

Fries Town Council
June 7, 2016
Minutes

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

Others Present: Richard Farmer, Mayor; Richard Vaughan, Grayson County Sheriff; Shaina Stockton of the Gazette; Terry Akers, Budget Committee and several citizens.

The Mayor called the meeting to order and Jo Ann Gunter 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. Jo Ann Gunter provided the second to the motion. All present voted Aye and the minutes and bills were approved.

Police Report: Sheriff Richard Vaughan reported that his department had made a drug arrest on Main Street in Fries recently and presented the newspaper article printed in the Declaration about the arrest. He asked that council look into adding an ordinance that other localities have that states that you cannot occupy a house without water, sewer and electricity. The Mayor agreed to look into adding the ordinance. Sheriff Vaughan then reviewed the May Police Report. He reported: 1 DUI, 3 drug and 3 other arrests, 1 destruction of property/vandalism, 1 larceny and one reckless driving; the investigation of 4 felonies, 1 misdemeanor and 1 closed case. Routine activities included: 353 closed business checks, 21 service calls, 41 church checks, 57 directive patrols, 42 open business checks, 8 forestry checks, 1 first responder, 2 warrant services, 1 open bank check, 3 prisoners, 5 substance seizures, 1 PBT/Field Sobriety Test, 1 off duty court and 4 vehicle/ K-9 searches for a total of 182.60 hours. The Sheriff asked that any citizen that had any issues to please let him know. He planned to have another Coffee with a Cop event in July at the new Sheriff's Office in Independence and welcomed everyone to come. The Mayor thanked the Sheriff for his report and for everything his department did for the Town of Fries.

Organization Updates:

1. Fries Volunteer Fire Department Update: Chad Stanley was unable to attend. The Mayor reported that the department was well underway with planning the July 4th celebration. The parade has been planned for 11am and beginning at Noon in the ballpark will be music and children's activities. At 6pm will be a Hoses vs. Guns softball game and fireworks will be at 10pm.
2. Fries Community Center Report: Denny Brooms was not able to attend. The Mayor reported that the Henry Whitter had been a success even though it had not gone as planned. The Cruise In had also been a big success. The Mayor thanked Bobby Sparks for putting the event together. The Mayor also reported that another Cruise In had been planned for July 2nd in the Town Park.

3. Tourism Report: Marie Isom was unable to attend, but sent the following report:

May 2016 Tourism Report

In the month of May I did the following:

- Attended 3 webinars, they were:
 - 1-Microsoft
 - 2-Heart & Soul Community Development
 - 3-Main Street Community
- Attended Train the Trainer Tourism Hospitality Training.
- Attended a workshop at the Blue Ridge Institute at Ferrum College partnering initiative with the Blue Ridge Parkway and Branding SWVA. I would like to have every business and organization participate in the branding initiative. Please contact me if you are interested.
- Attended the SET meeting...Strengthening our Economies Together...will have a tourism action plan draft very soon.
- Attended the SWVA Economic Forum, which is an economic development initiative that focuses on ways to move SWVA forward. I will have input with new ideas, and would like to form a team to proceed. The next meeting will be August 24th.
- Met with the Mayor concerning prospective market manager & prospective partner for the Fries Farmers Market. Would like to have a vote on Faith Hinkel as our market manager. Faith is a farmer with digital marketing skills and agriculture skills. Council decided to table approval until the next meeting.
- We have a Fries Farmers Market Facebook page. Please Like and Share!
- Attended a Google workshop...I would like to encourage all local businesses and organizations to have a listing on Google. It is a free service and a great way of marketing a business. I would be delighted to share information with anyone interested.
- I helped the Girl Scouts weed and plant flowers around the fountain. Thank you to Jeannie Isom, Mrs. Ruth Pack and Harry Boyles for their contributions. We plan to put mulch in hopefully next week.
- Henry Whitter Festival was a great success even though it had to be held indoors due to the weather forecast.
- The Crooked Road accepted our Affiliate Application and we have officially received the Affiliated Designation of the Crooked Road for the Henry Whitter Festival. Larry Yates, Vice President of Crooked Road, presented our Mayor & Chairman of the Fries Community Center Board of Directors, Denny Brooms, with a banner to commemorate the occasion. Fries will now have more marketing opportunities through the Crooked Road for our Henry Whitter Festival.

- The Crooked Road also accepted our application to be a sanctioned event for the Mountains of Music Homecoming. Our event that was submitted will be a Super Jam Thursday, to be held on June 16th at Fries Historic Theater at 6pm. Admission by donation. Proceeds will go to the Community Center. Food will be served such as hotdogs and chili etc. If you would like to donate the needed items to be sold contact Karen Snyder at 276-233-3446 or Denny Brooms at 276-237-3886. Thank you to Yvonne Burr who plans to donate 2 of her yummy cakes for the cake walk at the super Jam. We are much honored to have these 2 Crooked Road sanctioned events. Thanks to everyone for their hard work.
- The Cruise – In held on May 28th was a great success. There were around 110 classic cars, trucks and motorcycles that participated. Thanks to Bobby Sparks, David Isom, Sonny Funk, Jim Lambert and Mountain Man Hodges for all their contributions in making the event successful.
- Another Cruise-In has been scheduled for July 2nd in the Fries Town Park from 3PM until dark. Look for Classic cars, trucks and motorcycles, food, helicopter rides, 50/50 ticket sales, the Crystal River Band and lots of vendors. Proceeds will go to the Fries Community Center.
- Barbara Spears, who is a former resident and a current member of the Grayson County Historical Society, recommended that I speak with David Sandefer concerning cataloging items that are being donated for the depot museum. Mr. Sandefer is the office manager, historian and cataloging person for Grayson County Historical Society. I spoke with him and Mr. Sandefer was very excited to participate. These items need to be preserved with their stories and saved. Telling our town's story one item at a time will be invaluable to our museum. If necessary, I would like a vote on allowing Mr. Sandefer to proceed with preserving and cataloging. Dawn Patton moved to approve Mr. Sandefer as the responsible person for cataloging donated items. Nancy Hawks provided the second. All present voted Aye and the motion was approved.
- I am working on the New Businesses Information Packets.
- Attended the Regional Tobacco Commission Summit. Participants were asked to prioritize economic drivers and the projects that impact our economy. This feedback was reflected in the strategic plan of what is to be funded and was voted on the last of May.
- Thanks to Don Bonds for another DVD with 260 pictures from past festivals that he made available to Fries Tourism to share.
- We are receiving numerous requests to add links to our website. We need to think about or update the policy for links to our website. Please let me know your thoughts on this as we develop this policy.
- There are some monies in the old festivals and events account and I would like to request that this money be transferred to tourism. We have a great need for funds to market our town. We endeavor to leverage every dollar we have at our disposal and

every dollar spent we get maximum benefit. Jerry McCormick moved to table the issue until the July meeting. Nancy Hawks provided the second. All present voted Aye and the motion carried.

- As of June 15th we will no longer be able to make any updates or changes to our website for 2-3 months...so please let us know of any changes we need to make.

Old Business:

1. Y Repair Project Update: The Mayor reported that the balance on the renovation account was up to \$23,148.47 before the Cruise In funds. 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 low bidder had a compliance issue with VDOT and that Lane Group was working with them to try and resolve the issue. She spoke with Kevin Heath who told her that is the issue was not resolved soon that we would probably need to rebid the project. The Mayor thanked Dawn for her report.
3. Water Committee Update: Jerry McCormick reported that the committee had met the previous week and discussed several issues. After much discussion, the committee asked that council give them permission to begin work on amending the current water billing ordinance. The motion was approved. Jerry reported that they planned to meet with Roger Brooks and would try to have something new by the August meeting. The Mayor thanked the water committee for their efforts.

New Business:

1. FY2016/2017 Budget: Terry Akers recited the budget for the second reading as required. There was no discussion. Dawn Patton moved to adopt the budget as presented. Nancy Hawks provided the second. All present voted Aye and the budget was adopted.
2. Ordinances: The Mayor stated that Fries had changed a lot through the years and he felt that it was necessary to update the ordinances to address some of the change. He suggested that he and council begin making changes to current ordinances and add a few new ones to address issues such as open burning and occupying a home with no water, sewer or electricity. He thought that it would probably take a full year to complete, but his hope was that in the end we would have an updated Town Code that we could have available online.

Announcements:

1. The Mayor announced that the Water Treatment Plant had received the Gold Award for Water Quality for 2015. He thanked the operators for their service to the town.

2. The Mayor presented the official certificates to the elected winners of the town election in May and reported that Grayson County Clerk of Court, Susan Herrington would be at the July meeting to swear in the new council.
3. The Mayor announced that Harry Boyles was in the process of retiring from the town and expressed his gratitude for the many years of faithful service that Harry and the Boyles family had given to the town. He stated that a Boyles had been on the payroll of the town for many, many years and that they all would be greatly missed.
4. He also reminded everyone that it would be the last meeting that Carolyn Jones would be serving on the council. He thanked her for giving the town a good portion of her life, time and talent. She then received a standing ovation. Carolyn thanked the Mayor for recognizing her and stated she had been honored to serve.
5. Large Item Curbside Pickup would be held on June 13th. Citizens would need to call Grayson County Public Works at (276) 773-3181 to register for pickup. Details were provided on the town's website at www.friesva.com. Nancy Griffin asked about getting a property on Firehouse Drive cleaned up in time to use the large item pickup. The Mayor stated that a letter would be issued to the owner to make them aware of the issue and the date of the curbside pickup.

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

Signed: _____

Attest: _____