

Fries Town Council  
February 6, 2018  
Minutes

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

Others Present: Richard Farmer, Mayor; Scott McCoy, Town Manager; John Fant, Grayson County Supervisor; Gene Adkins and Karen Snyder, Fries Community Center; Steven Clark and several citizens.

The Mayor called the meeting to order and gave the Invocation. He then welcomed Scott McCoy and John Fant and thanked them for coming.

Minutes & Bills: Dawn Patton moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to approve the minutes and bills as presented. JoAnn Gunter provided the second to the motion. All present voted Aye and the minutes and bills were approved.

Police Report: Officer Johnson gave the following report for January: Arrests; 7 drug arrests, 1 assault, 3 traffic, 4 weapons charges, 1 destruction of property/vandalism, 1 other and 6 warrants; the investigation of 7 misdemeanors, 3 felonies, 1 information only, 2 closed, 2 follow ups, 1 recovered vehicle and 3 traffic accidents. Routine activities included: 125 closed business checks, 40 service calls, 33 church checks, 80 directive patrols, 58 open business checks, 17 forestry checks, 3 open bank checks, 1 first responder, 4 substance seizures, 3 warrant services, 6 motorist assists, 3 prisoners, 11 ACO and 1 ACO bite call for a total of 205.15 hours. The Mayor thanked Officer Johnson for his report and asked that he pass on a request for assistance handling a pack or 4 or 5 dogs that were running loose in the town limits. Officer Johnson agreed to pass the problem on to the ACO officers.

Organization Updates:

1. Fries Volunteer Fire Department Update: Chad Stanley was unable to attend. The Mayor asked that everyone keep the department in their prayers as they had recently lost a member.
2. Fries Community Center Report: Gene Adkins reported that he had scheduled dances in the Theatre from March thru June and for the Henry Whittier Festival. He planned to continue working on the schedule for the rest of the year. He had also scheduled the line dancing class to begin again in March. Karen Snyder reported that she planned to take down the metal cabinets in the kitchen and replace them with wooden cabinets. She had several student groups coming in March including Saint Joseph's, Holy Cross and The Citadel. She planned to have the groups working on cleaning and painting the Library, painting the men's bathroom in the dining room and the downstairs bathrooms. The students would also be going out into the community to help as needed. She asked that anyone available to help with

students to please let her know. She was having surgery on her shoulder on February 26<sup>th</sup> and would not be well enough to handle everything on her own. She reported that a few new games had been installed in the lobby, basketball was going well and that baseball, softball and tee ball signups would be next. The Mayor thanked Karen and Gene for their report and hard work.

3. Tourism Report: Marie Isom was unable to attend, but sent the following report:
  - **Bell Report**: Free digging footer donated, prices on materials received added, 6 bags mortar, 3/4 yard of sand, Things listed on Materials List: 4 1/2" rebar--20' length, 50 12" block, 150 8" block, 2 yds. concrete for footer =\$736.71. No tax or delivery charge. Now that she had the list priced she was working on getting the items donated and a mason to lay block and brick. She had some promised but needed to make sure and get exact amounts people would donate or give us a break on.
  - **New events added**: Rock the River July 29<sup>th</sup>, Go with the Flow/Brew Fest June 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - She planned to send email to everyone on email list and would also include Historic Theater Events.
  - **Farmers Market Manager** had accepted a full-time job elsewhere. She had started to search for a new Market Manager.
  - **Marketed our town** in Blueridge Country Magazine and Here magazine.
  - **Requested additional funds from Grayson County** so we would financially be able to place our Rack Cards in an additional Welcome Center...Making our total 4. They are: Lambsburg, Rocky Gap, Bristol and Winchester. She hand delivers rack cards to make contacts at welcome center and also to save our money...don't have to pay postage.
  - **Attended 2 workshops and 6 Webinars.**

#### Old Business:

1. Y Repair Project Update: The Mayor reported that the new balance for the Y Repair Project was \$12,075.53 after paying approximately \$29,000 for the work done on the 3<sup>rd</sup> side of the Community Center. All funds were either donated or made at fundraisers. No taxpayer funds were used to complete the work. To complete the final side of the building, the committee planned several upcoming fundraisers including: selling food for the May 12<sup>th</sup> Cruise In, a Gospel Singing on April 28<sup>th</sup> at Fries School, providing food for the June Sports Convention and a Chicken Dinner on July 29<sup>th</sup>. More details would be provided closer to the event dates.
2. Park Project Update: Kim Mallory was not able to attend but sent a report. She reported that she had made it through Phase I and Phase II with the Kaboom Grant. She will have to submit some further information for Phase III and should hear

something in April. She also submitted an application to the Hall Foundation and should know something about that fund in March.

New Business:

1. John Fant, Grayson County Board of Supervisors: Mr. Fant reported that the county was currently working on updating their Comprehensive Plan and Mike Phipps was the representative for this area. He asked that the Mayor and Town Manager have some input as to what the town would like to see happen in the future. He also suggested that the town invite the Grayson Board of Supervisors and Bill Shepley for an informal meeting. He reported that Mr. Shepley and the Town of Independence had started having quarterly meetings and it had been very productive for both parties. He thought that the Town of Fries should start doing the same. After some discussion, the Mayor thanked Mr. Fant for attending.
2. Motor Vehicle License Ordinance: The Mayor announced that the new Motor Vehicle License Ordinance had been completed and he set the public hearing date for Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. A copy of the ordinance was available at Town Hall.

Announcements:

1. Town Council Elections: The Mayor announced that the election would be held on May 1, 2018. Candidate forms would be available at the Town Hall and needed to be turned in by March 6<sup>th</sup>.
2. Library: Kathy Clark discussed the Fries Library. She said that the staff was very helpful and went above and beyond for their patrons. She encouraged more people to use the library. She also spoke to the small amount of funds that were allocated to the Fries Library for new books. She felt that it was unfair in comparison to the other localities allocations. After some further discussion, Mr. Fant mentioned that he was on the Library Board and would check into the issue. Karen Snyder then explained to Mr. Fant that the library does not and has never paid any rent, electric, heat, water, upkeep or anything to operate from the Community Center building. They do pay their staff, equipment and books, but essentially have no overhead costs to operate from this location. Mr. Fant stated that he knew that the library board would be revamping the book ordering system in the near future and he would definitely check into the funding for the Fries location. He was unaware of the current situation. The Mayor thanked Mr. Fant for his efforts.

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

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

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