

Fries Town Council  
August 1, 2017  
Minutes

Members Present: JoAnn Gunter, Marie Isom and Dawn Patton.

Others Present: Nancy Hawks, Vice Mayor; Shaina Stockton, Galax Gazette; Gene Adkins, Fries Community Center and several citizens.

The Vice Mayor called the meeting 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. Marie Isom provided the second to the motion. All present voted Aye and the minutes and bills were approved.

Police Report: No officer was available to attend the meeting due to the National Night Out in Independence, but the following report was sent: Arrests; 1 drive suspended, 1 traffic, 1 drunk in public, 1 shoplifting and 6 warning tickets; the investigation of 2 misdemeanors and 2 felonies. Routine activities included: 176 closed business checks, 7 service calls, 12 church checks, 97 directive patrols, 15 open business checks, 22 forestry checks, 5 open bank checks and 5 motorist assists for a total of 235 hours.

Organization Updates:

1. Fries Volunteer Fire Department Update: Chad Stanley was unable to attend but sent the following report: In July, they responded to 41 EMS calls and 9 fire calls which included 4 EMS assists, 3 vehicle accidents, 1 brush fire and 1 helicopter landing zone. They were also preparing for their 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Fiddlers Convention which was scheduled for August 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>.
2. Fries Community Center Report: Gene Adkins reported that the center had purchased a projector and screen for the theatre, planted wildflower gardens at the theatre and dining room entrances and he had installed the cable for the new town security cameras. Line Dancing Classes were still being offered every Tuesday night and he reported having good attendance for the Thursday Night Jam Sessions. He planned to begin selling Fries Theatre t-shirts within the next few weeks for \$15.00 each. The Vice Mayor thanked Gene and all those that kept things going at the center.
3. Tourism Report: Marie Isom reported the following:
  - The July meeting with Enel ended up being a conference call. The next meeting was scheduled for September 6<sup>th</sup> at 1pm in the Fries Community Center Dining

Room. She also reported that Enel had already installed new signage to direct people to the correct place to pull out canoes.

- The July Cruise In had been successful and she thanked Grace Baptist Church for volunteering to sell food at both the July & August Cruise In's. The next Cruise-In was scheduled for August 12<sup>th</sup>.
- She reported attending several workshops and webinars, all tourism and arts related.
- The Farmer's Market was doing well. The Rock the River event had been a great success having 27 vendors and well over 675 people in attendance.
- She had attended a funding workshop and had started working on the 2018 marketing plan. She asked for input from anyone that might be interested.
- She had submitted information for the Fall Visitor's Guide and expected that they would be available for distribution soon.

The Vice Mayor thanked Marie for her time and efforts.

#### Old Business:

1. Y Repair Project Update: The Vice Mayor reported that the new balance for the Y Repair Project was up to \$23,557.49, which was about \$6,000 short to finish the Town Hall side of the building. The next fundraiser was scheduled for October, the committee planned to serve a barbecue meal (barbecue sandwich, chips and dessert) at the October Cruise In.
2. Depot Update: Dawn Patton reported she and council had met with VDOT, Lane Group and Brian Martin, but they still weren't sure about the future of the project. They planned to search for additional funding and to find out if the trail funds could be incorporated into the depot project. The Mayor and Council had set up a meeting with our Virginia and Federal representatives to try to get some help. The Vice Mayor thanked her for her hard work on the project.
3. Park Project Update: Kim Mallory was not able to attend. Marie Isom reported that fundraising efforts still continued and the balance of the park project fund was now at \$6,004.97.
4. Jesuit Student Update: The Clerk gave a report and shared photos of the student trip. The town received \$3,970.00 in donations, (\$1,500 from Jesuit High School New Orleans, \$2,100.00 from Jesuit High School Tampa, Martha Matherly-\$200, Dawn Patton-\$50, \$100-Fred Jennings, and Nancy Hawks-\$20.) and spent \$1,508.58 in meals for the students, leaving a balance of \$2,461.42 that paid for the supplies to paint the water tank and the paint and flooring for the Town Hall. She also thanked Grace Baptist Church, Fries Baptist Church, Liberty Hill Methodist Church, Hilltown Pentecostal Holiness Church, Church of God Prophecy, Porky's, Steven & Ilene Clark and The Café for donating meals for the students.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Announcements:

1. Mini Golf Course: Steven Clark reported that the mini golf course was coming along. The Big Bottom had been cleaned up and was looking good, and the clubhouse was almost finished and ready to set. The Vice Mayor wished him much success.

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

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

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