

Fries Town Council  
July 7, 2015  
Minutes

Members Present: Marie Isom, Carolyn Jones, Jerry McCormick and Dawn Patton.

Others Present: Richard Farmer, Mayor; Karen Snyder, Fries Community Center; Cynthia Grant, Festival & Events Committee and several citizens.

The Mayor called the meeting to order and 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: The Grayson County officer gave a summary of police activity for June. He reported investigation of 1 misdemeanor and routine activities including: 386 closed business checks, 12 service calls, 48 church checks, 71 directive patrols, 45 open business checks, 29 forestry checks, 35 civil papers, 1 warrant service, 8 house checks, 1 ECO/LE ECO, 1 prisoner, 1 vehicle/k-9 search and 7 open bank checks for a total of 161.90 hours. The Mayor thanked the Officer for his report and the department for their service.

Organization Updates:

1. Fries Volunteer Fire Department Update: No one from the fire department was able to attend.
2. Fries Community Center Report: Karen Snyder reported that the Community Center had sold concessions for the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration and had made around \$500.00. The pool was open and going well. They were planning on starting night swims for \$2.00 and were planning a Dance & Pool Party for July 17<sup>th</sup>. Admission was set at \$5.00 and included refreshments. She also reported that the tee ball season had been a success with 35 players participating this year. The Mayor thanked Karen for her report.
3. Tourism Report: Marie Isom reported that Mr. C. L. Perkins had created a DVD spotlight on the Fries Community and was turning the rights over to the Town. She planned to put the DVD on the town website, as well as sell copies for \$5.00 each and donate all proceeds to the "Y" Renovation Fund. She reported that work was continuing on the Tourism Office/Information Center under the pool and also that she collected 10 letters of intent from local farmers for the possible farmer's market grant application. She had been contacted by several local growers who planned to set up in the town park as soon as their crops were ready. She presented a new town logo designed by Mrs. Betty Perkins and a new rack card that Mr. & Mrs.

Perkins helped design for the town. She planned to have several thousand printed to be placed in regional welcome and information centers. She reported that she, in June, had administered a Crooked Road Survey at the Fries Jam Session, continued work on a marketing plan and budget, continued updating the town websites, and attended multiple workshops and seminars. She also presented a new brochure created by Grayson County Tourism called the Adventure Guide. Timmy Dixon, co-owner of New River Outdoor Adventures was included on the front cover. The Mayor thanked Marie for her report.

4. Festivals & Events Committee: Cynthia Grant reported that the helicopter rides for the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration were once again a success. The pilot would be making a donation to the committee for participating. She reported that everything had gone well for the 4<sup>th</sup> and that her committee was busy planning the Festival by the River to be held on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Mayor thanked Cynthia for her report.

#### Old Business:

1. Y Repair Project Update: The Mayor reported that he and Randy Lineberry had picked up another 25 pallets of material on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and should now have enough to complete the project. He also reported that the balance on the renovation account was up to \$14,225.40 and that 106 people had donated to the cause. The “Y” Renovation Committee planned to meet again on Thursday, July 9<sup>th</sup>.
2. Theatre Restoration Update: The Mayor read a report from Kit Marshall who was unable to attend. It stated that she had completed two fundraisers for the restoration of the theater. The first on June 19<sup>th</sup> with the Galax Theatre Guild performing “Some Enchanted Evening” which raised almost \$1,800.00 and the second on July 4<sup>th</sup> with Jeff Whittington performing for the Independence Day festivities, where almost \$800 was collected. She reported that much of the backstage cleanup was made possible in mid-June by local volunteers and a student from Fairfield Prep School in Connecticut. The stage area painting will be addressed in the near future with volunteers. She also reported that she had located fabric for the stage curtains at Hylton’s Remnant Shop in Galax and would be purchasing by the end of the week. Fabrication was scheduled for late July, but curtains could not be installed until the ceiling was repaired and painted. A local professional painter, Johnny Taylor, had offered his services, free of charge, to spray the ceiling. Gene Adkins will be addressing the repairs before painting begins. She thanked those who had participated and donated to the fundraisers. She also reported that the Galax Theatre Guild, along with The Twin County Arts Council would be returning for a holiday performance.
3. Depot Project Update: Dawn Patton reported that she had hoped that a representative from Lane Group would be in attendance, but no one had been able to come. She reported receiving a letter from Lane Group outlining a list of

documents that had been submitted to VDOT for consideration, but had no word on the outcome or a timetable for the depot.

### New Business:

1. Bell Relocation Project: Marie Isom explained that one point made in the marketing plan created by Kitty Barker was to get the old mill bell on a new foundation where everyone could enjoy it. The location for the bell was included in the plans for the depot. The plan included a brick walk that starts in front of the depot and continues toward the old trestle. At the end of the walk, a large brick circle was to be laid, with a brick pillar in the center for the bell to be installed on. Marie reported that she had begun work ironing out the details so that the bell could be restored. She had narrowed down the new location to two different spots; the primary spot would be in front of the post office and the secondary, about 100 feet from the new depot location. She explained that the reason she was asking for approval for both spots was due to a property ownership issue with the primary location, but she was working with the New River Trail State Park leaders to resolve the issue and believed that the primary spot would be used. All materials were to be donated, and labor for construction would be provided by volunteers. There would be no cost to the town. After some discussion, Marie moved for approval to proceed with the project. Jerry McCormick provided the second. All present voted Aye, and the motion carried.
2. Appointment of Mayor: The Mayor opened the floor for nominations. Carolyn Jones nominated Richard Farmer for Mayor. Dawn Patton 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. Dawn Patton nominated Nancy Hawks. Carolyn Jones provided the second. Marie Isom nominated Jerry McCormick, but there was no second. 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. Carolyn Jones provided the second. No other nominations were made. All present voted Aye and Jill R. Hill was approved as Clerk/Treasurer.
5. Closed Session: 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).

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Jerry McCormick moved to exit the closed session. Dawn Patton 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, Richard Farmer, Dawn Patton and Jerry McCormick.

Announcements:

1. The Jesuit High School students from New Orleans were scheduled to be in town from July 19<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>. The Mayor asked that anyone needing work done or anyone interested in helping with meals contact Town Hall.

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

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

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