

Fries Town Council
April 5, 2016
Minutes

Members Present: Bill Davis, Jo Ann Gunter, Nancy Hawks, Marie Isom, Carolyn Jones, Jerry McCormick and Dawn Patton.

Others Present: Richard Farmer, Mayor; Denny Brooms of the Fries Community Center; John and Brandy Ayers of Creek Bottom Brews and Shaina Stockton of the Gazette.

The Mayor called the hearing to order and Nancy Hawks gave the Invocation.

Minutes & Bills: Dawn Patton moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to approve the minutes and bills as presented. Jo Ann Gunter provided the second to the motion. All present voted Aye and the minutes and bills were approved.

Police Report: Officer Carrico gave a summary of police activity for March. He reported: 7 traffic actions and one other arrest, the investigation of 1 felony, 4 misdemeanors and 2 follow-ups. Routine activities included: 405 closed business checks, 26 service calls, 70 church checks, 63 directive patrols, 42 open business checks, 23 forestry checks, 1 motorist assists, 1 warrant service, 3 open bank checks and 1 vehicle/ K-9 Search for a total of 176.90 hours. The Mayor thanked the officer for his report and the department for their service.

Organization Updates:

1. Fries Volunteer Fire Department Update: Chad Stanley sent the following report:
In March we responded to: 35 EMS calls, 5 fire calls including: 1 structure fire, 2 car fires, 1 vehicle accident, and 1 brush fire.
This year we have formed a technical rescue team. This consists of 7 members who have taken specialized training to respond to emergency calls that are not routine. Technical rescue includes calls that involve a rope rescue, confined space rescue, trench rescue, motor vehicle rescue, and water rescue.
We will be hosting a Surface Water Rescue class sponsored by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs on April 22, 23, and 24.
Our first event of the year will be a rodeo on Saturday, May 7 beginning at 5:00 p.m. Events will include bull riding, barrel racing, pole bending, team roping, and mutton busting.
2. Fries Community Center Report: Denny Brooms reported that they had purchased new flooring for the dining room/kitchen area and planned to begin installation in a few days. He was also planning to remove the old stove from the kitchen. Baseball and Softball registrations had just ended. A scheduling meeting for the three teams was scheduled for April 12th. He reported speaking with the organization that performed the Allen play in Carroll County and hoped that they would be performing

the play in the Fries Theatre in the near future. A wedding had also been scheduled in the Theatre for April 30th. Upcoming events included a Cruise-In to be held Memorial Day weekend and the Annual Spring Festival Honoring Henry Whitter, both in the Town Park. He reported that the Community Center would be serving hamburgers, hot dogs and nachos at the festival and they planned to ask food vendors to serve something other than those items. Activities for the festival included a mechanical bull and a lamb petting zoo. Organizers were still working on promotional ideas, recruiting volunteers and also vendors. He then presented John and Brandy Ayers, the owners of Creek Bottom Brews who planned to incorporate a beer garden into the festival but wished to discuss the idea with the council before proceeding. The Mayor reported that after having researched the issue, he found that council did not need to take any action to allow the beer garden. The Virginia ABC Board issued permits for serving beer and wine at events. With no objections, Mr. & Mrs. Ayers planned to move forward with their plans. The Mayor thanked Denny for his report and The Ayer's for attending.

3. Theatre Report: Kit Marshall reported that the floors had been refinished and were absolutely stunning. She thanked Ken Hampton for doing a wonderful job. She also thanked all the local businesses that donated and contributed to the theatre. She also reported that they were currently working in the lobby area, cleaning, painting, and replacing cabinets and flooring. Gene Adkins reported that the seats had been re-installed, but had been moved closer to the stage. They planned to install donated seats from the Rex Theatre later in the summer. The Mayor thanked them for giving the update.
4. Tourism Report: Marie Isom reported:
 - There were 5 active and 1 inactive vacation rentals in town, which had decreased by 4 active rentals in the last year. Revenue had only decreased by \$269.
 - She asked for permission to form a committee to create information packets for new businesses that would include everything from filing forms to zoning information. The Mayor asked her to go ahead with the committee and report back.
 - The tourism marketing survey would be ready by the end of April through [surveymonkey.com](https://www.surveymonkey.com), email at growfries@friesva.com and by mail. Call Marie at (276) 233-1104 for more information.
 - Spoke with Jimmy Elliott of the New River Trail State Park concerning signage, extending the trail toward the depot site and treatment of the Tree of Heaven plant. All issues would be moving forward.
 - Attended the Southwest Virginia Blue Ridge Parkway meetings and also the Mount Rogers Planning District Commissions Stronger Economies Together meetings.

- Restocked brochures and submitted a digital presentation to the Lambsburg, Wytheville and the Rocky Gap Information Centers.
- Work on the Love Works sign had begun and she hoped to have the sign installed by the end of the month.
- Submitted applications to Save Our Town and Virginia Main Street Tourism Initiative.
- Announced that the Information/Gift Shop would be opening on Sunday, May 1st at 2pm.
- Announced the following upcoming events: May 21st –Spring Festival Honoring Henry Whitter, May 28th—Cruise in, May 28th—Spring Bike Ride and April 16th—Fishing Tournament sponsored by New River Outdoor Adventures.
- Discussed upcoming changes to the town website.
- Thanked Brian Reed, Rick Boucher, Frankie Fortner, Carolyn Jones and Dawn Patton for their contributions to getting the depot project to the point that advertisement for contractor bids had begun.

The Mayor thanked Marie for her report and for all that she does to promote tourism for the town.

Old Business:

1. Depot Project Update: Dawn Patton reported that the advertisement for contactor bids ran in local papers on March 20th and the deadline to bid would be April 20th. Lane Group had reported four interested contractors even before holding the pre-bid meeting that was to be held on April 6th. The Mayor thanked Dawn for her report.
2. Y Repair Project Update: The Mayor reported that the balance on the renovation account was up to \$21,320.70. He also reported that Mr. Tim Luper had submitted a bid and that negotiations with him were progressing.

New Business:

1. VDH Resolution: The Mayor read the following resolution:

“RESOLUTION”

WHEREAS, the Town of Fries has determined it necessary to prepare a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) to explore options for the rehabilitation of the Town’s water storage tank and to develop plans and technical specifications for the recommended alternative; and;

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Health-Office of Drinking Water Planning Grant Program provides funding for projects such as this one; and;

WHEREAS, the Town of Fries' Council have reviewed project planning material and found that the pre-requirements for the Planning Grant Program have been met for submitting a funding application;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Fries' Council hereby votes to seek funding from the Office for the following project;

Water Storage Tank Rehabilitation PER \$25,000

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Manager immediately begin to process a grant application for this project and be authorized to sign any and all documents to accept such funding contingent upon review and concurrence by the Town Attorney.

Carolyn Jones moved to adopt the resolution. Marie Isom provided the second. All present voted Aye and the resolution was adopted.

Announcements:

1. The Mayor announced that all of the water samples collected in January 2016 from the Fries water treatment plant approved lead and copper sample sites had a lead concentration below the laboratory detection limit of 0.002 mg/L. The copper concentrations found in samples had a 90th percentile concentration of 0.046 mg/L and is well below the Action Level of 1.3 mg/L. Therefore, these test results indicate both lead and copper values found during this monitoring period are below the Action Levels. In fact all of the samples collected were below 90th Percentile Action Levels. The samples were in compliance with the Virginia Waterworks Regulations.
2. Large Item Curbside Pickup would be held on June 13th. Citizens would need to call Grayson County Public Works at (276) 773-3181 to register for pickup. Details were provided on the town's website at www.friesva.com.
3. The deadline for purchasing town decals was April 15th.
4. Town Council Elections were scheduled for Tuesday, May 3rd at the Fries School.

With no further business to discuss, Jerry McCormick moved to adjourn, Dawn Patton provided the second and the meeting was adjourned.

Signed: _____

Attest: _____