

**River Bend Town Council  
Work Session Minutes  
October 9, 2025  
Town Hall  
5:00 p.m.**

|                          |                                                                                       |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Present Council Members: | Mayor Mark Bledsoe<br>Lisa Benton<br>Brian Leonard<br>Kathy Noonan<br>Buddy Sheffield |
| Absent Council Member:   | Jeff Weaver                                                                           |
| Town Manager:            | Delane Jackson                                                                        |
| Town Attorney:           | Trey Ferguson                                                                         |
| Town Clerk:              | Kristie Nobles                                                                        |
| Police Chief:            | Sean Joll                                                                             |

Members of the Public Present: 5

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Bledsoe called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 9, 2025, at the River Bend Town Hall with a quorum present.

**VOTE –Deletion of the Agenda**

*Councilman Sheffield motioned to delete item #5 from the agenda. The motion was tied with 2 ayes (Sheffield, Noonan) and 2 nays (Leonard, Benton). The mayor abstained from voting, with no majority vote the motion failed.*

At this time Councilman Sheffield withdrew his motion.

*Councilman Sheffield motioned to move item #5 to next week's agenda. The motion carried unanimously.*

**VOTE – Approval of Agenda**

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

**Discussion – Water Resources Department Policy Manual Amendments / Deposit, Other**

The Town Manager stated that the Town's current water and sewer deposit rates are \$150 for new water and sewer customers and \$50 for new water only customers. He stated that there is not a deposit required for new owners. He stated that the town has lost an average of \$145,124 over the past three years in revenue from uncollected utility billing. He also stated that on grant applications information is often requested regarding the town's collection rate, although it does not affect the points system at this time. He proposed that the town increase the deposit amount for new tenants and owners. He asked the Council to review his proposal and vote on it at the next meeting.

**Discussion – Notary Public Service Guidelines**

The Town Manager reviewed the current Notary Public service procedure, stating that the clerks at Town Hall currently provide notary services to residents, with residents receiving one free notary stamp. He stated that the town currently pays for the notary certification for the clerks

and the town receives any fees that the residents pay beyond that free stamp. He proposed a revised policy, which the notaries will pay for their certification and any fees needed to keep the certification and the notaries will also collect all fees that are paid for notary services, with no free notary services for residents anymore. He stated that in return the town will receive free notary work for official town documents. He stated he has consulted with the Town Attorney, and he agrees with the proposed changes. He stated that the Council can vote on this change at next week's meeting.

#### **Discussion – July 4, 2026, Event**

Councilwoman Benton stated that she wanted to discuss the July 4, 2026, event since she was absent at the prior meeting where this event was discussed. She stated that she understands that the event has been scheduled for July 3 and it would be the normal traditional Town of River Bend event. The Mayor confirmed that. She stated that based on the event from the previous year she is concerned about spending money on an event that may have a very low turnout. She stated that even though July 3 is a federal holiday, there will still be a lot of people working, which will affect the attendance. She suggested that the town use the money elsewhere and not hold the event. Councilman Leonard stated that he would like to make the event special and invite all the previous council members and recognize them. Councilman Sheffield stated that he felt the event should be held after 5:00 p.m. Councilwoman Benton agreed. The Town Manager stated he advocates for the town staff and if it is held at the regular time in the morning, the staff can be done with the event by midafternoon, but if it is held at 5:00 p.m., the staff will be working on Friday night. He stated that this is a Council event and that staff is aware that this event is included in their job regardless of what time the event is held. Councilwoman Benton stated that she wished there was a way that the event could take place and the staff not be involved, maybe with just volunteers. Councilwoman Noonan stated that she had an idea of doing the normal event in the morning and then maybe a movie in the evening. Councilwoman Benton stated that there is still some time to determine the details of this event.

#### **REVIEW – Agenda for the October 16, 2025, Council Meeting**

The Council reviewed the agenda for the October 16, 2025, Council Meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT/RECESS**

There being no further business, *Councilman Sheffield moved to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.



Kristie J. Nobles, MMC, NCCMC  
Town Clerk