

Fries Town Council
February 2, 2016
Minutes

Members Present: Jo Ann Gunter, Marie Isom, Carolyn Jones and Dawn Patton.

Others Present: Richard Farmer, Mayor; Ken McFadyen of BRCEA; Cody McGrady of the Grayson County Sheriff's Department; Chad Stanley of the Fries Volunteer Fire Department; Karen Snyder of the Fries Community Center and Shaina Stockton of the Gazette.

The Mayor called the hearing to order and then 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 McGrady gave a summary of police activity for January. He reported: 1 domestic arrest, two warning tickets and the investigation of 2 misdemeanors. Routine activities included: 286 closed business checks, 19 service calls, 42 church checks, 83 directive patrols, 76 open business checks, 24 forestry checks, 5 motorist assists, 2 warrant services, 1 house check, 1 first responder, 1 civil paper, 2 open bank checks and 1 emergency protective order for a total of 171.90 hours. Officer McGrady announced that the Grayson County Sheriff's Department was hosting a Coffee with a Cop event on Wednesday, February 17th at the Fries Café. Free coffee would be served and would offer a chance to speak to local officers about any questions and concerns. For further information contact Sgt. Carner at (276) 773-3241. The Mayor thanked the officer for his report and the department for their service.

Organization Updates:

1. Fries Volunteer Fire Department Update: Chad Stanley reported that for January the department had answered 52 EMS calls and 10 fire calls. He also reported that the fire station had been manned 24 hours per day during the last big snow, and that the department had received a grant from the Firefighters Charitable Foundation to purchase smoke detectors. He had contacted Lowe's in Galax and they had helped with the purchase price so that he could purchase 84 smoke detectors to give away to anyone in the community that needed them. He also announced the following 2016 events: 1st Annual Rodeo on May 7th, Horse shows on June 11th and Sept. 17th, Team Roping on May 21st, June 25th and July 16th and the 50th Annual Old Time Fiddlers Convention was scheduled for August 19th and 20th. The fire department also planned to host the July 4th parade and festivities at the ballpark this year. Chad also reported that the FEMA grant application had been submitted on time and a decision should be made by the end of March or April. The Mayor thanked Chad for his report.

2. Fries Community Center Report: Karen Snyder reported that the Community Center was currently running their grades 4—7 basketball program and holding games on Saturdays. She reported that Turkey Knob Church had held their first Family Night on January 29th. It had been very successful with 105 people in attendance. Turkey Knob planned to host another Family Night in the near future. Karen reported that she had composed a letter to request the appropriations from Grayson County for the year and that they also planned to start baseball signups in the near future. The Mayor thanked her for her report.
3. Theatre Report: Gene Adkins reported that they had raised enough money to start repairing and refinishing the theatre floors. They planned to do the repairs right away, but would not start refinishing the floor until the weather was warmer. He also reported that Kit Marshall was still working on the wall treatments, but they hoped to be finished by April. Karen Snyder announced that she had two bands that had committed to playing dances on Saturday nights beginning in April. The Mayor thanked Gene for his report.
4. Tourism Report: Marie Isom reported:
 - Round the Mountain would be hosting a jurying session in February for local artisans. Applications and a \$10.00 fee needed to be submitted by February 19th. If chosen, the art or craft would be available for purchase in the gift shop at Heartwood Center in Abingdon. The application was available for download at www.myswva.org.
 - She continued to work on updating the towns' websites, Facebook and Twitter accounts. The current website builder site had increased their annual prices, and she asked permission to negotiate a better price or shop around for a new provider. Dawn Patton provided the second and the motion was approved.
 - She asked that local businesses provide her with any updates to their contact information for the websites and town rack card.
 - She planned to add time lapse photography to the town website. She planned to feature a local artisan creating a project from start to finish and also hoped to be able to do the same with the depot construction.
 - Secured the September 2016 Blitz at the Lamsburg Visitors Center. She also stated that she was looking for local businesses to partner with tourism and participate in the Blitz.
 - She was working on the application for the Crooked Road Mountains of Music event for June 16th.
 - Don Bond would be donating his Local Veterans DVD to Fries Tourism so that they may sell them in the gift shop. Marie thanked Don for his generosity.
 - By using partnerships and applying for grants, the tourism budget for 2015 had tripled the 2014 budget. She planned to continue building the tourism budget.

- The Tourism Committee was trying to tie into regional marketing by partnering with Southwest Virginia Blue Ridge Parkway group, which offered cross promotion of gateway communities and also by participating in the Mount Rogers Planning District Commissions Stronger Economies Together Organization.
- She reported that with the Festival & Events Committee dissolved, she had divided out the annual events between tourism and other organizations. The Fries Community Center would be hosting the Henry Whitter Festival, The Festival by the River and Christmas on the Mountain. The Fries Volunteer Fire Department would be hosting the July 4th activities and parade as well as the Christmas Parade. The Tourism Committee would be hosting the June Mountains & Music Jam and the 50k Run in October. She also thanked the former Festival & Event Committee for their efforts.

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

Old Business:

1. Y Repair Project Update: The Mayor reported that the balance on the renovation account was up to \$21,264.70. He also reported that Mr. Byrd would be delivering the bid documents the following day.
2. Depot Project Update: Dawn Patton reported that she had contacted Senator Kaine's office and had received word that advertisement for bid proposals should be ready by the end of February for construction to begin in the spring. The Mayor thanked Dawn for her report.

New Business:

1. Closed Session: 2.2-3711.A3

Pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, Council by affirmative vote went into closed session as provided by Section 2.2-3711.A3. (Moved by Dawn Patton, Marie Isom provided the second).

Dawn Patton 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, Carolyn Jones, JoAnn Gunter, Richard Farmer and Dawn Patton.

Dawn Patton moved to give authority to sign documents from DHCD concerning the sale of the grant properties. Marie Isom provided the second. All present voted Aye, and the motion was approved. The Mayor thanked Ken McFadyen for coming to the meeting and for his assistance.

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

Signed: _____

Attest: _____