

Fries Town Council
October 3, 2017
Minutes

Members Present: Cynthia Grant, JoAnn Gunter, Marie Isom and Dawn Patton.

Others Present: Richard Farmer, Mayor; Detective Doug Carner, Grayson County Sheriff's Department; Shaina Stockton, Galax Gazette; Kelly Haga, Grayson County Treasurer; Chad Stanley, Fries Volunteer Fire Department; Gene Adkins and Karen Snyder, 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: Detective Carner reported that they had a problem with their software so he did not have a written report. He said that the last available data showed 225 business checks, 5 open bank checks, one shoplifting arrest and a total of 160.25 hours for September. He then went on to discuss Crime Prevention Month (October), recruiting town citizens to start up a neighborhood watch, Operation Identification, registering for notifications from the sex offender registry for our area, internet safety, protecting children from predators and the installation of surveillance cameras in town. After some discussion, Sam Keaton reported several issues that were going on in the Blairtown section of town. Detective Carner offered to get with him after the meeting to see if he could help with some of the problems. The Mayor thanked Detective Carner for his report and service to the town.

Organization Updates:

1. Fries Volunteer Fire Department Update: Chad Stanley reported that in September they answered 41 EMS calls and 7 fire related calls. October was also Fire Prevention Month and the department had planned a parade for Sunday, October 8th at 2pm with open house at the firehouse immediately after. 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 football and cheerleading had started. The 4th & 5th football team planned to have a car wash on Saturday, October 7th at the Fries Fire Department Building to raise money for hoodies for the team. The center planned to host Washington & Lee students on October 12th. Gene Adkins reported that he had scheduled three bands for October, The Crooked Road Ramblers, The Buck Mountain Band and the Big Ridge Old Time Band. He reported that the Bogtrotters planned to hold a fundraiser for the Grayson County String Band and the Twin County Arts Council would perform "Tales

of Terror” on Saturday, October 14th at 7:30pm, both in the Fries Theatre. Gene also reported that he had Fries Theatre t-shirts and hats for sale, \$15.00 for short sleeved t-shirts, \$18.00 for long sleeved t-shirts and \$15.00 for hats. The Mayor thanked them for their reports and their hard work.

3. Tourism Report: Marie Isom reported the following:

- She was continually working on the town website. She had recently secured the site with SSI Certification at a cost of \$69.00 per year. She also reported that she was looking at changing to a new website builder with more bells and whistles. She felt that the town site needed updating.
- The last Cruise-In for the season had been scheduled for October 7th from 2pm until dark in the Town Park. Cottonmouth Express would be performing, the Y Renovation Committee planned to provide sell food, K—5th cheerleaders were selling tickets for Cowpatty Bingo and several craft vendors planned to attend also. She reported that 100—120 classic cars normally participated in the cruise in.
- The Annual 25k/50k Run was scheduled for October 14th. 135 participants had registered. She asked for donations of soup, water, fruit and volunteers.
- She attended several webinars and workshops in September.
- The Mill Bell Committee had met and had decided that the former depot site would be a suitable location for the bell. They planned to have the bell moved there in the near future.
- The new Visitors Guides were out and being distributed. Guides were available at the Town Hall, Fries New River RV Park, Fries Theatre and the Information Center/Gift Shop.
- The Information Center/Gift Shop hours were to be 1pm—5pm on Saturdays and Sundays. She planned to try opening some on Thursdays and Fridays also.
- New River Outdoor Adventures had scheduled their Annual Fall Brawl for October 7th. She said that more information could be found on their website.
- Asked for permission to add Kathy Clark to the Comprehensive Plan Committee. There were no objections.

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 \$34,057.49. The next fundraiser was scheduled for October 7th. The committee planned to serve a barbecue meal (barbecue sandwich, chips and dessert) at the October Cruise In, and on November 18th they planned to host “A Cricket County Blizzard” Dinner Theatre. Admission would be \$10 and would include a baked spaghetti dinner.
2. Depot Update: Dawn Patton stated that there was nothing new to report.

3. Park Project Update: Kim Mallory was not able to attend. The balance of the park project account was \$6,475.17.

New Business:

4. Kelly Haga, Grayson County Treasurer spoke to council concerning decals. Mr. Haga reported that the county planned to start taxing citizens twice a year, moving personal property taxes to be due June 5th and leaving real estate taxes due on December 5th. They also planned to do away with vehicle decals, by charging a vehicle licensing fee of the same price, and attaching it to the personal property taxes. The county believed that it would be easier for citizens to pay their taxes if they were spread out throughout the year, and it would also spread the revenue out throughout the year for the county. He reported that everything would remain the same for 2017. He also reported that decals were pretty much unenforceable, but with the vehicle licensing fee, DMV stops could be issued on those that haven't paid their taxes. This keeps the person from renewing their tags until the taxes are paid. Troutdale planned to follow suit with the county, but the town could leave things the same here if council chose too. After some discussion, the Mayor thanked Mr. Haga for coming and for the information.

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: _____