

Fries Town Council  
January 4, 2022  
Meeting Minutes

The public hearing and regular council meeting scheduled for January 4<sup>th</sup> had to be postponed until Tuesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> due to lack of a quorum because of covid quarantines, etc.

The meetings then had to rescheduled to Tuesday, February 1, 2022 due to inclement weather on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

Fries Town Council  
February 1, 2022  
Public Hearing Minutes

Members Present: Frances Boone, Yvonne Burr, Bill Davis, Cynthia Grant, Jo Ann Gunter and Nancy Hawks.

Others Present: Steve Clark, Vice Mayor; Nan Chase, Tourism/Events Coordinator; Saul Chase, Fries Community Center and several citizens.

Call to Order: The Vice Mayor called the public hearing to order and announced that the purpose of the meeting was to receive public comment on the proposed back-alley abandonment for the alley between Carrico Street and Hampton Street.

There were no comments from the citizens present. Steve Clark commented that he was not opposed to the abandonment, but was concerned that they would not be able to pre determine what kind of ripples that the closure may cause.

With no further comments, Jo Ann Gunter moved to close the public hearing; Frances Boone provided the second. All present voted Aye and the public hearing was closed.

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

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

Fries Town Council  
February 1, 2022  
Regular Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Frances Boone, Yvonne Burr, Bill Davis, Cynthia Grant, Jo Ann Gunter and Nancy Hawks.

Others Present: Steve Clark, Vice Mayor; Nan Chase, Tourism Director; Saul Chase, Fries Community Center and several citizens.

Call to Order: The Vice Mayor called the meeting to order and Cynthia Grant gave the invocation.

Minutes & Bills: Cynthia Grant moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to approve the minutes and bills as presented. Frances Boone provided the second to the motion. All present voted aye and the minutes and bills were approved.

Police Report: Corporal Cutshall provided the police report for the month of January and included the following: Arrests: 1 weapons charge. Investigations: 1 felony and 1 misdemeanor. Routine activities: 121 closed business checks, 22 service calls, 63 church checks, 80 directive patrols, 18 open business checks, 11 forestry checks, 3 warrant service attempts, 1 house check, 1 prisoner, 1 1<sup>st</sup> responder and 3 court on duty hours for a total of 165 hours. The Vice Mayor thanked him for his report.

Organization Updates:

1. Fries Community Center: Saul Chase reported that a new heating system had been installed in the dining room. The community center board meeting was to be held the following Tuesday on February 8<sup>th</sup> and he invited all to attend. He stated that Chad Reeves would be attending the meeting to explain the controls on the heating system to the board and they would also be receiving their final report from SERCAP. He also reported that they would be adding a new festival. On July 30<sup>th</sup> they were planning to hold the Fries Kids fest. Steve thanked him for his report.
2. Tourism: Nan Chase reported:
  - The quilt raffle raised \$3,300.00 for signage. She discussed the idea of using large tv's and powerpoint in multiple places instead of purchasing a large, expensive sign. She also suggested that she may use the remaining quilt funds to purchase tables and benches for the farmers market facility.
  - She suggested moving the LOVE sign to a different location to be able to use the current space for tourism signage.
  - She presented the new local grocery store rack card she had created for tourists.
  - She thanked Steve Clark for creating a QR code that linked to the town website for future use on rack cards and flyers.
  - She had applied for a \$3,000 grant from Grayson County Tourism to help with marketing in the town.

- She would soon be emailing an events calendar to council. She reviewed the events that were already scheduled and reported she planned to add more as the year progressed.
- Virginia Tourism had given her a link to add town information to the Virginia Tourism website. She planned to update the information in the near future.
- She had been looking to recruit food trucks for events for when the depot/farmers market opened. She would not be hiring a market manager for this season and planned to open the market for more than just produce.
- She asked about the caboose schedule for 2022. Marta Homstad reported that they planned to open in April and would be adding new menu items. Marta asked that the town consider adding more picnic tables for their customers and cut down the dead trees beside the caboose before opening date.

The Vice Mayor thanked her for her report.

3. Friends of Fries: No member present.

#### Old Business:

1. Farmers Market/Depot Project Update: The Vice Mayor reported that we were awaiting final approval from VDOT for the last change order concerning replacement signage. After that was obtained there were only a few steps left until we could occupy the facility.

#### New Business:

1. Saul Chase: Mr. Chase reported that he had recently read an article in The Declaration concerning the town receiving several grants for the water plant. He congratulated the town on their efforts. He then stated that he was now concerned for the condition of the sewer plant. He reported that he had contacted SERCAP to see if they could possibly help with funding to make repairs and upgrades at the sewer plant. SERCAP agreed to come to the plant and meet with the Mayor, Vice Mayor, Saul and the plant operator on January 11<sup>th</sup> to tour the plant. The SERCAP representatives were very complimentary of the sewer plant staff and the work that they were doing at the plant, and encouraged the town to apply for funding. Saul suggested that grant funding was not the complete solution to fixing the issues at the plant. He asked that the town, at budget time, consider setting up a dedicated wastewater treatment plant capital improvement fund. To create this fund, he suggested charging an additional \$5.00 capital improvement fee on all utility accounts so that the town would have some money in the bank to fix any big issues that come up in the future. He felt it would be fair and that all citizens should contribute to the upkeep of the plant. The Vice Mayor thanked Mr. Chase and reported that budget workshops would begin in April. He invited Mr. Chase to attend and participate.
2. Alley Abandonment Resolution: The Vice Mayor read the proposed resolution. It was as follows:

ORDINANCE OF ABANDONMENT OF ALLEY  
BETWEEN CARRICO STREET AND HAMPTON STREET,  
TOWN OF FRIES, VIRGINIA

WHEREAS, a request has been made to the Council of the Town of Fries, Virginia, for the abandonment of an alley located in the Town of Fries, that joins Carrico Street to Hampton Street and is adjacent to Map# 25A2-3-4-10 (209 Carrico Street) and Map # 25A2-3-4-14 (214 Hampton Street); and

WHEREAS, from the evidence presented to the Town Council, it appears that the abandonment of said alley is desirable to all parties involved, including the Town, and said alley would be too small to be a buildable lot, and that the notice of a hearing on this request was advertised in The Gazette as provided by law on December 22, 2021 and December 29, 2021; and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance was read at the public hearing held on February 1, 2022 and at the regular council meeting on February 1, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, upon motion duly made, seconded and carried by recorded vote,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ALLEY THAT JOINS CARRICO STREET TO HAMPTON STREET, ADJACENT TO 209 CARRICO STREET AND 214 HAMPTON STREET, BE AND IS HEREBY ABANDONED, AND THE PROPERTY IN THAT ALLEY SHALL BE DIVIDED INTO TWO UNBUILDABLE LOTS AND SOLD TO THE ADJOINING LANDOWNERS.

ADOPTED at the regular meeting of the Town Council for the Town of Fries, Virginia on

\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Farmer, Mayor

STATE OF VIRGINIA  
COUNTY OF GRAYSON, To-wit:

The foregoing resolution was acknowledged before me on this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022 by Richard Farmer, Mayor for the Town of Fries, Virginia.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public  
My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

The Vice Mayor then asked if there was any questions or discussion concerning the resolution. There were no comments. Frances Boone then moved to adopt the resolution abandoning the alley. Nancy Hawks provided the second. All present voted Aye and the motion carried.

Announcements:

1. The Vice Mayor announced that the March 2<sup>nd</sup> council meeting had been moved to Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>.

With no further business to discuss, Yvonne Burr moved to adjourn. Frances Boones provided the second and the meeting was adjourned.

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

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

Fries Town Council  
March 1, 2022  
Meeting Minutes

The council meeting scheduled for March 1st had to be canceled due to covid quarantines.

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

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

Fries Town Council  
April 5, 2022  
Minutes

Members Present: Frances Boone, Yvonne Burr, Steve Clark, Bill Davis, Cynthia Grant and Nancy Hawks.

Others Present: Richard Farmer, Mayor; Larry Bolt, Grayson County Commissioner of Revenue; Nan Chase, Tourism Director; Saul Chase, Fries Community Center and several citizens.

Call to Order: The Mayor called the meeting to order and Cynthia Grant gave the invocation.

Minutes & Bills: Cynthia Grant moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to approve the minutes and bills as presented. Frances Boone provided the second to the motion. All present voted aye and the minutes and bills were approved.

Police Report: The police report for the month of February included the following: Arrests: 4 traffic. Investigations: 4 felony and 4 misdemeanors. Routine activities: 375 closed business checks, 37 service calls, 101 church checks, 98 directive patrols, 172 open business checks, 19 forestry checks, 9 warrant service attempts, 4 house checks, 1 prisoner transport, 4- 1<sup>st</sup> responders, 2 civil papers, 2 motorist assists, 1 open building, 1 TDO, 5 ECO/ LE ECO, 10 open bank checks, 2 substance seizures and 4 vehicle searches for a total of 204 hours. The police report for the month of March included the following: Arrests: 3 drug and 1 warning ticket. Investigations: 3 felony, 1 follow up and 2 misdemeanors. Routine activities: 421 closed business checks, 54 service calls, 94 church checks, 109 directive patrols, 200 open business checks, 14 forestry checks, 10 warrant service attempts, 3 house checks, 4- 1<sup>st</sup> responders, 4 civil papers, 14 open bank checks, 3 substance seizures, 1 K9 track and 1 vehicle search for a total of 228 hours.

Mayors Update: The Mayor reported that there were currently three grant projects underway.

1. Flood wall repair/replacement at the water treatment plant: A grant from Rural Development had been applied for and awarded for \$388,000.
2. Filter replacement at the water treatment plant: The work to replace the filters and rate of flow controllers at the water plant is estimated to cost \$316,000. The town was awarded \$233,000 in American Recovery Funds (another \$233,000 in Recovery Funds will be received in June of 2022) and applied for and was awarded \$100,000 from Mount Rogers Planning District Commission.
3. Backup generator for the water treatment plant: The town applied for and was awarded \$40,000 from SERCAP to purchase and install a generator at the water treatment plant.

The Lane Group was working on the engineering for all three projects and also applications for new grants with the Virginia Department of Health to replace all old main water lines as well as replacing all water meters in town. Lane Group would also be applying to DEQ for funds to upgrade the existing wastewater treatment plant. No funding had yet become available for roads and sidewalks, but the Mayor planned to apply when funds became available.

The Mayor reported that the town had recently started an asset management program and was working with SERCAP to implement the program.



He also reported that the farmers market had been inspected by the Grayson County Building Official and had passed the inspection. The Certificate of Occupancy would be issued in the near future. Next, the structure would have to pass a substantial completion inspection, which was to be scheduled in the upcoming weeks.

### Organization Updates:

1. Fries Community Center: Saul Chase reported that the community center would be sponsoring the Musical Heritage Festival on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> in the town park. They planned to raffle many donated items, five bands had been scheduled to perform, multiple craft vendors would be setting up and food would be sold by the Freeze Express at the caboose. He also reported that raffle ticket sales would begin before the festival and that you did not have to be present to win. The Mayor thanked the community center board for having the mini split heating and cooling system installed. Saul reported that Chad Reeves donated the labor on the job. The Mayor thanked Saul for his report.
  
2. Tourism: Nan Chase reported:
  - She had just recently learned that Fries was a member of the Twin County Chamber of Commerce. She attended their monthly meeting and gave a presentation.
  - She submitted an AARP grant application for public art. If awarded she hoped to use the funds for a mural on the flood wall near the hotel.
  - She announced a wildflower walk that she had scheduled for April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30am, beginning at the low water bridge and continuing to the double shoals. Timmy Dixon would be providing refreshments for the participants.
  - She thanked Steve Clark for creating a QR code that linked to the town website for future use on rack cards and flyers.
  - The Tourism Information/ Gift Shop had closed. She was looking for a new location to put tourism information. She had not yet found another location.
  - She reported that she planned to purchase a new 36-inch television to put in the window at town hall to be used strictly for tourism information. She planned to use the excess quilt raffle funds to do another LOVE sign and to install benches and picnic tables at the new farmers market structure.
  - She had been looking to recruit food trucks for events for when the depot/farmers market opened. She would not be hiring a market manager for this season and planned to open the market for more than just produce. She was also working to schedule a Christmas tree sale this year.
  - Tracey Cornett, Grayson County Tourism Director, had some leftover funds in her tourism budget and offered to pay for the dip jar system for the Farmers Market. Nan was to get her an invoice to get the project started. Steve asked if it would take a dedicated internet line, Wi-Fi or what it would take operate the system. Nan was not certain, but promised to find out the details.
  - She had sent in a request to VDOT to have the parking lot at the welcome sign repaired. VDOT scraped and graveled the lot the day of the council meeting.
  - She discussed the need to have the garbage picked up on the roadways entering town. Jill reported that she had recently been in touch with the gentlemen that scheduled

prisoners to do community service and would try to get back in touch with him to get our roadways on their list.

- She also reported that she had reviewed the caboose lease and found that it expired or renewed each July. She expressed concern that the lease fee was very low and suggested that council consider raising it. Steve Clark replied that Frank Homstad had done a lot of repairs and maintenance to the caboose which offset the lease fee. He felt that it was a fair trade off for the town.
- Yvonne Burr reported that Gene Adkins had called and asked her to relay that the Jam Sessions were preparing to start up again. Gene had held a clean up day the past week and had lots of community involvement getting the theatre cleaned for the reopening. The Mayor thanked Nan for her report and Yvonne for the information.

#### Old Business:

No old business was discussed.

#### New Business:

1. County Real Estate Tax Relief Program: Larry Bolt, Commissioner of Revenue: Mr. Bolt reported to council that the purpose of his visit was to try and get more elderly/disabled citizens in the town to enroll in the county tax relief program. Only 14 town citizens applied for the relief program in 2021. The program would provide a maximum benefit of \$250 off of county real estate tax to citizens that are at least 65 years old or permanently & totally disabled, have a combined household gross income of less than \$27,500, have a net worth (not including the dwelling and up to one acre of land) less than \$90,000, has the deed to their property in their own name or have a life estate and have their previous years real estate taxes paid up to date. He stated that if anyone thought they may qualify to please contact him at his office at the court house, or he planned to visit the Senior Citizen's meeting on Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> in the Fries Community Center Dining Room. He would also be available at the Town Hall that afternoon. The Mayor thanked Mr. Bolt for the information.
2. Real Estate Reassessment Values: Mr. Bolt also brought the new real estate reassessment figures that had just been made available to him. He reported that the taxable value of property in the town had increased from \$25,236,900 in 2021 to \$37,671,400 in 2022, which was an increase of 49%. The reason for the increase was due to properties in Fries selling at much higher prices than in the past. Mr. Bolt also presented the Code of Virginia, 58.1-3321. Effect on rate when assessment results in tax increase; public hearings, which states:
  - A. When any annual assessment, biennial assessment or general reassessment of real property by a county, city or town would result in an increase of one percent or more in the total real property tax levied, such county, city or town shall reduce its rate of levy for the forthcoming tax year so as to cause such rate of levy to produce no more than 101 percent of the previous year's real property tax levies, unless subsection B. is complied with.
  - B. The governing body of a county, city or town may, after conducting a public hearing, which shall not be held at the same time as the annual budget hearing, increase the rate above the reduced rate required in subsection A if any such increase is deemed to be necessary by such governing body.

Mr. Bolt then explained that he had done the math and that if the town reduces their real estate tax rate to .27 per \$100 value that the tax levy would actually be less than the previous year's levy. If the town were to reduce the real estate tax rate to .28 per \$100 value, the total tax levy would be slightly over 1% and would require a public hearing. In order to get the tax rate at exactly the 1% increase, the tax rate would need to be .2775, which he did not recommend due to the confusion that partial cents would cause. He recommended that the town have a public hearing and reduce their rate to .28 per \$100 value to stay within the guidelines of the Code of Virginia. The Mayor and Council thanked Mr. Bolt for his presentation and thanked him for his insights.

3. Housing Ordinance Discussion: Steve Clark discussed the need to revisit the town ordinances to address the several vacant and derelict houses in town. After some discussion, Cynthia Grant offered to help Steve research the matter and revise the litter ordinance. They planned to meet with the town attorney to get his assistance.
4. Budget Schedule: The budget workshop was scheduled for Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 10am and the Budget Public Hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Both meetings were to be held in the Fries Community Center Dining Room.
5. Riverview Avenue Repairs: Al Griffith reviewed the timeline of the drainage repairs that took place on Riverview Avenue and expressed his concern that the area had not yet been cleaned up and finished. He reported that there were several repairs that still needed to be made to the sidewalk and steps, a bank that was washing away, as well as raking and grass seed to be sown. He was concerned at the length of time it was taking to get the work completed. Steve Clark reported that a work order system would soon be implemented in an effort to help out with these issues. The Mayor replied that he would see that the repairs were completed. Mr. Griffith also reported a neighboring house that had trash in a truck that was parked in the driveway that been setting for months. The truck also had no tags. The Mayor responded that the town would get a letter out to the homeowner.

Announcements:

1. Large Item Curbside Pickup was to be held on June 6<sup>th</sup>. To register, citizens needed to call Grayson County Public Works at (276) 773-3181.
2. New Orleans Jesuit High School students were scheduled to be in town July 10—21<sup>st</sup>. Contact Town Hall to be added to the work list or to provide meals for the students.
3. Yvonne Burr reported a recent issue with dog training in the big bottom on weekends. The dogs appeared to be vicious dogs and she was concerned about children playing in the playgrounds and trail walkers getting attacked if one accidentally got loose. She contacted the school superintendent and found out that the group had gotten permission to use the bottom for the training. After receiving several complaints, the superintendent had the training moved to a more secure location.

With no further business to discuss, Cynthia Grant moved to adjourn. Frances Boones provided the second and the meeting was adjourned.

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

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

Fries Town Council  
May 10, 2022  
Budget Workshop Minutes

Members Present: Yvonne Burr, Bill Davis, Cynthia Grant, Jo Ann Gunter, Richard Farmer, Mayor and Saul Chase.

Call to Order: The Mayor called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

The Mayor opened the meeting and asked Mr. Chase if there was anything that he would like to say to council before the budget was discussed. Mr. Chase suggested raising the utility bills by \$5.00 per month in order to start a new reserve fund for the water and wastewater plants, due to the age of both of the facilities. The Mayor stated that it would definitely take a new revenue stream to be able to start the fund because the budget was tight as it was. After some further discussion the Mayor thanked Mr. Chase for his comments.

The Mayor then reviewed the proposed budget as well as the proposed changes to the FY2022/2023 budget that included:

1. Payroll increases: payroll increases were suggested to retain current employees and remain competitive with surrounding localities.
2. Real Estate tax rate change due to property reassessments. After some discussion it was proposed to reduce the real estate tax rate from .41 to .28 per \$100 value. This change would result in slightly over a 1 percent increase and would require a public hearing. Council was in agreement to make the change and asked the clerk to schedule the public hearing.
3. No change was suggested for the personal property tax rate.
4. No changes were made to the water, sewer and garbage rates.
5. No changes were made to the meals tax rate or the lodging tax rate.

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn the budget workshop was made by Jo Ann Gunter. Cynthia Grant provided the second and the workshop was adjourned.

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

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

Fries Town Council  
June 7, 2022  
Budget Public Hearing  
Minutes

Members Present: Yvonne Burr, Bill Davis, Cynthia Grant, Jo Ann Gunter, Richard Farmer, Mayor and several citizens.

Call to Order: The Mayor called the meeting to order and announced the purpose of the public hearing was to receive public comment on the purposed FY2022/2023 budget. He read the budget and reviewed the purposed changes. He then opened the floor for comments.

Junior Young asked what the real estate rate would be for 2022. The Mayor replied that the real estate rate was being reduced from .41 per \$100 value to .28 per \$100 value due to the 49% increase in real estate values.

James and Melanie Dowell reported that they had seen that the county would be putting \$1.2 million back into the budget due to canceling the project in Baywood and suggested the town see about getting some of those funds for streets and sidewalks.

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Jo Ann Gunter. Cynthia Grant provided the second and the hearing was adjourned.

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

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

Fries Town Council  
July 5, 2022  
Minutes

Members Present: Yvonne Burr, Cynthia Grant, Jo Ann Gunter and Richard Hawks.

Others Present: Richard Farmer, Mayor; Nan Chase, Tourism Director; Kevin Combs, Webmaster; Saul Chase, Fries Community Center and several citizens.

Call to Order: The Mayor called the meeting to order and Cynthia Grant gave the invocation. The Mayor welcomed Richard Hawks to council.

Minutes & Bills: Jo Ann Gunter moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to approve the minutes and bills as presented. Yvonne Burr provided the second to the motion. All present voted aye and the minutes and bills were approved.

Police Report: There was no police report given.

Organization Updates:

1. Fries Community Center: Saul Chase reported that Grayson County had provided \$15,000 of funding to the center for this fiscal year. The center had raised \$2,400 from raffles during the Musical Heritage Festival. They planned to start selling raffle tickets earlier next year. The center was also planning a new festival. The first Fries Funfest and Toy Flea Market was planned for July 30<sup>th</sup> at the community center. They were asking people to donate gently used toys, and planned to sell them at the event for \$1 each. Saul reported that he was also looking for a solution to replacing the old coal boiler. He had spoken with representatives from Grayson County who agreed to help search for funding to replace the boiler. The Mayor stated that the boiler was still operational, but it definitely wouldn't be forever. He wished Saul luck in finding funding, as he himself had been looking for funding to replace it for 8 years with no luck. Nan Chase asked for the status of the foot bridge. The Mayor reported that he and the staff had been looking at the bridge to determine whether the bridge could be repaired or if it would need replacing and had determined it would need to be replaced. The supporting structure underneath was beyond repair. To date, there had been no funding opportunities found to replace the bridge. The Mayor asked Nan if she would care to head up the funding efforts to get the bridge replaced. She accepted. He thanked Nan for volunteering.
2. Tourism: Nan Chase reported:
  - The Common Market at the Depot Grand Opening was scheduled for July 16<sup>th</sup> at 10am. The Twin County Chamber of Commerce would be attending and she had invited several people that were instrumental in betting the structure built, including Rick Boucher. She had been putting out flyers and working to find vendors to participate. Grayson County Tourism had also been spreading the word. She also reported finding a volunteer to create and update a Facebook page for the market and also found a volunteer to make heavy duty picnic tables.

- She introduced Kevin Combs and presented a new logo he had created to be used to market/brand the town for council approval. Yvonne Burr moved to approve the new logo for use on everything town related. JoAnn Gunter provided the second. All present voted Aye and the motion carried.
- Nan suggested that council consider whether to continue with the current caboose lease or to end it as the lease was official up in July. Due to the many complaints about the caboose not being open, she suggested giving a 3 month notice to the current occupant and then put out for proposals in December. She also suggested including in the new lease some minimum requirements such as open 5 days a week from May 1<sup>st</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup> for at least 6 hours a day. Richard Hawks reported that he had received a lot of complaints about the caboose not being open from his Airbnb guests. Yvonne Burr reported that the caboose had not been open during the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. Jo Ann Gunter suggested that the rent should be raised as well. After some further discussion, Jo Ann Gunter moved to end the current lease and give the current occupants a 3 month notice of the decision, as well as begin accepting proposals for the 2023 season. Richard Hawks provided the second. After some further discussion, all present voted Aye and the motion carried.
- Nan suggested that the park rental fees be reviewed and updated for the 2023 season. The Mayor thanked Nan for her report.

#### Old Business:

There was no old business discussed.

#### New Business:

1. **Yard Sale Ordinance:** Yvonne Burr reported getting lots of complaints about the permanent yard sale down near the Dollar Store and asked if there was anything that could be done by council. The Mayor reported that town hall had already done as much as possible by current ordinances. It would require a new ordinance regulating yard sales to go any further. He also said if council wanted to pursue a new ordinance they could. After some further discussion, Jo Ann Gunter moved to create a new ordinance to regulate yard sales within the town limits. Yvonne Burr provided the second. All present voted Aye and the motion carried.

#### Announcements:

1. Cruise-In, Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 2pm in the Town Park.
2. New Orleans Jesuit High School students will be here July 10<sup>th</sup>—21<sup>st</sup>. Please contact Town Hall if you would like to be added to the work list or can help provide food.
3. Fries Fire and Rescue Poker Float was scheduled for July 23<sup>rd</sup> at Noon in the Town Park.
4. Annual Fiddlers Convention sponsored by Fries Fire and Rescue had been moved to August 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at the Fries Ballpark.
5. Jenny Durham: Jenny reported that she had gotten the feral cats placed on the Humane Society catch and release program. The Humane Society will come and catch the cats, spay, neuter and vaccinate them and then return them. The goal of the program was to decrease the population of feral cats. She also reported that it could take up to two months

for them to get to the cats on Riverview Avenue. The Mayor thanked her for taking on the issue and finding a solution.

With no further business to discuss, Jo Ann Gunter moved to adjourn. Cynthia Grant provided the second and the meeting was adjourned.

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

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



Fries Town Council  
August 2, 2022  
Minutes

Members Present: Frances Boone, Yvonne Burr, Bill Davis, Cynthia Grant and Jo Ann Gunter.

Others Present: Richard Farmer, Mayor; Nan Chase, Tourism Director; Rachel Roberts, Market Manager; Gene & Sandy Adkins, Fries Theater; Ed & Clara Rehkopf, Friends of Fries; Marta Homstad and several citizens.

Call to Order: The Mayor called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

Minutes & Bills: Jo Ann Gunter moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to approve the minutes and bills as presented. Yvonne Burr provided the second to the motion. All present voted aye and the minutes and bills were approved.

Police Report: The report was provided in the council packets for the month of July, which included the following: Arrests: 2 warrant/summons served, 1 warning ticket and 3 other arrests.

Investigations: 11 felony, 2 juvenile investigated, 1 recovered stolen vehicle, 1 follow-up and 1 property recovery. Routine activities: 307 closed business checks, 35 service calls, 105 church checks, 149 directive patrols, 95 open business checks, 14 forestry checks, 11 warrant service attempts, 1 house check, 2- 1<sup>st</sup> responders, 5 open bank checks, 1 substance seizure, 1 prisoner, 1 school check and 1 open building for a total of 253 hours.

Organization Updates:

1. Fries Community Center/Theater: Gene Adkins reported that the jams were booming! He reported having a great turnout over the summer. They planned to cancel the jam for August 11<sup>th</sup> due to the Galax Fiddler's Convention, but would start right back up the next week. The Mayor thanked Gene for reporting.
2. Tourism: Nan Chase reported:
  - Kevin Combs was working on a completely new website for the town. She wasn't sure when it would be ready to go live at that time.
  - She expressed her concern about the pool not being open. She reported people complaining that they had come in the afternoon several days and the pool was closed. She spoke with Denny and he wasn't aware that they were closing early. He assured her he would check into the situation.
  - She had recently met with the Chamber of Commerce and the new Tourism Director in Galax. She said that both meetings were productive. Both agreed to share our tourism information and help send tourists our way.
  - She reported that Virginia Tourism was sponsoring a \$25,000 grant that she was looking into.
  - Park and Depot Rental Rate Schedule: She presented the following rate schedule and asked for council approval to begin using the new rates right away.

**Town of Fries  
2022 Rental & Usage Fees**

**\*\*All Rental Fees Must Be Paid Before Rental Date\*\***

<b>Depot</b>  (Private Parties, Churches etc.)	<b>\$50.00</b>  + <b>\$25 Deposit</b>	For up to 4 hours, then \$10.00 per hour for each additional hour.  Electric/Water/Restrooms/Food Prep Area Available.
<b>Depot</b>  (Commercial Use/ Large Event)	<b>\$ 100.00</b>  + <b>\$50 Deposit</b>	For one day event unless Town Sponsored.  Garbage Cleanup responsibility of Lessee. Electric/Water/Restrooms/Food Prep Area Available.
<b>Town Park</b> <b>Stage/Shelter Area</b>	<b>\$25.00</b> <b>with electric</b>  or <b>\$20.00</b> <b>No Electric</b>  + <b>\$25 Deposit</b>	For up to 4 hours, then \$5.00 per hour for each additional hour.  Electric/Portable Toilets Available  No Water Available
<b>Whole Park</b> <b>For Events</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>  + <b>*\$100 Deposit</b>	For one day event unless Town Sponsored. Garbage Cleanup responsibility of Lessee. Discount for Recurring Events (4 or more events during one season May— Oct.) \$50.00 per event.

Jo Ann Gunter moved to approve the new schedule, Yvonne Burr provided the second and the new rates were approved.

- Market Manager: Nan Chase introduced Rachel Roberts, who was already acting as the new market manager. She had scheduled a Back to School Bash for the market on

August 6<sup>th</sup> and was working vigilantly to get more vendors to participate. Nan reported that things were running smoothly at the market. She also presented a new contract proposal for the market manager position. The contract outlined the duties of the manager and offered a \$75 stipend per market date payable from the tourism budget. After some discussion, Jo Ann Gunter moved to approve the contract and Rachel Roberts as the new market manager. Yvonne Burr provided the second. All present voted Aye and both were approved.

- Nan also presented some suggestions for consideration for the new caboose lease. The Mayor stated that the caboose was on the agenda later in the meeting and would be discussed more in depth then.

The Mayor thanked Nan for her report and welcomed Rachel Roberts.

3. Friends of Fries – Market Landscape Proposal: Mr. Ed Rehkopf read the proposal submitted by Sharon Billings and reviewed some of their ideas, such as a pollinator garden and a bike fence. After some discussion, the Mayor thanked him for the proposals and stated that he liked their ideas and stated that the town would definitely support the project. He thought that the bike fence was a good idea, but the market might be the wrong place for it. Melanie and James Dowell volunteered to donate some potting soil and Ed and Clara Rehkopf volunteered to donate mulch for the proposed flower beds. Yvonne Burr suggested putting in a free herb garden that citizens could utilize. Ed agreed to pass the idea on to the group.

#### Old Business:

The Mayor gave an update on the water and sewer grants. To date, the town had \$988,000 in grants confirmed for water plant upgrades. The town had also applied for two new grants. The first to Virginia Department of Health, Office of Drinking Water for \$1,725,400 to replace water main lines and meters, and the second to Virginia Department of Environmental Quality for \$1,471,000 for wastewater treatment plant upgrades. The last two grants had not yet been approved, but he felt that we had a good chance of being approved for them.

#### New Business:

1. Yard Sale Ordinance: The Mayor reported that council had a revised proposed yard sale ordinance in their packets and suggested they take some time to review and decide at the next meeting whether to proceed or not.
2. Caboose Lease: Marta Homstad addressed council and thanked them for their support in operating the caboose. She reported that she and Frank had made many repairs to the caboose with no help from the town and ran it the way that they wanted to. She reported that the lease would end on August 20<sup>th</sup> and they would be completely moved out by then. The Mayor thanked Marta for her and Franks efforts and stated that he hated that it had to end the way it did. He told her that council had decided not to renew the contract based on the large number of complaints received about the caboose not being open for business. He then addressed council and stated that the town would have to put out a request for proposals to begin the selection of the next

business to operate in the caboose. After some discussion, Nan Chase, Yvonne Burr and Jill Hill agreed to serve on the committee to write a new request for proposals and specifically spell out what will be expected of the successful candidate.

Announcements:

1. Fries Fire & Rescue Annual Fiddlers Convention: Friday and Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>. Park will be open at 4pm Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup> for campers.
2. Fries Common Market Back to School Bash: Sat. Aug. 6<sup>th</sup>, 9am—1pm.
3. Job Opportunity: The Town of Fries is accepting applications for a part-time janitorial position. For more information or for an application contact town hall.
4. Town Hall will be closed August 19<sup>th</sup>—26<sup>th</sup> – Clerk’s Vacation!
5. Thank you to all who helped and participated with the Jesuit Student trip!
6. James Dowell asked who had purchased the old Washington Inn and what the town knew about the intended use of the property. The Mayor replied that a group called Settler’s Landing Recovery, LLC had purchased the property and that the town had not yet been notified about a use. After some further discussion concerning rumors that were going around town concerning the business that planned to move into the Inn, the Mayor replied that council had heard the rumors too, but had not been consulted or informed of anything officially.

With no further business to discuss, Frances Boone moved to adjourn. Jo Ann Gunter provided the second and the meeting was adjourned.

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

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

Fries Town Council  
September 6, 2022  
Minutes

Members Present: Yvonne Burr, Bill Davis, Cynthia Grant, Jo Ann Gunter and Richard Hawks.

Others Present: Richard Farmer, Mayor; Nan Chase, Tourism Director; Rachel Roberts, Market Manager; Ed Rehkopf, Friends of Fries and several citizens.

Call to Order: The Mayor called the meeting to order and Jo Ann Gunter gave the invocation.

Minutes & Bills: Jo Ann Gunter moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to approve the minutes and bills as presented. Yvonne Burr provided the second to the motion. All present voted aye and the minutes and bills were approved.

Police Report: Officer Landreth provided the police report for the month of August, which included the following: Arrests: 4 warrant/summons served and 1 other arrest. Investigations: 1 recovered stolen vehicle. Routine activities: 457 closed business checks, 44 service calls, 137 church checks, 107 directive patrols, 138 open business checks, 14 forestry checks, 14 warrant service attempts, 2 house checks, 6- 1<sup>st</sup> responders, 9 open bank checks, 2 vehicle searches, 2 motorist assists, 1 ECO/TDO Transport, 1 K9 Search and 3 Special Events for a total of 173 hours.

Organization Updates:

1. Fries Community Center/Boiler: Saul Chase reported that he was still looking for grants to replace the boiler in the community center. He said that the coal dust was all over the building and he thought that it should be considered a health issue. He reported having a conversation with Deb Jones, who is the grant writer for Grayson County and she suggested making a priority list for the building and then start applying for grants from there. He asked council to develop a priority list for Deb. After some further discussion, the Mayor stated that he and council had been aware of the community center issues for some time, but had not yet been successful finding the grant funding necessary to address the issues. He thanked Saul for his report.
2. Tourism: Nan Chase reported:
  - Kevin Combs was working on a completely new website for the town. She wasn't sure when it would be ready to go live at that time.
  - She had been contacted by the organizer of the Chili Cook-off, who canceled the event for this year.
  - She had recently attended a Virginia Tourism seminar that was very informative.
  - She had been working with the Chamber of Commerce. The chamber was making a big effort to co-ordinate and promote the region as a whole. They were also putting together a wall calendar project and she would be submitting photos for Fries.
  - She reported a trash issue past the footbridge on the trail to the tail race. She asked that a trash can be placed in the area to help keep it clean.
  - She then introduced Rachel Roberts, Farmers Market Manager to give her report. Rachel reported that she had been having at least 5 vendors participate every week and

sometimes more. She reviewed the upcoming events that she had planned. They were: Yard Sale Day on September 17<sup>th</sup> and the Halloween Market Trick or Treat on October 29<sup>th</sup>. She also reported that there was a problem with cigarette butts and tobacco spit all over the market. She asked for more no smoking signs and if someone could pressure wash the market structure to clean it up before the next market. The Clerk agreed to report the issues to the public works employees to get the market cleaned up.

The Mayor thanked them both for their reports and hard work.

3. Friends of Fries – Caboose & Market Landscape Proposals: Mr. Ed Rehkopf reviewed the new revised landscaping proposal for the market and the new plan for the caboose landscaping that was included in the council packets. He also asked permission to have a tag sale to raise funds for the projects as presented. After some discussion, Jo Ann Gunter moved to authorize the Friends of Fries group to proceed with their plans. Cynthia Grant provided the second to the motion. All present voted Aye and the motion was approved. Ed thanked council and stated that the work would be done in stages as money was raised to pay for new plants and supplies. The Mayor thanked him for the report.

#### Old Business:

1. Yard Sale Ordinance: The Mayor suggested, if council was in agreement with the ordinance as proposed, to advertise for a public hearing at the November 2022 meeting and make a decision later at the regularly scheduled council meeting the same night. Council was in agreement to proceed with the advertisement.

#### New Business:

1. Caboose Lease: Nan Chase presented a rough draft of the RFP for the Caboose. After council reviewed the document and made a few suggestions, Nan reported that she and the committee would take the suggestions and try to have a finished document at the next meeting for council to review, as well as a schedule for advertising for and interviewing potential new businesses for the caboose. The Mayor thanked her and the committee for their efforts.
2. October 4, 2022 Council Meeting: The Mayor reported that the Washington Inn had been sold to Settlers Landing Recovery, LLC. The group recently contacted Town Hall and scheduled a meeting with the Mayor and Brian Reed of Mount Rogers Planning District Commission, who is our former Town Manager. At that meeting, the Mayor was informed that the group had formed a partnership with Sobrius Curae, located on Cliffview Road near Galax and planned to open a recovery type business in the Washington Inn. They stated that they would not be dispensing any drugs and it would not be a drug rehab. Their clients would be coming from a 30-day rehab program at Sobrius and then completing their treatment here for 30 days or less with counseling and job training. Because the clients would be staying 30 days or less, the business would meet the requirements of the town zoning ordinance to operate in that district. He assured those present that the safety of the town citizens was the first priority of himself and the council and that every effort would be made to keep the town a safe place to live. Representatives from Settlers Landing Recovery, LLC and the CEO of Sobrius Curae

planned to be at the October 4<sup>th</sup> town council meeting to give a presentation concerning their program and to answer questions citizens may have. The October 4<sup>th</sup> meeting was scheduled to be held in the Theatre. After much discussion, the Mayor invited anyone with questions to attend the October 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Announcements:

1. Fries Common Market Autumn Yard Sale: Sat. Sept. 17th, 9am—1pm.
2. Job Opportunity: The Town of Fries is accepting applications for a part-time janitorial position. For more information or for an application contact town hall.
3. Cruise-In: Sat. Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2pm—dark.
4. Benefit Dance for Karen Snyder: Sat., Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> @7pm.
5. Bingo Night at Fries Fires & Rescue: Sat., Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> @ 5pm.

With no further business to discuss, Jo Ann Gunter moved to adjourn. Richard Hawks provided the second and the meeting was adjourned.

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

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

Fries Town Council  
October 4, 2022  
Minutes

Members Present: Yvonne Burr, Bill Davis, Cynthia Grant, Jo Ann Gunter and Richard Hawks.

Others Present: Richard Farmer, Mayor; Nan Chase, Tourism Director; Chad Reeves, Brian Edenfield and J. J. Payne, Settlers Landing Recovery, LLC; several citizens and other interested parties.

Call to Order: The Mayor called the meeting to order and Cynthia Grant gave the invocation.

Minutes & Bills: Yvonne Burr moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to approve the minutes and bills as presented. Jo Ann Gunter provided the second to the motion. All present voted aye and the minutes and bills were approved.

Police Report: A Grayson County Deputy provided the police report for the month of September, which included the following: Arrests: 1 domestic. Investigations: 1 misdemeanor. Routine activities: 273 closed business checks, 41 service calls, 56 church checks, 88 directive patrols, 141 open business checks, 11 forestry checks, 15 warrant service attempts, 5 house checks, 1- first responder, 2 open bank checks, 2 vehicle searches, 1 motorist assist, 1 school check, 2 substance seizures and 1 ACO for a total of 198 hours.

Old Business:

1. Proposed Caboose RFP: The Mayor reported that the committee had presented a final request for proposals for the caboose property and asked for council approval before beginning the advertising process. There were no questions or concerns. The Mayor called for a vote to proceed. All present voted Aye and the caboose request for proposals was approved for advertising.

New Business:

1. WWTP Grant Information: The Mayor reported receiving a letter from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality that stated that the town had received tentative approval for the WWTP Improvements Project for FY2023 loan assistance from the Virginia Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund. Final approval was expected in November.
2. Roadwork Funding & Grayson Street Retaining Wall Repair: The Mayor presented a handout and reviewed the funding that was potentially available from ARPA funds to patch, tar and gravel Middle Street and Hester Street and patch Boss Row, Laurel Street and Top Street and also finish paying for the work that had been completed on Grayson Street. He also presented a quote for emergency work on the retaining



wall on Grayson Street that was leaning over onto a house. The total cost of all proposed work was \$64,753 payable from ARPA funds. The Mayor asked council permission to proceed with the much-needed proposed projects. After some discussion, Jo Ann Gunter moved to appropriate the funds from the ARPA account for the projects discussed and proceed with the work. Yvonne Burr provided the second. All present voted Aye and the motion was approved.

3. Chad Reeves, Settlers Landing Recovery: The Mayor introduced Chad Reeves and gave him the floor to review his plans for the Washington Inn. Mr. Reeves reported that he and his partners planned to open a sober living facility for people that had already completed a drug rehabilitation program. He reported that his organization had cut ties with Sobrius Curae in Cliffview and were now attempting to get state licensed to operate on their own. He said that it would take some time to complete the licensing procedure and that they planned to open an Airbnb on the property until they were licensed and could proceed. One of the other partners, J. J. Payne then explained that the clients would be clean and sober when they reached the Fries facility and that they planned to help their clients get back on their feet by helping them find employment and a permanent place to live. The clients would be tested daily, in therapy 5 hours per day and continuously monitored. The last partner in attendance, Brian Edenfield, introduced himself by saying that he was originally from a small town in Texas but now lived in Grayson County. He stated that alcohol almost ruined his life and he wanted to help others through the process of staying clean while rebuilding their lives. He said that by the time the Fries facility opened it would be their 3<sup>rd</sup> location in operation and they hoped to provide a safe, sober place to live for their clients. There were many questions from the attendees in the audience. Some of which were:

\*Are the clients there by court order or would they be there voluntarily? Mr. Edenfield responded that all were there voluntarily by the time they reached this step of the recovery. Sherry Taylor, FNP, introduced herself and stated that she had worked in these type facilities for many years and in her experience, a large percentage participating in the initial programs were there by court order and were just going through the motions.

\*Will the clients be monitored in the facility? Will they be allowed to come and go as they please or will they only be able to leave the facility with a staff member? Brian Edenfield replied that the clients could legally leave the program at any time, but while enrolled in the program they would be continuously monitored and tested weekly. They would have to stay clean to stay enrolled in the program and they would not be able to leave the facility without a staff member. They planned to have strict policies and procedures in place by the time they opened. At that time, they did not have a facility in operation, but were working on getting the policies and procedures written and in place.

\*Had they thought about sticking with the Airbnb idea and maybe adding a wedding venue? Brian Edenfield responded that they had discussed the idea and was willing to give it a try, but doubted it would be as financially lucrative as the sober living facility would be.

\*How will this facility be beneficial to the town? Brian Edenfield responded that they planned to purchase and open the restaurant on Main Street for public use and they planned to pay the 6% meals tax and the 5% lodging tax required by the town and thought that both would be good for the town budget.

\*What will be the capacity of the facility? Chad Reeves responded 38 or 39.

\*How many staff will be onsite? Brian Edenfield responded the amount required by the state depending on the number of clients at the time.

\*Do any of you have any experience operating this type of facility? All three partners responded they did not have any experience.

\*What will the building located beside the bank be used for? Brian Edenfield responded that it would be where the case managers and therapy sessions would be located.

\*Where is the funding for this project coming from? Brian Edenfield responded that the funds were private funds from their own checking accounts.

\*There had been a recent article in the Gazette about Galax having a problem with homeless people resulting from clients from the local drug rehab leaving the center and not having anywhere to go. If a client leaves the program here, what is the procedure for ensuring they will not end up homeless here in Fries? Brian Edenfield responded that clients who choose to leave the program will not be turned out on the street. They will be taken where they need to go, but if they choose to walk out and leave, they can't, by law, stop them.

\*Will sex offenders or pedophiles be permitted to live in this facility? Brian Edenfield replied that they would not be allowed here.

\*Will you accept clients directly from the Department of Justice? Brian Edenfield replied that they would not. Clients would have to complete a drug rehab program before being admitted to this facility.

\*How will you guarantee that the clients will only be there 30 days or less? Brian Edenfield responded that the clients must be actively job searching their entire stay. They plan to have each client out before 30 days so that they will not be in violation of the town ordinance.

\*Will there be any controlled substances on the premises? Brian Edenfield responded that the only controlled substances on premises would be those prescribed by a physician for things such as an injury or for health maintenance.

There were many comments made on both sides of the issue. The main concern expressed by several speakers was for the safety of the town citizens. Several citizens spoke and presented different ideas for the building and funding opportunities that could be available for the owners to consider. Some attendees spoke with the opinion that there was a drug problem in the town and county and the service was needed to help give the locals a second chance at clean living. At the end of the session, the owners stated that they were open to different ideas for the building and would be glad to check into some of the suggestions presented. The Mayor thanked them for attending and answering the questions of the citizens and thanked those in attendance for their participation.

Announcements:

1. Fries Common Market Halloween Trick or Treat: Sat., October 29<sup>th</sup>.
2. Fries Fire & Rescue Drive Thru Trunk or Treat, Monday, Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> from 6pm—9pm.
3. Fries Baptist Church, Trunk or Treat, Monday, Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> from 4pm—6pm.
4. Frie Community Center Trunk or Treat, Fries Ballpark- Monday, Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> from 6pm—9pm.
5. Election Day: Tuesday, November 8th.

With no further business to discuss, Jo Ann Gunter moved to adjourn. Yvonne Burr provided the second and the meeting was adjourned.

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

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

Fries Town Council  
November 1, 2022  
Minutes

Members Present: Frances Boone, Yvonne Burr, Bill Davis, Cynthia Grant, Jo Ann Gunter and Richard Hawks.

Others Present: Richard Farmer, Mayor; Nan Chase, Tourism Director; Chad Reeves, Brian Edenfield, Settlers Landing Recovery, LLC; Jim Werth, Tri Area Community Health; Deputy Landreth, Grayson County Sheriff's Dept. and several citizens.

Call to Order: The Mayor called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

Minutes & Bills:

Yvonne Burr moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to approve the minutes and bills as presented. Jo Ann Gunter provided the second to the motion. All present voted aye and the minutes and bills were approved.

Police Report:

Deputy Landreth provided the police report for the month of October, which included the following: Arrests: 2 fourth searches and 4 traffic. Investigations: 1 misdemeanor and 2 felonies. Routine activities: 322 closed business checks, 33 service calls, 83 church checks, 89 directive patrols, 108 open business checks, 20 forestry checks, 4 warrant service attempts, 6 open bank checks, 1 vehicle search and 9 civil papers for a total of 173 hours. The Mayor thanked him for his service and his report.

Organizations:

1. Tourism: Nan Chase reported the following:

- The Farmers Market had closed for the season and had had a successful first season.
- The Caboose open house for those potentially interested in submitting a proposal would be Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> from 11am—1pm. She also thanked the Friends of Fries group for cleaning up the flower beds and tree removal.
- Caboose proposals were due November 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Grayson Tourism had recently announced a 72 mile bike trail that connected the Creeper Trail to the New River Trail in Fries.
- She planned to order picnic tables for the farmers market from the department of justice as the budget allows.

The Mayor thanked her for her report.

### Old Business:

1. Grayson Street Wall Project: The Mayor reported that construction had started on the retaining wall on Grayson Street and the work should be completed quickly.
2. Street Repairs: The Mayor also reported that the paving contractor had run into a supply problem with the tar. He hoped to finish the scheduled street repairs for this year, but they could possibly be pushed back to next spring.

### New Business:

1. Tri-Area Community Health: Jim Werth:

The Mayor welcomed Mr. Werth and invited him to talk about his organization. Mr. Werth reported that his organization, Tri-Area Community Health had recently purchased the former doctor's office located on Carroll Drive and would be putting in a new medical center and pharmacy in the near future. Tri-Area already provided medical services to several other communities and his plan was to become a vital partner with the Fries Community. He planned to open with one or two FNP's and hoped to add x-ray services and diabetes services as well. He believed it would be a few months before they would be ready to open, but reported his team had already started working toward that goal. After some further discussion, the Mayor thanked Mr. Werth for bringing a medical facility to Fries and for attending the meeting.

2. Hotel Advisement Committee Appointments:

The Mayor reported that in an effort to assist the new owners of the hotel to find a project more suited for the town, he had been asked to put together and advisement committee. After some further discussion, he appointed Rachel Hawks, Eric Krohn and Jo Ann Gunter to the committee.

3. Chad Reeves and Brian Edenfield, Settlers Landing Recovery:

The Mayor introduced Chad Reeves and Brian Edenfield and asked if they had anything they wanted to discuss with council. Chad reported that he thought he could get enough people to make donations to get the footbridge beside the Washington Inn replaced. He suggested putting a plaque on it to list the donors when the work was completed. Nan Chase reported that she had contacted a bridge company to get an estimate on the work in case we were able to find a grant that could help pay for the work. The estimate came back at nearly \$300,000. The Mayor suggested putting together a committee to work on the project.

Brian Edenfield brought up the Washington Inn. He stated that at the last meeting everyone was very emotional, but had many good ideas. He stated that they were

open to exploring some of the ideas and would even be open to selling the buildings if someone was interested in purchasing them. He stated they wanted to be a part of the town and did not want to be in a fight with it. After some further discussion, the Mayor thanked them for being willing to work with the town and reported that he had been in contact with the acting County Administrator, Mitch Smith, and was trying to put together a meeting to include Mr. Smith and several county agencies to discuss what they felt would be an asset to the county and fit into the locations available. He hoped to get a meeting scheduled by the end of the week. Brian and Chad both agreed that they were available to meet. The Mayor thanked them for attending.

4. Zoning Ordinance Discussion:

The Mayor suggested that in light of recent developments and the age of the town zoning ordinance, that it might be time to have the Planning Committee review and update the ordinance. After some discussion, Yvonne Burr moved to ask the Planning Committee to review and update the current zoning ordinance. Frances Boone provided the second. All present voted Aye and the motion carried. The Mayor asked the Clerk to set up a meeting with the current Planning Commission as soon as possible.

Announcements:

1. Sharon Billings announced that the Friends of Fries would be putting in plants and mulch at the caboose on Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10am if anyone was interested in helping.
2. Rachel Hawks reported a dead pine tree on Riverview Avenue. The tree had been reported the New River Trail State Park and would be taken down in the near future.
3. Election Day: Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>.
4. Caboose RFP Deadline: Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>
5. Yard Sale Ordinance Public Hearing: Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm
6. Christmas Parade: Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm.
7. Christmas on the Mountain, Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.
8. Frances Boone announced that she would donate Christmas lights for the town to use.
9. Brian Edenfield announced that Chad Reeves and Virginia Carolina Heating and Cooling had donated over 300 hoodies to the staff and students at Fries School.

10. Brian Edenfield also announced that they were working full speed on the corner restaurant and would soon be building a deck around the back of the building.

With no further business to discuss, Richard Hawks moved to adjourn. Frances Boone provided the second and the meeting was adjourned.

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

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

Fries Town Council  
December 6, 2022  
Public Hearing Minutes

Members Present: Yvonne Burr, Bill Davis, Jo Ann Gunter and Richard Hawks.

Others Present: Richard Farmer, Mayor and several citizens.

Call to Order: The Mayor called the public hearing to order and announced that the purpose of the meeting was to receive public comment on the proposed Yard Sale Ordinance that had been presented to council for review for several months.

Only two questions were asked. 1. How many yard sales may you have a year? The Mayor answered two. 2. How many days can you have a yard sale? The Mayor answered that the ordinance provided for 2 consecutive days, twice a year per household.

With no further comments, Yovonne Burr moved to close the public hearing; Jo Ann Gunter provided the second. All present voted Aye and the public hearing was closed.

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

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



Fries Town Council  
December 6, 2022  
Regular Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Yvonne Burr, Bill Davis, Jo Ann Gunter and Richard Hawks.

Others Present: Richard Farmer, Mayor; Nan Chase, Tourism Director; Jessica Newton & Jessie Kimmel, The Frosty Monkey; Rachel Roberts, Farmers Market Manager; Rebekah Roberts, Grayson County GATE Center Manager and several citizens.

Call to Order: The Mayor called the meeting to order and Jo Ann Gunter gave the invocation.

Minutes & Bills: Jo Ann Gunter moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to approve the minutes and bills as presented. Yvonne Burr provided the second to the motion. All present voted aye and the minutes and bills were approved.

Police Report: Deputy Long provided the police report for the month of November which included 31 arrests, 17 felonies and 42 misdemeanors. It was later determined that the report was the wrong report and the town numbers were not that high. The corrected report included the following: Arrests: 3 criminal, 6 warning tickets, 2 warrants, 4 fourth searches and 1 warrant/summons served. Investigations: 1 felony, 1 K-9 track and 7 misdemeanors. Routine activities: 417 closed business checks, 58 service calls, 109 church checks, 109 directive patrols, 136 open business checks, 15 forestry checks, 20 warrant service attempts, 5 open bank checks and 1 ACO call for a total of 225 hours.

Organization Updates:

1. Market Manager: Rachel Roberts reported that the final market of the season had been on October 29<sup>th</sup> and had gone well. She reported that she was working on planning the 2023 season and opening day would be May 6<sup>th</sup>. For the 2023 season she was considering whether to offer a season rental fee or perhaps monthly rental fee for vendors. She was also trying to get a Christmas Market together for December 17<sup>th</sup>. The Mayor told her that she was welcome to put have a market date in December, but the restrooms had been winterized already and would not be available. He thanked her for her report.
2. Tourism: Nan Chase reported:
  - She was considering having a LOVE sign design contest this winter to receive ideas for a new LOVE sign.
  - She announced that the Caboose Committee would be recommending Jessica Newton of The Frosty Monkey to operate the caboose for the 2023 season. After some discussion, Yvonne Burr moved to accept the proposal from Jessica Newton and enter into a contract with her for the operation of the caboose. Jo Ann Gunter provided the second. All present voted Aye and the motion carried. Nan welcomed Jessica to Fries and expressed her excitement that The Frosty Monkey would be coming to Fries.
  - She thanked the Friends of Fries for cleaning up and landscaping the caboose. The Mayor thanked Nan for her report and welcomed Ms. Newton to Fries.

3. Fries Theater: Gene Adkins reported that the Jam Sessions had been doing very well and had record attendance this year. He stated that the attendance had been growing every week. He reported that the Jam on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, they planned to have snacks and finger foods available, and the following Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, would be last Jam of the year. He planned to take a short break during the winter months and would re-open the Jam on March 2, 2023. He would be notifying all the advertisers to let them know of the change. The Mayor thanked him for his report.

#### Old Business:

1. Grayson Street Wall Update: The contractor planned to be finished by Christmas if at all possible. The Mayor reported that due to unforeseen circumstances, there could possibly be an additional cost of approximately \$2,500 to complete the project. He asked that council approve the additional expense. After some discussion, Richard Hawks moved to approve an additional \$2,500 to finish the project. Jo Ann Gunter provided the second. All present voted Aye and the expenditure was approved.
2. DEQ WWTP Grant Update: The Mayor reported receiving an email and approval letter for the \$1.7 million grant for upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant. The Lane Group was handling the grant for the town.

#### New Business:

1. Grayson County Project: Rebekah Roberts attended the meeting representing the Economic Agricultural Development group for Grayson County. She reported that there would be a community meeting held on December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Fries Fire Department to inform the community about a proposed 39 acre multi-use facility at the old Elk Creek School. The group was trying to get funding to create fairgrounds for the county fair and also had other uses in mind. She encouraged citizens to attend and give their input on ideas for the property as it would be a county facility available to all citizens of the county. She then gave a brief description of the GATE Center in Independence and reported that it too was available for rental. The GATE center offers a commercial kitchen and meeting space that is available for rent. The Mayor thanked her for attending and giving a report.
2. Fries Community Access CPR & AED Project: The Mayor read an email from Paul Hoyle, Grayson County Emergency Services Coordinator that outlined a potential program for the Town of Fries that would increase CPR & AED education and allow that AED's be placed in more locations in town. The project was in the beginning phases, but had already had donations promised. Mr. Hoyle was also looking for grant funding to make the project happen.
3. Yard Sale Ordinance: The Mayor stated that the ordinance had been properly advertised and a public hearing had been held and the ordinance was before the council for consideration. Yvonne Burr moved to approve the ordinance. Jo Ann Gunter provided the second. All present voted Aye and the ordinance was approved.

4. Real Estate Tax Deadline Adjustment: Due to the real estate tax tickets going out so late, the Mayor proposed that council consider moving the due date for taxes to December 30<sup>th</sup>. Jo Ann Gunter moved to move the due date to December 30<sup>th</sup> without penalty. Richard Hawks provided the second. All present voted Aye and the motion carried.

Announcements:

1. Fries Community Center Christmas on the Mountain, Saturday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>, 8am-4pm.
2. Next Council Meeting: January 3, 2023

With no further business to discuss, Jo Ann Gunter moved to adjourn. Yvonne Burr provided the second and the meeting was adjourned.

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

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