

**River Bend Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2024
Town Hall
7:00 p.m.**

Present Council Members: Mayor John Kirkland
Lisa Benton
Brian Leonard
Barbara Maurer
Buddy Sheffield
Jeff Weaver

Town Manager: Delane Jackson
Police Sargeant: Stephen Fell
Finance Director: Mandy Gilbert
Town Clerk: Kristie Nobles
Town Attorney: David Baxter

Members of the Public Present: 12

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kirkland called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 18, 2024, at the River Bend Town Hall with a quorum present.

RECOGNITION OF NEW RESIDENTS

Jennifer Dunn – 813 Plantation Drive – stated she has lived in River Bend for 2 years and extended gratitude to Cruddy Cans for organizing a litter pick up day in River Bend.

VOTE – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilwoman Benton motioned to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Cruddy Cans –Shawn Stengele and Donny Moore - addressed the Council regarding providing other options for trash disposal in the Town of River Bend.

GFL – Norma Yanez – addressed the Council and provided historical information on GFL and their services provided.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Edwin Vargas – 119 Randonwood Lane – expressed gratitude to the Town Manager for his response to emails. He also stated that he felt the town needed a new road to exit the town.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Mayor presented the Council with the Consent Agenda. Councilman Sheffield moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Within this motion, the following items were approved:

A. Approve:

*Minutes of the March 14, 2024, Work Session Meeting
Minutes of the March 21, 2024, Regular Council Meeting*

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

The Manager gave the following updates:

- Wastewater Treatment Plant bidding is scheduled for May 5, 2024.
- The land surveyor completed the fieldwork today on the property for the proposed new Water Treatment Plant.
- The first budget workshop is scheduled for April 30 at 4:00 at Town Hall.

Police Sargeant Fell encouraged all residents to lock their vehicle doors.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

FINANCE – COUNCILMAN LEONARD

Financial Report – Finance Director, Mandy Gilbert, presented to the Council the financial statement for the month of March. She stated the total of the Town's Cash and Investments as of March 31, 2024, were \$3,171,251 and Ad valorem tax collections for FY23-24 were \$974,525 and Vehicle Ad valorem tax collections were \$73,959.

VOTE – Budget Amendment #23-B-06

Councilman Leonard motioned to approve Budget Amendment #23-B-06 as presented. The motion carried unanimously. (see attached)

ENVIRONMENT AND WATERWAYS – COUNCILMAN LEONARD

Councilman Leonard gave the following report:

Vice chairman Jon Hall called the meeting to order at 7 PM. There was a quorum. There were no visitors. The minutes for the February 2024 meeting were read and approved. Councilman Leonard gave a council updated and answered questions from the board. Old Business: Discussion on the stormwater master plan from 1999. Discussion about the status of the bulkhead letters and status, councilman Leonard will follow up with the town manager. New Business: Discussion on setting up a date for a river/canal clear up for trash and weeds. Volunteer hours: 13 There is a vacancy on EWAB please consider joining the board. The next meeting will be on May 6th 2024 at 7 PM in the municipal building's small conference room. The public is welcome to attend.

PLANNING BOARD – COUNCILMAN SHEFFIELD

Councilman Sheffield gave the following report:

The planning board met on Thursday April 4th 2024 at 6 PM in the large conference room in the municipal building. Chairman Lippert opened the meeting at 6 PM, there was a quorum of members. There were several visitors. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved. Allison McCollum gave a summary of the permits issued since the last meeting. Councilman Leonard gave a council update. There were no public comments. There was no old business. Under new business the preliminary Plat submission for parcel #8-200-029 was discussed. The town manager gave a power point presentation and Keith from Strong Rock spoke about the plat and answered members questions. The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 2nd 2024 at 6 PM in the large conference room in the municipal building. The meeting was adjourned around 6:45.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT– COUNCILMAN SHEFFIELD

Councilman Sheffield gave the following report:

A special meeting of the River Bend Board of Adjustment was held on March 28th at 6:30 pm at Town Hall. A quorum was present. Vice Chairperson Leonard presided. The purpose of the meeting was explained: A special use permit application by the Town of River Bend for the construction of a Water Treatment Plant on property adjacent to the town's Public Works Building. Witnesses were sworn in. Manager Jackson and Assistant Zoning Administrator McCollum were witnesses for River Bend. No one chose to be a witness against the permit. Ms. McCollum

outlined the 12 exhibits that were presented on behalf of the Town. Manager Jackson presented an in-depth PowerPoint exhibit displaying the preliminary plan for the project, including the buffer zone between the plant and existing homes, etc. The board discussed the application. Board member Barta requested that any approval of the application include 24-hour security camera coverage. The lengthy process of assuring that the permit satisfies numerous conditions required by the state was undertaken. The board voted to approve the application on the condition that security cameras with 24-hour surveillance would be established at this location. The meeting was adjourned. No future meeting is scheduled at this time.

PUBLIC SAFETY – COUNCILWOMAN BENTON

Councilwoman Benton stated that Community Watch is in need of more volunteers.

PARKS & RECREATION – COUNCILMAN WEAVER

Councilman Weaver stated the survey that Parks and Recreation had been asked to complete is almost completed and he hopes to share their recommendation at next months Council meeting, along with a presentation for a Facebook page combined with CAC.

RIVER BEND COMMUNITY ORGANIC GARDEN

Councilman Weaver gave the following report:

The big news is, A plant sale will be held at the garden on Saturday, April 27th from 8:30 am to 1 pm. Plants, shrubs, vegetables, herbs and houseplants will be offered for sale. Garden ornaments and tools will also be available. The rain date is May 4. The total number of volunteer hours for March was 199, bringing the year to date total to 448 hours. The next meeting is scheduled for May 6 at 1:30 pm in the Municipal building. Weekly workdays are scheduled on Saturdays starting at 9 am (earlier if it is warm). Everyone is welcome to attend and participate in monthly garden volunteer meetings and in the garden.

CAC – COUNCILWOMAN MAURER

Councilwoman Maurer presented the following report.

The CAC did not meet in April. The Arbor Day Celebration was a success. Everyone had a great time, and the Girl Scouts were a wonderful addition. The tree was planted, and the girl scouts planted pollinator gardens. About 40-50 people attended. Plans are already in the works for next year. The Beautification Award Program restarted this month. Nominations were slow for April but are expected to increase in May and June. You can nominate yourself, a neighbor, or a house you think is attractive. Nominations for the April award will start on April 1. Check the town website for nomination forms. Board members will offer two Independence Day decoration workshops in June. Reservations are necessary to hold a place. More information will be posted in the e-news and on the town website. CAC will hold their second annual Independence Day Festive Award Program that publicly recognizes homes that exemplify the Fourth of July spirit. The board is working to create a CAC Facebook page to inform residents of upcoming events and to report on activities. It will an informational page with a link to contact board members. A CAC board member has met with her counterpart on the Parks board to share ideas and plans. The next meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2024 at 4 pm in the Municipal Building. The meeting is open to everyone. There is a new vacancy. Please attend if you are interested. Guests and volunteers are always welcome. You don't have to be a board member to participate.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor presented the following report.

“In 2016 I authored the below article written for the River Bender. At that time the Sun Journal printed it monthly. The personal quality of integrity has always been critical to the local community and to the nation. I believe that the references cited in the article give testimony to the worth of integrity on the part of all citizens. Please consider the working of our council and the need to exchange ideas based on individual positions then listen to other expressed positions. Finally, we need to arrive at a compromised position which the majority will support. In this fashion the needs

of the community will be well addressed. Thank you for taking the time to read this material and have a good day and a good week.”

SEPTEMBER 2016
RIVER BENDER ARTICLE
INTEGRITY AND THE WORLD WE LIVE IN

As the November National Election approaches, a quality that should be expected of any candidate is that of integrity. Following are a number of quotes from individuals that have gone on record providing insight to the power of ethics in leadership.

Robert S. Palmer of Deloitte, Dean of Wharton School from 1983-1990:

“We need to stress that personal integrity is as important as executive skill in business dealings.... Setting an example from the top has a ripple effect through a business school or a corporation. After nearly three decades in business, 10 years as chief executive of a Big Eight accounting firm, I have learned that the standards set at the top filter throughout a company.... [Quoting Professor Thomas Dunfee of the Wharton School:] ‘A company that fails to take steps to produce a climate conducive to positive work-related ethical attitudes may create a vacuum in which employees so predisposed may foster a frontier-style, everyone for themselves mentality.’”

Mahatma Gandhi states,

“There are seven things that will destroy us: Wealth without work; Pleasure without conscience; Knowledge without character; Religion without sacrifice; Politics without principal; Science without humanity; Business without ethics.”

Dan Bryan wrote in his May 14, 2012, article entitled, After Yorktown: The Integrity of George Washington as Published in American History USA,

“George Washington, as much as he is lionized, is often not given the full credit due to him for his efforts at holding the United States together as a republic in the aftermath of the victory at Yorktown.

The famous defeat of Cornwallis did not immediately end the war. For a time, it was unclear whether the British would relent, or whether they would send another army to North America and continue to press the conflict. During this interval, most of the Continental Army remained mobilized and camped at Newburgh, New York. Many of them had not been paid in years. They were ill-clothed, poorly fed, and gradually slid into various degrees of distemper.

It took remarkable skill and leadership by George Washington to prevent this situation from escalating into a rebellion against the Congressional government. Had he been of a different mindset, he probably could have exploited the situation to his personal gain, installing himself as leader of the new country. His refusal to do so is a centerpiece of his long legacy.

The Nicola Letter

The first incident of note occurred in 1782, in the form of a long, handwritten letter. A colonel named Lewis Nicola gave his own impression of the political situation to General Washington. He pointed out that many officers and soldiers had agreed not to disperse until their grievances were met. He used several pages to point out the shortcomings of republican government when it came to compensation of the military. He pointed out all of the threats to social order that this entailed.

Then, at the end, Nicola revealed his proposal – the United States as a monarchy. Only a government of this type, he argued, could ensure proper compensation to the Continental Army, and prevent a future rebellion. The obvious implication, of course, would be George Washington as king.

Washington may or may not have had the support to implement such an idea, but he certainly could have tried. Instead his response was brief and severe:

'I am much at a loss to conceive what part of my conduct could have given encouragement to an address which to me seems big with the greatest mischiefs that can befall my Country... Let me conjure you then, if you have any regard for your Country, concern for yourself or posterity, or respect for me, to banish these thoughts from your Mind, and never communicate, as from yourself, or anyone else, a sentiment of the like Nature.'"

The ethical leadership of George Washington is widely recognized. Immediately presented above is a written exchange with one of George Washington's officers which is a perfect example of ethical leadership.

The present time cries for strong ethical leadership. We need to insist that leaders in every organization act with a committed personal code of ethics that is free of destructive traits that will ultimately ruin the organization that they are charged to lead. The need for this trait is the case in government, the military and in every facet of business and commerce. And the change needs to start with each of us as individuals.

Excerpts from After Yorktown: The Integrity of George Washington as Published in American History USA, by Dan Bryan are reprinted with his express permission.

CLOSED SESSION

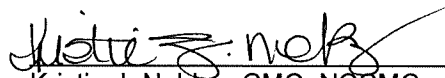
Councilwoman Maurer moved to go into a Closed Session under NCSG §143-318.11(a)(3). The Council entered Closed Session at 8:10 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Councilman Sheffield moved to return to Open Session at 8:46 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT/RECESS

There being no further business, Councilman Sheffield moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.



Kristie J. Nobles, CMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk



TOWN OF RIVER BEND
BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT 23-B-06
FISCAL YEAR 2023 - 2024

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Town of River Bend, North Carolina that the 2023-2024 Budget Ordinance as last amended on February 8, 2024, be amended as follows:

Summary

| | |
|---|------------------|
| General Fund | 2,257,559 |
| General Capital Reserve Fund | 56,900 |
| Law Enforcement Separation Allowance Fund | 12,685 |
| Water Fund | 655,804 |
| Water Capital Reserve Fund | 10 |
| Sewer Fund | 679,504 |
| Sewer Capital Reserve Fund | 1 |
| Total | <u>3,662,463</u> |

Section 1. General Fund

Anticipated Revenues

| | |
|--|----------------|
| AD VALOREM Taxes 2023-2024 | 935,566 |
| AD VALOREM Tax-Motor Vehicle | 90,000 |
| Animal Licenses | 1,500 |
| Sales Tax 1% Article 39 | 195,868 |
| Sales Tax 1/2% Article 40 | 114,635 |
| Sales Tax 1/2% Article 42 | 97,901 |
| Sales Tax Article 44 | 13,090 |
| Sales Tax Hold Harmless Distribution | 108,195 |
| Solid Waste Disposal Tax | 2,200 |
| Powell Bill Allocation | 100,486 |
| Beer and Wine Tax | 13,225 |
| Video Programming Sales Tax | 49,621 |
| Utilities Franchise Tax | 112,169 |
| Telecommunications Sales Tax | 6,725 |
| Court Refunds | 500 |
| Zoning Permits | 7,000 |
| Miscellaneous | 16,200 |
| Interest- Powell Bill Investments | 50 |
| Interest-General Fund Investments | 31,000 |
| Contributions | 901 |
| Wildwood Storage Rents | 18,144 |
| Rents & Concessions | 18,000 |
| Sale of Fixed Assets | 4,600 |
| Transfer From Capital Reserve Fund | 43,504 |
| Transfer From PW Capital Projects Fund | 57,720 |
| Appropriated Fund Balance | <u>218,759</u> |
| Total | 2,257,559 |

Section 1. General Fund (continued)

| | | |
|--|--|------------------|
| Authorized Expenditures | | |
| Governing Body | | 47,350 |
| Administration | | 332,000 |
| Finance | | 131,306 |
| Tax Listing | | 13,700 |
| Legal Services | | 40,090 |
| Elections | | 0 |
| Police | | 769,335 |
| Public Buildings | | 109,000 |
| Emergency Services | | 2,870 |
| Animal Control | | 16,225 |
| Street Maintenance | | 271,050 |
| Public Works | | 186,050 |
| Leaf & Limb and Solid Waste | | 81,606 |
| Stormwater Management | | 44,840 |
| Wetlands and Waterways | | 2,900 |
| Planning & Zoning | | 55,000 |
| Recreation & Special Events | | 11,100 |
| Parks & Community Appearance | | 55,130 |
| Contingency | | 20,807 |
| Transfer To General Capital Reserve Fund | | 55,000 |
| Transfer To L.E.S.A. Fund | | 12,200 |
| Total | | <u>2,257,559</u> |

Section 2. General Capital Reserve Fund

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--|---------------|
| Anticipated Revenues | | |
| Contributions from General Fund | | 55,000 |
| Interest Revenue | | <u>1,900</u> |
| Total | | 56,900 |
| Authorized Expenditures | | |
| Transfer to General Fund | | 43,504 |
| Future Procurement | | <u>13,396</u> |
| | | 56,900 |

Section 3. Law Enforcement Separation Allowance Fund

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--|---------------|
| Anticipated Revenues: | | |
| Contributions from General Fund | | 12,200 |
| Interest Revenue | | <u>485</u> |
| Total | | 12,685 |
| Authorized Expenditures: | | |
| Separation Allowance | | 0 |
| Future LEOSSA Payments | | <u>12,685</u> |
| Total | | 12,685 |

Section 4. Water Fund

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Anticipated Revenues | |
| Utility Usage Charges, Classes 1 & 2 | 210,591 |
| Utility Usage Charges, Classes 3 & 4 | 12,428 |
| Utility Usage Charges, Class 5 | 15,002 |
| Utility Usage Charges, Class 8 | 4,644 |
| Utility Customer Base Charges | 278,811 |
| Hydrant Availability Fee | 19,764 |
| Taps & Connections Fees | 1,250 |
| Nonpayment Fees | 10,500 |
| Late payment Fees | 7,822 |
| Interest Revenue | 3,488 |
| Sale of Capital Asset | 0 |
| Transfer From PW Capital Projects Fund | 62,551 |
| Appropriated Fund Balance | 28,953 |
| Total | <u>655,804</u> |
| | |
| Authorized Expenditures | |
| Administration & Finance [1] | 491,804 |
| Operations and Maintenance | 140,500 |
| Transfer To Fund Balance for Capital Outlay | 23,500 |
| Transfer To Water Capital Reserve Fund | 0 |
| Total | <u>655,804</u> |
| | |
| <i>[1] Portion of department for bond debt service:</i> | <i>141,157</i> |

Section 5. Water Capital Reserve Fund

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Anticipated Revenues | |
| Contributions From Water Operations Fund | 0 |
| Interest Revenue | 10 |
| Total | <u>10</u> |
| | |
| Authorized Expenditures | |
| Future Expansion & Debt Service | 10 |

Section 6. Sewer Fund

Anticipated Revenues:

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Utility Usage Charges, Classes 1 & 2 | 267,170 |
| Utility Usage Charges, Classes 3 & 4 | 36,679 |
| Utility Usage Charges, Class 5 | 28,142 |
| Utility Usage Charges, Class 8 | 16,833 |
| Utility Customer Base Charges | 296,108 |
| Taps & Connection Fees | 1,250 |
| Late payment Fees | 8,384 |
| Interest Revenue | 5,836 |
| Sale of Capital Asset | 0 |
| Transfer from PW Capital Projects Fund | 62,551 |
| Appropriated Fund Balance | (43,449) |
| Total | <u>679,504</u> |

Authorized Expenditures:

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Administration & Finance [2] | 483,204 |
| Operations and Maintenance | 192,800 |
| Transfer to Fund Balance for Capital Outlay | 3,500 |
| Transfer to Sewer Capital Reserve Fund | 0 |
| Total | <u>679,504</u> |

[2] Portion of department for bond debt service: 121,893

Section 7. Sewer Capital Reserve

Anticipated Revenues:

| | |
|--|----------|
| Contributions From Sewer Operations Fund | 0 |
| Interest Revenue | 1 |
| Total | <u>1</u> |

Authorized Expenditures:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Future Expansion & Debt Service | 1 |
|---------------------------------|---|

Section 8. **Levy of Taxes**

There is hereby levied a tax at the rate of twenty-four cents (\$0.24) per one hundred dollars (\$100) valuation of property as listed for taxes as of January 1, 2023, for the purpose of raising the revenue listed as "Ad Valorem Taxes 2023-2024" in the General Fund Section 1 of this ordinance. This rate is based on a valuation of \$393,280,000 for purposes of taxation of real and personal property with an estimated rate of collection of 99.12%. The estimated collection rate is based on the fiscal year 2021-2022 collection rate of 99.12% by Craven County who has been contracted to collect real and personal property taxes for the Town of River Bend. Also included is a valuation of \$37,500,000 for purposes of taxation of motor vehicles with a collection rate of 100% by the North Carolina Vehicle Tax System.

Section 9. **Fees and Charges**

There is hereby established, for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, various fees and charges as contained in Attachment A of this document.

Section 10. **Special Authorization of the Budget Officer**

- A. The Budget Officer shall be authorized to reallocate any appropriations within departments.
- B. The Budget Officer shall be authorized to execute interfund and interdepartmental transfers in emergency situations. Notification of all such transfers shall be made to the Town Council at its next meeting following the transfer.
- C. The Budget Officer shall be authorized to execute interdepartmental transfers in the same fund, including contingency appropriations, not to exceed \$5,000. Notification of all such transfers shall be made to the Town Council at its next meeting following the transfer.

Section 11. **Classification and Pay Plan**

Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for all Town employees shall be 4.4% and shall begin the first payroll in the new fiscal year. The Town Manager is hereby authorized to grant merit increases to Town employees, when earned, per the approved Pay Plan.

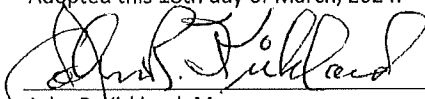
Section 12. **Utilization of the Budget Ordinance**

This ordinance shall be the basis of the financial plan for the Town of River Bend municipal government during the 2023-2024 fiscal year. The Budget Officer shall administer the Annual Operating Budget and shall ensure the operating staff and officials are provided with guidance and sufficient details to implement their appropriate portion of the budget.

Section 13. **Copies of this Budget Ordinance**

Copies of this Budget Ordinance shall be furnished to the Clerk, Town Council, Budget Officer and Finance Officer to be kept on file by them for their direction in the disbursement of funds.

Adopted this 18th day of March, 2024.



John R. Kirkland, Mayor

Attest:



Kristie J. Nobles, Town Clerk, CMC, NCCMC