

Fries Town Council  
August 4, 2015  
Minutes

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

Others Present: Richard Farmer, Mayor; Karen Snyder, Fries Community Center; Officer Gary Hash, Grayson County Police Department; Chad Stanley, Fries Volunteer Fire Department; Kelly Haga, Grayson County Treasurer; Shaina Stockton of The Declaration 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. Carolyn Jones provided the second to the motion. All present voted Aye and the minutes and bills were approved.

Police Report: Officer Gary Hash gave a summary of police activity for July. He reported 1 drunk in public and three other arrests, investigation of 2 felonies, 1 misdemeanor and 1 information only investigation. Routine activities included: 423 closed business checks, 27 service calls, 50 church checks, 82 directive patrols, 47 open business checks, 9 forestry checks, 7 civil papers, 5 warrant service, 11 house checks, 1EPO, 3 prisoner, 2 first responders and 2 open bank checks for a total of 162.60 hours. The Mayor thanked the Officer for his report and the department for their service.

Organization Updates:

1. Fries Volunteer Fire Department Update: Chief Chad Stanley reported that the department had answered 42 EMS calls and 8 fire calls in July. The department had started painting fire hydrants in town. They had completed all hydrants on Main Street and would be starting on the other streets in town. He reported their upcoming events were the Annual Fiddler's Convention on August 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> and a Horse Show on August 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>. He also reported that he had recently attended a conference in Hampton, Virginia concerning cutting edge techniques and was proud that the Fries department had already been using some of the techniques that were being taught. The Mayor congratulated the department for having 2 certified paramedics on their EMS, which takes a two year associate degree to accomplish and for all their efforts protecting the town.
2. Fries Community Center Report: Karen Snyder reported that the Community Center had a very busy summer. The pool would be closing on Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup> for public swimming, but they would continue to have night pool parties for the baseball and softball teams. She reported that they were accepting football and cheerleading registrations through August 21<sup>st</sup>. She stated that they had put in place a no pay/no

play policy concerning registrations, and hoped that the Community Center Board would approve it at the next meeting. She stated that they were having success collecting registrations thus far and were having more people come forward to volunteer. The Mayor thanked Karen for her report.

3. Tourism Report: Marie Isom made reported that the New River Trail Park Service planned to erect directional signs in the town limits for us in the near future. She suggested that the signs be placed in four locations in town, they were: Fender's curve, the telephone office on Firehouse Drive, near the welcome sign above the dam and at the intersection coming into town from 94 from Ivanhoe. After some discussion, the sites were approved by council. Next she reported that the new rack cards had arrived and that the photos for the digital spotlight had been submitted for the tourism blitz in September at the Lambsburg Welcome Center. She showed examples of the photos that were compiled for each participating business by Mr. C. L. Perkins. She reported that the information center and gift shop was coming along, and she was still checking into the regulations for operating a gift shop. She reported that the Town of Fries had been invited by the Governor to submit a hand crafted Christmas ornament that represented the town to be displayed at the Governor's Mansion during the holidays. The ornament would need to be sent in by November 1<sup>st</sup>. Mrs. Betty Perkins had begun work on the ornament and would be presenting it to council before submission to the state. Website updates were still in progress, with a new event calendar added to the friesfestivals.com site. Marie also reported adding a call for quilts for the theatre on both sites. The Mountains and Music CD was almost ready for distribution. She planned to sell the cd in the gift shop, theatre and town hall. The proceeds from the cd were earmarked for the "Y" Restoration Fund. The Fries Farmers Market was due to open on August 6<sup>th</sup> in the Town Park. She reported that several vendors would be setting up on Thursdays and Fridays from 2pm—6pm and on Saturdays from 8am—4pm. She also asked that council consider a reservation fee be put into place for the stage area in the town park. Many people have used the shelter this summer and trash pickup was becoming an issue. She suggested that by reserving the shelter and charging a fee, we could hold people accountable for cleaning up their trash. After some discussion, it was decided to table the issue until a later date. The Mayor thanked Marie for her report.
4. Festivals & Events Committee: Karen Snyder reported that the Festival by the River would be held on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Blended Grass would be performing at the Festival, as well as at a dance in the Theatre the same night. She also reported that Christmas on the Mountain would be held on December 5<sup>th</sup>. She stated that the bazaar would be held as normal, but was uncertain about whether breakfast and lunch would be offered as before. The Mayor thanked Karen for her report.

Old Business:

1. Y Repair Project Update: The Mayor reported that the balance on the renovation account was up to \$15,115.40 and that 116 people had donated to the cause. He then asked council for permission for the “Y” Renovation Committee to put out for bids for the siding installation. Council approved.
2. Depot Project Update: Dawn Patton reported that Kevin Heath had been on vacation and she hadn’t gotten much information about the project. She did report that Lane group had answered several questions for VDOT and were scheduling a new environmental study to be completed because the project had drug on so long that the last one was outdated. The Mayor thanked Dawn for her report.
3. Bell Relocation Update: Marie Isom reported that she had met with the Sam Swinney and Jimmy Elliott of the New River Trail Park Service and they had determined that the primary site selected for the bell did belong to the town. The only problem was that no one could locate a deed that showed the property transfer. After some discussion, Kelly Haga, Grayson County Treasurer, offered to help search for the deed at the courthouse. Marie then reported that she had a volunteer who was willing to break ground and pour the footers for the bell and wanted to start work on August 31<sup>st</sup>. She asked council for permission to put the bell in the secondary location if she could not get the issue resolved for the primary location by the August 31<sup>st</sup> deadline. After much discussion council approved moving to the secondary location is necessary.

New Business:

1. Park Trash Issue: Marie Isom reported that with the increase in usage of the park area, that trash was becoming a problem. She recommended purchasing a few more trash receptacles to alleviate some of the problem. After some discussion, the Mayor asked the Clerk to check into pricing and present a recommendation at a later date.
2. Recycle Bin Location: The Mayor reported that he had been looking into other location options for the recycle bin. After discussing the issue with Harry Boyles, he had decided to have the bin moved closer to the road so that people could still access the bin even with the gate locked. If that option didn’t work he was also looking at either moving the gate back or putting up video monitors.

Announcements:

1. The Mayor thanked everyone that participated with the Jesuit Students 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Trip to Fries. The Clerk reported that \$1,800.00 was donated, \$566.63 was the total expense and \$1,233.37 was the profit for the town. She reported that the students had painted two houses, cleaned out the water plant dam, cleaned the drying beds

at the wastewater plant and much more. She also thanked everyone that participated and helped feed the students.

2. Theatre Renovation Update: Kit Marshall reported that new stage curtains had been installed and some of the old material from the walls had been removed revealing bead board walls. She planned on cleaning and painting them soon. She reported that 10 to 12 quilts had already been donated, but more were needed to reach the goal of 30. She also reported that she had been looking at new lighting. The Mayor thanked Kit for her efforts.
3. Lighting: Marie Isom reported that while cleaning out the room under the pool for the tourism office and gift shop, she had found 15 old lights that belonged to the town. She requested permission to clean up 5 of them for use in the tourism office and also to give the remaining 10 to Gene Adkins for use in the Theatre. After some discussion, council approved.

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_