

Fries Town Council
May 3, 2016
Minutes

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

Others Present: Nancy Hawks, Vice-Mayor; Karen Snyder, Fries Community Center; Shaina Stockton of the Gazette and several citizens.

The Vice—Mayor called the hearing to order and Marie Isom 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: There was no report.

Organization Updates:

1. Fries Volunteer Fire Department Update: Chad Stanley sent the following report:
In April he reported that they responded to: 41 EMS calls and 2 fire calls. The department hosted a Surface Water Rescue class sponsored by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs on April 22, 23, and 24. Rescuers from all over the state attended and the class was a great success. Many attendees were interested in returning to the town for leisure activities as well. Chad also reported that he had attended a Fire Chief Training course in April and had learned a great deal. Upcoming events included a rodeo on Saturday, May 7 beginning at 5:00 p.m. Rodeo Events will include bull riding, barrel racing, pole bending, team roping, and mutton busting. The department also has a Horse Show planned for June and are working to make the July 4th celebration a success. The Vice-Mayor thanked Chad for his report and the many hours the department spends on training.
2. Fries Community Center Report: Karen Snyder reported that the new flooring for the kitchen area had been installed and work to complete the kitchen would continue. Baseball and Softball games were scheduled to begin on May 9th. They were still accepting tee ball registrations and had close to 40 children registered. They had been operating the concession stand for all baseball/softball and tee ball games. Upcoming events included a Cruise-In to be held Memorial Day weekend, the Annual Henry Whitter Festival May 21st, Blended Grass would be performing May 14th, Hand Bells on May 22nd and also a Gospel Singing. She also reported that the Theatre sign should be finished and installed within the next few weeks and that they planned to start working on the pool within the week. The Vice—Mayor thanked Karen for her report and for the hard work from the group.

3. Tourism Report: Marie Isom reported:

- The Loveworks sign was almost finished. She thanked Tim and Minda Dixon, Larry Fowler, Larry Robinson, David Isom and Jill Hill for their contributions and then she thanked Council and the Citizens of Fries for their enthusiasm for the project.
- The Farmers Market would be open again this year, although she was still looking for a Market Manager. She thanked the vendors that had participated last year and hoped that they would return to the market this year.
- My Southwest Virginia organization was working on a regional branding project and she had applied for the Town of Fries to be included.
- She asked for permission for a volunteer to paint the benches in the Town Park. Council granted permission.
- She thanked the New River Trail State Park for resurfacing the trail and for extending the trail to the sign below the community center. She also reported that the town would be getting two new interpretive signs via the park service soon.
- Attended two Microsoft workshops.
- Attended the Mount Rogers Planning District Commissions Stronger Economies Together meetings.
- Attended a Virginia Main Street workshop and two Sustainable Communities workshops.
- Asked that anyone that needed information included on the town website to have it turned in before the end of May. The website was to be undergoing some changes and would not be updated in June and July.
- The gift shop did not open as scheduled due to a safety issue with the handrails on the steps. She planned to open as soon as the issue was resolved.
- Announced the following upcoming events: May 21st – Henry Whitter Festival, May 28th—Cruise in and also May 28th—Spring Bike Ride.
- Reported that Mandy Archer of the Small Business Development organization at Crossroads would be sending information to be included in the new business information packets for potential business owners.
- Barbara and Mike Spears had found an old trunk/toolbox that had ties to the mill. They planned to purchase the item from an antique dealer in Galax and donate it to be displayed in the gift shop and then used later in the depot museum. The antique dealer ended up donating the item and Alfred Jones provided the story behind the toolbox. She thanked all that had been involved for their efforts.
- She thanked Don Bond for allowing her to sell his DVD's in the gift shop.
- The Travel Channel had aired a show called Hungrytown on Saturday, April 30th that featured the Town of Fries.

- A film crew from the Save Our Town organization at Virginia Tech would be interviewing Brian Reed and Tom Guy on Wednesday, May 4th. Our application that she had submitted had been approved.

The Vice—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: Dawn Patton reported that the balance on the renovation account was up to \$21,323.70. She also reported that Tim Luper had delivered a construction agreement for council approval. She then moved that the agreement be approved by council. The agreement was approved. Work on the theatre side of the community center building was to begin around Memorial Day weekend.
2. Depot Project Update: Dawn Patton reported that the four contractors had bid on the depot project. All post bid information was with VDOT awaiting approval and should be approved within 30 days. The Vice—Mayor thanked Dawn for her reports.

New Business:

There was no new business discussed.

Announcements:

1. Budget Public Hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, May 17th @ 6:30pm.
2. 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.

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

Signed: _____

Attest: _____