

Fries Town Council  
March 7, 2017  
Minutes

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

Others Present: Richard Farmer, Mayor; Grayson County Deputy Jeff Merilic; Karen Snyder & Gene Adkins, Fries Community Center; Chad Stanley, FVFD; Kim Mallory; Steven Clark; David Jolly and several citizens.

The Mayor called the meeting to order and gave the Invocation.

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

Police Report: Officer Jeff Merilic reviewed the February Police Report. He reported: Arrests; 1 drug, 2 driving suspended, 1 DUI, 3 warning tickets and 1 other arrest; the investigation of 2 misdemeanors, 5 felonies, 3 juveniles, 1 property recovery, 12 follow ups, 1 traffic accident and 4 closed investigations. Routine activities included: 258 closed business checks, 21 service calls, 44 church checks, 77 directive patrols, 36 open business checks, 39 forestry checks, 1 warrant service, 4 open bank checks, 4 motorist assists, 1 prisoner, 1 vehicle/K-9 searches, 3 substance seizures, 1 first responder, 4 backup to officers and 4 ACO calls for a total of 194.30 hours. Officer Merilic reported that the persons responsible for vandalizing the cars in town had been found and charged. Deputy Mico Davis responded to the original call and worked the case until it was solved. Two juveniles were responsible. The Mayor thanked Officer Merilic for his report and for Deputy Davis's diligent service in resolving the matter.

Organization Updates:

1. Fries Volunteer Fire Department Update: Chief Chad Stanley reported that for February the department answered 38 EMS calls and 10 fire calls. The department had purchased a new ambulance for backup and now had a total of three. They were planning to start the process of purchasing a new rescue engine, which would take approximately 2 years. He reported that the old house beside the firehouse had been demolished and they would begin work on the new parking lot 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>, and a vehicle rescue class on April 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>. He also reported that the department would be training on the hillside in front of the bank and post office some in the coming weeks. He didn't want anyone to be alarmed because it was only training. The Mayor thanked Chad for his report and for the department's service to the community.
2. Fries Community Center Report: Karen Snyder reported that the students from Holy Cross were currently staying at the center and had started painting the dining room and the ladies restroom, they had worked at the Methodist Church, cleaned windows at the apartments, planted flowers, scraped the brick on the Town Hall side of the community

center, replaced a window in the men's restroom with plexiglass, painted at the firehouse and painted trash cans for the summer. The Senior Citizens group cooked for the students one night, and Karen also planned to take them to Cripple Creek to the General Store one evening. She reported that the next student group would be a group of cadets from the Citadel and would here the end of March. Gene Adkins thanked Vicki and Roger Blevins for donating seats to the Theatre. The Mayor thanked Karen & Gene for their reports.

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.
- The 2017 Cruise In schedule was as follows: May 27<sup>th</sup>, June 10<sup>th</sup>, July 8<sup>th</sup>, August 12<sup>th</sup> and September 9<sup>th</sup>.
- An Easter Egg Hunt was scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup> from 1—4pm.
- Free Fishing Days were scheduled for June 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- She had placed rack cards at the Wytheville and Hillsville Welcome Centers.
- The new website was still under construction.
- She planned to apply for a small grant for the Farmer's Market for marketing and signage.
- The annual festival advertisement from Grayson County Tourism had been distributed and our events were included.
- David Isom & Harry Boyles had helped clean up the park area and she thanked them.
- She thanked Jerry Shupe for hauling dirt into the Town Park to level it up. She also thanked Bill Moore who planned to smooth out the dirt when the sandbox was removed.
- She was compiling a list of our area yearly events and asked that organizations email their events to her to be included at [friesva7@gmail.com](mailto:friesva7@gmail.com).

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

4. Steven Clark reported that he had met with the Grayson County School Board concerning his proposed mini golf course and club house and received good reviews. The New River Trail themed course would be a no charge field trip to award academic excellence for Grayson County students. An area Boy Scout troop had already offered to help with the clean-up of the area as a service project and he was working with the New River Trail State Park to resolve any right of way issues. He reported that he would like to have at least 9 holes open by the early summer. The Mayor thanked him for the update.

Old Business:

1. Y Repair Project Update: The Mayor reported that the new balance for the Y Repair Project was up to \$17,689.88. The next scheduled fundraiser was for April 8<sup>th</sup> and would be a Barbecue Dinner/ Show with Jeff Whittington performing. Admission was \$10 and the menu would consist of barbecue, slaw, baked beans, a drink and dessert. A fish fry was also being planned for the near future.

- 2. Depot Update: Dawn Patton reported that VDOT was waiting for the response to their last round of questions. The Mayor thanked Dawn for her efforts.
- 3. Park Project Update: Kim Mallory reported that she had made the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for the second round of the Kaboom grant. \$15,000 would be awarded to the winner in the summer of 2017. She asked for input on the type of equipment to put in the park. She had several playground equipment books and asked that anyone interested please look at them and give their opinion. She also reported that she was selling golf ball drop raffle tickets, raffle tickets for a fire pit and also a kayak. The Mayor thanked Kim for her hard work.

New Business:

- 1. 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 Dawn Patton, Marie Isom provided the second).

Cynthia Grant moved to exit the closed session. Gary Sumner 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 and Dawn Patton.

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

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

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