

**River Bend Town Council
Work Session Minutes
March 12, 2026
Town Hall
5:00 p.m.**

Present Council Members: Mayor Mark Bledsoe
Buddy Sheffield
Lisa Benton
Brian Leonard
Kathy Noonan
Jeff Weaver

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

Members of the Public Present: 5

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bledsoe called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 12, 2026, at the River Bend Town Hall with a quorum present.

VOTE – Approval of Agenda

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

VOTE – Surplus Property Resolution for Truck

The Town Manager stated that there is a 2014 Ford F250 truck in the public works fleet that has been replaced with a new truck earlier this year. He recommended that the Council declare the 2014 Ford F250 as surplus, which would allow the truck to be auctioned in the normal process on GovDeals.

Councilwoman Benton motioned to approve the Surplus Property Resolution as presented. The motion carried unanimously. (see attached)

VOTE – Surplus Property Resolution for Land

The Town Manager stated that the town owns a lot at 111 Starboard Drive. He stated that there has been an inquiry about purchasing the property, if the Council wants to sale it. He stated that the town had previously tried to sale the property by accepted bids and the Council rejected the bids based on the amount that was bid. After a brief discussion among Council, it was agreed to sale the property by accepting sealed bids and to set the minimum bid amount of \$18,000.

Councilwoman Noonan motioned to approve the Surplus Real Property Resolution with a minimum bid of \$18,000 as amended. The motion carried unanimously. (see attached)

VOTE – Accept Flood Mitigation Grant Resolution

The Town Manager stated that the town has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$1,610,000 to build a new water well. He stated that the attached resolution is a requirement for the town to receive the funds.

Councilman Sheffield motioned to approve the Flood Mitigation Grant Resolution as presented. The motion carried unanimously. (see attached)

VOTE – Revised Budget Workshop Schedule

The Town Manager stated that there is a conflict with the budget workshop scheduled for May 12. He stated that the Public Works Director would be at training on that date, and he suggested that the Council move that workshop to May 11.

Councilman Leonard motioned to amend the budget workshop schedule by moving Session 3 to May 11 at 4:00 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion – Update on Special Meeting for Water Treatment Project

The Town Manager stated that there will be a Special Meeting on Thursday, March 19 at 4:00 p.m. to inform the public about the upcoming Water Treatment Improvements Project and to conduct a public hearing to gather public input on the project.

Discussion – Craven County Metropolitan Planning Organization Memorandum of Understanding

The Town Manager stated that the town is currently a member of the New Bern Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and he serves as vice-chair of the Technical Coordinating Committee and the Mayor is a member of the Transportation Advisory Committee. He stated that the New Bern MPO is disbanding and creating the Craven County MPO which will expand the membership area. He stated that they have requested that all members approve the presented memorandum of understanding.

Discussion – Craven-Pamlico Regional Library Funding Request

Councilman Leonard stated that the Craven-Pamlico Regional Library had requested funding last year, but the Council did not take action. He stated that the library has requested funding again for this upcoming year. He stated that he would like the Council to fund the library this year and in the upcoming years. Councilman Weaver stated that he agreed and ask if there is a way to automatically fund it every year going forward. The Town Manager stated that it can be added to the budget this upcoming budget season, if the Council agreed and it will be funded like the other organizations. Councilman Leonard stated that the Council has discretionary funds that could fund it this year and moving forward it could be added in the budget.

Councilman Leonard motioned to use this year's discretionary funds to fund \$3,000 towards the Craven-Pamlico Regional Library. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion – Comprehensive Plan Update

The Town Manager stated that the Planning Board has completed the recommended changes to the Comprehensive Plan. He stated that there were major revisions and the public hearing is scheduled for April 16 at 5:00 during the regular council meeting.

Discussion – Independence Day Celebration Plan

The Town Manager stated that that Council had previously agreed to hold the Independence Day celebration on Friday, July 3. He stated that the event is quickly approaching and there are some details that the Council needs to decide on. Councilwoman Benton asked the Town Manager about his conversation with the River Bend Country Club Manager. The Town Manager stated that he and Councilwoman Benton had a conversation regarding having the event on July 4 and that she had reached out to the country club regarding coordinating a shared event. He stated that he had a conversation with the general manager at the country club regarding hosting the event at the country club. Manager Jackson stated that at this point the general manager was not committal to doing anything at his facility, but he is receptive and would think about it.

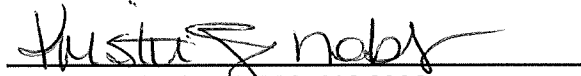
After a discussion among the Council they instructed the Town Manager to get more information from the manager of the country club regarding the event and to allow the Town Manager to discuss compensation for the event with the general manager of the club. He stated he would get details and present it to the Council at the next meeting for a vote.

REVIEW – Agenda for the March 19, 2026, Council Meeting

The Council reviewed the agenda for the March 19, 2026, Council Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT/RECESS

There being no further business, *Councilman Weaver moved to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m.



Kristie J. Nobles, MMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk

Resolution Declaring Surplus Property and Authorizing Sale of General Fund Vehicle

WHEREAS, the Town of River Bend desires to dispose of certain surplus property of the Town;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of River Bend that:

1. The following described property is hereby declared to be surplus to the needs of the Town:


**2014 Ford F150
VIN: 1FTBF2B67EEA55169**

2. The Town Manager is authorized and directed to receive, on behalf of the Town Council, bids for the purchase of the property described above and shall establish a time and date by which all bids must be received. He is also authorized to employ the action method he deems most advantageous to the Town.

3. The Town Clerk shall cause a notice of this sale to be posted on the town's webpage and on the town's bulletin board. The Town shall retain the right to reject any and all bids.

Adopted this 12th day of March, 2026





Mark Bledsoe
Mayor

Attest:



Kristie Nobles, Clerk

Resolution Declaring Surplus Property and Authorizing Sale of Real Property

WHEREAS, the Town of River Bend desires to dispose of certain surplus real property of the Town;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of River Bend that:

1. The following described property is hereby declared to be surplus to the needs of the Town:

**.351 acre of land located at 111 Starboard Drive
described by Craven County PIN 8-073-D-162 and recorded
in the Craven County Office of Register of Deeds at page 1276 in Book 3740**


2. The Town Manager is authorized and directed to receive, on behalf of the Town Council, sealed bids for the purchase of the property described above and shall conduct the sealed bid process in accordance with NCGS 160A-268.

3. The Town shall retain the right to reject any and all bids.

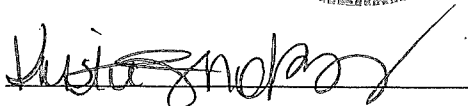
4. The minimum bid amount is \$18,000.

Adopted this 12th day of March, 2026




Mark Bledsoe, Mayor

Attest:



Kristie J. Nobles, Town Clerk, MMC

Town of River Bend Resolution

Whereas, North Carolina Emergency Management has authorized the making of grants to aid eligible units of government to facilitate flood mitigation efforts, and

Whereas, North Carolina Emergency Management has offered a 2025 Disaster Relief and Mitigation Fund-Hurricane Helene Flood Mitigation Grant in the amount of \$1,610,000 for the construction of a new well, and

Whereas, the Town of River Bend intends to complete said project in accordance with the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement #NCEM-DRMG2512, provided by the grantor,

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 grant offer of \$1,610,000.

That the Town of River Bend does accept the Memorandum of Agreement from the North Carolina Department of Emergency Management and authorizes the Mayor to execute the MOA.

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

Adopted this the 12th day of March, 2026 at River Bend, North Carolina



ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristie J. Nobles", written over a horizontal line.

Kristie J. Nobles, Town Clerk, CMC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Bledsoe", written over a horizontal line.

Mark Bledsoe, Mayor