

**River Bend Town Council
Special Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2024 Town
Hall
3:00 p.m.**

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

Absent Council Member: Jeff Weaver

Town Manager: Delane Jackson
Public Works Director: Brandon Mills

Rivers and Associates: Greg Churchill

Members of the Public Present: 20

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kirkland called the Special Meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, September 9, 2024, at the River Bend Town Hall with a quorum present.

Discussion – Wastewater Treatment Plant Project Update

At this time the Mayor called on the Manager. The Manager announced that Councilman Weaver had called in sick and could not attend. The Manager introduced the Public Works Director, Brandon Mills and Greg Churchill of Rivers and Associates, who is the engineer on the project. He stated that the purpose of the meeting is to update the Council on the status of the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) project and to seek Council action on how to proceed. The Manager stated that he is now aware of how the state plans to administer the \$800,000,000 in fund shifting. He stated that it would not be used up-front on projects, but rather on the tail-end of projects that are in danger of not being completed by the ARPA deadline of December 31, 2026. He said there was no guarantee that any fund shifting would be available for our project, but at least it was a possible safety net for us. He recommended that we proceed as quickly as possible as if no fund shifting was available. The Manager stated that in the absence of additional funding, modifying the scope of the project to try to get it down to within the current budget was the next option. He stated that would require lots of work including engineering, permitting, bidding and more. Greg Churchill provided a proposed schedule and discussed it with Council. He and the Manager stated that there was no guarantee at this point that a revised project scope would get approval by the funding agency, receive permits from the permitting agency or come in on budget. Both stated that we will only know after the appropriate steps have been taken. The Council asked questions from all three and discussed the possibilities. The Manager asked the Council how they wanted to proceed.

VOTE – Wastewater Treatment Plant Project

Councilman Leonard motioned to direct Rivers and Associates to provide an amendment to the engineering services agreement to allow for a re-design of the project scope to fit within the current budget and ARPA guidelines. During the discussion Greg Churchill reiterated that he could not guarantee that the bid would fit within the current budget. The Town Manager stated

that would be the target and we would only know after opening the bids. All understood that condition. *The motion carried unanimously.*

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, *Councilman Sheffield moved to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.* The meeting adjourned at 3:46 p.m.



Delane Jackson
Town Manager