

**River Bend Town Council  
Special Meeting Minutes  
January 20, 2026  
Town Hall  
6:30 p.m.**

Present Council Members: Mayor Mark Bledsoe  
Lisa Benton  
Kathy Noonan  
Jeff Weaver

Absent Council Member: Buddy Sheffield  
Brian Leonard

Town Manager: Delane Jackson  
Public Works Director: Brandon Mills

Members of the Public Present: 15

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Bledsoe called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at the River Bend Town Hall with a quorum present.

**VOTE –Addition to the Agenda**

*Councilwoman Benton motioned to amend the agenda by adding item #3 – Water Funding Resolution. The motion carried unanimously.*

**VOTE – Approval of Agenda**

*Councilwoman Benton motioned to accept the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Discussion – Water Funding Resolution**

Councilwoman Benton called on the Town Manager. The Town Manager stated that the Town had previously been awarded a 16-million-dollar grant for the construction of a new water treatment plant and wells. He stated that the presented resolution is required by the State of North Carolina for the town to accept those funds.

**VOTE – Water Funding Resolution**

*Councilwoman Noonan motioned to adopt the Water Funding Resolution as presented. The motion carried unanimously. (see attached)*

**Discussion – Question and Answer Session with Council**

The Mayor made a statement about how the meeting would be conducted, then recognized Councilman Weaver.

Councilman Weaver said:

“We have scheduled this special meeting for one primary reason: to have an open, transparent, and two-way conversation with you about our water system, the concerns that have been raised, and the steps that are being taken now and moving forward. We recognize that our water treatment system is aging, and we understand that issues such as elevated manganese levels have caused frustration, concern, and, for many, anger. Those feelings are valid. This is an issue that directly affects your homes, your families, and your trust, and we do not expect everyone to come here feeling calm or satisfied. Tonight is intended to be a conversation, not a

one-sided discussion. We are here to listen, to be accessible, and to provide clear and honest answers to the best of our ability. What we hope to accomplish is to share what we know, explain what has already been done, outline what is currently being done, discuss what options exist moving forward, and most importantly, to hear directly from you. Before we begin, I do want to set a few ground rules so this can be productive for everyone. Being upset or angry is understandable and acceptable. Disrespectful behavior is not. We ask that comments and questions remain focused and respectful, even when emotions run high. Strong opinions and tough questions are welcome, but personal attacks, interruptions, or disruptive behavior are not. For clarity, please be aware that the audio of tonight's meeting is being recorded. To ensure everyone can hear and so the recording accurately captures your question or comment, we ask that speakers come to the podium and use the microphone. If you are not comfortable doing so, you are welcome to ask your question from your seat, and I will repeat it into the microphone for the record. Please allow others to speak and understand that if we do not have an immediate answer to a question, we will be honest about that and follow up where appropriate. To get us started, I'm going to turn things over to Delane and Brandon. They will provide a brief overview of the work that has already been done, what is currently underway, and what steps are being considered moving forward. After that, we'll open it up for questions and discussion. Thank you again for being here and for engaging in this conversation."

Councilman Weaver called on the Town Manager. The Town Manager introduced Public Works Director Brandon Mills. The Town Manager gave an update on the progress of the new water treatment plant project.

At this time Councilman Weaver opened the floor for questions from the audience. There were 9 residents who spoke.

Eugene Roth addressed the Council stating that he felt that flushing was making a difference in the water quality in the past, but he does not feel it is as effective now. He stated that he is having to change his water filters more often. He asked if street flushing could start back. The Town Manager stated that the town is still doing street flushing and it has been done within the past month. Mr. Roth asked if there could be a schedule when streets are flushed and Brandon Mills stated that the entire system is flushed two times per year, with hot spots flushed more often as needed.

James Myers addressed the Council stating that he has addressed the Council several times in the past. He asked what is being done to address the brown water in his home right now? He stated he knows that there is a plan and a process but wants to know what is being done proactively right now. He also asked what was going to be done about the water he is paying for right now because he is paying for clean water. The Town Manager stated that he does not have the authority to adjust the water bills. He stated that a few months back there was a credit given to every water customer in town. He stated that he feels the town is being proactive with trying to help with the situation, they have increased flushing and had meetings with engineers to try to resolve the issue. Mr. Myers stated that he changed his water filter on January 1 and it needs to be changed again. He asked if it was his responsibility to call to report water issues or to ask for flushing at his home. The Town Manager stated that it is his responsibility, and if there are hot spots that need flushing more frequently it will be done. Mr. Myers stated that if they will come flush when he calls then he is good with that.

Betty Morris stated that she had a situation on Saturday and she emailed the Council and they responded immediately. She thanked the town for their response to the situation. Brandon Mills stated that there was a mechanical failure on an air relief valve. He stated that it has only happened twice in his career.

James Crozier stated that he is happy that the town is being proactive, unlike how it was a year ago. He stated that there are some inaccuracies in some statements that were made tonight. He stated that all cud-de-sacs were not flushed like stated prior and the hydrant may have been flushed. He stated that before Thanksgiving there were two holes dug in his front yard to locate a water line, and the town has not been back since. He stated he is very frustrated. He commended the town for moving from reactive to proactive. He asked when the work at his home will be finished. Brandon Mills stated that they have done all they could do to find the water line except cutting up the asphalt and digging. The Town Manager stated that Mr. Crozier lives in Pier Pointe and that system was installed by the developer, not the town. Brandon stated that he would communicate with Mr. Crozier about the line work.

Glen Wood asked when the fire hydrant near his home was flushed and Brandon Mills stated it had been flushed in September. Mr. Wood stated that the water in his home is terrible, smells bad when he showers and smells like it has chemicals in it. Councilman Weaver stated that the water is tested regularly.

Jon Hall stated that he has a Kinetico system in his home and he used to have to change the filter quite a bit but since August he has noticed a change in his water. He stated that he does not have sediment in his water or gets rings around his toilets anymore. He expressed gratitude and stated that his water is better than it has ever been.

The Mayor addressed Glen Woods' comments regarding chemicals. He asked Brandon Mills if the town uses any chemicals that are not state or federally approved. Brandon Mills stated, "absolutely not" and that the state requires a chlorine residual and the town is within those limits. He also stated that he does not use anything that is not approved.

Bill Lessard stated that he has lived in River Bend for 36 years and has a whole home filtration system. He asked if all dead-end water lines could be flushed on a monthly basis, he thinks it may be a game changer. Brandon Mills stated that the town is participating in a pilot filtration study. He stated that he will continue to flush hot spots, but he hopes that in the future they can take the next steps to get approval on the pilot study to use it system-wide. Councilman Weaver stated that Brandon is trying to fix the source of the problem instead of attacking hot spots. Brandon Mills agreed.

Jeannine Cormier stated that she moved here from another county. Ms. Cormier stated that her water bill here in River Bend is three times what she paid at her previous home. The Town Manager stated that it is hard to compare different units when different systems have different costs and variables. Brandon Mills stated that the town also bills bi-monthly. Ms. Cormier asked when the Quarterdecks were last flushed and Brandon Mills stated that it was flushed in September. Ms. Cormier thanked the town for all the work they are doing and for being proactive.

The Town Manager referred to the GANTT Chart for the water treatment plant project, which was displayed in the room and stated that the town is at step 14 of 60. He stated that once step 14 is completed the other steps should move faster and the target date for completion is July 19, 2029. The Mayor stated that the town is looking for more grants to help fund the project so that less loans would be needed.

Tim Fitch stated that his water has been cloudy for a few days. Brandon Mills stated that it could be related to the mechanical failure over the weekend and that they will check it out.

Councilman Weaver then turned the meeting over to the Mayor. The Mayor thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Councilwoman Benton also thanked everyone and stated that if anyone has any water problems they should reach out to the town, not social media.

**ADJOURNMENT/RECESS**

There being no further business, *Councilwoman Noonan moved to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

  
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Kristie J. Nobles, MMC, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## Town of River Bend

### RESOLUTION BY GOVERNING BODY OF APPLICANT

**WHEREAS,** the North Carolina Clean Water Revolving Loan and Grant Act of 1987 has authorized the making of loans and grants to aid eligible units of government in financing the cost of construction of wastewater treatment works, wastewater collection systems, and water supply systems, water conservation projects, and

**WHEREAS,** the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality has offered a State Revolving Loan and/or, State Grant in the amount of \$16,704,145 for the construction of Water Treatment Improvements & Water Supply Wells and Drinking Water Improvements – Phase II, and

**WHEREAS,** the Town of River Bend intends to construct said project in accordance with the approved plans and specifications,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF RIVER BEND.**

That the Town of River Bend does hereby accept the State Revolving Loan and/or State Grant offer of \$16,704,145.

That the Town of River Bend does hereby give assurance to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality that all items specified in the loan or grant offer, Section II - Assurances will be adhered to.

That Delane Jackson, Town Manager and successors so titled, is hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information as the appropriate State agency may request in connection with such application or the project; to make the assurances as contained above; and to execute such other documents as may be required in connection with the application.

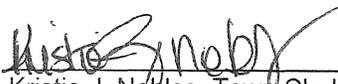
That the Town of River Bend has substantially complied or will substantially comply with all Federal, State and local laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances applicable to the project and to Federal and State grants and loans pertaining thereto.

Adopted this on the 20th day of January, 2026 at River Bend, North Carolina.



ATTEST:

  
Mark Bledsoe, Mayor

  
Kristie J. Nobles, Town Clerk, MMC