131,306	
Tax Listing	13,700	
Legal Services	40,090	
Elections	0	
Police (Expend related to 2024 Byrne/Jag Grant)	792,699	23,364
Public Buildings	109,000	
Emergency Services	2,870	
Animal Control	16,225	
Street Maintenance	271,050	
Public Works	186,050	
Leaf & Limb and Solid Waste	81,606	
Stormwater Management	44,840	
Wetlands and Waterways	2,900	
Planning & Zoning	55,000	
Recreation & Special Events	11,100	
Parks & Community Appearance	55,130	
Contingency	20,807	
Transfer To General Capital Reserve Fund	55,000	
Transfer To L.E.S.A. Fund	12,200	
Total	<u>2,280,923</u>	<u>23,364</u>

Section 2. General Capital Reserve Fund

Anticipated Revenues		
Contributions from General Fund	55,000	
Interest Revenue	1,900	
Total	<u>56,900</u>	
Authorized Expenditures		
Transfer to General Fund	43,504	
Future Procurement	13,396	
	<u>56,900</u>	

Section 3. Law Enforcement Separation Allowance Fund

Anticipated Revenues:		
Contributions from General Fund	12,200	
Interest Revenue	485	
Total	<u>12,685</u>	
Authorized Expenditures:		
Separation Allowance	0	
Future LEOSSA Payments	12,685	
Total	<u>12,685</u>	

Section 4. Water Fund

**23-B-07
PROPOSED
CHANGES**

Anticipated Revenues			
	Utility Usage Charges, Classes 1 & 2	210,591	
	Utility Usage Charges, Classes 3 & 4	12,428	
	Utility Usage Charges, Class 5	15,002	
	Utility Usage Charges, Class 8	4,644	
	Utility Customer Base Charges	278,811	
	Hydrant Availability Fee	19,764	
	Taps & Connections Fees	1,250	
	Nonpayment Fees	10,500	
	Late payment Fees	7,822	
	Interest Revenue	3,488	
	Sale of Capital Asset	0	
	Transfer From PW Capital Projects Fund	62,551	
	Appropriated Fund Balance	28,953	
	Total	655,804	0
Authorized Expenditures			
	Administration & Finance [1]	491,804	
	Operations and Maintenance	140,500	
	Transfer To Fund Balance for Capital Outlay	23,500	
	Transfer To Water Capital Reserve Fund	0	
	Total	655,804	0
	<i>[1] Portion of department for bond debt service:</i>	<i>141,157</i>	

Section 5. Water Capital Reserve Fund

Anticipated Revenues			
	Contributions From Water Operations Fund	0	
	Interest Revenue	10	
	Total	10	
Authorized Expenditures			
	Future Expansion & Debt Service	10	

Section 6. Sewer Fund

**23-B-07
PROPOSED
CHANGES**

Anticipated Revenues:

Utility Usage Charges, Classes 1 & 2	267,170	
Utility Usage Charges, Classes 3 & 4	36,679	
Utility Usage Charges, Class 5	28,142	
Utility Usage Charges, Class 8	16,833	
Utility Customer Base Charges	296,108	
Taps & Connection Fees	1,250	
Late payment Fees	8,384	
Interest Revenue	5,836	
Sale of Capital Asset	0	
Transfer from PW Capital Projects Fund	62,551	
Appropriated Fund Balance	(43,449)	
Total	679,504	0

Authorized Expenditures:

Administration & Finance [2]	483,204	
Operations and Maintenance	192,800	
Transfer to Fund Balance for Capital Outlay	3,500	
Transfer to Sewer Capital Reserve Fund	0	
Total	679,504	0

[2] Portion of department for bond debt service: 121,893

Section 7. Sewer Capital Reserve

Anticipated Revenues:

Contributions From Sewer Operations Fund	0	
Interest Revenue	1	
Total	1	

Authorized Expenditures:

Future Expansion & Debt Service	1	
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Section 8. **Levy of Taxes**

There is hereby levied a tax at the rate of twenty-four cents (\$0.24) per one hundred dollars (\$100) valuation of property as listed for taxes as of January 1, 2023, for the purpose of raising the revenue listed as "Ad Valorem Taxes 2023-2024" in the General Fund Section 1 of this ordinance. This rate is based on a valuation of \$393,280,000 for purposes of taxation of real and personal property with an estimated rate of collection of 99.12%. The estimated collection rate is based on the fiscal year 2021-2022 collection rate of 99.12% by Craven County who has been contracted to collect real and personal property taxes for the Town of River Bend. Also included is a valuation of \$37,500,000 for purposes of taxation of motor vehicles with a collection rate of 100% by the North Carolina Vehicle Tax System.

Section 9. **Fees and Charges**

There is hereby established, for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, various fees and charges as contained in Attachment A of this document.

Section 10. **Special Authorization of the Budget Officer**

- A. The Budget Officer shall be authorized to reallocate any appropriations within departments.
- B. The Budget Officer shall be authorized to execute interfund and interdepartmental transfers in emergency situations. Notification of all such transfers shall be made to the Town Council at its next meeting following the transfer.
- C. The Budget Officer shall be authorized to execute interdepartmental transfers in the same fund, including contingency appropriations, not to exceed \$5,000. Notification of all such transfers shall be made to the Town Council at its next meeting following the transfer.

Section 11. **Classification and Pay Plan**

Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for all Town employees shall be 4.4% and shall begin the first payroll in the new fiscal year. The Town Manager is hereby authorized to grant merit increases to Town employees, when earned, per the approved Pay Plan.

Section 12. **Utilization of the Budget Ordinance**

This ordinance shall be the basis of the financial plan for the Town of River Bend municipal government during the 2023-2024 fiscal year. The Budget Officer shall administer the Annual Operating Budget and shall ensure the operating staff and officials are provided with guidance and sufficient details to implement their appropriate portion of the budget.

Section 13. **Copies of this Budget Ordinance**

Copies of this Budget Ordinance shall be furnished to the Clerk, Town Council, Budget Officer and Finance Officer to be kept on file by them for their direction in the disbursement of funds.

Adopted this 9th day of May, 2024.

John R. Kirkland, Mayor

Attest:

Kristie J. Nobles, Town Clerk, CMC, NCCMC

Town of River Bend – Leaf & Limb Schedule 2024-2025

Zone 1 Placement

Zone 1 Pickup Begins

Zone 2 Placement

Zone 2 Pickup Begins

You **MUST** have your debris by the road **BEFORE** "pickup begins" date for your zone, but not more than 5 days before.

July 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

March 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

All leaf & limb debris must be the result of natural defoliation or minor trimming and must observe the following criteria:

1. Maximum diameter of limbs is three inches (3") and maximum length is six feet (6').
2. Place all material in a pile at the roadside with butt ends towards the street in a flat area away from mailboxes, driveway tiles, water meters and any other utility equipment.
3. Leaves and grass clippings must **NOT** be bagged. Bagged material will **NOT** be collected. Limbs must be kept separate from leaves and grass clippings. Leaves and grass clippings may be collected by a vacuum. The vacuum cannot accept limbs. Any leaf or grass clipping piles that also contain limbs will **NOT** be collected.
4. Leaf & limb material shall **NOT** be placed at the roadside more than five (5) days prior to the "pickup begins" date as shown on the schedule above (dates are circled).
5. Pickup shall be done once per street per scheduled pickup week. Any leaf & limb material placed on the roadside after that section of the street has been cleaned shall be the responsibility of the property owner to clear immediately (within 5 days).
6. Pickups will be provided to residential properties within the corporate Town limits only. Leaf & limb pickup shall not be provided for debris left by a contractor, including general yard maintenance contractors working on a resident's property.
7. Leaf & limb is defined as leaves, grass clippings, pinecones, and small tree and shrub limbs. It does not include construction material of any kind, trimmings from lot clearing, or tree trunks. The Town does not collect brown or white goods, metal, furniture, or construction debris.
8. All debris placed upon the public right of way must be placed off the paved portion of the street and must be placed in the right of way immediately adjacent to the property from which it originates. Debris may be placed in the right of way immediately adjacent to the property of others only with the express permission of the owner of the property.
9. Violation of these rules may subject violators to remedies described in the Town of River Bend Code of Ordinances, Section 1.01.999 General Penalty. See section 9.02.030 for complete rules.

River Bend Residents' Interests Survey Results

Conducted Feb-Mar 2024

Presented by Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

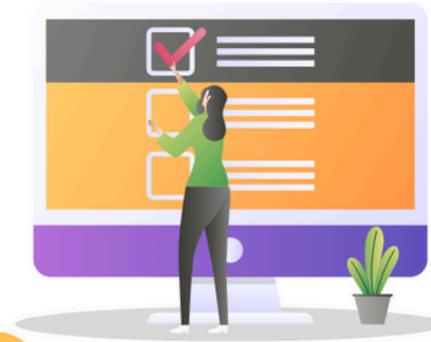


Overview

The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was tasked with surveying River Bend residents to ascertain their use of parks, involvement in recreational activities and their interest in expanding opportunities.

A survey was created online and launched February 9, 2024 on the River Bend Facebook Community Page and NextDoor. Additionally, a paper survey was included in the Town's March 8 water bill mailing and residents were asked to drop off their surveys at Town Hall. The deadline for completing surveys—online or paper—was March 30.

Parks & Recreation Online Survey



Tell us what you think about our current parks and programs!

And just as important, what you want to see in the future!

Just follow the link below to fill out the survey.

It will only take a few minutes to have your voice heard!

Responses



The Advisory Board received **336** total responses*



Online surveys accounted for 201 or 60% of responses



Paper responses submitted to Town Hall accounted for 84 or 25%

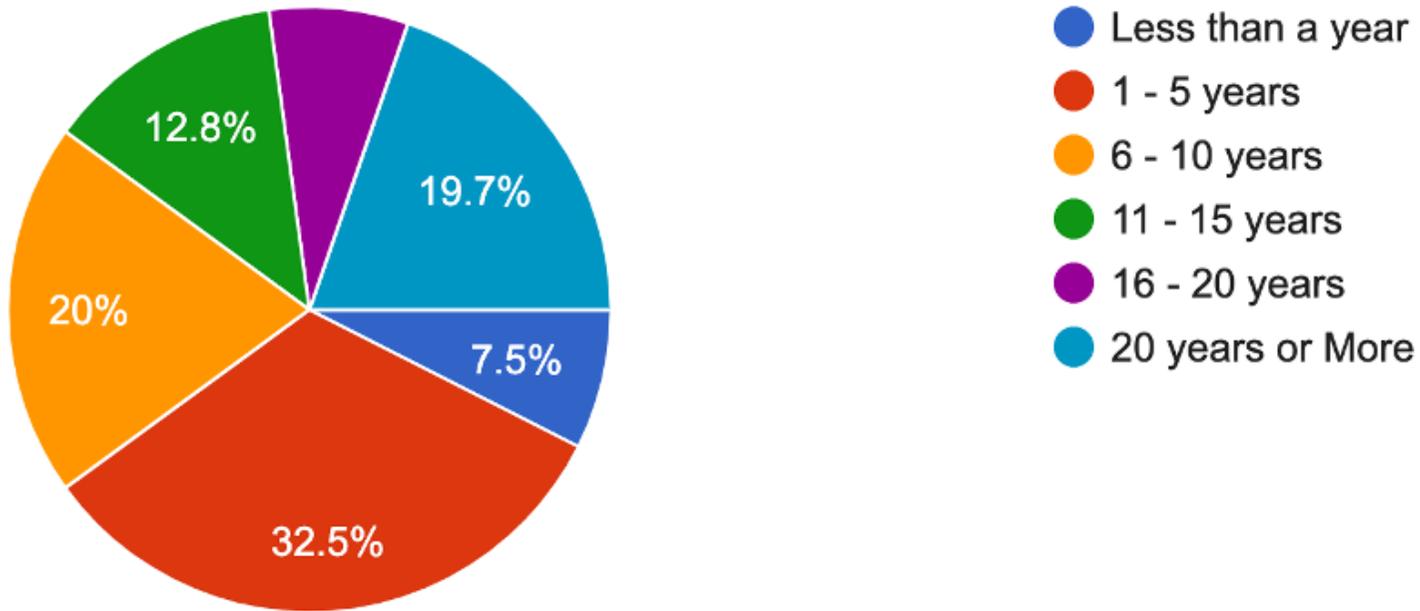


There were 51 surveys previously filled out by residents attending National Night Out (2023) or 15% of total responses

- According to 2020 Census data for the Town of River Bend, there are 2902 residents. With 336 responses, that represents approximately 12% of the population. Given that in many cases only one person per household filled out the survey, we may also assume a greater percentage is reflected.

Residency

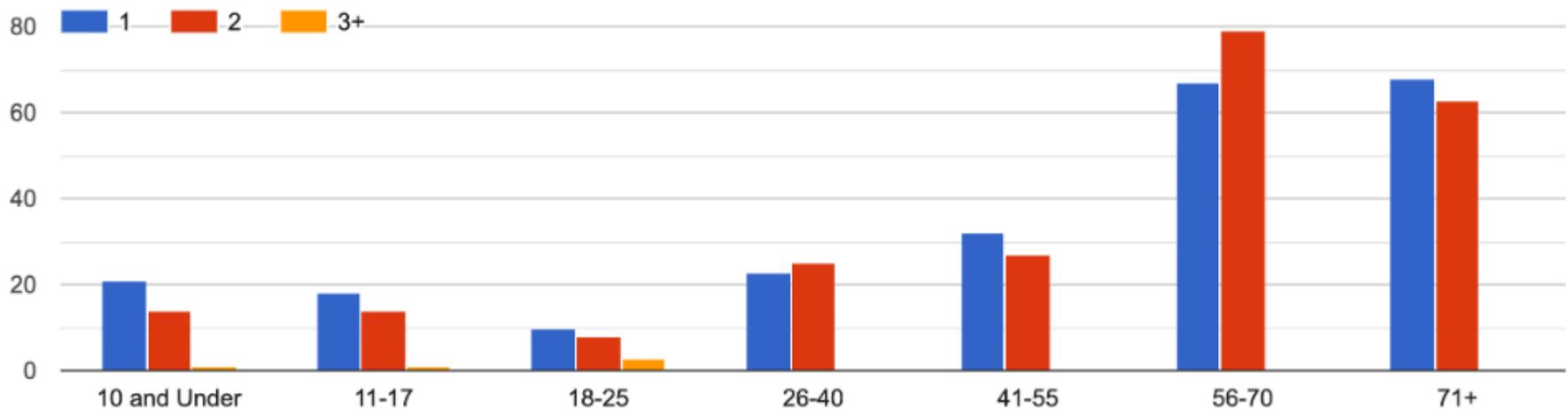
The greatest number of responses came from those residing in River Bend 10 years or less (60%). And overall, the largest group were respondents who've resided in River Bend one to five years (33%).



Respondents by Age Group

The cohort with the greatest number of respondents is the 56+ age group which is reflective of the population according to Census data.

With a median age of 57 and 27% of the population in the 45-64 category and an even greater 37% that are 65 or older, the survey well represented these age categories.



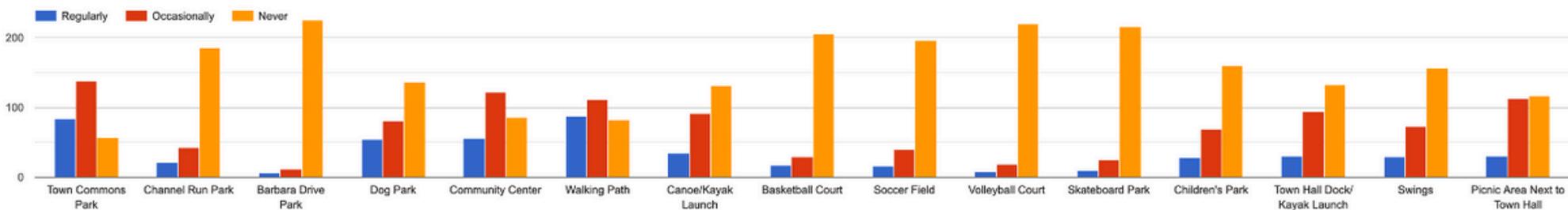
Park Participation

86% of total respondents visited at least one of the parks with Town Commons the most frequently noted, though mostly occasionally.

Channel Run and Barbara Drive had a higher incidence of residents who've never visited, while the dog park, community center and walking path were more frequently visited than all others.

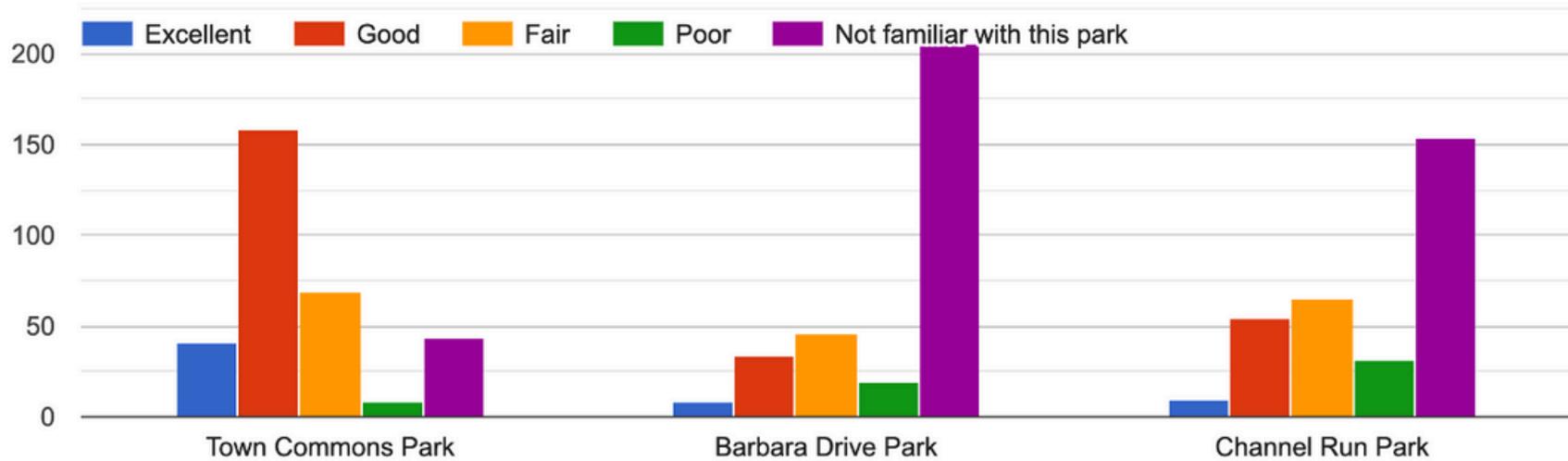
Of the 49 respondents that did not visit the parks, almost half were simply not interested (46%), a smaller percentage noted health limitations (16%) and others didn't have enough time (15%).

When asked what facilities residents frequented outside of River Bend, the greatest number cited the YMCA, as well as, Martin Marietta, Creekside, Cottle and Union Point Parks.



Rating the Parks

Residents were also asked to rate the three main parks. Town Commons was deemed Good overall, while the majority of respondents were not familiar with Channel Run or Barbara Drive Parks. Of those who were familiar with these two, Fair for each was the greater response.



Residents Would Like...

The amenities residents were most interested in were Outdoor/Indoor Swimming Pools, a Fitness Facility and a Pickleball Court. Results are as follows:

Outdoor Swimming Pool (60%)

Fitness Facility (52%)

Pickleball Court (47%)

Indoor Swimming Pool (47%)

Court Games (38%)

Larger Covered Picnic Area (31%)

Outdoor Performance Area (28%)

Splash Pad (26%)

Outdoor Playground (21%)

Tennis Court (17%)

Disc Golf (14%)

Teen Center (11%)

Baseball/Softball Field (9%)



Pools



Fitness Facility



Pickleball Court

Participation in P&R Activities

Of the 266 residents who responded that they'd participated in town-sponsored parks and recreation activities, the three most popular activities were the Independence Day Celebration (81%), Community Yard Sale (67%) and the Holiday Tree Lighting (53%).



Workshops & Game Days

Only 22% of respondents had taken part in workshops and game days, but the most cited activity was the creation of the holiday globes.



Suggestions

The following represents the most often noted suggestions for future workshops and activities..

General Interest

- Games/Bingo/Bunco/Scrabble
- Movies in the Park
- Evening in the Park w/Music
- Arts & Crafts Fair/Art Walk/Arts Festival
- Block Party w/Music & Food Trucks
- Front Porch Music/Porch Fest
- Holiday/Christmas Parade

Workshops/Learning Opportunities

- Craft Workshops
- Art & Music Classes
- Baking/Cookie Decorating Workshops
- Information Panels/Lectures
- Home Improvement/How to Events
- Gardening

Athletic/Active

- Chair Yoga
- Fitness Classes
- Fishing Tournament for Kids



Expanding Opportunities

Residents were asked if they would vote to expand recreational opportunities and an overwhelming majority, 93%, were in favor. The method supported by the greatest number was through Grants. Not surprisingly, Taxes were the least favored.



- ① **Grants (87%)**
- ② **Contributions/Donations (72%)**
- ③ **User/Registration Fees (59%)**
- ④ **Special/General Purpose Foundation (49%)**
- ⑤ **Partnerships (48%)**
- ⑥ **Project-Specific Bond Referendums (43%)**
- ⑦ **Taxes (30%)**

Resident Suggestions for Amenities & Equipment

The amenity most frequently requested by residents was to move, expand and enhance the Children's Playground to include equipment and activities for all ages. The current equipment is seen as tired and insufficient to accommodate children at different stages of physical development.

The Dog Park was the second most requested amenity. This would include expanding/enhancing the current, creating an additional park and providing shelter.

All manner of fitness—walking/nature trails, fitness equipment and sports fields—were also repeatedly mentioned. Pickleball and a Fitness Facility were written in again, even though they were offered as an option on a previous question, signaling a great interest for residents.



Playground



Dog Park



Fitness/Trails

P&R Advisory Board Recommendations

The following are amenity recommendations based on both multiple choice and open-ended responses, as well as, Advisory Board members' research and input. Our recommendations are based on the belief that expanding and enhancing amenities, especially at Town Commons, not only raises the quality of residents' lives, but also showcases a vibrant and involved community for residents and visitors alike.

- ▶▶ Relocate children's playground to a safer, more prominent location, as well as, expand and update equipment to address children's play at various stages of development.
 - ✦ New equipment could include Activity Panels for Toddlers, Sliding & Swinging for Preschoolers and Climbing Towers for School Age children.
 - ✦ Consider motion play equipment which includes merry-go-rounds and see saws, as well as, modern versions that encourage inclusivity of children with disabilities.
 - ✦ Incorporate adventure play elements such as wooden structures or a Pirate Ship that would provide an imaginative and interactive experience for children, as well as, a visually interesting landmark at Town Commons.

P&R Advisory Board Recommendations

- ▶▶ Expand dog park amenities and add a dog park located at Channel Run. Due to flooding conditions at various times of the year and lack of parking, this latter park does not lend itself to more than a green space with limited equipment and amenities.
 - ✦ Add a gazebo or other shelter to protect dog owners from the sun and rain.
 - ✦ Add crawl tunnels and agility hurdles for interactive activities for dogs.
- ▶▶ Create an area to install a Pickleball court with a plan to add more if usage is as expected.
- ▶▶ Re-purpose the Old Public Works building as a Fitness Facility as this was requested by half of the respondents. Equipment can be limited to a treadmill, stationary bike, rowing machine and free weights to begin.
- ▶▶ Provide more shaded areas throughout Town Commons. This becomes especially important as we plan more outdoor amenities and activities.
- ▶▶ Improve and expand restroom facilities.
- ▶▶ Create a space for court games such as Bocce ball, Cornhole, Horse Shoes, etc.

P&R Advisory Board Recommendations

- ▶▶ Explore ways to create interlinked walking/nature trails perhaps enhanced with markers noting flora and fauna. And update/refurbish the existing walking/exercise circuit as it's outdated and could use a facelift.
- ▶▶ Refurbish or replace faded and rusted equipment at Barbara Drive Park. Provide some type of shelter or cover for existing benches. This park was unfamiliar to the great majority of respondents and none of the residents of the subdivision filled out the survey, therefore we don't see this as a priority or a need to allocate deep resources especially given the lack of parking and residents crossing a busy highway is probably not attractive.



We should note that while an outdoor pool was the most desired amenity by 60% of respondents—and almost half checked off an indoor pool—we are excluding pools from our recommendations as we understand feasibility and budget constraints. Nevertheless, several residents did note that a partnership or negotiated rates with the country club to access their pool could be a solution.

P&R Advisory Board Communications Recommendations

- ▶▶ Purchase an Outdoor Programmable Digital sign to eliminate the continuous cost of individual event signage. A high-quality sign with text, graphics and animation capabilities can be used by organizers from all of the Boards and Committees for events and programs and can greatly enhance residents' awareness of and participation in same.
- ▶▶ Provide new residents with information about the parks with an easy-to-access map on the Town website to increase visibility of the parks and amenities offered. There is currently only a map of the Walking Trail around Town Commons and it is not easily identified as a link. The vast majority of the respondents were not aware of Channel Run or Barbara Drive Parks, even those who have lived here for years.



Thank you for this opportunity to present our survey findings and for your consideration of our recommendations. Most of all, we appreciate your dedication to this community and to its continued growth and improvement.



SOCIAL MEDIA

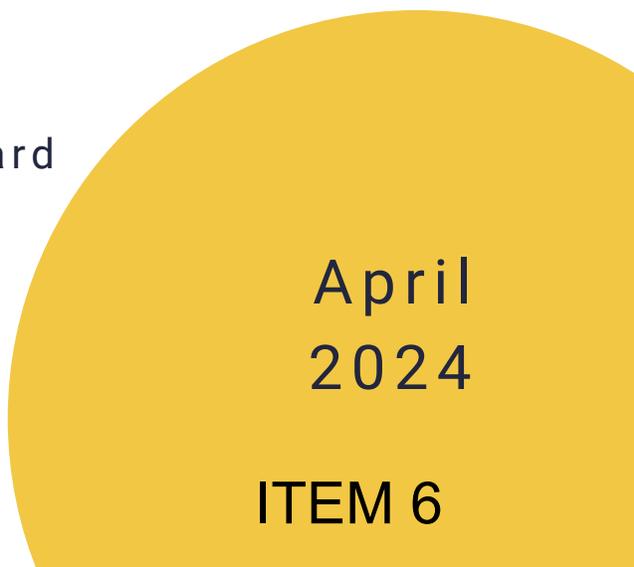
PROPOSAL

Prepared For :

The Town of River Bend Council and
Town Manager

By:

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Laurie LaMotte - Chair
Annie Craddock - Vice Chair



April
2024

ITEM 6

PROPOSAL

Be The Change



BE A
CHANGE
MAKER

Allow Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to implement an INFORMATIONAL social media page, under the stipulations that:

- Only pre-approved flyers and post-event photos will be posted.
- Inquiries in regards to town events via messenger can be answered by an automated a message to redirect questions to the appropriate contact form (via email).
- A maximum of 3 members have access to the social media page such as the Chair, Vice Chair, and Council Liaison / Town Official (same as email account).

Open to recommendations from the council in regards to comments on/off, privacy, and any other suggestions to ensure a successful launch.

Please find attached documents from The City of New Bern for references:

- SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY
- CITY OF NEW BERN GUIDELINES FOR ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES USING PERSONAL OR OFFICIAL SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

Its Time To Take The Dive

Local communities around North Carolina are diving into the world of social media to better serve their community and offer a more transparent government to their citizens.

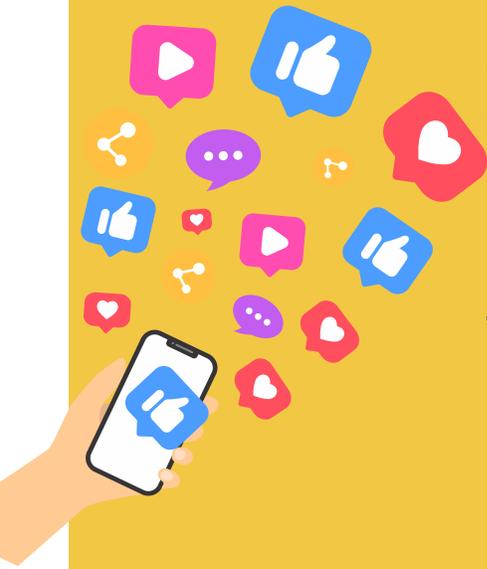
Benefits Include:

Information Dissemination: Park authorities can use social media to disseminate important information such as park hours, events, maintenance schedules, safety tips, and any updates or changes. This ensures that the community stays informed in real time.

Promotion of Events and Programs: Social media is an effective platform for promoting events, programs, workshops, and recreational activities happening in the parks. It helps to reach a broader audience, increasing participation and awareness.

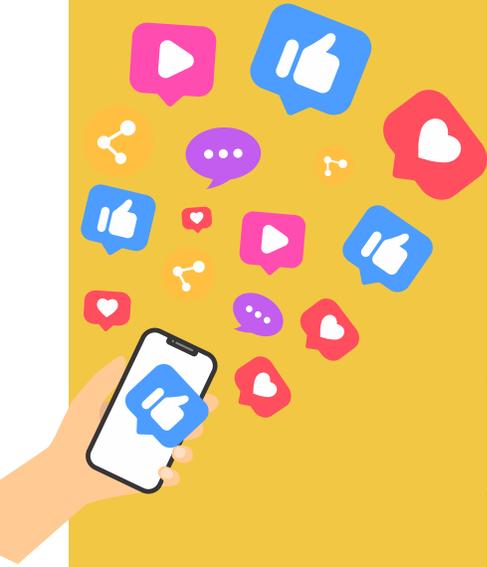
Enhanced Public Relations: Maintaining an active social media presence can help park authorities build positive relationships with the community. It allows them to showcase the positive aspects of the parks and recreational facilities.

Community Feedback and Surveys: Social media platforms provide a convenient way for community members to provide feedback, suggestions, and ideas for improvements. Parks and recreation departments can conduct surveys or polls to gather insights and tailor their offerings to better meet the needs of the community.



Its Time

To Take The Dive Cont.



Promotion of Health and Wellness: Parks and recreation sites often promote outdoor activities, exercise, and wellness. Through social media, authorities can share tips, resources, and inspiration to encourage healthy lifestyles among community members.

Real-time Updates during Emergencies: In case of emergencies such as natural disasters or park closures due to unforeseen circumstances, social media can be a crucial tool for providing real-time updates and instructions to the community.

Cost-effective Communication: Compared to traditional forms of communication such as flyers or advertisements, social media offers a cost-effective way to reach a large audience quickly and efficiently.

Overall, a parks and recreation social media site can serve as a valuable tool for promoting community engagement, fostering relationships, and enhancing the overall experience of parks and recreational facilities.

ANALYTICS

UP-TO-DATE DEMOGRAPHICS IN REAL TIME

Social Media platforms use analytics to keep businesses and local governments up-to-date on the demographics of their community.

The creation of a P&R social media page will provide us with two key factors:

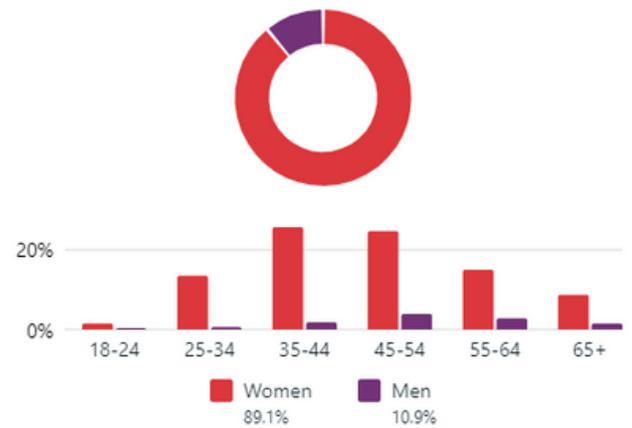
1- Baseline of residential age range with our current population

Age & gender ⓘ

2- Track which events spike the most interest

These two factors will assist in organizing events and implementing activities that are tailored to each age group.

In addition, it tells us where to properly delegate tax paying dollars.



Top cities



Impressions ⓘ ↑↓	Reach ⓘ ↑↓	Plays ⓘ ↑↓	Reactions/Likes, Comments ⓘ ↑↓	Comments ⓘ ↑↓
2.5K Impressions	2.4K Reach	--	146 Reactions/Likes, comm...	7 Comments
363 Impressions	335 Reach	--	25 Reactions/Likes, comm...	0 Comments
468 Impressions	426 Reach	--	10 Reactions/Likes, comm...	2 Comments

OBJECTIVES

PROTECT

Protect current board members who have to utilize personal social media pages to promote on-going activities.

Currently we are subjecting ourselves to the Freedom of Information Act and NC Public Records Law.

TRUST

Create a positive and trusted source of communication to River Bend Residents about town happenings.

OUTREACH

Forms of outreach are limited in today's society without the use of social media. If current board members withdraw the use of social media accounts, the only way to present information is through the town website and clerks calendar.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND
CONSIDERATION!**

ITEM 6

Dear Members of the River Bend Town Council,

I am writing to propose the organization of a beer tasting event to celebrate Father's Day in our town. We believe that such an event would not only provide a fun and enjoyable activity for our residents but also contribute to the local economy and community spirit.

Event Details:

Father's Day, Chicken Wing and Beer Tasting with Cornhole Tournament

Date: Saturday, June 8, 2024

Time: 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Location: River Bend Town Commons Park

Purpose: To celebrate Father's Day and promote one of our local breweries

Activities: Beer tasting from BrUtopia, Chicken Wing Tasting from Attitudes Pub & Grille and Cornhole Tournament.

Beer Tasting:

Brutopia has the Special Events Permit and since the residents will **not be purchasing the beer from us**, the event will be completely covered under Brutopia's Liquor Liability Insurance. The Town of River Bend will not have to purchase any permits or insurance for this event.

Beer Tasting will consist of 1 flight of 4-5oz. samples. After which they will be allowed one 12oz. beer of their choice. We will use a ticket system for beer distribution monitoring. 2 different color tickets will be given to the residents. One for the flight and one for the single beer. This way we can keep it to a "tasting" only event.

Benefits of the Event:

1. **Community Engagement:** This event will provide an opportunity for the Fathers to come together and celebrate Father's Day in a fun and relaxed atmosphere.
2. **Support for Local Businesses:** By showcasing beers from one of our local breweries and different flavors of Chicken Wings from Attitudes Pub & Grille.
3. **Economic Impact:** Support our local businesses. While the event will primarily focus

on Beer and Chicken Wing tasting, we will also provide friendly activity to ensure that the event is enjoyable for fathers of all ages.

4. Promotion of Responsible Drinking: We are committed to promoting responsible alcohol consumption. We will have designated drivers available, as well as information on local transportation options and responsible drinking practices. BrUtopia already has the Special Event Permit as well as the Insurance Liability Policy. They will take the brunt of the liability.

Request for Approval:

We respectfully request permission from the Town Council to allow us to organize and host this beer tasting event in River Bend Town Commons Park on June 8, 2024.

We believe that this event will be a great addition to the Father's Day celebrations in our town and will help strengthen our community bonds.

Thank you for considering our proposal, and we look forward to your favorable response.

Sincerely,

--

Laurie A. LaMotte, Chair
River Bend Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
45 Shoreline Drive
New Bern, NC 28562
910-265-0259
laurielamotte.rbparksrecab@gmail.com

§13.01.008 CONSUMPTION AND POSSESSION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, MALT BEVERAGES AND UNFORTIFIED WINE.

Added 08/08/13

- A. *Definitions.* In addition to the common meanings of the words, the following definitions shall be applicable herein.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE. Any beverage containing at least 0.5% alcohol by volume as defined in G.S. Ch. 18B.

MALT BEVERAGE. Beer, lager, malt liquor, ale, porter, and any other brewed or fermented beverage containing at least one-half of one percent, and not more than six percent, alcohol by volume.

OPEN CONTAINER. A container whose seal has been broken or a container other than the manufacturer's unopened original container.

PUBLIC STREET. Any highway, road, street, avenue, boulevard, alley, bridge, or other way within and/or under the control of the Town and open to public use, including the sidewalks of any such street.

UNFORTIFIED WINE. Wine that has an alcoholic content produced only by natural fermentation or by the addition of pure cane, beet, or dextrose sugar, and that has an alcoholic content of not more than 17 percent alcohol by volume.

- B. *Consumption on the public streets and on municipal property prohibited.* It shall be unlawful for any person to consume an alcoholic beverage, malt beverage, or unfortified wine on the public streets or on any property owned, occupied, or controlled by the Town, including, but not limited to, public buildings and the grounds appurtenant thereto, municipal parking lots, public parks, playgrounds, recreational areas, and other athletic fields.
- C. *Possession of open containers on the public streets and on municipal property prohibited.* It shall be unlawful for any person to possess any open container of alcoholic beverage, malt beverage, or unfortified wine on the public streets or on any property owned, occupied, or controlled by the Town, including, but not limited to, public buildings and the grounds appurtenant thereto, municipal parking lots, public parks, playgrounds, recreational areas, and other athletic fields.
- D. *Possession during special events prohibited.* It shall be unlawful for any person to possess alcoholic beverages, malt beverages, or unfortified wine on public streets, alleys, or parking lots which are temporarily closed to regular traffic for special events, unless the governing body adopts a resolution making other provisions for the possession of alcoholic beverages at the special event.
- E. *Violations.* Violation of this section shall constitute a misdemeanor punishable in accordance with G.S. § 14-4.

(Prior Code, Ch. 11, § 9) Penalty, see § 1.01.999

From: Laurie LaMotte <laurielamotte.rbparksrecab@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2024 5:33 PM

To: Jeff Weaver <jweaver@riverbendnc.org>

Subject: Can you please send this out to the Council - I don't know if it's a voting thing or not

Dear Members of the River Bend Town Council,

I am writing to propose an enhancement to our annual 4th of July celebration in River Bend. I believe relocating the traditional 4th of July BBQ from its current location, Town Hall Parking Lot, to the Municipal Building and The Town Commons Park Area would greatly benefit both the event itself and our town as a whole.

The Heat: One of the primary challenges we've faced in previous years is the intense heat during the 4th of July BBQ. This not only poses discomfort for attendees but also presents health risks, particularly for volunteers and food servers. By utilizing the air-conditioned space in the Municipal Building for the food service, we can alleviate these concerns and provide a more comfortable environment for everyone involved. Additionally, the smaller room within the Municipal Building can serve as a sanctuary for residents who are particularly sensitive to heat, allowing them to enjoy the meal without risking their health.

Sanitary Concerns: Another issue we've encountered is maintaining proper sanitation while serving food outdoors in hot weather. Sweat-soaked protective gloves can compromise food safety standards. By relocating the food serving line to the Municipal Building, we can ensure a more sanitary environment for food preparation and service. With access to a refrigerator in the Municipal Building's kitchen, we can also eliminate the need for keeping food on ice, reducing the risk of food spoilage and contamination.

Enhanced Safety: Safety is a top priority for any public event. By moving the BBQ to the Municipal Building and Town Commons Park Area, we can better manage crowd control, provide easier access for emergency services, and minimize the risks associated with overcrowding and potential accidents. This centralized location will streamline logistics and allow for more effective coordination of safety measures.

Centralized Location: By hosting the BBQ at this central hub, we can encourage higher attendance rates and foster greater community engagement. The proximity to Town Commons Park Area also offers additional outdoor space for activities and entertainment, further enriching the overall experience for attendees.

Logistics: We can set the tent for residents to eat out in the grassy area of the park as well as a small pop up tent for the Band. There are several shady tree areas for residents to bring chairs and sit under as well. We would like to rent a Water Slide this year and the water spigot is located on the right side of the Municipal Bldg. This will minimize residents/small children having to cross Plantation Drive. We would have a lot more room for the Dunking Booth and fun activities for the entire family to enjoy. We are looking at planning more BBQ type of activities such as Cornhole, Three Legged Races and Tug of War to name a few.

In conclusion, relocating the 4th of July BBQ to the Municipal Building and Town Commons Park Area presents an opportunity to address longstanding challenges and enhance the overall quality of our community celebration. I urge the River Bend Town Council to consider this proposal and support its implementation for the benefit of our residents and the success of our 4th of July festivities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

--

Laurie A. LaMotte, Chair
River Bend Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
45 Shoreline Drive
New Bern, NC 28562
910-265-0259
laurielamotte.rbparksrecab@gmail.com

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 132, Public Records, this electronic mail message and any attachments hereto, as well as any electronic mail message(s) that may be sent in response to it may be considered public record and as such are subject to request and review (with statutory exceptions) by anyone at any time.



**RIVER BEND TOWN COUNCIL
DRAFT PROPOSED AGENDA
Regular Meeting
May 16, 2024
River Bend Town Hall – 45 Shoreline Drive
7:00 p.m.**

Pledge: Benton

1. Call to Order (Mayor Kirkland Presiding)
2. Recognition of New Residents
3. Additions / Deletions / Adoption to Agenda
4. Addresses to the Council
5. Public Comment

The public comment period is set aside for members of the public to offer comments to the Council. It is the time for the Council to listen to the public. It is not a Question & Answer session between the public and the Council or Staff. All comments will be directed to the Council. Each speaker may speak for up to 3 minutes. A member of staff will serve as timekeeper. A sign-up sheet is posted by the meeting room door and will be collected prior to the start of the Public Comment Period. Speakers will be called on by the Mayor in the order that they signed up. In order to provide for the maintenance of order and decorum, the Council has adopted a policy for this section of the meeting. A copy of the policy is posted by the door for your review. Please follow the policy. If you have a specific question for staff, you are encouraged to contact the Town Manager or the appropriate Department Head at another time.

6. Public Hearings – None
7. Consent Agenda

All items listed under this section are considered routine by the Council and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

A. Approve:

*Minutes of the April 11, 2024, Work Session Meeting
Minutes of the April 18, 2024, Regular Council Meeting
Minutes of the April 30, 2024, Budget Meeting
Minutes of the May 2, 2024, Budget Meeting
Minutes of the May 7, 2024, Budget Meeting
Minutes of the May 9, 2024, Budget Meeting*

8. Town Manager's Report – Delane Jackson

Activity Reports

- A. *Monthly Police Report* by Chief Joll
- B. *Monthly Water Resources Report* by Director of Public Works Mills
- C. *Monthly Work Order Report* by Director of Public Works Mills
- D. *Monthly Zoning Report* by Assistant Zoning Administrator McCollum

Administrative Reports:

9. CAC – Councilwoman Maurer
 - A. CAC Report
10. Finance – Councilman Leonard
 - A. Financial Report - Finance Director
11. Environment And Waterways – Councilman Leonard
 - A. EWAB Report
12. Planning Board – Councilman Sheffield
 - A. Planning Board Report
 - B. Board of Adjustment Report
13. Public Safety – Councilwoman Benton
 - A. Community Watch
14. Parks & Recreation – Councilman Weaver
 - A. Parks and Rec Report
 - B. Organic Garden Report
15. Mayor's Report – Mayor Kirkland
16. Adjournment

ITEM 9

North Carolina law allows public bodies, such as the River Bend Town Council, to meet in closed session to discuss certain topics. However, prior to going into closed session, the Council must announce the closed session and the topic for which the closed session is being called and that must be done while the Council is in open session. This requirement allows the public to know in general what the closed session is concerning. The closed session must also be adjourned in open session. For the purpose of this guide, open session simply means in view of the public and closed session simply means it private. The topics that may be discussed in closed session are listed below and are numbered 1 through 10. Most of the time, the Council knows in advance that a closed session is needed and the General Statute citation which identifies the purpose of the closed session is included on the agenda. However, that is not always the case. The need for a closed session may arise without enough warning to publish the citation on the agenda. The law does not require advanced notice of a closed session. In any case, planned or not, the Council will state the appropriate citation. The citation will always begin with 143-318.11(a). The numbers that follow in parenthesis will identify the particular closed session topic. For example: The citation 143-318.11(a)(3)(5) will allow the Council to consult with an attorney (#3) and to discuss the acquisition of real property (#5).

§ 143-318.11. Closed sessions.

(a) Permitted Purposes. – It is the policy of this State that closed sessions shall be held only when required to permit a public body to act in the public interest as permitted in this section. A public body may hold a closed session and exclude the public only when a closed session is required:

- (1) To prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or of the United States, or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes.
- (2) To prevent the premature disclosure of an honorary degree, scholarship, prize, or similar award.
- (3) To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged. General policy matters may not be discussed in a closed session and nothing herein shall be construed to permit a public body to close a meeting that otherwise would be open merely because an attorney employed or retained by the public body is a participant. The public body may consider and give instructions to an attorney concerning the handling or settlement of a claim, judicial action, mediation, arbitration, or administrative procedure. If the public body has approved or considered a settlement, other than a malpractice settlement by or on behalf of a hospital, in closed session, the terms of that settlement shall be reported to the public body and entered into its minutes as soon as possible within a reasonable time after the settlement is concluded.
- (4) To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations, or to discuss matters relating to military installation closure or realignment. Any action approving the signing of an economic development contract or commitment, or the action authorizing the payment of economic development expenditures, shall be taken in an open session.
- (5) To establish, or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents

concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating (i) the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease; or (ii) the amount of compensation and other material terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract.

- (6) To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee. General personnel policy issues may not be considered in a closed session. A public body may not consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, appointment, or removal of a member of the public body or another body and may not consider or fill a vacancy among its own membership except in an open meeting. Final action making an appointment or discharge or removal by a public body having final authority for the appointment or discharge or removal shall be taken in an open meeting.
 - (7) To plan, conduct, or hear reports concerning investigations of alleged criminal misconduct.
 - (8) To formulate plans by a local board of education relating to emergency response to incidents of school violence or to formulate and adopt the school safety components of school improvement plans by a local board of education or a school improvement team.
 - (9) To discuss and take action regarding plans to protect public safety as it relates to existing or potential terrorist activity and to receive briefings by staff members, legal counsel, or law enforcement or emergency service officials concerning actions taken or to be taken to respond to such activity.
 - (10) To view a recording released pursuant to G.S. 132-1.4A.
- (b) Repealed by Session Laws 1991, c. 694, s. 4.
 - (c) Calling a Closed Session. – A public body may hold a closed session only upon a motion duly made and adopted at an open meeting. Every motion to close a meeting shall cite one or more of the permissible purposes listed in subsection (a) of this section. A motion based on subdivision (a)(1) of this section shall also state the name or citation of the law that renders the information to be discussed privileged or confidential. A motion based on subdivision (a)(3) of this section shall identify the parties in each existing lawsuit concerning which the public body expects to receive advice during the closed session.
 - (d) Repealed by Session Laws 1993 (Reg. Sess., 1994), c. 570, s. 2. (1979, c. 655, s. 1; 1981, c. 831; 1985 (Reg. Sess., 1986), c. 932, s. 5; 1991, c. 694, ss. 3, 4; 1993 (Reg. Sess., 1994), c. 570, s. 2; 1995, c. 509, s. 84; 1997-222, s. 2; 1997-290, s. 2; 2001-500, s. 2; 2003-180, s. 2; 2013-360, s. 8.41(b); 2014-79, s. 9(a); 2016-88, s. 3.)