



HAPPY
NEW YEAR



**TOWN ACCOUNTING OF
PUBLIC FUNDS**
BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

The state of North Carolina is fortunate that in the 1930s the General Assembly created the Local Government Commission (LGC) in the office of the State Treasurer. The LGC reviews the finances of every municipality in the state. An annual contracted audit of the municipalities' budget documents is required by the LGC. This mandated oversight has resulted in North Carolina municipalities having very good financial management and enjoying higher bond ratings than most other

states in the United States. The LGC has the authority to take control of the finances of any municipality that fails to respond to warnings the Commission has issued. They will retain control until the municipality demonstrates that it has adopted practices that will continue to meet the mandates of the LGC.

The River Bend Town Council and staff are very cognizant of the LGC mandates and have operated in compliance. They have opted to participate in the evaluation of Town budget and control practices with the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA).

Each year, for the past nine years, the Town of River Bend has submitted its Budget Document to the GFOA and each time has been awarded the organization's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. The GFOA is an organization of Finance Officers from cities across the United States and Canada. Founded in 1906, the GFOA today has more than 20,000 members. Its mission is to advance excellence in public finance. The organization is headquartered in Chicago with

"This mandated oversight has resulted in North Carolina municipalities having very good financial management and enjoying higher bond ratings than most other states in the United States."

INSIDE THIS EDITION

MAYOR'S REPORT
PAGE 1
TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT
PAGE 2
WRD/PW REPORT
PAGE 4
COMING EVENTS
PAGE 5
COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE
PAGE 6
LEAF & LIMB SCHEDULE
PAGE 6
ETCETERA
PAGE 7

additional offices in Washington, DC. Their Technical Services Center in Chicago administers the Distinguished Budget Award Program.

River Bend submitted its Annual Budget – Fiscal Year 2019–20 to the GFOA for review and evaluation. The FY19–20 Budget is a 207-page document that covers anticipated revenue and expenditures for the general operating budget and also for the water and sewer enterprise funds. The document details employee costs, utility costs assigned to each department, capital improvement projects and many other costs within each department.

The projection of expenses for future years is also an important element of the annual budget. It projects the tax rate that would be necessary to support the future anticipated budget needs. North Carolina law requires that every municipality adopt a budget by July 1st of each year. The River Bend budget cycle meets this deadline by having the budget development and required Public Hearing completed by the end of May and adopted at the June Council meeting.

“The projection of expenses for future years is also an important element of the annual budget. It projects the tax rate that would be necessary to support the future anticipated budget needs.”

North Carolina General Statutes mandate that the Town Manager prepare the annual municipal budget. Finance Officer Bud Van Slyke, Finance Administrator Margaret Theis and department heads participate in budget preparation. Members of the Council attend a number of scheduled open meetings to review the proposed budget items presented by the Manager.

“The Manager and Council have been conservative consistently in the budgeting process and that conservative approach is reflected in the document presented to the GFOA.”

The Manager and Council have been conservative consistently in the budgeting process and that conservative approach is reflected in the document presented to the GFOA. We are pleased that Manager Jackson, working with staff and Council, has made this 2019–20 Budget submission to the

GFOA for consideration of our 10th consecutive award. The complete FY2019–20 Budget is available for review on the Town’s website. ■



TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

Several years ago, well before the arrival of Hurricane Florence, the town's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), commonly called "flood maps," were being updated. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in coordination with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety (NCDPS), has worked for years to update the FIRMs. The maps are an integral part of any community's flood mitigation program, because they define the areas of the community that are most vulnerable to flooding. As you can imagine, the FIRM update process was very technical and based on a large amount of historical data. It is also important to realize that the Town of River Bend had/has no authority or control over the information or boundaries in the FIRMs.

In November, 2016 Craven County and all of the towns within Craven County conducted an Open House on the preliminary (or proposed) maps for our area. The event was held at the Convention Center in New Bern. Each unit of government was given an opportunity to set up an informational booth. There

was an overall program presented, but the booths provided a place for residents to ask specific questions about the Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) in their town or even in their neighborhoods. Staff from the Town of River Bend manned a booth.

"If the Town does not adopt the preliminary maps, we will no longer be allowed to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). That would mean that our residents would not be allowed to purchase flood insurance."

are officially adopted, they will become the effective maps. Until that time, the currently effective maps are still the official maps. If the Town does not adopt the preliminary maps, we will no longer be allowed to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). That would mean that our residents would not be allowed to purchase flood insurance. Another requirement of being in the NFIP is that each jurisdiction must adopt a Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance (FDPO).

"In November, 2016 Craven County and all of the towns within Craven County conducted an Open House on the preliminary (or proposed) maps for our area."

I was there, along with our current and previous Floodplain Managers. We had many visitors to our booth.

Now, let's leap forward to 2019. We have recently been informed that the preliminary maps will soon become effective. By mid-June 2020, the Town Council will be required to adopt the new maps. When the preliminary maps

The Town of River Bend originally adopted its FDPO on August 21, 1985. River Bend did not officially become a Town until 1981. Therefore, a FDPO has long been recognized as an important part of the Town's operations. Along with adopting the new maps, the Town Council will also be updating our FDPO in 2020. Prior to doing so, the Town Council will be required to conduct a public hearing. When the date of the public hearing is determined, it will be published in the Sun Journal and on our web page.

In the meantime, I highly encourage every resident of River Bend to inspect the preliminary FIRMs for River Bend. Some structures that are not currently identified as being in the town's SFHA on the effective maps, which are still in

"In the meantime, I highly encourage every resident of River Bend to inspect the preliminary FIRMs for River Bend."

place, will be in the SFHA when the preliminary maps become effective. You can view the maps by visiting the Town's webpage at www.riverbendnc.org. Then click on "Preliminary FIRM" tab on the home page. Once there, click on the map of NC, then click OK in the information box and it will disappear. Then enter your address, ex: Town Hall would be entered as 45 Shoreline Drive, River Bend. Once you do this a map of your neighborhood will be displayed. Your home will be identified with a yellow pin. In the top right of the screen, click on the word Effective, then select Preliminary from the drop down box. This will change the map you see to the preliminary map (which is the proposed map that will become effective in 2020). Next, in the box in the top left corner, click on the 3-layer button to the

"The blue area represents the 1% flood zone (commonly called the 100-year flood zone). The yellow area represents the .2% flood zone (commonly called the 500-year flood zone). The pink area represents the new areas that will be added to the 100-year flood zone when the maps become effective."

right of the question mark. A drop down box will appear. Click in the box next to "Changes Since last FIRM SFHA". This will cause a check to appear in the box. Then close that box. Now, you will be able to see a map of your neighborhood with any changes that will become effective. The blue area represents the 1% flood zone (commonly called the 100-year flood zone). The yellow area represents the .2% flood zone

(commonly called the 500-year flood zone). The pink area represents the new areas that will be added to the 100-year flood zone when the maps become effective. The

green area represents any area that will be removed from a flood zone. There are very few of these areas and I have not found any that have structures located on them.

In addition to changes in the flood zones on the map, the Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) will also be changed when the new maps become effective. Currently, the BFE in all of River Bend is 8-feet. Most of the area that currently has an 8-foot BFE, will become a 9-foot BFE. However, some areas along the canal in the Channel Run area and the area between Knotline, Outrigger and Plantation Drive will become a 10-foot BFE. A very small area between Outrigger and the canal will become an 11-foot BFE. When you click on your property on the map the yellow pin will appear. Then click on the “Flood Information” tab. The BFE that will become effective for your home upon adoption of the FIRM will appear in that box.

If you have questions, you can contact me or Floodplain Administrator Allison McCollum at 638-3870, extension 216.

REPORTING AFTER HOURS WATER-SEWER EMERGENCIES

- ◆ Dial Town Hall at 638-3870.
- ◆ Dial “9” and follow the directions to contact the on-call duty operator.
- ◆ Enter your phone number at the sound of the tone.
- ◆ The automated system will inform you that your page has been sent.
- ◆ Our utility operator will return your call.
- ◆ If you do not receive a call back within ten minutes, please notify the Police Department at 638-1108. They will get in touch with the on-call utility system operator.



WRD/PW NOVEMBER REPORT

BY BRANDON MILLS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Hopefully, everyone enjoyed Thanksgiving with family and friends. I know I enjoyed my holiday, and probably gained a few pounds. Mike Steffa, Public Works Department, installed new LED light fixtures in the large meeting room at Town Hall. These lights are a lot brighter than the old halogen fixtures, and are more energy efficient. Public Works also sealed several streets with our street sealer, and has several more scheduled as weather permits. As a reminder, we seal the cracks in the roadways to keep water out. Water seeping through cracks over time will erode the road bed, and cause the cracks to get worse. This creates more cracks eventually, causing the asphalt to have to be replaced/repaired.

Water Resources installed two rebuilt lift station pumps back into the Quarter-deck lift station. These pumps were sent off to be rewound, and our staff installed them. We did some sewer smoke testing in an area of Town we suspected we were getting some inflow/infiltration (I&I). During our smoke testing, we found two sources where I&I was getting into our collections system. Both were broken service lateral cleanouts. We repaired both cleanouts the same day the breaks were discovered. Water Resources also performed routine maintenance on a few of our generators. This maintenance consisted of oil and all filter changes. We do this as needed, and have several more on our list to change out in the next month.

If you have any questions concerning the Water Resources/Public Works Department, please call us at 638-3540, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. After hours, water and sewer emergencies can be reported by dialing the Town Hall at 638-3870. You will be instructed to dial “9” and follow the directions to contact the on-call duty operator. You will then be asked to enter your phone number at the sound of the tone. After entering your phone number, the automated system will inform you that your page has been sent. Please be patient, and our utility systems operator will return your call. If you do not receive a call back within ten minutes, please notify the Police Department at 638-1108, and they will get in contact with the on-call utility systems operator. ■

COMING EVENTS



THE TOWN DONATED
1,153 POUNDS OF FOOD
TO RCS THIS YEAR
THANK YOU
TO ALL WHO DONATED

Work Session
January 9
5:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Council Meeting
January 16
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

BUNCO
Workshop
Thursday, January 23
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Town Hall
Sponsored by Parks & Rec

QUILLING
Workshop
Friday, February 7
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Town Hall
Sponsored by Parks & Rec



RIVER BEND NEWS

FROM TOWN HALL
is published monthly by the
River Bend Town Council for
the residents of the Town of
River Bend.

MAYOR
John Kirkland

TOWN COUNCIL
Don Fagle
Brian Leonard
Harry "Bud" McClard
Buddy Sheffield
Irving "Bud" Van Slyke, Jr.

TOWN MANAGER
Delane Jackson

TOWN CLERK
Ann Katsuyoshi

FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR
Margaret Theis

POLICE CHIEF
Sean Joll

DIRECTOR OF
PUBLIC WORKS
Brandon Mills

ASSISTANT
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
Allison McCollum

GRAPHIC DESIGN &
TYPOGRAPHY
Kathleen De Young

Contact Us:
45 Shoreline Drive
River Bend, NC 28562
252.638-3870
www.riverbendnc.org

Leaf & Limb Collection Schedule for 2019-2020

Residents may begin
placing their yard debris
street side on the dates
indicated in parentheses

Zone 1 Pick Up Begins

July 8, 2019

July 3, 2019

September 9, 2019

September 4, 2019

November 4, 2019

October 30, 2019

January 6, 2020

(includes Christmas trees)

January 1, 2020

March 9, 2020

March 4, 2020

May 11, 2020

May 6, 2020

Zone 2 Pick Up Begins

July 15, 2019

July 10, 2019

September 16, 2019

September 11, 2019

November 11, 2019

November 6, 2019

January 13, 2020

(includes Christmas trees)

January 8, 2020

March 16, 2020

March 11, 2020

May 19, 2020

May 13, 2020

Pinecones, pine straw and
leaves must be bagged. For
additional important informa-
tion about River Bend's Leaf
& Limb collection program,
please see our Ordinance online
at www.riverbendnc.org. ■

Town Council 2020 Meeting Dates

Work Session January 9
Regular Meeting January 16
Work Session February 13
Regular Meeting February 20
Work Session March 12
Regular Meeting March 19

Work Session April 9
Regular Meeting April 16

Work Session May 14
Regular Meeting May 21

Work Session June 11
Regular Meeting June 18
Work Session July 9
Regular Meeting July 16

Work Session August 13
Regular Meeting August 20

Work Session September 10
Regular Meeting September 17

Work Session October 8
Regular Meeting October 15

Work Session November 12
Regular Meeting November 19

Work Session December 10
Regular Meeting December 17

Budget Meetings

Budget Session..... March 24
Budget Session..... March 31
Budget Session..... April 7
Budget Session..... April 14
Budget Session..... April 21
if needed
Budget Session..... April 28

*All Council Work Sessions will be held in the River Bend
Town Hall beginning at 5:00 pm.*

*Regular Council Meetings will be held in the River Bend
Town Hall beginning at 7:00 p.m.*

*All Council Budget Sessions will be held in the River
Bend Town Hall beginning at 4:00 p.m.*

**Green type indicates a completed leaf & limb collection*

etc.



Golf Cart Registration

Town ordinances allow for residents to drive their properly equipped golf carts on River Bend streets provided that they are inspected by and registered with our Police Department. If you plan to drive your golf cart on the roadways, you must display the 2019 registration decal. Decals for 2020 will be available beginning December 2, 2019.

Inspection and registration are required annually. The registration fee for each golf cart is \$10.

For additional information and to make your inspection reservation, please call the River Bend Police Department at 638-1108.



Registration is Required for all Dogs and Cats

All River Bend dogs and cats must be registered annually.

Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. Registration is \$10.00 per pet.

Owners must present proof of rabies vaccination at the time of registration.



Pet I. D. Photos Now Available

The Town of River Bend is now offering residents the opportunity to link a digital photo of their registered pets to our Animal Registration database. When you register your pet this year, you may submit a photo by e-mail, or staff can scan a photo for you if you prefer. This photo database will help reunite lost pets with their owners more quickly in the event a pet becomes lost.

The service is voluntary and free of charge.

DOG PARK AT RIVER BEND



River Bend dogs have their own exercise area where they can play with other canines. Situated between the Town Park and Ritter Field, the dog park gives dogs a chance to run while their owners socialize.

The park is open from sunrise to sunset for dogs with proof of current vaccinations. Separate exercise areas accommodate large and small dogs.

For complete list of rules applicable to dog park use, please visit Town Hall for a brochure or view details on our web site at www.riverbendnc.org. Dog park rules are also posted at the entrance to the park.



Sign up for our

Emergency Notification System

and receive timely notifications by phone, e-mail, text messages and more.

SIGN UP NOW
at www.riverbendnc.org

this service provided by the Town of River Bend through
**Blackboard
connect**



River Bend has a functional Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). For more information about this group, or to volunteer, please contact the Police Department or visit our web site. CERT meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall.



If you have a medical condition for which you require any type of special medical care during a disaster or if your medical condition requires assistance to evacuate during a disaster, you may wish to apply to Craven County for their Special Needs Registry. The River Bend Police Department can provide you with the appropriate form and provide some basic information about the County's program.



River Bend has a very active Community Watch program supported by our Police Department. If you are interested in volunteering, call the River Bend Police Department at 638-1108.



River Bend has a skateboard park to meet the needs of some of our more athletic residents.

A signed parental approval form is required and helmet use is strictly enforced. For more information about the skateboard park, visit our web site or call the River Bend Police Department at 638-1108.