

**River Bend Town Council
Special Session Minutes
June 23, 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
Deputy Clerk: Jennifer Barrow

Members of the Public Present: 11

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bledsoe called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 23, 2026, at the River Bend Town Hall with a quorum present.

VOTE – FY26-27 Proposed Budget Ordinance

Councilman Leonard motioned to adopt the Fiscal Year 26-27 Budget Ordinance and Schedule of Fees and Rates as presented. The motion passed with 3 ayes and 2 nays (Sheffield and Benton voting nay). (see attached)

Councilman Leonard thanked the staff for their work on the budget and the community for reaching out with their comments. Councilman Sheffield stated that he does not support a tax increase. Councilwoman Benton agreed. Councilman Sheffield stated that the Town Manager did not ask for a tax increase and he does a great job managing the finances of the town. Councilwoman Benton stated that the general fund is rebuilding itself and the town will have a \$159,000 surplus at the end of this budget season. She stated that raising taxes at this time does not make sense to her. Councilman Weaver asked the Town Manager if the money Councilwoman Benton is referring to is a true surplus or just appropriated funds from the general fund. The Town Manager stated that it is too early to tell at this time, but that projection would not be a true surplus. Councilwoman Benton asked if that it is too early to tell, and the Town Manager answered yes.

ADJOURNMENT/RECESS

There being no further business, *Councilman Weaver moved to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.



Jennifer Barrow
Deputy Clerk



**TOWN OF RIVER BEND
ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET ORDINANCE
FISCAL YEAR 2026 - 2027**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Town of River Bend, North Carolina that the following anticipated fund revenues and departmental expenditures, together with certain fees and schedules, and with certain restrictions and authorizations, are hereby appropriated and approved for the operation of the Town government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027:

Summary

General Fund	2,995,400
General Capital Reserve Fund	229,425
Law Enforcement Separation Allowance Fund	1,100
Water Fund	744,500
Water Capital Reserve Fund	25,850
Sewer Fund	802,700
Sewer Capital Reserve Fund	36,250
Total	4,835,225

Section 1. General Fund

Anticipated Revenues

AD VALOREM Taxes 2026-2027	1,254,048
AD VALOREM Tax-Motor Vehicle	153,000
Vehicle Registration Fee	30,800
Animal Licenses	1,500
Sales Tax 1% Article 39	242,305
Sales Tax 1/2% Article 40	143,922
Sales Tax 1/2% Article 42	120,990
Sales Tax Article 44	17,861
Sales Tax Hold Harmless Distribution	135,612
Solid Waste Disposal Tax	2,200
Powell Bill Allocation	108,000
Beer and Wine Tax	13,625
Video Programming Sales Tax	39,333
Utilities Franchise Tax	134,899
Telecommunications Sales Tax	6,803
Court Refunds	500
Zoning Permits	5,000
Miscellaneous	9,000
Interest- Powell Bill Investments	5
Interest-General Fund Investments	40,784
Contributions	900
Wildwood Storage Rents	17,395
Rents & Concessions	18,000
Sales Tax	11,365
Sale of Capital Assets	12,057
Transfer From Capital Reserve Fund	176,500
Appropriated Fund Balance	298,996
Total	2,995,400

Section 1. **General Fund (continued)**

Authorized Expenditures

Governing Body	72,500
Administration	411,800
Finance	165,900
Tax Listing	25,600
Legal Services	42,000
Elections	700
Police	885,900
Public Buildings	74,000
Emergency Services	5,400
Street Maintenance	324,700
Public Works	298,500
Leaf & Limb and Solid Waste	98,200
Stormwater Management	94,500
Wetlands and Waterways	3,000
Planning & Zoning	64,700
Recreation & Special Events	15,200
Parks & Community Appearance	160,500
Contingency	27,400
Transfer To General Capital Reserve Fund	224,900
Transfer To L.E.S.A. Fund	0
Total	<u>2,995,400</u>

Section 2. **General Capital Reserve Fund**

Anticipated Revenues

Contributions from General Fund	224,900
Interest Revenue	<u>4,525</u>
Total	<u>229,425</u>

Authorized Expenditures

Transfer to General Fund	176,500
Future Procurement	<u>52,925</u>
Total	<u>229,425</u>

Section 3. **Law Enforcement Separation Allowance Fund**

Anticipated Revenues:

Contributions from General Fund	0
Interest Revenue	<u>1,100</u>
Total	<u>1,100</u>

Authorized Expenditures:

Separation Allowance	0
Future LEOSSA Payments	<u>1,100</u>
Total	<u>1,100</u>

Section 4. **Water Fund**

Anticipated Revenues

Utility Usage Charges, Classes 1 & 2	197,293
Utility Usage Charges, Classes 3 & 4	20,555
Utility Usage Charges, Class 5	11,702
Utility Usage Charges, Class 8	4,963
Utility Customer Base Charges	283,901
Availability Fee	17,751
Taps & Connections Fees	2,500
Nonpayment Fees	10,500
Late payment Fees	7,775
Interest Revenue	14,360
Sales Tax	4,500
Sale of Capital Asset	0
Transfer from Capital Reserve Fund	25,000
Appropriated Fund Balance	143,700
Total	744,500

Authorized Expenditures

Administration & Finance [1]	550,700
Operations and Maintenance	168,300
Transfer To Fund Balance for Capital Outlay	0
Transfer To Water Capital Reserve Fund	25,500
Total	744,500

[1] Portion of department for bond debt service: 129,888

Section 5. **Water Capital Reserve Fund**

Anticipated Revenues

Contributions From Water Operations Fund	25,500
Interest Revenue	350
Appropriated Fund Balance	0
Total	25,850

Authorized Expenditures

Transfer to Water Operations Fund	25,000
Future Expansion & Debt Service	850
Total	25,850

Section 6. **Sewer Fund**

Anticipated Revenues:

Utility Usage Charges, Classes 1 & 2	252,284
Utility Usage Charges, Classes 3 & 4	36,577
Utility Usage Charges, Class 5	28,839
Utility Usage Charges, Class 8	9,812
Utility Customer Base Charges	299,115
Taps & Connection Fees	1,250
Late payment Fees	8,146
Interest Revenue	23,985
Sales Tax	3,992
Sale of Capital Asset	0
Transfer from Sewer Capital Reserve	17,000
Appropriated Fund Balance	121,700
Total	802,700

Authorized Expenditures:

Administration & Finance [2]	559,000
Operations and Maintenance	208,200
Transfer to Fund Balance for Capital Outlay	0
Transfer to Sewer Capital Reserve Fund	35,500
Total	802,700

[2] Portion of department for bond debt service: 112,162

Section 7. **Sewer Capital Reserve**

Anticipated Revenues:

Contributions From Sewer Operations Fund	35,500
Interest Revenue	750
Total	36,250

Authorized Expenditures:

Transfer to Sewer Operations Fund	17,000
Future Expansion & Debt Service	19,250
Total	36,250

Section 8. **Levy of Taxes**

There is hereby levied a tax at the rate of thirty cents (\$0.30) per one hundred dollars (\$100) valuation of property as listed for taxes as of January 1, 2026, for the purpose of raising the revenue listed as "Ad Valorem Taxes 2026-2027" in the General Fund Section 1 of this ordinance. This rate is based on a valuation of \$419,400,000 for purposes of taxation of real and personal property with an estimated rate of collection of 99.67%. The estimated collection rate is based on the fiscal year 2024-2025 collection rate of 99.67% by Craven County who has been contracted to collect real and personal property taxes for the Town of River Bend. Also included is a valuation of \$51,000,000 for purposes of taxation of motor vehicles with a collection rate of 100% by the North Carolina Vehicle Tax System.

Section 9. **Fees and Charges**

There is hereby established, for Fiscal Year 2026-2027, various fees and charges as contained in Attachment A of this document.

Section 10. **Special Authorization of the Budget Officer**

- A. The Budget Officer shall be authorized to reallocate any appropriations within departments.
- B. The Budget Officer shall be authorized to execute interfund and interdepartmental transfers in emergency situations. Notification of all such transfers shall be made to the Town Council at its next meeting following the transfer.
- C. The Budget Officer shall be authorized to execute interdepartmental transfers in the same fund, including contingency appropriations, not to exceed \$5,000. Notification of all such transfers shall be made to the Town Council at its next meeting following the transfer.

Section 11. **Classification and Pay Plan**

Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for all Town employees shall be 2.2% and shall begin the first payroll in the new fiscal year. The Town Manager is hereby authorized to grant merit increases to Town employees, when earned, per the approved Pay Plan.

Section 12. **Utilization of the Budget Ordinance**

This ordinance shall be the basis of the financial plan for the Town of River Bend municipal government during the 2026-2027 fiscal year. The Budget Officer shall administer the Annual Operating Budget and shall ensure the operating staff and officials are provided with guidance and sufficient details to implement their appropriate portion of the budget.

Section 13. **Copies of this Budget Ordinance**

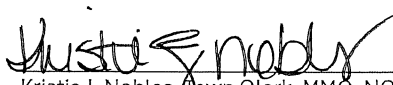
Copies of this Budget Ordinance shall be furnished to the Clerk, Town Council, Budget Officer and Finance Officer to be kept on file by them for their direction in the disbursement of funds.

Adopted this 23rd day of June, 2026.

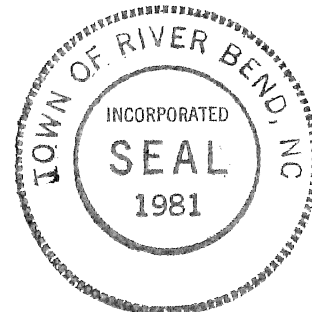


Mark Bledsoe, Mayor

Attest:



Kristie J. Nobles, Town Clerk, MMC, NCCMC



**Town of River Bend
Schedule of Rates and Fees
(Attachment A to Budget Ordinance)
Effective July 1, 2026**

Amounts due are based upon the Fees and Charges Schedule in effect at the time of payment. It is the Town Council's intention that the Fees and Charges Schedule be revised as needed by July 1st of each year. Some fees and charges may be adjusted during the year as circumstances change.

GENERAL FUND

Administrative

Ad Valorem Tax	\$.30 per \$100 assessed valuation
Copies of Public Information	As specified by State Statute
Town Code, entire copy	\$75.00
Meeting Rooms	As specified in Building Use Policy
Returned Check Processing Charge	\$25, as allowed by G.S. §25-3-506
Administrative Fee for returned bank drafts	\$25.00

Public Safety

Pet License Fee	\$10.00
Golf Cart Registration Fee	\$10.00
Vehicle Registration Fee	\$10.00

Nuisance Abatement Administrative Fee

<u>Cost of Abatement</u>	<u>Fee</u>
\$1 – 1,000	\$50.00
\$1,001 – and up	5% of total abatement cost (maximum fee \$2,000)

Planning and Zoning

Special Exception Use Permit	\$200 plus cost of required legal advertisement and postage to notify abutting landowners
Variance	\$200 plus cost of required legal advertisement and postage to notify abutting landowners
Appeal to Board of Adjustment	\$200 plus cost of required legal advertisement and postage to notify abutting landowners
Residential Application	Based on amount of project as follows:
Base Fee	\$30
	\$2 for every \$1,000 of project value after first \$1,000 and up to \$100,000; plus, \$1 for every \$1,000 above \$100,000 (All values rounded up to nearest \$1,000)

Zoning Administrator can use any appropriate means to verify project valuation.

Residential Flood Plain Application with Zoning Permit

40% of the fee for the Town's residential zoning permit and shall be additional to the zoning permit fee for enclosed structures (fences, decks, and other similar exempt from additional fee).

Commercial Application	Based on amount of project as follows:
Base Fee	\$50
	\$4 for every \$1,000 of project value after first \$1,000 and up to \$100,000; plus, \$2 for every \$1,000 above \$100,000 (All values rounded up to nearest \$1,000)

Zoning Administrator can use any appropriate means to verify project valuation.

Commercial Flood Plain Application with Zoning Permit

40% of the fee for the Town's commercial zoning permit and shall be additional to the zoning permit fee for enclosed structures (fences, decks, and other similar exempt from additional fee).

Residential Flood Plain Application without Zoning Permit

Based on amount of project as follows:

Base Fee \$30

\$2 for every \$1,000 of project value after first
\$1,000 and up to \$100,000; plus,
\$1 for every \$1,000 above \$100,000 (All values
rounded up to nearest \$1,000)

Zoning Administrator can use any appropriate means to verify project valuation.

Commercial Flood Plain Application without Zoning Permit

Based on amount of project as follows:

Base Fee \$50

\$4 for every \$1,000 of project value after first
\$1,000 and up to \$100,000; plus,
\$2 for every \$1,000 above \$100,000 (All values
rounded up to nearest \$1,000)

Zoning Administrator can use any appropriate means to verify project valuation.

Engineering Review

Charged to applicant at the actual cost of the service as billed by the contracted engineer.

Zoning Amendment Request (Map or Text)

\$200 plus cost of required legal advertisement and postage to notify abutting landowners

Sign Permit

\$30

Tree Harvest Permit

\$50

Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances

\$25 per set

Wildwood Storage Rental Rates

Unit Number	Unit Size	Monthly Rent
BB 01	5x20	\$35
BB 02	5x20	\$35
BB 03	5x20	\$35
BB 04	5x20	\$35
BB 05	10x20	\$75
BB 06	10x20	\$75
BB 07	10x20	\$75
BB 08	10x20	Town Occupied (TO)
BB 09	10x20	TO
BB 10	10x20	TO
BB 11	10x20	TO
BB 12	10x20	TO
GB 15	10x16	\$65
GB 16	10x16	\$65
GB 17	10x16	\$65
GB 18	10x16	\$65
GB 19	10x16	\$65
GB 20	10x16	TO
GB 21	10x16	TO
GB 22	10x16	TO
OP	Open Spaces (40)	\$25
Late Payment Charge	\$10, assessed after the 10 th of the month	
Interest Charge	1.5% monthly on outstanding balances	

ENTERPRISE FUNDS

Water and Sewer - Rates and Fees

	Water	Sewer
Class 1 and 2 - Residential ⁽¹⁾		
Customer Base Charge per month ⁽²⁾	15.24	24.18
Usage per 1,000 gallons	-	9.30
Usage 0-4,000 gallons	4.22	-
Usage 4,001-20,000 gallons	4.50	-
Usage 20,001+ gallons	4.55	-
Initial Connection (Tap) charge ⁽³⁾	1,250.00	1,250.00
Nonpayment Fee	70.00	-
Class 3 and 4 - Commercial		
Customer Base Charge per month ⁽²⁾	88.32	141.99
Usage per 1,000 gallons	4.22	9.30
Initial Connection (Tap) charge ⁽³⁾	3,500.00	1,250.00
Nonpayment Fee	100.00	-
Class 5 - Industrial		
Customer Base Charge per month ⁽²⁾	276.24	444.93
Usage per 1,000 gallons	4.22	9.30
Initial Connection (Tap) charge ⁽³⁾	5,000.00	1,250.00
Nonpayment Fee	200.00	-
Class 6 - Early Bird (No longer available)		
Class 7 - Availability Charge per month ⁽²⁾	15.24	-
Class 8 - 1" Water Service		
Customer Base Charge per month ⁽²⁾	30.90	49.43
Usage per 1,000 gallons	4.22	9.30
Initial Connection (Tap) charge ⁽³⁾	1,500.00	1,250.00
Nonpayment Fee	100.00	-
Class 9 - Vacant /Out of Use Non-residential Property		
Customer Base Charge per month ⁽²⁾	15.24	24.18
Usage per 1,000 gallons	4.22	9.30
Nonpayment Fee	70.00	-
Class 10 - Vacant Residences		
Customer Base Charge per month ⁽²⁾	15.24	-
Nonpayment Fee	70.00	-

Special Charges

Service Call - 2 hour minimum	\$35 per hour - signed by customer to initiate work outside of scheduled work hours of 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. on weekdays and 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on weekends
Meter Testing Charge	\$25 - no charge if meter defective
Returned Check Processing Charge	\$25, as allowed by G.S. §25-3-506
Late Payment Charge	10% of amount overdue per month or part of month beginning 30 days after billing date
Irrigation Connection Inspection	\$20

(1) Residential customer deposit may apply. Please refer to Water Resources Department Policy Manual.

(2) Base charges do not include any usage.

(3) The published Initial Connection (Tap) charges are based on the historic River Bend average cost that has been experienced in making connections. There will be cases when, because of the local depth of the service main pipe to which the connection is to be made, or other site-specific differences from the norm, the published connection fee will not cover the actual cost of the tap. When the Water Resources Superintendent encounters such conditions, he shall notify the applicant requesting the tap that the cost may exceed the published fee. In those cases, a record of cost associated with the specific tap will be accounted for and if the total cost exceeds the published fee, then the applicant shall pay a fee equal to the actual cost. Initial connection charges are based upon the size of the meter and charged as shown in the appropriate Class above.

(4) The necessary equipment will be provided to the resident at cost. The resident is responsible for installing the irrigation meter on the resident's side of the regular water meter. After installation, the work will be inspected by a Water Resources Department employee.