

**River Bend Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2025
Town Hall
5:00 p.m.**

Present Council Members: Buddy Sheffield – Mayor Pro Tempore
Brian Leonard
Kathy Noonan
Lisa Benton
Jeff Weaver

Absent Council Member: Mayor Mark Bledsoe

Town Manager: Delane Jackson
Finance Director: Mandy Gilbert
Police Chief: Sean Joll
Town Clerk: Kristie Nobles
Town Attorney: David Baxter

Members of the Public Present: 12

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tempore Sheffield called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at the River Bend Town Hall with a quorum present, followed by invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

VOTE – Addition to the Agenda

Councilwoman Benton motioned to amend the agenda by adding Item # 10B as CAC Appointments. The motion carried unanimously.

VOTE – Approval of Agenda

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

James Myers – 111 Portside Lane – addressed the Council regarding the brown water that he gets at his home. He stated that he had met with Councilman Weaver and Councilwoman Noonan along with a group of residents that have the same issues as him. He stated that the Council did not care about the issue. He also asked when the Council was going to be proactive on this issue.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Mayor Pro Tempore presented the Council with the Consent Agenda. *Councilwoman Noonan moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.* Within this motion, the following items were approved:

A. Approve:

*Minutes of October 9, 2025, Work Council Meeting
Minutes of October 16, 2025, Regular Council Meeting*

At this time, Chief Joll recognized Corporal DeVaughn for performing lifesaving actions that saved the life of a River Bend resident. He was presented with a Life Saving Commendation for his exemplary actions.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

The Manager gave the following updates:

- The Town's Annual Food Drive and Toys for Tots collection has begun.
- The Wastewater Treatment Plant Project has begun, and the kayak launch is closed until further notice. Saltwater Grill at 1 Marina Road is allowing kayaks to launch free of charge.
- The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program application for new water wells has advanced to the next stage and is one of only 83 applications out of 326 which were selected to advance.
- The December Council meetings are earlier in the month due to the holidays.
- A \$3,200,000 grant application has been submitted to NCDOT for bike / pedestrian paths.
- A \$1,600,000 grant application for a new water well has been submitted to NC Division of Emergency Management.
- A \$350,000 grant application for stormwater engineering has been submitted to NC Division of Emergency Management.

At this time the Manager presented a PowerPoint presentation along with a Gantt Chart detailing the proposed project timeline of the Water Treatment Plant and Wells Project. He stated that the chart will be posted in Town Hall and will be updated as the project continues.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION – Councilwoman Benton

Councilwoman Benton stated that CAC met on November 19 and Brenda Hall was elected as chair, MaryAnne Taylor was elected as co-chair and Pat Lineback was elected as secretary. She stated that the board has 589.5 volunteer hours in the fiscal year 2025-2026. She stated that the Holley Trolley event will be held on December 19. The board also recommends to Council the appointment of two applicants, Jon Hall and Jackie Herbst.

VOTE - CAC APPOINTMENTS

Councilman Benton motioned to appoint Jackie Herbst and Jon Hall to the Community Appearance Commission with a term beginning November 20, 2025 and ending on June 30, 2027. The motion carried unanimously.

ENVIRONMENTAL & WATERWAYS – Councilman Leonard

Councilman Leonard provided the following report from the November meeting. Chairman Hall called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. There was a quorum of members present. There were no visitors. The minutes for the October 6th, 2025, meeting were approved. Old Business: Fishing line recycling containers have been installed, and people have been using them. Discussion about having a canal clear up in conjunction with local Scouts, P&R, and CAC. There is still one vacancy on EWAB. New Business: No new business. Councilman Leonard gave a council updated and answered members questions Volunteer Hours: 19 The December 2025 and January 2026 meetings are canceled. The next meeting will be on February 2nd, 2026, at 7 PM in the small conference room in the municipal building. The public is welcome to attend. The meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM.

PLANNING BOARD – Councilman Sheffield

Councilman Sheffield provided the following report from the November meeting. The regular meeting of the River Bend Planning Board was held on Nov. 6th at 6:00pm in the Municipal Building. A quorum was present. Chairman Lippert called the meeting to order. There was no public comment. The usual reports were given. All in attendance applauded the return of Brandon Mills to his post as Public Works director for River Bend. The first item for discussion was the proposed change to the town's fence ordinance to allow fences on side streets on corner

lots. After much discussion the board voted unanimously not to recommend the proposed changes for action by the Council. There was then discussion of lot coverage. The board voted to approve the lot coverage figures as presented. Under new business, Chairman Lippert asked for nominations to fill a vacancy on the board. Richard Taylor was nominated and the board voted unanimously to recommend his appointment to the Town Council. Vice Chairman, Kohn wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting scheduled is set for Dec. 4th. As is always the case, interested citizens are welcome to attend.

PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilwoman Noonan

Councilwoman Noonan stated that Community Watch did not meet in November, but they are assisting with the town's annual Christmas tree lighting on December 5.

PARKS & RECREATION – Councilman Weaver

Councilman Weaver gave the following report:

- P&R held a Fall Festival mid-October in concert with the Red Caboose Community Library's Arts & Crafts Fair. It was well attended and a great opportunity to work with the Library.
- Trunk or Tent in partnership with the Police Department and Rhems Fire Department was successful with over 175 kids served. Not many residents took advantage of the opportunity to hand out candy, but given low Halloween traffic in other areas of River Bend, another combined event will be planned for next year which may encourage more participation.
- Joe Baes, a River Bend resident, volunteered to hold a Disc Golf lesson this Saturday at 10 AM, sponsored by Parks & Rec.
- Friendsgiving was cancelled due to lack of interest and participation from the community.
- The Holiday Tree Lighting & Celebration is scheduled for Friday, December 5 at 6 PM. P&R is again working with the Red Caboose Library who will be gifting books. Santa and Mrs. Claus will welcome children into their workshop. There will also be crafts, cocoa and cookie decorating. We encourage residents to join this annual tradition.

RIVER BEND COMMUNITY ORGANIC GARDEN

Councilman Weaver gave the following report:

Good volunteer attendance made it possible to accomplish fall planting and other end of season tasks. The fall crop harvest has been successful so far. Most of the plants will produce throughout the winter. The harvest weight for October was 110 pounds. Harvest total to date is 2807 pounds. 136 work and administrative hours were recorded for October. Year-to-date work hours are 1307. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 1st at 1:30 pm in the Municipal building. Guests are always welcome at the meetings and in the garden.

FINANCE – Councilman Leonard

Financial Report – Finance Director, Mandy Gilbert, presented the financial statement for the month of October to the Council. She stated the total of the Town's Cash and Investments as of October 31, 2025, were \$2,589,032 and Ad Valorem Tax Collections for FY25-26 were \$140,206 and Vehicle Ad Valorem Tax Collections were \$33,151.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, *Councilman Sheffield moved to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.* The meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.


Kristie J. Nobles, MMC
Town Clerk