

Fries Town Council  
November 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; Scott McCoy, Town Manager; Officer Jeremy Moss, Grayson County Sheriff's Department; Shaina Stockton, Galax Gazette; Chad Stanley, Fries Volunteer Fire Department; Gene Adkins and Karen Snyder, Fries Community Center; Steven Clark, Ray Howe and several citizens.

The Mayor called the meeting to order and Dawn Patton 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: Officer Jeremy Moss gave the following report for October: Arrests; 2 drug and 1 traffic; the investigation of 10 misdemeanors, 6 felonies, 3 traffic accidents, 1 closed and 4 follow-ups. Routine activities included: 182 closed business checks, 47 service calls, 35 church checks, 65 directive patrols, 33 open business checks, 23 forestry checks, 4 open bank checks, 2 first responders, 1 civil paper, 1 TDO, 2 vehicle/K-9 searches, 1 open building found, 1 ECO/LE ECO, 2 house checks, 4 substance seizure, 4 warrant services, 6 ACO calls, 1 animal seized, 2 special events, 1 work other and 6 motorist assists for a total of 154.25 hours. Officer Moss also reported that 5 cameras had been purchased and installed and were now in operation. The Mayor thanked him for the report and for the Sheriff's assistance in purchasing and installing the cameras in town.

Organization Updates:

1. Fries Volunteer Fire Department Update: Chad Stanley reported that in October they answered 45 EMS calls and 16 fire related calls, including the tornado. The Christmas Parade was scheduled for Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm as well as Open House at the firehouse immediately after the parade. He also announced that the fire department would be partnering with the Fries Community Center in 2018 and would be bringing the Annual Fiddler's Convention back to the ballpark. The dates of the convention would be August 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>. Bill Davis volunteered to allow parking on his vacant lot behind the doctor's office to help ease the parking problems normally associated with the convention being in town. Chad accepted. 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 K—3 basketball had started practicing and the other age groups would begin later in the month. She announced that November 16<sup>th</sup> at 6pm would be the holiday dinner for the Thursday Night Jam Group and on November 18<sup>th</sup> The Cricket County Blizzard Dinner/Theatre to benefit the Y Renovation Fund would be held. She also reported that two exhaust fans had been installed in the gym, they were looking for estimates for installing heating and cooling for the dining room/kitchen area and they had started opening the lobby area after school. Gene Adkins reported that the Fries Theatre t-shirts sales were going well and that they had begun to make a profit on the fundraiser. The Mayor asked about the plans for the downstairs bathrooms and Karen stated that Gene had ordered new sinks, toilet seats and a changing table. They planned to refurbish the upstairs bathrooms first, but would get to the downstairs as soon as possible. A group of 30 students from St. Joseph's was scheduled to come in March and she hoped to get everything finished then. The Mayor thanked them for their reports and their hard work.
3. Scott McCoy, Town Manager: The Mayor introduced the new Town Manager, Scott McCoy. Scott was originally from the Richmond area, attended Emory & Henry College and worked for the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission for a year and a half. The Mayor welcomed Scott and expressed his eagerness to work with him.
4. Tourism Report: Marie Isom reported the following:
  - She was working on updating the event dates for 2018 on the town website. The dates were as follows: Mountains of Music Celebration, June 8<sup>th</sup>—16<sup>th</sup>, with our Jam on Thursday, June 14<sup>th</sup>; the Farmers Market was scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup> thru October 7<sup>th</sup> from 1—4pm; the Annual 50K Run would be October 13<sup>th</sup>; the Festival by the River would be September 15<sup>th</sup> and the Henry Whitter Festival would be scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup>. She reported that she had been approached about changing the venue for the Henry Whitter Festival. Some had suggested moving it to the Theatre as it had been a few years ago. She asked for input on the idea. After a few minutes discussion, no action was taken.
  - The Annual 25k/50k Run was held on October 14<sup>th</sup>. She reported that the runners and families had been fed 36 gallons of donated soup. She thanked everyone that participated, including Martha Matherly, David Isom, Jill Hill, Sandy Adkins, Kathy Sumner, Brenda Rose, Judy Farmer, Mountain Goat Racing and many more.
  - The 2018 Cruise In schedule was being worked on but had not yet been finalized.
  - The 2017 Farmers Market had been successful and she had set the 2018 schedule. She also introduced Cindy Rowe, who spoke a few minutes concerning her past experience. Ms. Rowe was interested in becoming the 2018 Farmers Market Manager. Marie recommended Ms. Rowe for the position. After some

discussion, council voted unanimously to approve Ms. Rowe. The Mayor thanked her for her willingness to serve.

- The Mill Bell Committee had met twice and had decided that the former depot site would be a suitable location for the bell. Marie asked for council approval for the suggested site. Council voted unanimously to approve. Marie planned to have the bell moved within a few weeks.
- The Information Center/Gift Shop hours were changed to 12pm—5pm on Friday and Saturday and Closed Sunday thru Thursday.
- Announced that local citizen Karen Jones had become a publisher author. Her book, Honeysuckle Manor, was available on Amazon.com.

The Mayor thanked Marie for her report and hard work.

### Old Business:

1. Y Repair Project Update: The Mayor reported that the new balance for the Y Repair Project was up to \$35,119.73. Work on the third side was almost finished and he stated that fundraising would continue until the last side was finished.
2. Depot Update: Dawn Patton stated that there was nothing new to report.
3. Park Project Update: Kim Mallory was not able to attend, but reported that she was working with Marty Hall who planned to give a donation either from his foundation or personally in honor of his mom. Gus Hill had approached her about digging up the park, removing the remains of the old structure and filling it back in before installing new equipment. She hoped he could do it in the spring. Kaboom did not grant the 2017 application, but she had applied for 2018 funding. She said winners would be announced in the spring.
4. Security Cameras: Five cameras had been installed in town and were working well, and the Sheriff's Department also had the ability to log on and monitor the system. The Mayor planned to install 3 more cameras in the near future.
5. Town Decals: Council continued their discussion from last month concerning eliminating town decals and charging a license fee on personal property taxes instead. No action was taken.

### New Business:

1. Ray Howe: Mr. Howe addressed council concerning the mandatory minimum water bill. Mr. Howe suggested that having a mandatory minimum was creating an environment not conducive for growing businesses. He explained that he had purchased a home in town and had left the water off while he remodeled the home and prepared it for resale. He stated that sometimes it takes more than a year to

prepare a home for resale and that paying for water not used was cutting into his bottom line. After some more discussion, the Mayor thanked Mr. Howe for his comments.

Announcements:

There were no announcements.

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

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

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