



CHANGE (HOW INSTITUTIONS COPE WITH CHANGE ALWAYS DETERMINES THE OUTCOME)

BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

The very nature of human existence seems to embrace stability. We tend to cling to the present and reject change, but change is everywhere, and it seems to come more rapidly than in earlier times. As we face the future, our success and survival demands that we accommodate and manage change.

The tools necessary for managing change are not always evident, but trying to rely on what worked in the past often leads to failure. This is true for our individual households and equally true for municipalities. The remainder of this article will address the change that impacts municipal governments such as River Bend.

Many changes are external to the Town but, nevertheless, require action or reaction, for example:

1. The U.S. Congress and the North Carolina General Assembly have changed. These senior governing bodies little resemble what they looked like a decade ago and the likelihood that they will ever return to their former conduct of business is remote.

2. State and federal grant programs to fund and support local public works and infrastructure projects are scarce, if available at all.

3. The world truly is a global marketplace, and our national interests are much more complex than they were in the post WWII era. A combination of diplomatic and military assets often is necessary as our nation moves to advance legitimate

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national interests in the world community.

4. Large financial contributors contaminate the integrity of many incumbent legislators. These contributors exercise great power in the halls of Congress and in state capitals. This power play has increased exponentially.

5. Much is written about the relative decline in the quality of personal integrity, and without integrity, the compass that should guide decision making, is largely missing on the part of persons filling important business and government positions.

There also is a long list of regulatory efforts that impact government operations at every level. Some of these are:

1. The Clean Water Act regulations
2. The Safe Drinking Water Act and its regulations
3. The Clean Air Act again with regulations
4. The Occupational Safety Health and Safety Act again with its regulations

We live in a time when social media advances numerous opinions. The opinions are often without thorough validation, yet many individuals in their targeted audience feel confident that the information posted is factual. Later, when an elected body acts contrary to popular expectations, people become frustrated. This present state of inexact communication complicates governing. At the same time the future well-being of our nation, our state, and local jurisdictions demand that leaders exercise decision making in an informed manner and with a strong sense of personal integrity. Actions taken with this sense of research and integrity will respect the changes that come from regulatory mandates that must be confronted in our time.

River Bend is a great community. We have all benefited from the legacy that we inherited and the contribution of all earlier leaders who labored to produce the River bend of the twenty-first century. We should be interested in passing a legacy forward that is better than the one that was passed to us. The River Bend of the future will be what we all build together. Everyone must accept that our joint actions will not always be what we as individuals would wish, but that the community is improved for all by decisions made deliberately that will serve the common good.



TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

This is an update to a previous article that was published in May, 2021.

On March 11, 2021 the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) became law. It is a \$1,900,000,000,000 (that's trillion) economic stimulus package. \$350,000,000,000 (that's billion) of it is for state, local, territorial and tribal governments across the nation. The money will be distributed based on population. Collectively, towns in

North Carolina will receive \$1.3 billion. Counties in North Carolina will receive about \$1 billion. The Town of River Bend will receive \$964,378. The funding will come in two equal disbursements. We received the first \$482,189 in July. We will receive the balance in July, 2022. Based on the latest Census population data for River Bend, which is 2,902 that is about \$332 per River Bend resident. The funds are 100% grant. There is no match required on our part.

The money is intended to help recipients across the nation respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency and/or its negative economic impacts. As you can imagine, there are regulations and guide-

lines that will dictate what the funds may be spent on. As of the writing on this article (October 28, 2021), the U.S. Treasury Department has not fully released a detailed set of guidelines. However, it has been stated that the funds can be used to make necessary investments in water, sewer or broadband infrastructure. At its April 8, 2021 meeting, the River Bend Town Council unanimously approved using the funds to construct a new building to house the Water and Sewer Offices.

Recently, the town hired The Walker Group of New Bern to serve as architects for this project. They also served as architects for the new Municipal Building and Town Hall renovations. Phase I of the project was to identify possible sites for the location of the new building. On October 14, 2021, the Town Council met with the architect and engineer to discuss four possible locations. The Council agreed that none of the four sides were ideal. However, they decided the site at 25 Shoreline Drive, which is currently home to multiple water/sewer related buildings and the Rhems Fire Department Substation was the most appropriate of the sites

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presented. The Council decided to delay making a final decision and directed the architect to conduct a more thorough study of that site. Once that study is completed, the Council will reconsider the site and make a decision on how to proceed. There are still many unknowns related to the ARP, but we do know that the funds have been approved and are already being distributed. If we do not spend the funds, we must return them to the US Treasury. As I mentioned earlier, the funds come as a grant to all recipients. Also, as mentioned earlier, this grant comes from the federal government. According to recent Congressional Budget Office data, as of July 2021, the federal government projects that its tax revenues will come from the following sources- Individual Income Tax (52%), Payroll Tax (34%), Corporate Income Tax (6%), Other (8%). Grants may be called “free money” by some but that can be misleading. The federal government gets its revenue from somewhere. As you can see, a large portion of it comes from individual income tax payers. This program is another example of your federal taxes being returned to your home town. None of the funding for this project is allocated from property tax revenue levied by the Town of River Bend. Speaking of River Bend revenue and taxes, only about 42% of our general fund revenues are derived from local property tax. That means that nearly 60% of our operations are funded by non-property tax sources.



WRD / PW REPORT

BY BRANDON MILLS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

This month Public Works installed new first aid kits at Town Hall, the Municipal Building, Well #1 & #2 treatment plant, Well #3 treatment Plant, Public Works office, the Police Department Office, and the Wastewater Treatment Plant Facility. Two new AED (automated external defibrillator) wall mounts were installed also, one at Town Hall, and the other at the Municipal Building. Public Works also installed a small drainage pipe by the town's dog park

where the new entrance will be located once the asphalt path is finished.

Water Resources replaced one two-inch commercial meter in the distribution system for the Shell Station. The other meter had failed and had to be replaced. A water leak was repaired on a ¾ cts service line by our staff. There was a small pinhole at a bend in the pipe. It was quickly repaired with a repair band fitting. Water Resources also replaced several decaying boards along the walkway at the Wastewater Treatment Facility.

"Two new AED (automated external defibrillator) wall mounts were installed also, one at Town Hall, and the other at the Municipal Building."

If you have any questions concerning the Water Resources/Public

Works Department, please call us at 638-3540, Monday-Friday, 8AM-4PM.

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.

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.

COMING EVENTS

EWAB Meeting
November 1
7 p.m.
Municipal Building

RBCOG Meeting
November 1
1:30 p.m.
Municipal Building

Parks & Rec Meeting
November 3
7 p.m.
Municipal Building

Library Board Meeting
November 4
2 p.m.
Municipal Building

Planning Board Meeting
November 4
6:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Annual Shredding Event
November 6
9 AM-12 Noon
115 Wildwood Drive
Basketball Court Area

Council Work Session
November 10
5 p.m.
Municipal Building

Christmas Ornament
Workshop
November 13
10 AM- 1 PM
Municipal Building
Click [HERE](#) for details

Thanksgiving Bingo
November 17
1 PM- 4PM
Municipal Building
Click [HERE](#) for details

CAC Advisory Board
Meeting
November 17
4 PM
Municipal Building

Council Meeting
November 18
7 p.m.
Municipal Building

CERT Meeting
November 24
7 p.m.
Municipal Building



RIVER BEND NEWS

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

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Leaf & Limb Collection Schedule for 2021-2022

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

Zone 1 Pick Up Begins

July 5, 2021

(June 30, 2021)

September 6, 2021

(September 1, 2021)

November 1, 2021

(October 27, 2021)

January 10, 2022

(includes Christmas trees)

(January 5, 2022)

March 7, 2022

(March 2, 2022)

May 9, 2022

(May 4, 2022)

Zone 2 Pick Up Begins

July 12, 2021

(July 7, 2021)

September 13, 2021

(September 8, 2021)

November 8, 2021

(November 3, 2021)

January 17, 2022

(includes Christmas trees)

(January 12, 2022)

March 14, 2022

(March 9, 2022)

May 16, 2022

(May 11, 2022)

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 2021 Meeting Dates

Work Session January 14

Regular Meeting January 21

Work Session February 11

Regular Meeting February 18

Work Session March 11

Regular Meeting March 18

Work Session April 8

Regular Meeting April 15

Work Session May 13

Regular Meeting May 20

Work Session June 10

Regular Meeting June 17

Work Session July 8

Regular Meeting July 15

Work Session August 12

Regular Meeting August 19

Work Session September 10

Regular Meeting September 16

Work Session October 14

Regular Meeting October 21

Work Session November 10

Regular Meeting November 18

Work Session December 9

Regular Meeting December 16

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.

**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 2021 registration decal. Decals for 2021 were available beginning December 2, 2020.

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. Click [HERE](#) for more information



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 AM-4 PM.

Registration is \$10.00 per pet. Owners must present proof of rabies vaccination at the time of registration.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.



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 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 visit our web site at www.riverbendnc.org.



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.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.