

Fries Town Council
May 2, 2017
Minutes

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

Others Present: Richard Farmer, Mayor; Grayson County Deputy Cody McGrady; Karen Snyder & Gene Adkins, Fries Community Center; Steven Clark and several citizens.

The Mayor called the meeting to order and Cynthia Grant 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. Gary Sumner provided the second to the motion. All present voted Aye and the minutes and bills were approved.

Police Report: Officer Testerman reviewed the April Police Report. He reported: Arrests; 1 drug, 1 B & E, 4 traffic, 1 weapons charge, 2 warning tickets and 1 other arrest; the investigation of 5 misdemeanors, 14 felonies, 1 juvenile, 6 follow ups and 2 closed investigations. Routine activities included: 229 closed business checks, 50 service calls, 50 church checks, 77 directive patrols, 27 open business checks, 44 forestry checks, 10 warrant service, 7 open bank checks, 4 motorist assists, 1 TDO, 9 substance seizures, 3 ACO calls, 1 special event and 6 vehicle/K-9 searches for a total of 211.75 hours. He also reported that there had been a good turnout for the carnival in town, but they had received a few calls concerning parking on Riverview Avenue. The Mayor thanked Officer Testerman for his report.

Organization Updates:

1. Fries Volunteer Fire Department Update: No report.
2. Fries Community Center Report: Karen Snyder reported that the carnival had been a success and apologized for everything not running smoother. They had only had a week to make preparations. Boys baseball was starting in a few days and girls softball was scheduled to begin the next week. Teeball signups were also underway. They had begun working on the pool repairs and planned to open at the end of May. The Mayor asked that she give the water plant a few days notice before filling the pool as they were short staffed at the time. The Henry Whitter Festival had been scheduled for May 20th in the town park and she reported that numerous bands and vendors would be in attendance. The Mayor thanked Karen for her report.
3. Tourism Report: Marie Isom reported the following:
 - The 2017 Farmers Market was scheduled to begin on May 21st from 1—4pm. The market was awarded the grant from Grayson Landcare that she had applied for in April, and she had also submitted an application to accept EBT/Snap benefits.
 - Free Fishing Days were scheduled for June 2nd & 3rd.

- The plan that had been developed at the Mount Rogers hosted SET meetings had been accepted and given an award.
 - She had attended Blue Ridge Parkway meetings and had partnered with Galax to create an Itinerary called Dance to the Music which will be used to market the parkway as well as the localities.
 - She asked that all local businesses and organizations visit the website at brandSWVA.com and get registered and branded as soon as possible.
 - The town website was still under construction and she planned to change the navigation to make finding information less complicated.
 - She had attended several webinars including Sustainable Communities and Virginia Main Street webinar.
 - The Twin County Visitor Guides would be available around the 15th.
 - The Stages brochure for local music venues would be available also.
 - The new Grayson/Carroll/City of Galax maps would be available in June.
 - The Visitors Center had been delayed opening due to a wiring problem. The problem had been corrected and she planned to open on Sunday, May 7th from 1—4pm. She asked for volunteers to help her operate the center once it was opened. She planned to open the center on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.
- The Mayor thanked Marie and David for their hard work.

Old Business:

1. Y Repair Project Update: The Mayor reported that the new balance for the Y Repair Project was up to \$20,073.68. The next scheduled fundraiser was for a Fish Fry at Fries School on May 27th from 4—7pm. Plates would cost \$10.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children 12 & under. He reported that Tim Luper would begin putting siding on the Town Hall side of the Community Center building the following week, but funding was still a little short to complete the side. He asked that people attend the fish fry or donate to the cause. He also reported that the BBQ Dinner & Jeff Whittington fundraiser has done very well in April and thanked everyone that had participated.
2. Depot Update: Dawn Patton reported that the request for proposals had been advertised, but no bids had yet been received. The deadline for the bids to be submitted was to be May 25th at 2pm. The Mayor thanked Dawn for her efforts.
3. Park Project Update: Kim Mallory was not able to attend.

New Business:

1. Cameras: Proposed CCTV System: The Mayor reported that he had received an email from Sherriff Richard Vaughan and he had reported that the equipment had been ordered and should arrive shortly.

Announcements:

1. The Annual Large Item Curbside Pickup was scheduled for June 12th. 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 9th thru 20th. Contact Town Hall to be put on the work or food schedules.
3. Water Treatment Award: The Mayor reported that Fries Water Treatment Plant had received the 2016 Gold Water Treatment Plant Performance Award for Excellence in Clarification, Filtration and Backwash.
4. Cruise-In: The first cruise-in of the season was scheduled for May 27th in the Town Park.
5. Theatre Seats: Gene Adkins reported that the seats in the theatre had been refinished and were looking much better. He also reported that the Whitetop Mountain Band would be performing on May 5th, and the Buck Mountain Band would be performing on May 26th. Line dancing classes were being held every Tuesday night and he encouraged people to come and give it a try.
6. Students: Karen Snyder reported that Fairfield Prep students would be in Fries in June and that the Fries Community Center had received the Best Host Site award from SERCAP.

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

Signed: _____

Attest: _____