

Fries Town Council
July 5, 2016
Minutes

Members Present: Bill Davis, Cynthia Grant, Jo Ann Gunter, Nancy Hawks, Marie Isom and Gary Sumner.

Others Present: Richard Farmer, Mayor; Todd Perkins, Grayson County Sheriff's Department; Shaina Stockton of the Gazette; Susan Herrington, Grayson County Clerk of Court; Chad Stanley, FVFD Chief; Karen Snyder, Fries Community Center; Aaron Purcell, Director of Special Collections, University Libraries at Virginia Tech and several citizens.

The Mayor called the meeting to order and gave the Invocation.

Council Induction: All members present were sworn-in by Ms. Susan Herrington, Grayson County Clerk of Court. The Mayor thanked Ms. Herrington for her services.

Minutes & Bills: Gary Sumner moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to approve the minutes and bills as presented. Nancy Hawks provided the second to the motion. All present voted Aye and the minutes and bills were approved.

Police Report: Todd Perkins reviewed the June Police Report. He reported: 2 warning tickets, 1 drug, 1 domestic and 3 other arrests; the investigation of 1 felony, 3 misdemeanors, 1 traffic accident and 6 follow ups. Routine activities included: 295 closed business checks, 33 service calls, 46 church checks, 77 directive patrols, 62 open business checks, 22 forestry checks, 1 first responder, 2 warrant services, 1 open bank check, 2 prisoners, 1 TDO, 2 motorist assists and 1 house check for a total of 223.90 hours. The Mayor asked that the department concentrate on speeding within town limits. Officer Perkins offered to bring the speed cart back down to town and follow up with issuing tickets. The Mayor thanked Officer Perkins for his report and for everything the department did for the Town of Fries.

Organization Updates:

1. Fries Volunteer Fire Department Update: Chad Stanley reported that in June the department had a very busy month and had answered 10 fire calls and 54 EMS calls. He commended the Ladies Auxiliary for their hard work on the July 4th celebration. He reported that their next event would be the Annual Fiddler's Convention on August 12th & 13th. The Mayor thanked Chad for his report.
2. Fries Community Center Report: Karen Snyder reported that tee ball would be ending on Saturday, July 9th and baseball would be ending the following week. Football and cheerleading signups would start in August. She reported that the pool was going well, they had lots of pool parties being scheduled and that they planned to begin work on the lighting in the weight room and locker rooms soon. In June they had hosted the student group from Fairfield Prep in Connecticut and accomplished much with the help of the students. The Fries Theatre Sign Lighting and Honoree Induction Ceremony had been held

on July 2nd. Those honored were Eva Jane Vaughan, Allen "Birddog" Jennings, Linda Young and Kit Marshall. They planned to honor more people that had been assets to the town next year. The Board was also currently getting estimates on a new heating and cooling system for the Community Center building. The Mayor thanked Karen for her report.

3. Tourism Report: Marie Isom reported that we were beginning a new year with the Town and that in the past year the Tourism Committee had accomplished the following:

- Reorganized the Town's Festivals and Events.
- Submitted and had the Henry Whitter Festival and the Super Jam accepted as sanctioned events of the Crooked Road, which was a big deal for the town because the events would now be included in the advertising and marketing by the Crooked Road.
- Distributed Fries rack cards in many locations including two welcome centers, Lambsburg and Rocky Gap. The goal in the coming year was to distribute to four welcome centers, which meant finding ways to expand the budget also.
- Held a very successful Tourism Blitz at the Lambsburg Welcome Center and planned to hold another blitz in the fall.
- Started the Fries Farmers Market. The opening day had been June 26th and had been a success. Vendors sold everything from free range chickens to local honey. The market was scheduled for Sundays from Noon to 3pm. She planned to put out banners and yard signs in the coming weeks to advertise the market. She then discussed appointing a manager for the market. She recommended Faith Hinkle be considered by council. Ms. Hinkle operated a local farm, was a member of Grayson Landcare and had experience in marketing and managing farmers markets. Her services would be at no charge to the town. After some discussion, Nancy Hawks provided the second to the motion. All present voted Aye, and the motion carried.
- The Information/Gift Shop would be opening on Saturday, July 9th from 10am—6pm. She planned to hold a Grand Opening at a later date. She reported that she would like to purchase some items to sell in the gift shop and asked that the \$919.75 in the Festival & Event account be transferred to the Tourism account for purchasing items and also for marketing the town events. The Festival & Events committee dissolved at the end of 2015 and the funds were not being used, so she felt that tourism and marketing was a good place to use the funds. Gary Sumner moved to transfer the funds to the tourism account. Nancy Hawks provided the second. After some discussion, Cynthia Grant moved to amend the motion to divide the funds 50/50 with the Fries Community Center since they took over the majority of the festivals. The funds would be earmarked for festival use only. Gary Sumner provided the second. After some further discussion, all present voted Aye and the motion carried.
- Began working on a permanent solution for bathrooms in the park area. Marie reported that she had discussed the issue with Jimmy Moss, the Grayson County Building Inspector and gotten approval. She would like to raise funds to build permanent bathrooms, but in the meantime planned to work with a portable toilet company to try to get a discounted rate so that portable toilets would be available through the summer months.
- The second cruise – in held on July 2nd had been a great success. She thanked Bobby Sparks, David Isom and Sonny Funk for all their contributions in making the event successful.

- A third Cruise-In had been scheduled for August 6th in the Fries Town Park from 3PM until dark. Proceeds would go to the Fries Community Center.
- Began the branding process for the town, which was a process that would have every business and organization in the town using the same branding for marketing. She also passed around a flyer that described the process further.
- She asked that council consider what to do with the old gray garage buildings located in the park. She said that at the very least they needed to be cleaned up and mowed around. The Mayor asked that council consider the subject and be prepared to make recommendations at the next meeting. He thanked Marie for her report and her hard work.

Old Business:

1. Y Repair Project Update: The Mayor reported that the balance on the renovation account was up to \$23,449.15. He also reported that construction had begun on the Community Center building. He planned to have the theatre side completed and then begin fundraising efforts again to do the front side of the building.
2. Depot Project Update: Dawn Patton reported that the project would have to be re-bid and would probably be August before it was advertised again. The Mayor thanked Dawn for her report.

New Business:

1. Aaron Purcell—VT Libraries Special Collections Director: Mr. Purcell, who had been at Virginia Tech for 10 years, introduced himself and explained that the reason for his visit was to discuss a large collection of Washington Mills documents that had been loaned to the library in 1989 by the Fries Civic League. He said that there were approximately 100 boxes of information from the mill that dated from the 1950's and earlier that the Civic League loaned. Currently the library could allow access to the documents and allow them to be copied, but because they did not own the rights to the documents, they couldn't be used as reference material for books or writings. Since the Civic League didn't exist anymore, he asked that they either create a new loan agreement with the Town of Fries, or have the Town donate the items permanently to the Virginia Tech Library. After some discussion, Nancy Hawks moved to permanently donate the items to the Virginia Tech Library and to give Richard Farmer authorization to sign any documents needed to make the donation happen. Cynthia Grant provided the second. All present voted Aye, and the motion carried. The Mayor thanked Mr. Purcell for attending and for his help in resolving the matter.
2. Appointment of Mayor: The Mayor opened the floor for nominations. Nancy Hawks nominated Richard Farmer for Mayor. Marie Isom provided the second. No other nominations were made. All present voted Aye and Richard Farmer was approved as Mayor.

3. Appointment of Vice—Mayor: The Mayor opened the floor for nominations. Jo Ann Gunter nominated Nancy Hawks. Marie Isom provided the second. No other nominations were made. All present voted Aye and Nancy Hawks was approved as Vice—Mayor.
4. Appointment of Clerk/Treasurer: The Mayor opened the floor for nominations. Marie Isom nominated Jill R. Hill. Nancy Hawks provided the second. No other nominations were made. All present voted Aye and Jill R. Hill was approved as Clerk/Treasurer.
5. Appointment of Vacant Council Seat: The Mayor opened the floor for nominations. Nancy Hawks nominated Dawn Patton. JoAnn Gunter provided the second. Marie Isom nominated Jerry McCormick. Gary Sumner provided the second. The Mayor closed the nominations. Council voted by ballot and the results were Dawn Patton 4 votes and Jerry McCormick 2 votes. Dawn Patton was appointed to council.

Announcements:

1. The Mayor announced that the Jesuit High School Students from New Orleans would be here from July 10th through the July 21st. To be put on the work list or to help provide food for the students contact Town Hall.
2. He also reminded everyone that the town had a golf cart ordinance that required a permit issued through Town Hall to operate a golf cart within the town limits.
3. Driving from the lower mill parking lot underneath the footbridge to the river was not permitted. The Mayor reported that a sign would be installed to let people know.

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

Signed: _____

Attest: _____