

**River Bend Town Council
Work Session Minutes
September 10, 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
Town Clerk: Kristie Nobles
Police Chief: Sean Joll
Town Attorney: Trey Ferguson

Members of the Public Present: 21

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bledsoe called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 10, 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.

Discussion – Flag Policy

The Mayor stated that Town does not currently have a “Flag Policy”. He stated that the US Flag Code is included in the agenda and he would like the Town to follow that. He stated that proclamations from the Governor and President do not always follow the flag code. Councilman Weaver asked the Town Manager if he would like to be involved in making the decision on whether the flags in Town are lowered or not, and the Town Manager stated, no he does not. Councilman Weaver stated that until the Council approves a flag policy this decision falls on the Town Manager. He also stated that the policy does not have to be the US Flag code, and it could be a policy that follows the governor’s orders to lower the flag, with the provision that the Council can order the flag to be lowered. Councilwoman Benton stated that she agreed with Councilman Weaver and if the Council approved the proposed Flag Policy, the Town Manager would still be responsible for lowering the flag. Councilman Leonard agreed with Councilman Weaver.

Councilman Weaver motioned to follow the governor’s direction at the raising and lowering of the flag with the provision that the Council still have the ability to override it or add additional provisions.

The Town Manager recommended that he draft a flag policy that conforms to the motion and present it at the next meeting for the Council to approve.

Councilman Weaver withdrew his motion.

Discussion – Address to Council Policy

Councilman Leonard stated that there currently is not an Address to Council Policy, and he thinks that one is needed, just like the other policies the Town currently has. After a brief discussion among the Council, the Town Manager stated he would present a draft policy at the next meeting.

Discussion – River Bend Facebook Page

Councilwoman Benton stated that she had done research and 96% of municipalities have a Facebook page that is managed by the Town. She stated that it is easier and quicker and it would allow the Town to get information out faster than the current website. Councilman Weaver asked her if she would want comments on or off on the official page and she stated to leave the comments on although the advisory boards do not allow comments on their page. She stated that if a comment breaks a rule, you remove the comment and Councilman Weaver asked the Town Attorney what he thought of that. The Town Attorney stated that a US Supreme Court judge has stated that a Facebook page run by government officials creates limited public forum, and on limited public forums you are allowed to put certain limitations in place. He stated that the court had a problem with deleting Facebook comments. He stated that if the Town allowed a Town Facebook page and allowed comments, it will not have the ability to delete comments. He stated that if the Town chose to have a Facebook page, it would need to open and have comments on and not sensor those comments based on any viewpoint. Councilwoman Benton stated that if comments are not allowed, that does not allow citizens to interact with the page. Councilman Weaver stated that based on what he has seen in the community and on Facebook he would not support having a Facebook page with comments on. Councilwoman Noonan agreed. Councilman Leonard stated that based on the recent controversy of lowering the flag, he would agree. He stated that there are many ways to communicate with the citizens, not to mention an employee would have to monitor the page along with some legal mind fields. Councilwoman Benton stated that it is all about transparency and how quickly the Town gets information out. She stated that in her opinion, “We do a poor job with communicating with the public.” The Mayor stated that the Town has a text system that is underutilized and it would be more instant than opening a Facebook page. Councilman Leonard stated that the Town also has the weekly ENews. There was no further discussion.

Discussion – Meeting Time Change

Councilwoman Benton stated that in December 2024 the meeting time was changed from 7:00 pm to 5:00 pm and it is hard for people who work to get to those 5:00 pm meetings. She suggested that the Council move the meeting time to 6:00 pm. Councilman Weaver stated that he agrees that 6:00 pm would be a better meeting time. Councilman Sheffield stated that he has seen many meetings at 7:00 pm and there were not as many people at those meetings as there are at the 5:00 pm meeting today. Councilman Weaver asked to table this topic so he can do some research, review meeting times and the audience attendance. He stated that he will collect some data and send it to the Council and Councilwoman Benton stated she would do the same. The Mayor asked if the Council is tabling the discussion of the meeting time or a vote and Councilwoman Benton stated that the Council table the discussion until they have more data and the Mayor stated that he just wanted it to be clear that the discussion is being tabled.

Discussion – Grant Application Update

The Town Manager stated that he is currently completing documents for a grant application for a Water Supply Well #3 Replacement. He stated he will present the required resolutions at the next meeting.

VOTE – Planning Board Appointment

Councilman Sheffield stated that the Planning Board met on September 3 and has made a recommendation to the Council to appoint Barbara Maurer to the Planning Board.

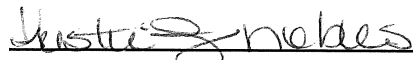
Councilman Sheffield motioned to appoint Barbara Maurer to the Planning Board with a term beginning on September 10, 2026, and ending on June 30, 2028. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW – Agenda for the September 17, 2026, Council Meeting

The Council reviewed the agenda for the September 17, 2026, Council Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT/RECESS

There being no further business, Councilman Weaver moved to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:31 p.m.



Kristie J. Nobles, MMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk