

Fries Town Council
April 7, 2015
Minutes

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

Others Present: Richard Farmer, Mayor; Brian Reed, Town Manager; Kevin Heath, Lane Group; Denny Brooms and Karen Snyder, Fries Community Center; Chad Stanley, FVFD and several citizens.

The Mayor called the meeting 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. Marie Isom provided the second to the motion. All present voted Aye and the minutes and bills were approved.

Police Report: Officer Vaughan gave a summary of police activity for March. He reported 2 traffic arrests and 1 DUI. He also reported investigation of 1 felony and 1 misdemeanor. Routine activities reported included: 272 closed business checks, 9 service calls, 79 church checks, 57 directive patrols, 55 open business checks, 64 forestry checks, 2 motorist assists, 1 first responder, 7 civil papers, 1 warrant service, 1 prisoner, 1 transport order, 1 court on duty and 20 open bank checks for a total of 190.30 hours. The Mayor thanked the Officer for his report and asked that they begin checking for expired decals after the deadline of April 15th. He also asked the Officer pass his thanks along to Sheriff Vaughan for the prisoner work details that cleaned up the roadways near the entrances to town.

Organization Updates:

1. Fries Volunteer Fire Department Update: Chad Stanley reported that in March the fire department answered 36 EMS calls and 4 fire calls. Their chili drive thru fundraiser was a success, but their car wash didn't go so well because of the weather. Their next event was to be a horse show at their Providence location on Sunday, April 12th. Chad also reported that the department would be trying to upgrade their dispatch so that Fries would have one channel thru the FCC. He asked that the Mayor send a letter of support on town letterhead. By doing so they would save a \$200.00 fee. The Mayor agreed to compose the letter. He also reported that they would begin painting and flushing fire hydrants when the weather warmed up. The Mayor thanked Chad for his report and Chad thanked everyone for supporting the fire department.
2. Fries Community Center Report: Denny Brooms reported that repair and cleanup was ongoing and pool repairs were underway. Plans were to open the pool when school let out. He reported that he was still working on finding a new vending company that offered newer, updated games for the lobby. Upcoming fundraisers included wildcat decals for \$3.00 each, a square dance on Saturday, April 11th at 7pm with the White Top Mountain Band and a Flapjack Fundraiser at Applebee's. Concessions for 8th grade baseball were underway and going well. He and the volunteers that work concessions had planned to attend Serve Safe Classes also. Denny and Karen Snyder had also signed up for SERCAP Orientation Classes that would permit them access to more student volunteer groups. The next student group was scheduled for

June. Denny also reported that they had been getting estimates on replacing the kitchen floor and that he would be working with the senior group on the details. He then announced that the Community Center Board would be meeting on Monday, April 13th and that they would be voting on a new Volunteer Coordinator. Karen Snyder reported that the Jam Sessions were going great with both concessions and attendance. The Mayor asked if the center had received their 501c3 status and if they were working on their new bylaws. Denny replied yes to both questions. The Mayor thanked Denny & Karen for their reports and all of their hard work.

3. Tourism Report: Marie Isom read Kari Hill's resignation letter and thanked Kari for her service to the town. The Mayor reported that since the resignation he had asked Marie to return to the Tourism Director's position and that they had discussed the need to divide tourism and festivals/events into two separate committees. Marie will head up the Tourism Committee and Cynthia Grant will head up the Festival and Events Committee. Marie then asked for approval for the following to become members of the Tourism Committee: Sherry Watson, Kit Marshall, Minda Dixon, Timmy Dixon, Marie Isom and Martha Nichols, who will also serve as the new Emory & Henry Liaison. Council approved the appointments. Marie also reviewed the Festival and Events Committee members that had already been approved which were: Cynthia Grant, Karen Snyder, Yvonne Burr and Timmy Dixon. She announced that the two were officially divided and that they would still need to get together to work out some details. Marie explained that the first order of business for the Tourism Committee would be to take the tourism plan prepared by Kitty Barker and other resources and develop a strategic tourism plan that would be workable for the town. She hoped that by the next council meeting she would have something concrete to report. She then recognized Martha & Lynwood Matherly for their many contributions to town tourism.
4. Parks Committee Report: Marie Isom asked permission to host a cleanup day for the park area to include a large pile of brick and dirt near the old firehouse. She also asked for permission to pursue establishment of a farmers market in the park area near the gray storage buildings. After some discussion, council approved both requests.
5. Festivals & Events Committee: Cynthia Grant reported that the committee had met three times since the March council meeting and had added some volunteers to their group. Their next meeting was scheduled for April 10th. She reported that vendor applications had started coming in for the Henry Whitter Spring Festival, and that they had discussed changing the entertainment starting time to 11am. She reported that several entertainers had confirmed and that things were coming together nicely. The Mayor thanked Marie and Cynthia for their reports.

Old Business:

1. Y Repair Project Update: The Mayor reported that the group had recently mailed out approximately 450 plus letters requesting donations of time and money to assist with the renovation of the building. To date he had received 64 responses for a total of \$7,354.41. Only funds for postage had been spent from the account. He reported that he had been working with the James Hardy Corporation and hoped that a donation of building materials would be available in the near future. He also reported that the group planned to have a fish fry at the Fries School on May 23rd from 4:00—7:00pm to benefit the fund.
2. Playground Grant Update: The Mayor reported that Kim Abernethy had almost completed the grant application and playground design. The application deadline would be the end of May and the grant would not be awarded for at least 90 days if ours was approved.

3. Depot Project Update: Dawn Patton introduced Kevin Heath from Lane Group who gave a brief summation of the depot project and the hurdles that had been cleared over the duration of the project to date. He reported that he planned to send the contractor bid package to VDOT for final approval and optimistically things would begin to happen within the next few months. Brian Reed stated that he would be glad to see something happen soon. He explained that our project had been through seven VDOT restructurings/ delays and hoped that the construction would take place soon. The Mayor thanked Mr. Heath and Brian for attending and for their work on the project.

New Business:

1. Theatre Renovation Project: Kit Marshall presented a design scheme and plan for renovating the theatre. The design took colors that were original to the theatre and expanded them to different areas. The design included gold velvet curtains for the front of the stage, and black out curtains for the back. She suggested keeping the walls blue, perhaps with installed upholstered panels instead of the original silk wallcovering. She also suggested painting the wainscoting a deeper wood tone color. She explained that there was no budget for the improvements, but she was hoping to find donations and volunteers to complete the work. After some discussion, Nancy Hawks moved to appoint Kit Marshall to head up the Theatre Renovation Committee. Marie Isom provided the second. All present voted Aye and the motion carried. The Mayor asked Kit to display the design at the Jam Sessions to get some public feedback, but saw no problem with the current design.
2. Water Treatment Award: The Mayor announced that the Virginia Department of Health had recently awarded the Fries Water Treatment Plant the 2014 Excellence in Waterworks Operations/Performance Award. The actual awards presentation was scheduled for April 22, 2015 in Roanoke, VA. He planned to attend to represent the town.
3. Water Committee Update: Jerry McCormick reported that the utility collections efforts had been successful to date, and that the committee was having some legal questions reviewed before revising the utility billing ordinance. The Mayor thanked the committee for their work.
4. Cemetery Committee Update: Jerry McCormick reported that phase two of the cemetery renovation was underway. Bolen Monument would be cleaning, repairing and resetting the stones in the larger "B" section at the back of the cemetery. Because of the larger size of the section, he reported that the renovation would be more expensive than the first section and that donations were needed to help with the expense. He also planned to have gates made to close off the cemetery at night and during ballpark events. Jerry also reported that the Cemetery Committee had renewed the one year mowing contract with Hines Lawn Care for another year. He felt that they had provided quality service for a fair price.

Announcements:

1. Town Decal deadline—April 15th. Personal Property taxes must be paid before purchasing a decal.

Pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, Council by affirmative vote went into closed session as provided by Section 2.2-3711.A1. (Moved by Nancy Hawks, Marie Isom provided the second).

Jerry McCormick moved to exit the closed session. Marie Isom provided the second. All present voted Aye and the motion carried.

As required in Section 2.2-3712.D of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, Council certified that to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the closed meeting by Town Council.

Certified by: Marie Isom, JoAnn Gunter, Richard Farmer, Dawn Patton, Nancy Hawks, Jerry McCormick and Bill Davis.

Jerry McCormick moved to hire Donald Hill for the vacant Public Works position. Bill Davis provided the second. The motion was approved.

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

Signed: _____

Attest: _____