

Fries Town Council  
October 4, 2016  
Minutes

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

Others Present: Richard Farmer, Mayor; Shaina Stockton, The Gazette; Denny Brooms, Fries Community Center; Ray Howe and several citizens.

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

Police Report: Officer Mico Davis reviewed the September Police Report. He reported: 3 warning tickets, 1 verbal warning, 2 domestics and 1 drive suspended; the investigation of 4 misdemeanors, 2 felonies, 3 follow ups and 1 traffic accident. Routine activities included: 291 closed business checks, 24 service calls, 40 church checks, 64 directive patrols, 21 open business checks, 36 forestry checks, 10 warrant services, 7 open bank checks, 5 motorist assists, 5 vehicle/K-9 searches, 7 backup officers, 1 prisoner transport, 2 substance seizures, 1 first responder and 3 ACO calls for a total of 186.60 hours. The Mayor thanked Officer Davis for his report and for everything the department did for the Town of Fries.

Organization Updates:

1. Fries Volunteer Fire Department Update: Chad Stanley was unable to attend, but sent his report. He reported that in September the department had answered 5 fire calls and 56 EMS calls. He reported that upcoming events included Fire Prevention Week October 9<sup>th</sup> thru 15<sup>th</sup>. The Annual Fire Prevention Parade was scheduled for October 9<sup>th</sup> at 2pm and Open House at the fire house immediately after the parade. The fire department also planned to send out a newsletter during Fire Prevention Week.
2. Fries Community Center Report: Denny Brooms reported that On October 13<sup>th</sup> the community center would be hosting 8 Washington & Lee engineering students who would be meeting with the town water plant personnel and hopefully completing a project. A community meal was being planned for October 14<sup>th</sup> in the dining room and Grayson County Historian; David Sandefur would be in attendance to interview anyone that had worked at the mill in an effort to collect oral histories. On October 20<sup>th</sup> the dining room floor was scheduled to be installed, painting and light repairs would be completed at a later date. Christmas on the Mountain had been scheduled for December 3<sup>rd</sup>, and would include all day music in the theatre. Youth football and cheerleading was underway and going well. Concessions were very busy. A Cruise-In had been scheduled for October 8<sup>th</sup> from 3pm until dark in the town park, and the

Henry Whitter Festival had been scheduled for May 20, 2017. The Mayor thanked Denny for his report.

3. Tourism Report: Marie Isom thanked everyone for their cards, food and prayers while she had been sick. She then gave the following report:
- Marie reported that she had been working on the new website and asked that anyone that needed to update their information bring it to her or to town hall.
  - She reported that she had attended several workshops including the driving digital media workshop and the CDBG/DHCD Grant Workshop.
  - The 25k/50k was held on October 1st and had 135 runners registered. She thanked Jason and Alison Bryant for coordinating the races and thanked all those that had contributed to make the day successful.
  - The Farmers Market had official closed for the season, but she reported that Faith Hinkle had already begun planning for the 2017 season. She reported that this year had been a small, but successful market.
  - The Tourism Blitz scheduled for September at the Lambsburg Visitor Center had been successful. She reported that local lodging owners had reported lots of calls attributed to the blitz.
  - The new fall visitors guide had been received and she had distributed them. She showed the Town of Fries ad that had been included in the guide.
  - She reported contacting Crossroads Institute for information to include in the guides she was creating for starting a business in the town. She hoped that the guides when completed would make starting a business in the town a more simple process.
  - She reminded all lodging businesses that an annual business license was required to operate in the town limits, and that lodging tax was due to the town monthly.
- The Mayor thanked Marie for her report.

#### Old Business:

1. Y Repair Project Update: The Mayor reported that the balance on the renovation account was \$8,928.91 after paying for the completion of the first side of the Community Center. He also reported that construction on the next side of the building was underway and two fundraisers had been scheduled to benefit the Y Renovation Fund. On November 18<sup>th</sup> a Dinner Theatre was scheduled for the Fries Theatre and Dining Room. Grace Baptist Church would be performing Cricket County Colorado Christmas. Admission for the show and dinner was \$10.00. The menu was to be soup, salad, baked potato, desert and a drink. The second fundraiser scheduled was a concert in the Fries Theatre by Jeff Whittington on February 11, 2017. More details were to be announced closer to concert date.
2. Depot Project Update: Dawn Patton reported that Lane Group was finishing the revisions to the drawings covered in the contract amendment. The electrical engineer planned to finish his work by the end of the week and they should have his items incorporated in the plans and have the revised plans and specifications submitted to

Brian Reed by no later than Wednesday, October 12th. The Mayor thanked Dawn for her efforts.

3. Water Committee: Dawn Patton reported that the water ordinance had been submitted to Roger Brooks for review. They hoped to have the ordinance ready for a public hearing soon.
4. Park Project: Kim Mallory reported that upcoming fundraisers for the park project included:
  - 5k race to be held on November 12<sup>th</sup> @ 8am. Entry fee would be \$25.00. Children's races and obstacle course would begin @ 10am. Entry fee for children's events would be \$10.00.
  - Helicopter Golf Ball Drop would be held on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Golf balls were \$100.00 each.

The Mayor thanked Kim for taking on the project and for her report.

#### New Business:

1. Ray Howe: Mr. Howe spoke to council about his new business called No Speed Limit Motorcycles and ATV's. He asked that council give him permission to use the town park beside the river for photography for marketing his business. He assured council that he would not damage the park in any way. After some discussion, Dawn Patton moved to allow him to use the park. Marie Isom provided the second. All present voted Aye and the motion carried.
2. Water/ Lead Update: The Mayor gave an update on the water plant. He explained that the water plant and water system of the town was regulated by the Virginia Department of Health's field office in Abingdon. The town worked closely with Mr. Eric Herald, who was an engineer at the Abingdon field office. In July, 2015 the town performed routine tests for lead and copper in several VDH approved test sites throughout town. There were two houses that had slightly elevated levels of lead or copper. All homes tested were notified of the test results, all citizens on the water system were notified by mail of the slightly elevated level and the notice was published in the newspaper as required by VDH. In January 2016, the town performed more lead and copper tests at the VDH approved sites again. All homes passed the tests; none had elevated levels of lead or copper. In July 2016, the town once again tested 10 VDH approved sites. Two homes tested slightly elevated levels of lead or copper. One of the homes was the same one that failed the year before. The Mayor reported that the water leaving the water plant tested good each time. After receiving the notification from VDH that the July 2016 tests had some homes that failed, the Mayor, Town Manager, Water Plant Operator and Eric Herald had a meeting to discuss a plan of action. Mr. Herald first advised that the plant raise the ph level from 7.2 to 8 immediately, the town complied. Mr. Herald then advised that we start feeding a phosphate into the system that Galax and Hillsville are already running in their systems, the town complied. The town also proceeded with the same citizen notification process that they completed in 2015. The Mayor reported that the town was in 100 percent compliance with the regulations put forth by the Virginia

Department of Health, and planned to do the next lead and copper testing in January of 2017. After answering several questions, the Mayor stated that the town was taking action as per the Virginia Department of Health guidelines and would continue to do so.

Announcements:

1. The Mayor announced that the employees from the Enel Hydro Plant in town would be having a community service week in October. Employees planned to complete several projects for the town that week including cleaning out the old garages in the park, painting the public works building near the park, painting the metal posts around the town fountain and installing a back stop on the big bottom for the school.
2. A Cruise-In was scheduled for Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> from 3pm until dark.

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

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

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