



**A LOOK AT RIVER BEND'S
FORM OF GOVERNANCE**
BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

Some background on the author of this article on the form and functioning of our Town's government during the years since 1997. I have served as an elected member of the Town's Governing Body since 1997. In 1999 the Town Council in opted to petition the General Assembly to amend the Town's Charter to govern under the Council/Manager form of government. In the years since this change was approved by the General Assembly, the Town has been served by

four Managers. Our current Manager, Delane Jackson, has served us for six years. I chose the subject of this month's article because we are working through the recovery from the challenging work associated with the Coronavirus.

It has been my pleasure to have served with each of the four managers. They have all been solid professionals. It is fair to say that River Bend has benefitted greatly from the change of governance authorized by the General Assembly in the change to the Town's Charter. The Manager is on site

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every day and has close contact with other managers and with staff at the UNC School of Government and the League of Municipalities. These contacts allow the manager to be very current in developments coming from the state regulatory agencies and the impact of actions by the General Assembly. Perhaps, most important is being alert to rapidly changing grant programs. Such as was the case following the destruction from Hurricane Florence. Under the Mayor/Council form of governance no member of the elected body would have the similar personal contacts to

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be current in rapidly changing regulatory issues that are time sensitive and directly impact the Town. Two other benefits of the Council Manager form are the management and supervision of Town staff and the orderly development of the annual budget. Having served on our Town's Council and as Mayor, I can attest that our current form of government is superior to what preceded it. This statement is true during normal operations. It has become especially clear during emergencies, like Coronavirus and the Hurricane Florence, and the recovery phase following those emergencies.

From the UNC School of Government data on state-wide municipal government types, the following numbers are indicated for the River Bend peer group of populations of 2,500 – 5, 000. Number of municipalities in peer group 90; number with Mayor/Council form of government - 26; number with Council/Manager - 64. These numbers support the preference that has led the majority of peer municipalities to operate under charters that specify the Council/Manager form of government.

I complement the members of the Council that initiated the change in 1997 and all Council members in the interim years who have worked to strengthen this form of government for River Bend.



**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
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**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 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 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.