

Fries Town Council
September 16, 2016
Draft Minutes

Members Present: Bill Davis, Cynthia Grant, Jo Ann Gunter, Nancy Hawks, Dawn Patton and Gary Sumner.

Others Present: Richard Farmer, Mayor; Brian Reed, Town Manager; Derek Kitts, Candidate for 9th Congressional District; Shaina Stockton, The Gazette; Chad Stanley, FVFD Chief; Karen Snyder, Fries Community Center; and several citizens.

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

Police Report: Officer Doug Waller reviewed the August Police Report. He noted that there was a new category added to the report, ACO or Animal Control Calls. For August there was one ACO call. Then he reported: 1 warning ticket, 2 verbal warnings, 1 traffic and 1 other arrest; the investigation of 1 misdemeanor and 2 information only. Routine activities included: 223 closed business checks, 17 service calls, 35 church checks, 57 directive patrols, 36 open business checks, 18 forestry checks, 8 warrant services, 4 open bank checks, 3 motorist assists and 1 house check for a total of 187.60 hours. The Mayor thanked Officer Waller for his report and for everything the department did for the Town of Fries.

Organization Updates:

1. Fries Volunteer Fire Department Update: Chad Stanley reported that in August the department had answered 7 fire calls and 47 EMS calls. He reported that upcoming events included their Fall Horse Show on September 17th and Fire Prevention Week October 9th thru 15th. The Annual Fire Prevention Parade was scheduled for October 9th 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. The Mayor thanked Chad for his report.
2. Fries Community Center Report: Karen Snyder reported that football and cheerleading season was underway and homecoming was being planned for later in the month. The center had been building a relationship with Washington & Lee University and had recently hosted 20 students. Washington & Lee planned to send students again in the spring. The pool had been drained and winterized. A new stove had been installed in the kitchen, and new counters were to be installed soon. Karen then asked for permission to dispose of the old dishwasher. After some discussion, Dawn Patton moved to give FCC permission to dispose of the dishwasher. JoAnn Gunter provided the second. All present voted Aye and the motion carried. The Mayor thanked Karen for her report.

3. Tourism Report: Marie Isom was unable to attend. The Mayor announced that the Festival by the River had been included on the Virginia Tourism's "12 Must Do Festivals" list. The Mayor also reported that Marie had been under the weather and he sent her his best wishes.
4. Grayson County Supervisor Mike Hash: Mr. Hash reported that the county had balanced the budget with no increase in taxes, even with a shortfall from the property re-appraisals. He also offered his support with any issues that the town may have in the future. The Mayor thanked Mr. Hash for attending and for his support.

Old Business:

1. Y Repair Project Update: The Mayor reported that the balance on the renovation account was up to \$24,322.91. He also reported that construction on the Theatre side of the building was complete and two fundraisers had been scheduled to benefit the Y Renovation Fund. On November 18th a Dinner Theatre was scheduled for the Fries Theatre and Dining Room. 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: Brian Reed reported that a conference call with VDOT was scheduled for 10am on Wednesday, September 7th and that Lane Group had made all the changes that were discussed at the last meeting. They were now waiting for VDOT approval to proceed. The Mayor thanked Brian for his efforts.
3. Water Committee: Dawn Patton and Nancy Hawks reported that they had finished the ordinance update and had Brian Reed to look it over. He had made a few changes to the ordinance, but they felt that it was now ready for Roger Brooks to review. They also presented each council member with a copy for examination. They hoped to have the ordinance ready for a public hearing in October. The Mayor thanked them for their efforts.
4. Senior Program Bus Discussion: The Mayor had suggested at the last meeting that council consider selling the senior program bus to the community center for \$1.00 since the town only uses the bus once a year and the center uses it weekly. Karen Snyder reported that the Community Center was checking on insurance and license plates and would get back with council at a later date.

New Business:

1. Derick Kitts, Candidate for the 9th Congressional District: Mr. Kitts introduced himself and told a little about his goals for this area. He was born and raised in Southwest Virginia, and is a veteran of the United States Army. He served our country for 24 years on active duty, including combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. He had been awarded the Bronze Star twice, and was a recipient of the Purple Heart. He had a Bachelor's degree from Bluefield College in Public Safety concentrating in Emergency Management and Homeland Security. Some of the issues he planned to address if elected to Congress were:

- Promoting Southwest Virginia as the destination for jobs and new businesses.
- Re-envisioning former Congressman Rick Boucher's highly successful Southwest Virginia economic development initiatives and top-notch constituent services.
- Opening additional district offices to allow citizen access to their Congressman.
- Working to increase high-speed internet & cell phone service for rural schools, homes, and businesses.
- Fighting for our rural Veterans' access to quality medical and mental healthcare.
- Fighting for access to reasonable and affordable healthcare for all.
- Combating opioid drug abuse in Southwest Virginia.
- Defending our 2nd amendment rights. Promoting responsible gun ownership/stewardship.
- Maintaining and defending Social Security for current and future generations.

After his speech, Mr. Kitts answered several questions from the citizens present at the meeting. The Mayor thanked Mr. Kitts for attending.

2. Kim Mallory/Park Equipment: Kim Mallory asked council for permission to apply for grants and to head up fundraisers for purchasing park equipment that would be ADA compliant. She had already checked with several companies and had a quote for \$46,000 and had determined that to be the goal. She planned to open a checking account at the BB&T in Fries to handle the donations and funds raised. After some discussion, Cynthia Grant moved to allow her to head up the project. JoAnn Gunter provided the second. All present voted Aye and the motion carried.

3. Closed Session: 2.2-3711.A

Pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, Council by affirmative vote went into closed session as provided by Section 2.2-3711.A. (Moved by JoAnn Gunter, Dawn Patton provided the second).

Dawn Patton moved to exit the closed session. JoAnn Gunter provided the second. All present voted Aye and the motion carried.

As required in Section 2.2-3712.D of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, Council certified that to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the closed meeting by Town Council.

Certified by: Nancy Hawks, Gary Sumner, JoAnn Gunter, Richard Farmer, Dawn Patton, Bill Davis and Cynthia Grant.

With no further business to discuss, Dawn Patton moved to adjourn, Jo Ann Gunter provided the second and the meeting was adjourned.

Signed: _____

Attest: _____