

Fries Town Council  
February 7, 2017  
Minutes

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

Others Present: Richard Farmer, Mayor; Grayson County Deputy Cody McGrady; Karen Snyder & Gene Adkins, Fries Community Center; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Junior Young, FVFD; John Fant & Mike Hash, Grayson County Board of Supervisors; Shaina Stockton of The Declaration; Kim Mallory; Steven & Ilene Clark; David Isom & David Phillips 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. Jo Ann Gunter provided the second to the motion. All present voted Aye and the minutes and bills were approved.

Police Report: Officer Cody McGrady reviewed the January Police Report. He reported: 2 drug, 1 driving suspended, 1 weapons charge, 2 warning tickets, 7 traffic tickets and 2 other arrest; the investigation of 9 misdemeanors, 1 felony, 6 follow ups and 3 traffic accidents. Routine activities included: 245 closed business checks, 33 service calls, 49 church checks, 87 directive patrols, 27 open business checks, 39 forestry checks, 6 warrant services, 4 open bank checks, 4 motorist assists, 2 prisoner, 2 vehicle/K-9 searches, 1 substance seizure, 1 prisoner transport, 6 special events and 2 ACO calls for a total of 202.30 hours. The Mayor asked if there was any news concerning the recent vandalism on Grayson Street, Lee Drive and the back alley. Officer McGrady reported that there was an ongoing investigation into the vandalism, but he was not aware of any arrests at the time. The Mayor thanked Officer McGrady for his report and for his service.

Organization Updates:

1. Fries Volunteer Fire Department Update: 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Junior Young reported that for January the department answered 54 EMS calls. Four members had successfully completed their EMT training and four more members planned to take the training in the spring. The department also planned to host a firefighter 1 class from April 1<sup>st</sup> through June 25<sup>th</sup>. The Mayor thanked Junior for his report.
2. Fries Community Center Report: Karen Snyder reported that the lobby had been repainted and the dining room and kitchen were next on the schedule for painting. Students from Holy Cross would be coming on March 4<sup>th</sup> and would be working in the dining room/kitchen. The Senior Citizens group planned to cook for the students one night. Basketball season was underway and the games were being held at Fries School. She thanked the school for allowing them to use the gym. She reported

that they were looking at getting new lifeguard chairs and new ladders for the pool this spring and planned to have a busy summer at the pool. The HVAC system was scheduled to be installed the following week and the theatre bathrooms had been upgraded. She asked that the Mayor check on getting pedestrian crossing signs for the dining room area and that town maintenance look at the boiler room door. She reported that it would not stay closed. Gene Adkins volunteered to look at the door. 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 21<sup>st</sup> from 1—4pm.
- She was working on getting bathrooms built in the town park.
- She had been working on a marketing plan for 2017 that included placing rack cards at the Rocky Gap, Bristol and Lombsburg Welcome Centers.
- She had attended several workshops and webinars social media, strengthening communities and website building.
- The new website was still under construction.
- She reported receiving complaints about the goose poop in the park and asked for help with finding a solution.
- Moved to use tourism funds to purchase a surveillance system for the park area. Dawn Patton provided the second. All present voted Aye and the motion carried.
- Asked that council consider hiring a part time groundskeeper for the park to keep the trash emptied and the grass cut. The Mayor suggested that she bring up the position during budget discussions in April.

The Mayor thanked Marie for her report and her hard work.

4. Grayson County Board of Supervisors: Mike Hash reported that they were ready to begin interviews for the County Administrator's position. They received 31 applications and narrowed that down to 10 to interview. Mitch Smith was serving as Interim Administrator. He also reported that the county would be holding a public hearing on Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup> concerning delinquent taxes and the length of time that they should be carried. John Fant distributed copies of a survey concerning the Wired Road. The survey was to help determine the broadband needs of the county. Surveys could also be completed online at [thewiredroad.net/survey](http://thewiredroad.net/survey). Last, they reported that Mike Phipps would be serving with Don Dudley on the Planning Commission for the county. The Mayor thanked them for attending and for their reports.

Old Business:

1. Y Repair Project Update: The Vice—Mayor reported that the new balance for the Y Repair Project was up to \$16,166.63. The chimney had been repaired and that fundraisers were being planned to complete the next side of the building. Eddie

Bond and the Bogtrotters were scheduled to perform on February 17<sup>th</sup> in the Fries Theatre, Jeffery Whittington would be performing on April 8<sup>th</sup> and a Fish Fry was also in the works.

2. Depot Update: Dawn Patton reported that no one had been available at Lane Group to answer her questions, but she did receive a letter from VDOT that stated that we should be able to begin advertising for bids within the next few weeks. The Mayor thanked Dawn for her work.
3. Park Project Update: Kim Mallory reported that she had made it through the first round in the Kaboom grant for \$15,000. The next step required paperwork that was due on March 1<sup>st</sup> and she asked for help from the town to complete it. She also reported that she would be applying for another grant in the fall and that she would continue to pursue funds by holding a raffle. She planned to sell tickets at the festivals during the spring and summer and hold the drawing in the fall. The Mayor thanked Kim for her efforts.

#### New Business:

1. David Phillips –Downtown Drainage Issue: David Phillips read a letter and requested that the town support his efforts to get VDOT to address the drainage issue in the downtown area. Storm water runoff had been seeping through the sidewalk area into the basement of his building. After some discussion, Dawn Patton moved that the town write a letter in support of working in conjunction with the downtown business owners to draw attention to the matter. The letter would be sent to Grayson County and VDOT. Gary Sumner provided the second. All present, except Marie Isom who abstained, voted Aye and the motion carried.
2. The Mayor reported that the town had a 1966 tractor that was not needed anymore and that he had several people interested in buying it. After some discussion, it was decided to accept bids on it and sell it.
3. Closed Session: 2.2-3711.A5

Pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, Council by affirmative vote went into closed session as provided by Section 2.2-3711.A5. (Moved by Marie Isom, Gary Sumner provided the second).

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Gary Sumner moved to exit the closed session. Marie Isom 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: Marie Isom, Gary Sumner, Nancy Hawks, JoAnn Gunter, Richard Farmer, Cynthia Grant, Bill Davis and Dawn Patton.

Dawn Patton moved to allow Richard Farmer to draft a letter in support of Steven Clark's project to be presented to the Grayson County School Board. Gary Sumner provided the second. All present voted Aye and the motion carried.

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

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

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