



TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT
 BY TOWN MANAGER
 DELANE JACKSON

I occasionally hear comments about transparency or the perceived lack of it in government. This article is dedicated to a discussion of facts about the Town of River Bend’s ongoing efforts to be transparent. First, what does transparency mean? In a literal sense, it simply means - able to be seen through. Dictionary.com/browse/transparency says this about transparency - “It is perhaps most commonly used in a figurative way to refer to a state in which things are free from any attempt to hide something...”

If I were asked to specifically give one example of the Town of River Bend’s effort to be transparent, I would simply point to our webpage as “Exhibit A.” Our web page is full of information about the town. Following is a list of just some of the data you will find on our web page. It’s available 24/7/365 from the privacy and comfort of your home, all with just a few keystrokes and a few clicks of your mouse.

- Many years of agendas, minutes and video recordings from previous town meetings. The town is not required to record its Council meetings or even provide agenda’s for meetings.
- Council and staff contact information and a Council meeting schedule
- All town ordinances and many town policies, forms and permit applications

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- Maps of all sorts and a town calendar of upcoming events
 - Lots of information about each town department
 - A list of job vacancies and bid opportunities when we have any
 - Notice of any upcoming public hearings
 - Many years of previous newsletters
 - Information about Advisory Boards, what they do and how to apply including an application and minutes from past Advisory Board meetings
 - Our Comprehensive Plan and lots of floodplain information
 - All sorts of budget information, including our current budget and amendments thereto, past budgets, the budget message and all of the documents to the development of the current budget, which occurred during the annual budget workshops. This includes the PowerPoint presentations that were presented during those workshops. Those workshops are open to the public and literally every single line item in all departments and the amount of funding for it are displayed on the big screen during those workshops.
 - Financial Information galore, including our latest and past audit reports, and our award winning (13 consecutive years) Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). It includes 18 different tables of statistical data, many of which include 10 years of historical data, including data on fund balance, net position, bonded debt, property tax levy, tax rate, expenditures & revenues by function and even 10 years of data on how many tons of leaf and limb debris was collected, how many zoning permits were issued, how much water was treated, how much sewer was treated, how many miles of water lines, sewer lines and streets there are in town and even how many police arrests were made in town and for what. If you are interested, you can even find out how many fire hydrants and sewer lift

stations there are in town and even more information.

□ Financial Dashboard, which is a user-friendly tool that looks a lot like an instrument cluster in a vehicle, thus the name. It allows you to easily view the current financial data on 55 different budget-related items in 55 different graphs/charts. This report is updated monthly.

□ Monthly Finance Report, which contains up-to-date budget information on 101 separate budget items. This report is updated monthly and shows year-to-date data for the current fiscal year and even compares this year's data to last year's data.

□ There is even a 5-year Comparison of Budget that makes it easy to compare some selected budget data.

□ Monthly Agenda Packet - This document is posted on our web page and included in the weekly e-news prior to the Council meetings. It contains departmental reports, the finance report, Council minutes, materials related to the items that are on the agenda for that particular meeting, advisory board reports and more. You can even see how many workorders the Public Works Department staff received and completed, and it's broken down into 15 different areas. You can also see how many zoning permit applications were received and issued and the dollar amount of fees that were collected through that process. You can also see how many citizen complaints were received and how many zoning violation notices were issued. In the monthly Police Department report, you can see data for 38 different areas of police operations.

□ Schedule of rates and fees, number of water and sewer customers

□ A list of the Top 10 highest property taxpayers (Table 7, page 120 of 2024 ACFR)

□ And lots more.....

These are just some, but not all, of the things that you will find on our web page. It's important to note that River Bend is not required to have a web page. No town in North Carolina is. For towns that do operate a web page, the law requires very few items to be posted on the web page. Some of those are: notices of public hearings, special meetings and bid opportunities. Almost all of the items listed above are NOT required to be published on our web page. The town does include them as a part of our effort to be transparent.

In addition to our web page, the Town also operates an e-news service. It is a weekly notice that is sent via email to subscribers. It contains lots of information about upcoming events and meetings and links to many of the items that are on our web page.

If there is any town related data/information that is in the public domain, which you need but cannot find on our web page, just call Town Hall and we will get it for you. However, please be aware that not all data is in the public domain. Some items like some personnel records, utility customer information and some attorney correspondence is not in the public domain. Also, we can only provide you with data that we have and in the format that we have it. For example, we cannot provide you with a report on how many kids aged 9-15 live in River Bend or how many registered voters live in River Bend because we do not maintain those records.

We also have an official bulletin board where we post information that is required by law. The bulletin board is located on the porch at Town Hall. Our web page continues to grow. It is updated and expanded regularly. For example, I have recently been asked about the rules concerning closed session. Some information about that topic can be found on our web page. [Click here for the North Carolina law about that topic.](#) Please visit our web page, surf around on it and if you have any suggestions for topics that need to be added, let us know. The Town of River Bend goes well beyond the minimum requirements in regards to transparency.

Delane Jackson,
TownManager
Updated January 31, 2025



WRD/PW REPORT

BY BRANDON MILLS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

This month, Public Works did an excellent job following our snow mitigation plan by diligently plowing streets and salting intersections as outlined in our plan. They ensured that key roads remained open and less hazardous for the public and first responders. I would like to thank the team for their hard work and dedication to keeping our streets safe.

In Water Resources, the team successfully repaired two small water leaks, one on a 2-inch service line and another on a ¾ inch service line. Both repairs were completed in a timely and efficient manner, minimizing disruption in service. Additionally, one of our lift station pumps had to be pulled due to the impeller blockage caused by debris. This issue was quickly identified and addressed, preventing a potential sanitary sewer overflow. The prompt response helped maintain system reliability and protect public health. Overall, both departments demonstrated great efficiency and commitment to maintaining essential services this month.

If you have any questions concerning the Water Resources/Public Works Department, please call us at 252-638-3540, Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm. After-hours water and sewer emergencies can be reported by dialing the Town Hall at 252-638-3870. 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 252-638-1108 (option 1), 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 (option 1). They will get in touch with the on-call utility system

COMING EVENTS

CAC Special Meeting
February 26
4:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Community Watch
Meeting
February 26
6:00 p.m.
Town Hall

RBCOG Meeting
March 3
1:30 p.m.
Municipal Building

EWAB Meeting
March 3
7:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Parks & Recreating
Advisory Board Meeting
March 5
6:30 p.m.
Municipal Building

Planning Board Meeting
March 6
6:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Council Special Meeting
March 11
4:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Council Work Session
March 13
5:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Bingo & Game Night
Sponsored by Parks and
Recreation
March 14
7:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

CAC Meeting
March 19
4:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Council Regular Session
March 20
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Book/Tech Mobile
March 21
2p.m.-4p.m.
Tech Class 4p.m.-5 p.m.
115 Wildwood Dr



**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
Mark Bledsoe

TOWN COUNCIL
Lisa Benton
Brian Leonard
Kathy Noonan
Buddy Sheffield
Jeff Weaver

TOWN MANAGER
Delane Jackson

TOWN CLERK
Kristie Nobles

FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR
Mandy Gilbert

POLICE CHIEF
Sean Joll

**DIRECTOR OF
PUBLIC WORKS**
Brandon Mills

**ASSISTANT
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR**
Allison McCollum

**GRAPHIC DESIGN &
TYPOGRAPHY**
Jennifer Barrow

Contact Us:
45 Shoreline Drive
River Bend, NC 28562
252.638-3870
www.riverbendnc.org

**Leaf & Limb
Collection
Schedule for
2024-2025**

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

Zone 1 Pick Up Begins

- July 15, 2024
(July 10, 2024)
- September 9, 2024
(September 4, 2024)
- November 11, 2024
(November 6, 2024)
- December 11, 2024
(December 4, 2024)
- January 13, 2025
(includes Christmas trees)
(January 8, 2025)
- March 10, 2025
(March 5, 2025)
- May 12, 2025
(May 7, 2025)

Zone 2 Pick Up Begins

- July 22, 2024
(July 17, 2024)
- September 16, 2024
(September 11, 2024)
- November 18, 2024
(November 13, 2024)
- December 16, 2024
(December 11, 2024)
- January 20, 2025
(includes Christmas trees)
(January 15, 2025)
- March 17, 2025
(March 12, 2025)
- May 19, 2025
(May 14, 2025)

Pinecones, pine straw and leaves must **NOT** be bagged. For additional important information about River Bend's Leaf & Limb collection program, please see our updated Ordinance online at www.riverbendnc.org.

**Town Council
2025 Meeting Dates**

- Work Session January 9
- Regular Meeting January 16
- Work Session February 13
- Regular Meeting February 20
- Work Session March 13
- Regular Meeting March 20
- Work Session April 10
- Regular Meeting April 17
- Work Session May 8
- Regular Meeting May 15
- Work Session June 12
- Regular Meeting June 19
- Work Session July 10
- Regular Meeting July 17
- Work Session August 14
- Regular Meeting August 21
- Work Session September 11
- Regular Meeting September 18
- Work Session October 9
- Regular Meeting October 16
- Work Session November 13
- Regular Meeting November 20
- Work Session December 4***
- Regular Meeting December 11***

***Changed due to holiday

Budget Meetings

- Budget Session April 28
- Budget Session May 1
- Budget Session May 6
- Budget Session May 8
- Budget Session (if needed)..... May 13
- Budget Session..... May 15

Click [HERE](#) for FY25-26 Budget Preparation

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.



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 current year registration decal. Decals for 2025 are available now. 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

River Bend Animal Registrations for 2025 are due by March 31, 2025. All River Bend dogs and cats must be registered annually.

Office hours are Monday-Friday, 8 AM-4 PM.

Owners must present proof of rabies vaccination at the time of registration. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Registration is \$10.00 per pet.



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**



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.