

**River Bend Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2026
Town Hall
5:00 p.m.**

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

Absent Council Member: Jeff Weaver

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: 15

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bledsoe called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 18, 2026, at the River Bend Town Hall with a quorum present, followed by invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

RECOGNITION OF NEW RESIDENTS

None

Councilman Leonard stated that Councilman Weaver has had an emergency and will not be at this meeting. He stated that the Council was supposed to vote on the budget, and that vote needs the entire Council present so he would like to remove item 10B, vote on the budget ordinance. He stated that the Council will call a Special Meeting prior to the end of the month so they can vote on the budget ordinance with the entire Council present.

VOTE – Deletion to the Agenda

Councilwoman Benton motioned to amend the agenda by removing item 10B, to vote on the budget today. The motion carried unanimously.

VOTE – Approval of Agenda

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

ADDRESSES TO THE COUNCIL

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Victoria Stuppy – 298 Shoreline Drive – she asked that the Council have a vision for River Bend that goes beyond the immediate. She stated that amenities and infrastructure have to be planned for and a part of a larger vision that needs courage from the town's leaders to maintain the town to see it grow and thrive.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

CONSENT AGENDA

The Mayor 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 May 14, 2026 Work Council Meeting

Minutes of May 21, 2026 Regular Council Meeting

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

The Town Manager presented a PowerPoint slide show which summarized the proposed FY26-27 budget.

The Manager gave the following updates:

- Special Meeting next week for a vote on budget, Council will determine date at a later time and it will be advertised.
- The July Work Session has been canceled.
- The amendment to the permit for the Pilot Program for water treatment has been approved.
- Funding of the pilot test well for the new Water Treatment Plant has been approved.
- Hurricane season is officially here and there is a memo included in the agenda package and posted on the town's webpage.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

FINANCE – Councilman Leonard

Financial Report – Finance Director, Mandy Gilbert, presented the financial statement for the month of May to the Council. She stated the total of the Town's Cash and Investments as of May 31, 2026, were \$2,772,271 and Ad Valorem Tax Collections for FY25-26 were \$1,157,645 and Vehicle Ad Valorem Tax Collections were \$109,341.

VOTE – Wastewater Treatment Plant Capital Project Fund Ordinance

Councilman Leonard motioned to approve the Wastewater Treatment Plant Capital Project Fund Ordinance as presented. The motion carried unanimously. (see attached)

CAC – Councilwoman Benton

Councilwoman Benton gave the following report:

The Community Appearance Commission met on May 20th and was called to order at 4:03 PM with a quorum present. Members in attendance were Chairperson Brenda Hall, Pat Lineback, Jackie Herbst, Jon Hall, and Steve Sarg, with guest Barbara Maurer. On the garden front, Jackie has put in a lot of hours weeding and cleaning up the sidewalk gardens, raised beds, and the Veteran's Memorial Garden, and everything is looking great. Brenda and Jackie are now working on a regular caretaker schedule. The Commission also finished reviewing and updating the Festive Award Program documentation. They made one wording change — replacing "Home" with "Residence" — and approved the revised form. Pat will be designing a new logo to use across all CAC materials going forward. On the programs side, both the Fall and Christmas Festive Awards are moving along fine and don't require any action from Council at this time. Work also continues on moving CAC program supplies into the new storage room and getting it organized; Jon plans to follow up on that project this fall. On the events side, Arbor Day with the CAC and

EWAB went well this year. The bird houses and bat houses used for the event are left over and can be reused next year, and the Commission intends to keep partnering with the Scouts on that project. Looking ahead to the Fall Festive Award, the Commission is exploring a hayride-style town tour so residents can view the Fall and Halloween nominees and winners. Jon Hall is following up with Simply Natural about a possible vehicle for that. The Commission also discussed two upcoming workshops — a Christmas globe workshop and a crab-pot luminary workshop — both proceeding as planned with no action needed from Council. On the budget side, the Commission is still waiting on the final FY 26-27 numbers and plans to put any remaining funds toward workshop supplies. They're also continuing to recruit volunteers, mainly through the workshops they host. One scheduling note for Council: The Commission voted to cancel their July meeting and instead hold a Special Meeting on Wednesday, August 19th. The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 PM.

VOTE – Advisory Board Appointments

Councilwoman Benton motioned to reappoint Brenda Hall, Steven Sarg & Pat Lineback to terms beginning July 1, 2026, & ending on June 30, 2028. The motion carried unanimously.

ENVIRONMENTAL & WATERWAYS – Councilman Leonard

Councilman Leonard stated that the May meeting was canceled but the board is in need of volunteers.

VOTE – FY26-27 Leaf and Limb Schedule

Councilman Leonard motioned to approve the FY26-27 Leaf and Limb Schedule as presented. The motion carried unanimously. (see attached)

VOTE – Advisory Board Appointments

Councilman Leonard motioned to reappoint Patty Leonard to a term beginning July 1, 2026, & ending on June 30, 2028. The motion carried unanimously.

PLANNING BOARD – Councilman Sheffield

Councilman Sheffield stated that the May meeting was canceled.

VOTE – Advisory Board Appointments

Councilman Sheffield motioned to reappoint Robert Kohn and Linda Cummings to terms beginning July 1, 2026, & ending on June 30, 2028. The motion carried unanimously.

At this time, Councilman Sheffield thanked Egon Lippert for his many years of volunteering on the Planning Board. He stated that Mr. Lippert wished to not be reappointed at this time.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT – Councilman Sheffield

VOTE – Advisory Board Appointments

Councilman Sheffield motioned to reappoint Patty Leonard, Chris Barta and David Zinni to terms beginning July 1, 2026, & ending on June 30, 2028. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilwoman Noonan

Councilwoman Noonan stated that the June 17 Community Watch meeting was been moved to 6:30 pm, June 24, 2026.

PARKS & RECREATION – Councilwoman Noonan for Councilman Weaver

Councilwoman Noonan gave the following updates:

Parks and Recreation has planned and executed 12 events / activities during the 2025-2026 fiscal year. Activities for FY26-27 will be scaled back due to the lack of volunteers for the board as Parks and Recreation only has three members at this time.

RIVER BEND COMMUNITY ORGANIC GARDEN

Councilman Weaver gave the following report:

All the crops have been planted. Gardeners worked 129 hours in May. This is a good time for visitors. All the garden areas are thriving, and it isn't too hot to walk around. The Swap-a-Plant space is open. Anyone may take a plant or drop off a plant in the designated area. The next meeting is scheduled for July 6th at 1:30 pm. Guests are always welcome at the meetings and in the garden.

VOTE – Advisory Board Appointments

Councilwoman Noonan motioned to reappoint Victoria Stuppy to a term beginning July 1, 2026, & ending on June 30, 2028. The motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

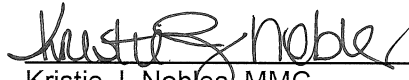
Councilman Sheffield motioned to go into Closed Session under NCSG §143-318.11(a)(3). The Council entered Closed Session at 5:55 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Councilman Sheffield motioned to return to Open Session at 6:18 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilman Sheffield moved to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.



Kristie J. Nobles, MMC
Town Clerk



**TOWN OF RIVER BEND
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT CAPITAL PROJECT FUND ORDINANCE
AMENDMENT #5**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Town of River Bend, North Carolina, that the Wastewater Treatment Plant Capital Project Fund Ordinance as last amended on May 15, 2025, be amended as follows:

Section 1. The following amounts are hereby appropriated for the operation of a Town Capital Project Fund for the enhancement of the Wastewater Treatment Plant:

CAPITAL PROJECT FUND

Revenues:

State Fiscal Recovery Fund Grant	9,108,500
State Direct Appropriation	5,112,650
Clean Water State Revolving Loan	10,244,000
Clean Water State Revolving Loan Principal Forgiveness	3,000,000
	27,465,150

Expenditures:

Wetlands Mitigation	54,000
Engineering/Administration	1,592,000
Construction	24,802,800
Contingencies	1,016,350
	27,465,150

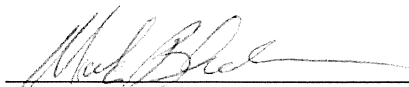
Section 2. It is estimated that revenues in the amounts indicated in the foregoing schedule will be available to support the foregoing appropriations.

Section 3. The Finance Officer is hereby authorized to maintain an appropriate Fund Chart of Accounts.

Section 4. Copies of this 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.

Section 5. The capital projects funds are appropriated pursuant to section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina; therefore, appropriations do not lapse at the end of the fiscal year and are available for the duration of the project, estimated to be eighteen months, unless subsequently amended by Council action.

Adopted this 18th day of June, 2026.



Mark Bledsoe, Mayor

Attest:



Kristie J. Nobles, Town Clerk, MMC, NCCMC

