

Fries Town Council
March 1, 2016
Minutes

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

Others Present: Richard Farmer, Mayor; John Fant, Grayson County Board of Supervisors; Karen Snyder of the Fries Community Center and Shaina Stockton of the Gazette.

The Mayor called the hearing 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. Nancy Hawks provided the second to the motion. All present voted Aye and the minutes and bills were approved.

Police Report: An Officer stopped by to let council know that there would not be a police report due to a malfunctioning printer. The Mayor asked how the Coffee with a Cop event had gone. The Officer replied that the weather had hindered the event and that the Sheriff planned to schedule another one soon.

Organization Updates:

1. Fries Volunteer Fire Department Update: No report given.
2. Fries Community Center Report: Karen Snyder reported that students from Holy Cross would be coming on Saturday, March 5th and staying until Friday, March 11th. While here the students would be working on the kitchen area, removing old flooring, cleaning windows and walls and perhaps painting as well. She also reported that Turkey Knob Church had held another Family Night on Friday, February 26th and had another large turnout of 125 people plus. Three people were saved at the event and she hoped other area churches would become more involved in the future. Baseball and Softball registrations were scheduled to begin within the next couple of weeks. The Mayor thanked her for her report.
3. Theatre Report: Kit Marshall reported that progress over the winter had been slow moving due to the lack of heat. She reported that Gene Adkins had repaired several bad places and removed the seats and put them on the stage in preparation for refinishing the floor. New maple flooring will be installed in the areas that Gene repaired. She reported that the floor refinisher had stated that this would probably be the last time the floor could be refinished due to the boards becoming very thin. He would be offering instruction for floor care to insure that the finish would last as long as possible. They planned to have the floor finished by April in time for the scheduled dances to begin. Kit lastly reported that restoration of the old Fries

Theatre sign had being discussed, but no action had been taken to restore it. The Mayor thanked her for her report.

4. Tourism Report: Marie Isom reported:

- Fries Baptist Church would be hosting a blood drive on March 26th.
- She continued to work on updating the towns' websites, Facebook and Twitter accounts. She planned to combine the Fries Festival site information onto the Friesva.com page and to also add a Fries Theatre page.
- She asked that local businesses provide her with any updates to their contact information for the websites and town rack card.
- Secured the September 2016 Blitz at the Lamsburg Visitors Center. She asked that any local business that was interested in partnering with tourism and participate in the Blitz to contact her. She also reported distributing rack cards to the center as well.
- 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. She also reported that Don was still adding veteran's photos to his new DVD. She asked that anyone with photos that had not yet been included to contact Don as soon as possible.
- Work on the Love Works sign had begun and she hoped to have the sign installed by the end of the month.
- Thanked Jill Hill for sorting and binding the rack cards for distribution.
- Attended the Southwest Virginia Blue Ridge Parkway meetings and also the Mount Rogers Planning District Commissions Stronger Economies Together meetings.
- Asked Council to review and respond to a VML Call to Action email that she had shared with them.

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 \$21,317.70. He also reported that Mr. Byrd had delivered the bid documents as promised and that two contractors had picked up a copy for consideration. No bids had been turned in yet, but he hoped to see work begin in the spring.
2. Grant Property Purchase: The Mayor reported that the mill site and grant properties purchase had closed two weeks before. Fries Investments had purchased the property and planned to issue a press release in the upcoming weeks. The Mayor

stated that he believed this development to be good for Fries and he was anxious to see the changes that were coming.

- 3. Depot Project Update: Dawn Patton reported that Lane Group was waiting for final authorization from VDOT to put out for bids. The pre-bid meeting was being planned for March. The Mayor thanked Dawn for her report.

New Business:

No New Business.

Announcements:

- 1. The Mayor announced that Large Item Pickup would be held on June 13th and would be curbside this year. 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.
- 2. Decal Sales were scheduled to being on March 15th. Personal property taxes were required to be paid before purchasing a decal.
- 3. Kit Marshall asked if VDOT would be repaving Main Street anytime soon. The Mayor stated that VDOT would probably begin patching potholes soon, but he did not know of any plans to repave. He also reported that the town would begin patching potholes in the near future as well.

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

Signed: _____

Attest: _____