

**River Bend Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2024
Town Hall
7:00 p.m.**

Present Council Members: Mayor Pro Tempore Buddy Sheffield
Lisa Benton
Jeff Weaver
Brian Leonard

Absent Council Member: Barbara Maurer

Town Manager: Delane Jackson
Police Chief: Sean Joll
Finance Director: Mandy Gilbert
Town Clerk: Kristie Nobles
Town Attorney: David Baxter

Members of the Public Present: 28

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tempore Sheffield called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 17, 2024, at the River Bend Town Hall with a quorum present.

RECOGNITION OF NEW RESIDENTS

John Nelson – 103 Compass Court – stated that he had recently moved to town from Raleigh, North Carolina and is an engineer.

VOTE – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilman Weaver motioned to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

ADDRESS TO THE COUNCIL

James Crozier – 33 Pier Pointe – addressed the Council with concerns for the water quality he receives at his home. He also requested that the town do more research on the type of water system the town received bids for.

James Myers – 111 Portside Lane – addressed the Council with concerns regarding the quality and discoloration of the water at his residence.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rob Clymore – 106 Sextant Court – asked the Council when the test results will be available from the testing. He asked what is being done to verify the Water Treatment Plans cost, to clean and replace the media filter. He asked that a forensic financial audit be completed to make sure this is on the up and up.

Jim Gadwell – 202 Outrigger – stated that he had the brown water problem figured out, to flush the water before use. He asked the Council when will there be a question and answer time and Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield informed him that this was a time for him to express his concerns.

Noreen Fitzgerald – 316 Lochbridge – expressed concerns for the quality of water at her residence and stated she has spent a lot of money on a water filtration system and replacing appliances due to the quality of the water.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Mayor Pro Tem 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 Sept. 12, 2024, Work Session Meeting
Minutes of the Sept. 19, 2024, Regular Council Meeting*

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

The Manager gave the following updates:

- There has been a water quality survey posted on the town's website and has had 96 entries.
- The nationwide EPA mandate on the pipe inspections from the meters to the homes has been completed and there are an estimated 12 homes that have galvanized lines that aren't owned by the town.
- The two new police cars that were approved with the FY24-25 Budget are in. They will need to be outfitted with police equipment.
- WTP Grant Supplemental Grant has been completed and it will be December before the approvals are announced.

Police Chief Joll stated that the National Night Out is October 18, 2024, and there are an estimated 45 vendors registered.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION – Councilman Weaver

Councilman Weaver stated that Parks and Recreation met on October 2 at 6:30 in the Municipal Building. He stated that the Veterans Day event will be held on November 11, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building and that the board has some vacancies along with a volunteer list for anyone who wishes to volunteer without being on the board.

RIVER BEND COMMUNITY ORGANIC GARDEN

Councilman Weaver gave the following report:

The fall garden is comprised of five rows. There is still a lot of activity but it will slow down when the weather gets cold. The garden will be open with limited hours during the winter. Garden volunteers worked 127 hours in September for a YTD total of 1751 hours, The harvest for September totaled 175 pounds. Workdays will continue on alternate Saturdays in October. Volunteers can also sign-up on the daily calendar. The next meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2024 at 1:30 pm in the Town Hall conference room. It is a temporary change due to the election using the Municipal building. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting and visitors are always welcome at the garden.

CAC – Councilwoman Maurer (absent)

The following report was provided in the agenda and entered into the minutes:

The CAC will be holding a Special Meeting on Oct. 15, 2024, 1:30 PM, to interview a landscape architect as part of the Plantation Median Project \$5,000 allocation to begin the process of rejuvenating the Plantation Median. The CAC plans to participate in National Night Out (NNO)

Oct. 18, 2024. The CAC is gearing up for the Fall Festive Award for October. The banner goes up the week of October 7 and nominations will be open through Oct. 20. The Fall Festive Winners will be announced on Oct. 26, 2024. In addition to the winners, there will be a list of all nominees and a YouTube video of all nominees for the Award available for the community. There will be offering 2 Christmas globe workshops on Nov. 6 and 9, 2024 from 9 AM until noon. These workshops will be held in the Municipal Building. The workshops fill quickly so register early. The CAC will also be hosting the Christmas Festive Award in December. Stay tuned for more details. CAC Volunteers provided 700.50 hours of volunteer hours during the fiscal year 2023/2024. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 20 at 4 pm. Guests are welcome. Thanks go to CAC Chairwoman Brenda Hall for providing this report.

FINANCE – Councilman Leonard

Financial Report – Finance Director, Mandy Gilbert, presented the financial statement for the month of August to the Council. She stated the total of the Town's Cash and Investments as of September 30, 2024, were \$2,603,222 and Ad Valorem Tax Collections for FY24-25 were \$94,974 and Vehicle Ad Valorem Tax Collections were \$24,717.

VOTE – Purchase Water Treatment Media

Councilman Leonard motioned to proceed with the purchase and installation of new Birm media. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Leonard motioned to implement treatment strategies as recommended by the state in an attempt to improve our treatment process and measure their effectiveness before we take further action. The motion carried unanimously.

VOTE – Capital Project Ordinance Amendment

Councilman Leonard motioned to approve the Capital Project Ordinance Amendment as presented. The motion carried unanimously. (see attached)

ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATERWAYS – Councilman Leonard

Councilman Leonard presented the following report:

Chairman Hall called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. There was a quorum of members present. There were no visitors. The minutes for the August 2024 meeting were approved. Councilman Leonard gave a council update. Old Business: Ongoing concerns about the alligator weed in Plantation Canal.

EWAB will have a table at the River Bend NNO event. New Business: The walking path by the dog park and lake is overgrown and needs cutting. Several channel markers were repaired or replaced. Volunteer Hours: 8 There will not be a meeting in November due to the election.

The next meeting will be on December 2nd at 7 PM in the small conference room in the municipal building. The public is welcome to attend. The meeting adjourned at 7:23 PM

PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilwoman Benton

Councilwoman Benton gave the following report:

Community Watch met on October 16 at 7:00 pm at the Municipal Building. Community Watch is in need of volunteers and will be assisting with the National Night Out.

VOTE – Surplus Property Resolution

Councilwoman Benton motioned to approve the Surplus Property Resolution as presented. The motion carried unanimously. (see attached)

MAYOR'S REPORT


Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield read the following report prepared by Mayor Kirkland prior to his passing.

MUNICIPAL RECOVERY FROM HURRICANE DAMAGE

Yesterday I attended the quarterly board meeting of the Highway 17-264 Association as the Town's representative. One of the DOT presentations to the board was from Mr. Cox, the Deputy Chief Engineer of DOT. He reported at length on the division's response to restore transportation to the Southport municipality following Hurricane Debby. He reported that every road that provides vehicular access to Southport was compromised and there was no vehicular access to the town. DOT has a survey team and response resources to move to impacted sites, but they need to have vehicular access to make the survey visit and, in this case, there was no access for vehicles. Some roads had bridges destroyed by the hurricane. Others had large drainage pipes washed out. The DOT "ferry division" was engaged to transport the DOT emergency teams to the site and make the evaluation and schedule for the necessary rebuild of the destroyed infrastructure. The DOT forces and contract workers are restoring the damaged roadway infrastructure as scheduled by the plan developed as quickly as possible following the event. Mr. Cox's concluding remarks were to express appreciation to the Ferry Division for their assistance and to say the hurricane was a learning experience that will serve DOT well for future emergencies. It is obvious that the extent of the localized damage from this hurricane has created a very large cost that was not planned but must be met. Mr. Cox did not address that aspect of the project and most likely it is not yet a cost that has been totaled.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, *Councilman Leonard moved to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.


Kristie J. Nobles, MMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk



**TOWN OF RIVER BEND
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND ORDINANCE
AMENDMENT #3**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Town of River Bend, North Carolina, that the Wastewater Treatment Plant Capital Projects Fund Ordinance as last amended on August 8, 2024, be amended as follows:

Section 1. The following amounts are hereby appropriated for the operation of a Town Capital Projects Fund for the enhancement of the Wastewater Treatment Plant:

<u>CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND</u>	
<u>Revenues:</u>	
State Fiscal Recovery Fund Grant	9,108,500
 <u>Expenditures:</u>	
Wetlands Mitigation	54,000
Engineering/Administration	851,500
Construction	<u>8,203,000</u>
	9,108,500

Section 2. It is estimated that revenues in the amounts indicated in the foregoing schedule will be available to support the foregoing appropriations.

Section 3. The Finance Officer is hereby authorized to maintain an appropriate Fund Chart of Accounts.

Section 4. Copies of this 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.

Section 5. The capital projects funds are appropriated pursuant to section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina; therefore, appropriations do not lapse at the end of the fiscal year and are available for the duration of the project, estimated to be eighteen months, unless subsequently amended by Council action.

Adopted this 17th day of October, 2024.



Morris T. Sheffield, Mayor Pro Tempore

Attest:



Kristie J. Nobles, Town Clerk, MMC, NCCMC

**Resolution Approving Conveyance of Personal Property to
A Nonprofit Organization
Pursuant to G.S. 160A-280**

WHEREAS, the Town of River Bend owns nonperishable food and supplies; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 160A-280 authorizes a city or county to convey personal property for nonmonetary consideration to a nonprofit corporation if the governing board deems the property to be surplus, obsolete, or unused; and

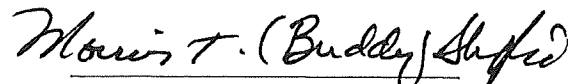
WHEREAS, the Town of River Bend has determined that the personal property described above is surplus, obsolete, or unused; and

WHEREAS, the Town of River Bend finds that the public will benefit from the conveyance of the property described above by supplying Hurricane Helene relief.

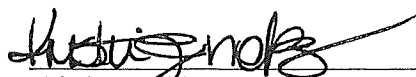
THEREFORE, THE TOWN OF RIVER BEND TOWN COUNCIL RESOLVES THAT:

1. The Town Manager of River Bend is authorized to execute all documents necessary to convey title to the food and supplies described above to Mt. Olive Baptist Church of Bolivia, Inc. 2919 Galloway Road, Bolivia NC 28422.
2. The consideration for the conveyance is to supply Hurricane Helene relief.
3. In accordance with the notice requirements of N.C.G.S. § 160A-280, public notice of this resolution was given by posting on town's web page and bulletin board beginning on October 11, 2024.

Adopted this the 17th day of October, 2024


Morris T. "Buddy" Sheffield, Mayor Pro-Tem

ATTEST:


Kristie J. Nobles, Town Clerk