

Fries Town Council  
June 6, 2017  
Minutes

Members Present: Cynthia Grant, JoAnn Gunter, Nancy Hawks, Marie Isom, Dawn Patton and Gary Sumner.

Others Present: Richard Farmer, Mayor; Grayson County Sheriff, Richard Vaughan; Gene Adkins, Fries Community Center; Steven Clark and several citizens.

The Mayor called the meeting to order and Jo Ann Gunter gave the Invocation.

Minutes & Bills: Gary Sumner 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: Sheriff Vaughan reviewed the May Police Report. He reported: Arrests; 2 drug, 1 drive suspended, 2 traffic and 4 other arrests; the investigation of 4 misdemeanors, 1 felonies and 5 follow ups. Routine activities included: 188 closed business checks, 50 service calls, 35 church checks, 80 directive patrols, 35 open business checks, 49 forestry checks, 10 warrant service, 10 open bank checks, 5 motorist assists, 2 first responders, 4 house checks, 1 pbt/field sob test, 2 backup officer, 2 prisoners and 5 ACO calls for a total of 165.90 hours. After some discussion concerning the installment of security cameras and locations, the Mayor thanked Sheriff Vaughan for his report and service to the town.

Organization Updates:

1. Fries Volunteer Fire Department Update: Chad Stanley was unable to attend, but sent the following report: The department had 51 EMS calls and 11 fire calls in May. The 11 fire calls included 1 fire, 2 weather related calls 1 of which was a water rescue, 7 EMS assists, and 1 false alarm. They put a new equipment truck in service in May for their extrication and technical rescue equipment and were working on the 4th of July celebration. The parade was scheduled to start at noon and activities in the ballpark would start after the parade and continue all day until the fireworks began at 10:00. He sent the following schedule for the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration:



## Fries Fire Department Presents the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration

Theme: Honoring our local heroes: Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13

1:00- Come to the ball field for fun in the sun with games that will be enjoyed by any age. Entry into the day's events is \$1.00 per person, kids 3 and under are FREE.

*Some of the games include: softball toss, face painting, matching rubber ducks, fish bowl toss, corn hole, dunking booth, bouncy house, greasy pole climb, darts, and so much more. We will have DJ Brett Gravely playing music all day during the events.*

2:00- we will have a watermelon seed spitting contest

2:30 -plan to get wet as fire trucks will be there spraying water for anyone and everyone

3:30- who can eat like a fireman? It's a hot dog eating contest

4:30- we will do a tug of war contest (community versus the Fire and Rescue personnel)

5:00- we will wrap all the games and events up to get ready for the SOFTBALL GAME

6:00- Softball game will begin (anyone who wants to play is more than welcome to come join us)

**We had a blast last year and hope to make this year's game even better!!!**

10:00- FIREWORKS

Food will be served from 1:00pm until 9:00pm

2. Fries Community Center Report: Gene Adkins reported that the pool had opened on June 2<sup>nd</sup> with a very successful pool party. The theatre was still booking bands for events thru the end of the year. The next event was scheduled for July 7<sup>th</sup> with The Crooked Road Ramblers. Also in the theatre on Tuesday nights Line Dancing Classes had been scheduled and the Jam Sessions were still being held every Thursday night. He also reported that he was still working on the lighting and Kit Marshall had constructed a shadow box honoring Henry Whitter for the theatre. They also had planted a flower garden in front of the theatre and planned to plant wildflowers near the pool. The Mayor asked if the new internet access had been installed in the Community Center yet, and Gene stated that Denny Brooms was handling the project and he didn't know if it had yet been completed. The Mayor thanked Gene for his report and hard work.

3. Tourism Report: Marie Isom reported the following:

- Enel Energy planned to host a meeting on June 21<sup>st</sup> concerning the need for having portage around the dam. The meeting was to be the first of three meetings and would include representatives from the town, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and the New River Trail State Park.
- She welcomed Paddleyax Kayaks, owned by Steve and Kit Marshall, to Fries. The business opened in May.
- She reported that the SNAP application for the Farmer's Market had been accepted and they were working to get set up to accept SNAP and EBT Cards.
- The next scheduled Cruise-In was on June 10<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. She reported that 80 to 100 cars attended the last one.
- She reported attending several workshops and webinars, all tourism and arts related.
- The Farmer's Market had 8 vendors participating and was continuing to grow. The market was scheduled for every Sunday until October from 1—4pm. Gene Adkins inquired if he could schedule music on the stage during the markets and Marie agreed that it would be a good idea. She asked that he let Ms. Hinkle, the Market Manager, know when bands would start attending.
- She reported that she had discovered an opportunity to participate in a tourism blitz at the Bristol Welcome Center and was working on a partnership to make it happen.
- Portable toilets had been installed in the park for the summer months and the cost was to be divided between the Town and the Community Center.
- She planned to have the Tourism/Information Center opened by the end of June and she thanked Kit Marshall for painting and Chris & Jenny Rector for her stumps.

The Mayor asked if she had received the marketing materials for the Farmer's Market yet and Marie reported that she had just gotten them in. She also planned to have a permanent sign installed for the market. The Mayor thanked Marie for her time and efforts.

4. Steven Clark Update: Mr. Clark reported that the leases required had finally been signed and he was free to begin working on the miniature golf course. He signed a 5 year lease with the Fries Community Center, who leased the property from the Grayson County School Board. He planned to host a clean-up day on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8am. He asked for volunteers, flat shovels and yard tools. He reported that the clubhouse was almost complete and he would be setting it on the property as soon as possible so that

construction on the deck could begin. The Mayor congratulated Mr. Clark and thanked him for the update.

Old Business:

1. Y Repair Project Update: The Mayor reported that the new balance for the Y Repair Project was up to \$22,669.94. The Fish Fry had generated \$2,550.00 for the fund, but they were still approximately \$6,000 short for finishing the Town Hall side of the building. He planned to continue fundraising until all sides of the building were complete. He thanked everyone who had participated and donated thus far.
2. Depot Update: Dawn Patton reported that the bid opening had been held the past week and that all the bids came in higher than anticipated. She stated that they were still trying to work it out, but she didn't have any further details to date. The Mayor thanked Dawn for her efforts.
3. Park Project Update: Kim Mallory was not able to attend.

New Business:

1. FY 2017/2018 Proposed Budget: At the Mayor's request, the Clerk read the following proposed budget aloud:

The tax rates will be as follows:  
 \$ .33/\$100 value—Real Property  
 \$1.75/\$100 value—Personal Property  
 \$1.74/\$100 value—Machinery & Tools  
 \$ .30/\$100 value—Public Utility Real Estate

Water, Sewer & Garbage rates will be as follows:  
 \$26.50 for 1<sup>st</sup> 2000 gallons—Water  
 \$ 5.25 for each additional 1000 gallons—Water  
 \$20.25 for 1<sup>st</sup> 2000 gallons—Sewer  
 \$5.75 for each additional 1000 gallons—Sewer  
 \$12.75 per month—Garbage  
 Zoning Letter Fee: \$10.00  
 Meals Tax Rate: 6%  
 Transient Occupancy Tax Rate: 5%

The proposed budget shall be for planning purposes only and obligates the Town to no expenditures.

Town of Fries Proposed Budget FY2017/2018

**Revenue**

General Fund

Real Estate, P. Property, M&T Tax	\$101,000.00
Del. Tax	\$ 5,000.00
Pen. & Interest	\$ 2,000.00
Utility Tax	\$11,000.00
BPOL	\$ 3,100.00
Meals Tax	\$ 6,000.00
CATV	\$12,000.00
Decals	\$ 6,500.00
Bank Stock	\$ 6,000.00
Fines	\$ 100.00
Refunds, Gifts, Misc.	\$ 6,001.00
Lodging Tax	\$ 3,500.00
<u>State Funds</u>	<u>\$962,811.00</u>

Sub Total	\$1,125,012.00
<u>Enterprise Fund</u>	
Water, Sewer, Garbage, Penalties & Deposit	<u>\$281,000.00</u>
Sub Total	<u>\$281,000.00</u>
<b><u>TOTAL REVENUE</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,406,012.00</u></b>
<b><u>Expenditures</u></b>	
Gen. Government	\$ 62,050.00
Police	\$ 36,000.00
Public Works	\$ 97,144.00
Fire, Rec., Admin. & Reserves	\$949,669.00
Water	114,149.00
Sewer	108,000.00
Garbage	<u>\$ 39,000.00</u>
<b><u>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,406,012.00</u></b>

The Mayor reported that he had heard that there was a misconception that he wanted to clear up. He stated that absolutely no town employee was making \$20 per hour at this time, but in the future salaries such as that may be a requirement to keep licensed individuals at the water and sewer facilities. He then asked if there were any comments or discussion on the budget. There were none. Gary Sumner then moved to adopt the proposed FY2017/2018 budget and Dawn Patton provided the second. All present voted Aye and the budget was adopted.

2. Reschedule July Meeting Date: After some discussion, it was decided to move the July meeting date to July 11<sup>th</sup> due to the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.
3. Town of Fries Decals: The Mayor reported that Grayson County had made plans to discontinue selling county decals next year and instead include the fee on the personal property tax ticket. He reported that we planned to start issuing DMV stops on registrations on those who owed delinquent taxes beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, so he felt there was no longer a need for issuing decals. Several council members were in agreement and asked that the Mayor investigate how to proceed.

Announcements:

1. The Annual Large Item Curbside Pickup was scheduled for June 12<sup>th</sup>. Contact Grayson County Public Works at 276-773-3181 to register and for more information.
2. The Jesuit High School Students from New Orleans were scheduled to be in Fries July 9<sup>th</sup> thru 20<sup>th</sup>. The Jesuit High School Students from Tampa were scheduled to be in Fries July 23<sup>rd</sup> thru July 30<sup>th</sup>. Contact Town Hall to be put on the work or food schedules.
3. Fries Cemetery Decoration was scheduled for Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

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