

Fries Town Council
July 11, 2017
Minutes

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

Others Present: Richard Farmer, Mayor; Shaina Stockton, Galax Gazette; Gene Adkins, Fries Community Center; Steven Clark and several citizens.

The Mayor called the meeting to order and 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 Police Report given.

Organization Updates:

1. Fries Volunteer Fire Department Update: Chad Stanley was unable to attend. Marie Isom reported that the department would be hosting a Summer Concert on July 15th at their Providence location. She also reported that vendors were to include Creek Bottom Brewing Company.
2. Fries Community Center Report: Gene Adkins reported that he and the board were looking for quotes to install a new HVAC system in the kitchen and dining room area and they also were planning to participate in the upcoming Grayson Landcare Rock the River Festival on July 30th. The center planned to sell concessions at the event.
3. Tourism Report: Marie Isom reported the following:
 - Enel Energy hosted a meeting on June 21st concerning the need for having portage around the dam. Minutes from the meeting could be obtained by emailing Marie. The meeting was the first of three meetings and included representatives from the town, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and the New River Trail State Park. The next meeting was scheduled for July 19th @ 1pm.
 - The next scheduled Cruise-In was for August 12th at 3pm.
 - She reported attending several workshops and webinars, all tourism and arts related.
 - The Farmer's Market was doing well. Kids Day and Cooking Day had both been successful. The market had received their EBT & SNAP certification and the market manager was now working on getting setup to accept the cards.
 - New River Outdoor Adventures Fishing Tournament was scheduled for July 29th from 6am—4pm. More information was available on www.newriveroutdooradventures.com.
 - She asked for suggestions for a permanent location for the mill bell. She said that to date, the caboose, depot and fountain properties had been suggested, but a permanent site had not been determined. She reported that she had asked Steven Clark to look at

the bell housing to see if it was salvageable. Mr. Clark, who was in attendance, said that he looked at the bell housing and it did have some water damage. He believed that with a little work it was salvageable and could be moved.

- She planned to stock the Tourism/Information Center within the next few days and would have it open as soon as possible.

The Mayor thanked Marie for her time and efforts.

Old Business:

1. Y Repair Project Update: The Mayor reported that the new balance for the Y Repair Project was up to \$22,669.94. Tim Luper's crew was continuing work on the siding on the Town Hall side of the building. He planned to continue fundraising until all sides of the building were complete. The next fundraiser was scheduled for October. He planned to serve a barbecue meal (barbecue sandwich, chips and dessert) at the October Cruise In. He thanked everyone for their support thus far.
2. Depot Update: Dawn Patton reported that Brian Martin was currently trying to get a meeting scheduled with VDOT and The Lane Group to determine what steps to take since the bids came in way over budget.
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 \$6,034.87.
4. Decal Update: The Mayor reported meeting with Grayson County Treasurer, Kelly Haga concerning adding decal fees to personal property taxes and not issuing decals next year. Mr. Haga was willing to come to discuss our options at the September Council meeting. The Mayor stated that the move would save the town money and citizens would not have any increase in fees.
5. Security Cameras: The Mayor reported that he was currently waiting for AEP to help determine where to locate power poles for the cameras. Tim Luper's crew would be installing the antenna on the Community Center building and Gene Adkins would be running the cable from the antenna to the Town Hall for monitoring. All the equipment was located in town hall and the project was moving forward.

New Business:

1. Appointment of Mayor: The Mayor opened the floor for nominations. Nancy Hawks nominated Richard Farmer for Mayor. Marie Isom provided the second. No other nominations were made. All present voted Aye and Richard Farmer was approved as Mayor.
2. Appointment of Vice—Mayor: The Mayor opened the floor for nominations. Jo Ann Gunter nominated Nancy Hawks. Marie Isom provided the second. No other nominations were made. All present voted Aye and Nancy Hawks was approved as Vice—Mayor.

- 3. Appointment of Clerk/Treasurer: The Mayor opened the floor for nominations. Nancy Hawks nominated Jill R. Hill. Marie Isom provided the second. No other nominations were made. All present voted Aye and Jill R. Hill was approved as Clerk/Treasurer.
- 4. New Payment Options: The Clerk reported that the Town Hall was now able to accept online payments, and would soon be able to accept credit and debit cards in the office as well. Customers could now pay taxes and utilities online at paylocalgov.com/townoffries or follow a link from the town’s website at www.friesva.com. A convenience fee of 2.50% would be charged for credit cards and a convenience fee of 1.50% would be charged for debit cards. The minimum fee would be \$2.95. Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express would be accepted online or in office. E-Checks also could now be accepted online for a flat rate of \$1.50.

Announcements:

- 1. The Jesuit High School Students from New Orleans were in town and working on painting the water tower and several other projects. The Jesuit High School Students from Tampa were scheduled to be in Fries July 23rd thru July 30th. Contact Town Hall to be put on the work or food schedules. Ilene & Steven Clark volunteered to provide pizza, drinks and dessert for the Tampa students on Wednesday, July 26th.
- 2. Downtown Buildings: Dawn Patton commended Marie & David Isom for the hard work they were putting into the downtown buildings. They had painted and worked on the façade of the buildings and she reported that they looked great.

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

Signed: _____

Attest: _____