

RIVER BEND NEWS

FROM TOWN HALL

www.riverbendnc.org



**THE OPERATION OF RIVER
BEND UTILITIES**
BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

Municipalities, if they are to succeed, must operate under complex, mandated parameters set by the State of North Carolina.

The North Carolina General Assembly must issue a Charter to each incorporated city and town in the State. The charters specify the type of governance permitted in the city or town. Specifically, the requirement will be to operate as either a Mayor—Council or as a Council—Manager Form of Government.

River Bend’s Charter specifies operation as a Council—Manager Form of Government. Nearly twenty years ago, the Council applied to the General Assembly to change the Town’s form of government from Mayor—Council to Council—Manager. The General Assembly authorized the change and the new form of government commenced on July 1, 2001. Now under this form of government, the entire staff reports to the Manager as they complete their daily work. The Council sets policy, and the Manager is responsible for executing that policy.

“Nearly twenty years ago, the Council applied to the General Assembly to change the Town’s form of government from Mayor-Council to Council-Manager.”

Other elements of Town operations in River Bend are:

A. River Bend owns and operates the Town’s water and wastewater utilities and meets the mandate of accounting for these utilities as Enterprise Funds, meaning that the finances of the utilities are not mixed with the general (tax generated) funds. During the Council—Manager years, a Utility Rate Study was developed and is used each year to set the utility rates to be charged for all customers.

B. The Manager is designated the Town’s Budget Officer and in this role he

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works with the Town department heads and with input from Town advisory boards. Each annual budget is discussed with the Council Members in a number of scheduled budget meetings which are open to the public. Before the budget is adopted, the Council holds a Budget Public Hearing during its regular meeting in May.

C. On July 1, the beginning of the Town's fiscal year, the Manager and staff then proceed to implement the work and projects specified in the budget.

D. By the very nature of the manager's profession he/she has professional contacts throughout the state that greatly assist in solving local issues. This was particularly evident following Hurricane Florence. Manager Jackson used his contacts to greatly benefit the Town.

Before Council members vote on issues, they spend considerable time reviewing supporting documents and attending meetings. This commitment of time is seldom considered by the average citizen who may be critical of a vote cast by a member of the Town Council. All Council members and even the Mayor are human and have friends in the community

Unfortunately, some friendships end when Council members with detailed knowledge on an issue cast votes based on that information. Oftentimes, the friend does not possess the same facts and then writes the Council member friend off as a person not to be trusted. This discussion is by no means unique to River Bend but will apply to any North Carolina municipality regardless of size. My prayer for our Manager and Council is that we can rise above the partisan posturing of this time and uphold the best traditions of the democratic process given us by the founders of this Nation.

"Before Council members vote on issues, they spend considerable time reviewing supporting documents and attending meetings."



**TOWN MANAGER'S
REPORT**

BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused changes to all American's daily lives and routines. Town Hall in River Bend has also implemented some changes to do our part to beat this pandemic. As of my writing of this article (3-25-20, 8:30 a.m.) Town Hall is still open but ONLY for business that cannot be conducted remotely. However, that is subject to change from day-to-day. We may be moving to a fully remote status very soon. In that scenario, Town Hall would not be

open at all but we would still be working. If we switch to an all remote status, you can still call the Town Hall telephone number and it will ring to a remote phone to one of our employees.

Many of the services we provide at Town Hall can be done via phone or mail. Many more such as pet registrations can simply wait until normalcy returns. Our utility customers have many options available to make payments. We have an overnight drop box in the parking lot at Town Hall. It is located across from the gazebo. Payments are collected daily. You can mail your payment and you can also pay via phone or online by utilizing our third party vendor. Step-by-step instructions for these remote payment options are available on our web page.

"Our utility customers have many options available to make payments. We have an overnight drop box in the parking lot at Town Hall. It is located across from the gazebo."

I highly encourage each resident of River Bend to sign-up for our e-news and our Blackboard Connect services. Both can easily be done in a matter of minutes from our web page. It is the best way to get official notifications and information from the Town of River Bend. However, both are voluntary services. If you do not sign up, you will not get the updates. Also, if you have signed up in the past, and have since changed your email address or phone number, you will not get the updates. It is your responsibility to keep your contact information current. The easiest way to do that is to simply sign up again with your new information.

The Town's budget workshops typically occur during March and April. Due to Covid-19, those meetings have been postponed indefinitely. Once we know more, those meetings dates and times will be advertised on our web page to notify the public.

And finally, while you are at home practicing social distancing, please take the

time to complete your CENSUS survey. This year, for the first time ever, you can do it on line. I recently completed mine on line and it took less than ten minutes. Completing your CENSUS survey helps your town, your county and your state. Be safe and God bless America!



**WRD/PW
REPORT**

BY BRANDON MILLS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works repaired a hydraulic leak on our Ford tractor. The leak was coming from the steering box. The steering box was removed and disassembled by our staff. They did a good job in determining which parts needed to be ordered to repair the steering box. Once the parts were obtained, it was quickly repaired. Also, two new warning lights were installed on the Ford tractor. These lights will help make us more visible when we are working along the roadway. I would like to thank my staff for a job well done. Public Works also repaired two stormwater pipes this month. Both had cracks located on the bell end of the pipe joint. These two pipes were quickly and properly repaired.

Water Resources will be flushing the water system the week of March 15th. As a reminder, we do this once per year to remove any iron, or manganese deposits that build up in our water distribution lines. Iron and manganese are just minerals that are not harmful, but can cause some discoloration of the water when in high enough concentration. This is why we flush these minerals out of the distribution system. We have also been doing some painting at the wastewater treatment facility. All of our plants are made out of steel, and require periodic touch up painting. Painting helps extend the life of the plants by protecting the metal surfaces from the corrosive environment that they are in.

If you have any questions concerning the Water Resources/Public Works Department, please call us at 638-3540, Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm. After hour's water and sewer, emergencies can be reported by dialing the Town Hall at 638-3870. You will be instructed to the 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.

**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.



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

Jennifer Barrow

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

Leaf & Limb Collection Schedule for 2020-2021

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

Zone 1 Pick Up Begins

July 6, 2020
(July 1, 2020)
September 7, 2020
(September 2, 2020)
November 2, 2020
(October 28, 2020)
January 11, 2021
(includes Christmas trees)
(January 6, 2021)
March 8, 2021
(March 3, 2021)
May 10, 2021
(May 5, 2021)

Zone 2 Pick Up Begins

July 13, 2020
(July 8, 2020)
September 14, 2020
(September 9, 2020)
November 9, 2020
(November 4, 2020)
January 18, 2021
(includes Christmas trees)
(January 13, 2021)
March 15, 2021
(March 10, 2021)
May 17, 2021
(May 12, 2021)

Pinecones, pine straw and leaves must be bagged. For additional important information 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 p.m.

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*



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 2020 registration decal. Decals for 2020 were 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.