

Fries Town Council  
December 5, 2023  
Minutes

Members Present: Yvonne Burr, Mary Ann Cabbage, Bill Davis, Jo Ann Gunter and Junior Young.

Others Present: Cynthia Grant, Mayor; Nan Chase, Tourism Director; Deputy Clifford, Grayson County Sheriff's Department; Kevin Combs and several citizens.

Call to Order: The Mayor called the meeting to order.

Invocation: 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. Bill Davis provided the second to the motion. All present voted aye and the minutes and bills were approved.

Police Report: Deputy Clifford provided the police report for the month of November, which included: 2 fourth searches and 1 warrant. Investigation of 1 felony and 2 misdemeanors. Routine activities that included: 244 closed business checks, 22 service calls, 82 church checks, 82 directive patrols, 38 open business checks, 10 forestry checks, 1 warrant service attempt and 2 civil papers for a total of 164 hours. The Mayor thanked the officer for his report.

Mayor Commentary: Mayor Grant reported a list of accomplishments since the last meeting that included: November 16<sup>th</sup>, attended the soft opening of the Fries Dam Steakhouse, attended court on November 27<sup>th</sup>, had several meetings with Jim Ward concerning the Rural Development Grant, reported that Gus Hill's shop was working on the town backhoe and planned to fix the town dump truck as well, she also thanked Gus for helping, she met with Pete Huber and a welding engineer concerning the footbridge, reported that an employee had turned in his two weeks' notice, she signed checks for bills and payroll twice, held several planning sessions with the clerk and began advertising for engineering services for grants.

Organization Updates:

1. Tourism: Nan Chase reported that on October 9<sup>th</sup>, Grayson County Tourism hosted a group of bicycle influencers that traveled the Grayson County Traverse. The group stayed in Fries at the Washington Inn and several other Airbnb's in town. The Fries Dam Steakhouse provided them a great meal, and the next day they continued on the traverse. She also reported that there would be an article about the trip coming out in the May/June issue of Adventure Cycling Magazine. She reported speaking with one of the local vacation rental owners and reported that in the last year they had seen an increase in their occupancy. They were seeing several repeat customers and getting plenty of bookings in the off season. She reported that now that the steakhouse was open, some of the other downtown businesses that were closed were looking dirty with bugs and such and needed to be pressure washed. She asked that the owners be notified to clean up their properties. Last, she asked that council consider creating and passing a resolution celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Virginia's participation in

American Independence. The Mayor thanked her for her report and for her efforts in furthering tourism in the town.

2. Fries Community Center: Karen Snyder reported that the Christmas on the Mountain celebration had been successful, but did not have as much foot traffic as in recent years. She had recently taken the bus in for repairs, but there were still some issues that needed to be addressed. She hoped that a new one could be obtained in the near future. She reported that the center would be installing a new board in January and that she would not be serving as Treasurer any longer. She would, however stay on as the liaison for the senior citizens. She stated that she had enjoyed her time at the center and wished the new board well. The Mayor thanked Karen for her years of service and dedication to the center.
3. Fries Fire & Rescue: James Young reported that the department had recently ran 97 fire calls and planned to start having paid EMS at the firehouse beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> on Monday through Friday from the hours of 7am—7pm. Volunteer EMS would still staff the building on nights and weekends. The Mayor thanked him for his report.
4. Friends of Fries: Mary Ann Cubbage reported that the group had not had a formal meeting recently, but would be meeting later in the month.

#### Old Business:

There was no old business discussed.

#### New Business:

1. January Meeting Date: The January meeting date was moved to Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> due to the holidays.
2. Announcements: The Mayor then read the announcements which were:

\*\*Fries Dam Steakhouse- December 10th—Alive by Faith Performance at 1pm.

\*\*News Years Eve Old Time Dance-Fries Historic Theatre-Admission \$5- 7pm. Yvonne Burr reported that the Crooked Road Ramblers and the Whitetop Mountain Band would be playing at the dance. She also reported that Tracy Cornett, Grayson County Tourism Director and Tyler Hughes, the Crooked Road Director, would be attending the December 14th Jam. She invited everyone to come out and meet them.

3. Closed Session: VA Code Section 2.2-3711.A:

Pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, Council by affirmative vote went into closed session as provided by Section 2.2-3711. A. (Moved by Mary Ann Cubbage, Yvonne Burr provided the second).

---

Yvonne Burr moved to exit the closed session. Mary Ann Cubbage 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: Yvonne Burr, Mary Ann Cabbage, James Young, Jo Ann Gunter, Bill Davis and Cynthia Grant.

After some discussion, James Young moved to have all future Tourism Directors appointed by the Fries Town Council. Mary Ann Cabbage provided the second. All present voted Aye and the motion carried.

Next, after some further discussion, James Young moved to appoint Kevin Combs as the new Tourism Director effective January 1, 2024. Mary Ann Cabbage provided the second. All present voted Aye and the motion carried.

Last, James Young moved to table the closed session discussion until property surveys could be obtained and reviewed by council. Yvonne Burr provided the second. All present voted Aye and the motion carried.

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

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

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

Fries Town Council  
November 14, 2023  
Planning Commission/Town Council Joint Public Hearing Minutes

Members Present: Mary Ann Cubbage, Johnny Dickson, Jo Ann Gunter and Richard Hawks.

Planning Commission Members Present: Junior Anderson and Brenda Vaughan.

Others Present: Cynthia Grant, Mayor; Nan Chase, Tourism Director and several citizens and visitors.

The Mayor called the hearing to order and announced that the purpose of the hearing was to receive public comment and recommendations from the Planning Commission concerning the requested variance concerning lot size for the property at 917 East Main Street from Brian Edenfield.

The Mayor then opened the floor for questions and comments. Rob and Deb Renfro spoke against allowing the variance. They had questions concerning the amount of acreage within the town limits and how many houses would actually be built. They also did not want to see a subdivision built on the open farmland. They felt that the homes would eventually become dilapidated and eyesores. They were concerned that people would buy the new homes instead of buying an existing older home in town and fixing it up. They also expressed displeasure that the town population would increase.

Nan Chase spoke concerning the light pollution that a subdivision would create. She also was concerned about the wildlife that would be displaced by creating a subdivision in that area.

David Christy inquired what type houses were planned to be built. Brian Edenfield responded that the homes they planned to build would look like those around Lee Drive.

David Cubbage asked that since the land was zoned agriculture-conservation, would it not have to be re-zoned to residential. Junior Anderson responded that the zoning for agriculture-conservation already allowed for the land to be used for single family dwellings and the change was not necessary.

Rachel Hawks asked if 160 homes would fit, would they build that many? Brian Edenfield responded no. He stated that they had no intention of building more than 30 to 40 homes.

Tracy Burcham stated that the smaller lot size would allow more houses to be built and that he would prefer to keep his view of green fields and mountains.

Jo Ann Gunter asked if the houses would be built near the dividing fence and if they planned to use Hampton Street as a right of way to the property. Brian Edenfield responded the houses would not be close to the dividing fence as they planned to have good sized yards. He also said that they planned to use the drive way at the Delp house to access the property.

Junior Anderson asked if they still planned to trim back the bank in Fender's Curve? Brian Edenfield responded that they intended to do that to open up the sight distance for the entrance to the R. V. Park they planned to build on the river property.

With no further discussion, Jo Ann Gunter moved to close the joint public hearing. Johnny Dickson provided the second. All members present voted Aye and the hearing was adjourned.

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

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

Fries Town Council  
November 14, 2023  
Minutes

Members Present: Mary Ann Cubbage, Johnny Dickson, Jo Ann Gunter and Richard Hawks.

Others Present: Cynthia Grant, Mayor; Brenda Vaughan and Junior Anderson, Zoning Board; Deputy Brannock, Grayson County Sheriff's Department; Nan Chase, Tourism Director and several citizens.

Call to Order: The Mayor called the meeting to order.

Invocation: 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. Mary Ann Cubbage provided the second to the motion. All present voted aye and the minutes and bills were approved.

Police Report: Deputy Brannock provided the police report for the month of October, which included: 1 criminal arrest and 2 warrants. Investigation of 3 misdemeanors and routine activities that included: 272 closed business checks, 24 service calls, 77 church checks, 89 directive patrols, 91 open business checks, 10 forestry checks, 5 warrant service attempts and 5 civil papers for a total of 163 hours. The Mayor thanked the officer for his report.

Zoning Board Comments: The Mayor then asked the Zoning Board for their recommendation concerning the variance request. Junior Anderson spoke for the committee and stated that after careful consideration, the committee recommended that variance be approved. They felt that even with the change the lots would be considerably larger than most lots in town and the large investment to the town would encourage growth. The Mayor thanked the committee for their time and consideration.

Mayor Commentary: Mayor Grant reviewed the rules of meeting decorum and then reported a list of accomplishments since the last meeting that included: Moving the November meeting to November 14<sup>th</sup> due to election day being on regular meeting day, attending the Chamber of Commerce Awards Ceremony on October 10<sup>th</sup>, held several planning sessions with Jill during October, met with Grayson County Administrator, Steve Boyer. She presented him a signed, framed photo of the Fries Dam by Kevin Combs and gave him a tour of the new businesses in Fries. She contacted VDOT on October 17<sup>th</sup> concerning the vehicles being driven over the bank above the caboose. It had happened several times in the past and twice within the month of September. She requested that they look at installing a guard rail or signage. A VDOT Engineer came out and met with her on October 18<sup>th</sup> and had reflective, directional signage installed on October 19<sup>th</sup>. She also spoke with the engineer about the paving on Main Street and was informed that it had been postponed until the spring. She reported that the Community Garden, funded by AARP, had almost single handedly been completed by Mitch Mohrmann and thanked him for his efforts. She thanked Lowes for working with her and giving her a good discount on the materials for the project. She reported meeting with Sharon Billings, from Friends of Fries, concerning upcoming projects; held personnel meetings that included reviewing job descriptions, employee handbook, time clock and work order procedure; had time

clocks installed at town hall and at the wastewater treatment plant for all employees to use; she signed checks twice in October; and met with Pete Huber, who offered his town management experience and offered to use his upcoming class that he teaches to develop a new economic development plan for the town. Both she and Jill were sick October 20<sup>th</sup> thru 24<sup>th</sup>, so meetings were rescheduled. She composed a 100<sup>th</sup> birthday letter for Ms. Susie Anderson and also met with our town attorney concerning the Rural Development grant. She reported that the signs council requested were installed by the river to prevent erosion and that the boiler in the community center had just been started that day.

### Organization Updates:

1. Tourism: Nan Chase reported that the town had a great tourism season this year. The trail was open again and they had completed building a new bridge. She asked if VDOT planned to fix the sidewalk that was tilted going down the hill from the community center to town. The Mayor reported that she had not been informed of any further side walk work, but would check into it.

Nan reported that she was planning on purchasing a few more picnic tables for the depot soon. She asked if council had a preference to whether she should get 6ft or 8ft tables. After some discussion, council asked that she purchase the 6ft tables due to the tables being so heavy and hard to move.

She reported that on October 9<sup>th</sup>, Grayson County Tourism hosted a group of bicycle influencers that traveled the Grayson County Traverse. The group stayed in Fries at the Washington Inn and several other Airbnb's in town. The Fries Dam Steakhouse provided them a great meal, and the next day they continued on the traverse.

She reported that she met with Erin Pitts, of the New River Trail State Park and is in charge of programming for a discussion concerning signage. Erin will also be hosting a first day hike on January 1<sup>st</sup> starting at the Fries Depot and then proceeding along the New River Trail State Park.

She then presented a resolution from Grayson County supporting the Virginia 250 Commission in celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Virginia's participation in American Independence. She asked that council consider passing a similar resolution. The Mayor thanked Nan for her report.

2. Fries Community Center: No report given.
3. Fries Fire & Rescue: No report given.
4. Friends of Fries: Mary Ann Cubbage reported that the group had not had a formal meeting recently, but Sharon Billings had been working on the landscaping at the depot.

Old Business:

1. No Parking Signs by the river: The Mayor reported the signs had been installed.
2. Farmers Market Manager: The Mayor thanked Rachel Roberts for her efforts toward a successful market season.

New Business:

1. Tourism Director Resignation: The Mayor reported that Nan Chase would be leaving as Tourism Director as of December 31<sup>st</sup>. Nan reported that she was extremely busy freelance writing and just didn't have time to give the job her attention anymore. She wanted to have someone in place by January 1<sup>st</sup>. After some discussion, council decided to table any decision until a procedure had been put in place to select the new volunteer director. The Mayor and Council thanked Nan for doing an outstanding job.
2. Announcements: The Mayor then read the announcements which were:
  - \*Christmas on the Mountain – Fries Community Center – Saturday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8am—3pm
  - \*Fries Fire Dept. Christmas Parade—Saturday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4pm
3. Closed Session: VA Code Section 2.2-3711.A:

Pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, Council by affirmative vote went into closed session as provided by Section 2.2-3711. A. (Moved by Jo Ann Gunter, Johnny Dickson provided the second).

---

Richard Hawks moved to exit the closed session. Mary Ann Cabbage 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: Mary Ann Cabbage, Johnny Dickson, Jo Ann Gunter, Richard Hawks and Cynthia Grant.

After some discussion, Johnny Dickson moved to approve the Fries Community Center Contract with revisions. Richard Hawks provided the second. All present voted Aye and the motion carried.

Next, after some further discussion, Jo Ann Gunter moved to recognize the Fries Historic Theatre as an individual 501C3 organization and approve a separate contract for them. Mary Ann Cabbage provided the second. All present voted Aye and the motion carried.



Last, Richard Hawks moved to approve the Brian Edenfield variance request as recommended by the Fries Zoning Board. Jo Ann Gunter provided the second. All present voted Aye and motion carried.

With no further business to discuss, Johnny Dickson moved to adjourn. Mary Ann Cubbage provided the second and the meeting was adjourned.

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

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

Fries Town Council  
October 3, 2023  
Minutes

Members Present: Yvonne Burr, Bill Davis, Richard Hawks and James Young.

Others Present: Cynthia Grant, Mayor; Deputy Rice, Grayson County Sheriff's Department; Peter Huber, New River Conservancy and several citizens.

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

Minutes & Bills: Richard Hawks 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 Rice provided the police report for the month of September, which included: 3 criminal arrests and 2 fourth searches. Investigation of 2 felonies and routine activities that included: 190 closed business checks, 26 service calls, 51 church checks, 65 directive patrols, 28 open business checks, 7 forestry checks, 9 warrant service attempts and 3 civil papers for a total of 170 hours. Sherry Watson asked about the number of arrests made at the Hippies Only Volkswagen Festival. Junior Young replied that only one arrest had been made near the park, but was not related to the festival. The Mayor thanked the officer for his report.

Mayor Commentary: Mayor Grant reviewed the rules of meeting decorum and then reported a list of accomplishments since the last meeting that included: September 6<sup>th</sup>, met with Gus Hill and Harry Boyles. She thanked Gus, his crew and Harry and Larry Boyles for the street repair work that was done at the expense of Mr. Hill. September 6<sup>th</sup> was also the first day for the new part-time public works employee, Mitch Mohrman. The Mayor asked him to stand as she introduced and welcomed him. She also thanked Harry Boyles for showing Mitch around. September 11<sup>th</sup>, she reported having a meeting with the Tourism Director and that same day had another meeting with a local developer for about 3 hours and signed checks. September 18<sup>th</sup>, she attended the Lions Club meeting and attended the Fries School Open House. She also reported meeting with a 3<sup>rd</sup> developer multiple times during the month, as well as worked on updating job descriptions. Upcoming meetings in October included a meeting with Stephen Boyer, Grayson County Administrator and another with Sharon Billings of Friends of Fries.

Organization Updates:

1. Tourism: No report given.
2. Fries Community Center: No report given.
3. Fries Fire & Rescue: James Young reported that the rodeo had been postponed until next year. The department ran 17 fire calls in September and were up to 74 for the year. The department had recently installed a new fire danger sign across from the fire house and purchased two new trucks. The Fire Prevention Parade was scheduled for October 8<sup>th</sup> at 6pm and they planned to be at the school on Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> for fire prevention education.

He also reported that the EMS at the department would be paid beginning November 1<sup>st</sup>. The Mayor thanked him for his report.

4. Friends of Fries: No report given.

#### Old Business:

1. Street Repairs Update: The Mayor reported that Gus Hill and crew, as well as Harry and Larry Boyles paved Middle Street and patched Top Street, Cliff Street and Blair Road. She thanked them all for their generosity to the town.
2. No Parking Signs: At the last meeting, council decided to put up no parking signs in the park to keep vehicles away from the river to prevent erosion. The Mayor presented the signs and reported that they would be installed in the near future.

#### New Business:

1. Pete Huber: Mile Markers for the New River: The Mayor welcomed Mr. Huber and introduced him to council. Mr. Huber asked for permission for he and his fellow volunteer, Chris McLarney, to begin implementing mile markers along the New River in our area. The idea was to use land marks and such that were already in place along the river, not to erect signs. They planned to stencil and spray paint the markers. The markers would serve as a safety measure for those on the river who may need to contact 911. After some further discussion, Yvonne Burr moved to approve the mile marking plan. James Young provided the second. All present voted Aye and the motion carried.
2. November Meeting Date Change: The Mayor asked if council would like to change the November meeting date due to the 7<sup>th</sup> being election day. After some discussion, James Young moved to change the date to Tuesday, November 14 at 7pm. Yvonne Burr provided the second. All present voted Aye and the motion carried.
3. Announcements: The Mayor then read the announcements which were:

\*\*Fries Fall Festival & Raffle—Historic Fries Theatre—October 7<sup>th</sup> @ 12Pm—7pm

\*\*Fries Fire Dept. Fire Prevention Parade—Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>@ 6pm

\*\*Thunder by the River Classic Car Cruise—in – Sat., Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> @ 1pm—Town Park

\*\*Fries Fire & Rescue—Bingo—Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> @ 4pm—8pm

\*\*Thursday Night Jam Sessions—Every Thursday at 7pm- Fries Theatre

\*\*Fries Farmers Market—Every Saturday at 9am—Fries Depot

\*\* James Young announced that Fries Fire and Rescue would be hosting a Poker Ride on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Signup started at 1pm and the ride would start at 2pm, beginning at the firehouse.

\*\* Yvonne Burr reported finding the side door open in the Theater again and was concerned about who was entering the building and leaving it unsecured. Possible solutions suggested included installing cameras and also an automatic door closer.

4. Closed Session: VA Code Section 2.2-3711 & 2.2-3712.A:

Pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, Council by affirmative vote went into closed session as provided by Section 2.2-3711. A. (Moved by James Young, Yvonne Burr provided the second).

James Young moved to exit the closed session. Yvonne Burr 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: Yvonne Burr, James Young, Richard Hawks, Bill Davis and Cynthia Grant.

After some discussion, James Young moved to proceed with the Tobacco Commission Grant that was proposed at the September meeting. Yvonne Burr provided the second. All present voted Aye and the motion carried.

Next, Yvonne Burr moved to move forward with discussion with the Gus Hill proposal, providing the contract included a completion date, public access would remain available and the maintenance and upkeep would not be the town’s responsibility. All present voted Aye and the motion carried.

Last, James Young moved to table the proposed community center contract until all council members have time to review the contract and provide input. Yvonne Burr provided the second. All present voted Aye and the motion carried.

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

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

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

Fries Town Council  
September 5, 2023  
Minutes

Members Present: Yvonne Burr, Mary Ann Cabbage, Johnny Dickson, Jo Ann Gunter, Richard Hawks and James Young.

Others Present: Cynthia Grant, Mayor; Deputy Long, Grayson County Sheriff's Department; Nan Chase, Tourism Director; Saul Chase, Raffle Coordinator; Mike Hash, Providence District Supervisor; Stephen Thomas, Hippies Only Volkswagen Festival Director; Brian Edenfield & Chad Reeves, Settlers Landing and several citizens.

Call to Order: The Mayor called the meeting to order and Johnny Dickson gave the Invocation.

Minutes & Bills: Johnny Dickson moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to approve the minutes and bills as presented. Richard Hawks 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 August, which included: 3 criminal arrests, 1 warrant and 6 fourth searches. Investigation of 1 felony and 3 misdemeanors. Routine activities: 257 closed business checks, 41 service calls, 105 church checks, 130 directive patrols, 54 open business checks, 11 forestry checks, 11 warrant service attempts and 3 civil papers for a total of 236 hours. The Mayor thanked him for his report.

Mayor Commentary: Mayor Grant reported a list of accomplishments since the last meeting that included: She attended the second Mayor's Conference in Wytheville; had to re-schedule a meeting with a town landowner, but will meet with him at a later date; attended the grand opening of Tri-Area Community Health; contacted 16 paving contractors and received one verbal and one written quote for the desired work; signed an agreement with the Virginia Department of Health for the \$1.7 million grant for replacing meters, service lines and some water lines, the grant would next be entering the procurement phase; dealt with and resolved a personnel issue; attended the pre-bid conference for the water treatment plant retaining wall project on August 15<sup>th</sup>; attended the monthly Lyons Club meeting; attended the Fries Branch, Wythe-Grayson Regional Library's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration on August 16<sup>th</sup>; had a conference call with Anna Mahan of SERCAP also on August 16<sup>th</sup>; conducted several interviews for a part-time public works position and hired one; attended our normal Grayson County meeting on August 22<sup>nd</sup>; scheduled Anna Mahan from SERCAP for August 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> to meet with Harry & Larry Boyles to record and map cut off valves, fire hydrants etc.; interviewed a waste water treatment operator and hired him; Opened bids for the water treatment plant wall repairs on August 29<sup>th</sup>, one was under budget and had been sent to Rural Development for approval and began updating all town employees job descriptions.

Organization Updates:

1. Tourism: Nan Chase reported that the Kanawaga Festival/River Cleanup on August 26<sup>th</sup> was a success and The Gazette had published a wonderful article about the event; she thanked Yvonne Burr for her efforts that made the Depot Music Summer Series a success; she met with Erin Pitts concerning an Interpretive Program Trail and toured Fries to get program ideas; she

hosted and gave a tour to representatives from the New River Conservancy for marketing purposes; reported having 17 participants for the Autumn Wildflower Walk on September 3rd. She made contact with faculty at Radford University in search of interns in recreation related fields to enhance tourism efforts and last she reported that Grayson County Tourism would be hosting 12 influencers for a media tour of the Grayson Traverse Trail and would be staying in Fries one night of the tour. The Mayor thanked Nan for her efforts and her report.

2. Fries Community Center: Yvonne Burr reported that the community centers Pie Days Music event would be held on Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>. She also reported that new members had been appointed to the board that had lots of ideas for change. The Mayor thanked her for her report.
3. Fries Fire & Rescue: James Young reported that the fire department would be holding their horse show on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The department had run into some issues with fixing the old tennis courts, but hoped to have them resolved in the near future. He also announced that the fire department would not have another fiddler's convention. He invited other organizations to take it over if they wished. The Mayor thanked him for his report.
4. Friends of Fries: Mary Ann Cabbage reported that she had received a complaint about a large number of vehicles parking all the way down at the rivers edge, which could be a safety issue and could cause erosion. After some discussion, it was decided to limit the parking with signs. The Mayor thanked Mary Ann for bringing the concern to council.

#### Old Business:

1. Street Repairs Update: The Mayor reported that 16 paving contractors had been contacted. We received one written quote, one verbal quote and 14 no shows. Richard Hawks commented that the holes in the parking lot had still not been fixed. The Mayor replied that they would be patched by the end of the week.

#### New Business:

1. Hippies Only Volkswagen Festival—Stephen Thomas: Mr. Thomas introduced himself and reviewed the history of his festival. He had been very successful with the festival in Galax, but wanted to try a new venue and thought Fries would fit the bill. He planned to have the festival on September 30<sup>th</sup> with 7 bands, cornhole, a car show, a light show and vendors were welcome to set up for free. He reported that he did not promote alcohol or marijuana use, but he knew that some would bring their own to the festival and he would make every effort to keep it contained. The Mayor welcomed Mr. Thomas and his festival and wished him success.
2. Funding Opportunities—Jordan Stidham: The Mayor welcomed Mr. Stidham and gave him the floor. Mr. Stidham introduced himself and began speaking concerning the investments in the town that had recently been made by Brian Edenfield and Chad Reeves. He reported that they had invested approximately six million dollars in the Fries Dam Steakhouse that would be opening in October, the Washington Inn that was now open for business and the condo rental that was also being utilized. They had also recently purchased the David Delp property and were in the process of developing and R. V. Campground on the river side of the property. In all, they had already invested approximately twelve million dollars into the

town. He then spoke concerning the affordable housing shortage in Grayson County and reported that Mr. Edenfield and Mr. Reeves wanted to help with this problem by building 40, Fries mill style, homes on the cornfield side of the David Delp property. He asked that council consider applying for three different grants that would assist with installing the infrastructure to both the R. V. campground and the proposed housing. The three grants were: 1. A CDBG block grant through DHCD, 2. The SWVA Program through the Tobacco Commission and 3. Congressional Earmarked Funds. He reported that Brian Reed, of the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission and former Fries Town Manager, had agreed to write the grants and administer them if approved, if council agreed to proceed. He then reviewed the requirements and guidelines of the three grants and answered council and citizens questions regarding the grants and projects. After much discussion, the Mayor thanked Mr. Stidham for his presentation.

3. Saul Chase, Fall Festival: Saul Chase announced that the Fries Fall Festival & Raffle was scheduled for October 7<sup>th</sup> from 12—7pm in the Fries Theatre and the Fries Community Center dining room. Admission would be \$5. Prizes for the fall raffle were: a mini split heating/cooling unit donated by Fries Dam Steakhouse (\$3,500 value), a framed Willard Gayheart sketch entitled “Tunes for Granny” and a larger Fries Jam Mobile. He planned to use the funds raised to continue planning festivals for the town. The Mayor thanked him for his report and his efforts.

4. Announcements: The Mayor then read the announcements which were:

\*\*Pie Days at the Depot—Friday, Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 6pm—sponsored by the Fries Comm. Center  
 \*\*Thunder by the River Classic Car Cruise-in – Saturday, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> @2pm – Town Park  
 \*\*Fries Fire Dept Horse Show—Sat., Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> @3pm- Jamie Hyatt Arena (Old Providence School)  
 \*\*Thursday Night Jam Sessions—Every Thursday at 7pm- Fries Theatre  
 \*\*Fries Farmers Market—Every Saturday at 9am—Fries Depot

5. Closed Session: VA Code Section 2.2-3711 & 2.2-3712.A:

Pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, Council by affirmative vote went into closed session as provided by Section 2.2-3711. & 2.2-3712. A. (Moved by James Young, Yvonne Burr provided the second).

---

James Young moved to exit the closed session. Yvonne Burr 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: Yvonne Burr, Mary Ann Cabbage, James Young, Richard Hawks, Johnny Dickson, Jo Ann Gunter and Cynthia Grant.

After some discussion, James Young moved to proceed with the proposed road work on Top Street, Cliff Street and Middle Street. Yvonne Burr provided the second. All present voted Aye and the motion carried.

Next, James Young moved to table the discussion on the proposed grants until Brian Reed would be able to attend a meeting. Mary Ann Cabbage provided the second. All present voted Aye and the motion carried.

Last, Yvonne Burr moved to install time clocks, work orders and to review job descriptions and the employee handbook with all employees. James Young provided the second. All present voted Aye and the motion carried.

With no further business to discuss, Johnny Dickson moved to adjourn. Mary Ann Cabbage provided the second and the meeting was adjourned.

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

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



Fries Town Council  
August 1, 2023  
Minutes

Members Present: Mary Ann Cubbage, Jo Ann Gunter, Richard Hawks and Junior Young.

Others Present: Cynthia Grant, Mayor; Deputy Brannock, Grayson County Sheriff's Department; Nan Chase, Tourism Director; Rachel Roberts, Market Director; Saul Chase, Raffle Coordinator 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. Mary Ann Cubbage provided the second to the motion. All present voted aye and the minutes and bills were approved.

Police Report: Deputy Brannock, provided the police report for the month of July, which included: 2 criminal arrests and 4 fourth searches. Investigation of 2 felonies and 5 misdemeanors. Routine activities: 168 closed business checks, 30 service calls, 50 church checks, 64 directive patrols, 54 open business checks, 10 forestry checks, 7 warrant service attempts and 2 open bank checks for a total of 164 hours. The Mayor thanked him for his report.

Mayor Commentary: Mayor Grant reported a list of accomplishments since the last meeting that included: 07/12- she drove the senior bus for the District III program. 07/14 she attended the depot fundraiser and raffle. She attended the Lions Club Meeting for July. She reported that she, Jill Hill and Dillon Gunter had met with the State Engineer, Lane Group and Rural Development at the water treatment plant concerning the wall grant, in preparation for the upcoming request for bids. The request for bids ad was put in the Galax Gazette twice at the end of July. The pre-bid conference was scheduled for August 15<sup>th</sup> at 10am. She attended the Theater Grand Re-Opening. She signed checks for the town. She signed a grant agreement with Virginia Health Department, Office of Drinking Water for \$1.7 million to address infrastructure in the town, to include new water meters and new service lines. Lastly, she read aloud a letter from the Virginia Health Department that awarded the Fries Water Treatment Plant the 2022 Gold Award for water quality excellence

Organization Updates:

1. Tourism: Nan Chase handed out copies of the August edition of the Fries Mini Gazette. She reported upcoming events that included: the Kanagawa Festival/River Cleanup on August 26<sup>th</sup> at the Town Park, the Autumn Wildflower Walk on September 3rd beginning at the depot, and Fries Community Center's Pie Days @ the Depot on August 25<sup>th</sup>. She also reported that the New River Conservancy would soon be applying for a planning grant to build and market a water trail through three states. They plan to provide uniform signage throughout the entire trail as well as mile markers along the river for quick location in case of an emergency. She stated that it may be possible to get the footbridge fixed and new park restrooms included in the \$500,000 planning grant. Nan had been appointed as the town representative for the Government Alliance Taskforce. She reported that after the planning grant had been awarded, the conservancy planned to apply for \$10 million in funding to complete the project. Their goal

is to make the river more accessibly and also to preserve natural areas along the river. She asked that council consider sending a letter of support for the planning grant from the town and consider offering volunteer work hours @ \$36 per hour to help with any match they may need. The Mayor verified that the town could only provide in kind services, and no financial match. After some discussion, Mary Ann Cubbage moved to provide the New River Conservancy a letter of support for their project. Jo Ann Gunter provided the second. All present voted Aye and the motion carried. Nan also reported that Jill and John Andrews had attended a tourism conference in Wytheville earlier in the day and asked that they report on the meeting. Jill Andrews reported that they learned about new grant opportunities that they planned to research further and learned about marketing strategies. One of the marketing strategies that had been discussed was creating a YouTube channel for the Town. She reported that she and John were, in fact, film makers and planned to begin work on a new channel for the town. The Mayor thanked Jill, John and Nan for their reports.

2. Fries Community Center: No report given.
3. Fries Fire & Rescue: Junior Young reported that the Annual Fiddlers Convention would start on Friday night and invited everyone to attend and support the fire department. The Mayor thanked him for his report.
4. Friends of Fries: Mary Ann Cubbage reported that the town had received a small grant to start a community garden and discussed ideas for how interested citizens would get an opportunity to plant and maintain one of the 6 new raised beds. She also discussed preparing the beds this fall and winter for spring planting. The Friends of Fries planned to help move the project forward. The Mayor thanked Mary Ann for her help and for reporting.

#### Old Business:

1. Street Repairs Update: The Mayor reported that the contractor that had been scheduled to begin work in the spring had passed away and a new contractor was trying to be secured.

#### New Business:

1. Saul Chase, Fall Festival: Saul Chase announced that the July raffle had been a success and had raised \$350.00. The prize winners were: Darlene Elliott, Connie Edwards and Peary Moore. Saul explained that he planned to use the \$350 raised to promote the Fries Fall Festival & Raffle that he had scheduled for October 7<sup>th</sup> from 12—7pm in the Fries Theatre and the Fries Community Center dining room. Admission would be \$10. Prizes for the fall raffle were: a mini split heating/cooling unit donated by Fries Dam Steakhouse (\$3,500 value), a framed Willard Gayheart sketch entitled “Tunes for Granny” and a larger Fries Jam Mobile. He planned to use the funds raised to continue planning festivals for the town. The Mayor thanked him for his report and his efforts.

#### Announcements:

1. 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Fries Fiddler’s Convention – Fri., August 4<sup>th</sup> & Sat. August 5<sup>th</sup>—Fries Ballpark
2. Tri Area Community Health Ribbon Cutting & Open House—Thursday August 10<sup>th</sup> @ 10am
3. Pie Days at the Depot—Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm, sponsored by Fries Community Center

4. Fries Fire & Rescue Poker Ride—Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup> @2pm—begins in town park.
5. Old Time Music & Dance @ the Depot featuring Nobody's Business- Friday, Sept. 1 @ 7pm - \$5.00 Admission
6. Autumn Wildflower Walk—Sunday, Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 9:30am- begins at The Depot.
7. Thunder by the River Classic Car Cruise-in – Saturday, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> @2pm – Town Park
8. Thursday Night Jam Sessions—Every Thursday at 7pm- Fries Theatre
9. Fries Farmers Market—Every Saturday at 9am—Fries Depot

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

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

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

Fries Town Council  
July 11, 2023  
Minutes

Members Present: Yvonne Burr, Mary Ann Cabbage, Johnny Dickson, Jo Ann Gunter and Richard Hawks.

Others Present: Cynthia Grant, Mayor; Deputy Phipps, Grayson County Sheriff's Department; Nan Chase, Tourism Director; Rachel Roberts, Market Director; Saul Chase, Raffle Coordinator and several citizens.

Call to Order: The Mayor called the meeting to order.

Invocation: 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. Yovonne Burr provided the second to the motion. All present voted aye and the minutes and bills were approved.

Police Report: Deputy Phipps, provided the police report for the month of June, which included: 6 criminal arrests, 4 fourth searches and 24 warrants. Investigation of 8 felonies and 2 misdemeanors. Routine activities: 364 closed business checks, 24 service calls, 94 church checks, 92 directive patrols, 68 open business checks, 20 forestry checks, 18 warrant service attempts and 2 open bank checks for a total of 254 hours. The Mayor thanked him for his report.

Mayor Commentary: Mayor Grant reported a list of accomplishments since the last meeting that included: Interviewing several individuals for a possible training opportunity at the wastewater treatment plant, Community CPR Day was held on June 10<sup>th</sup> and was successful. Plans were to hold the event annually. She announced that the town would be receiving the 2023 Community Challenge grant from AARP for \$2,500.00 to start a community garden. The hope was to include the District III Senior Citizens and the Friends of Fries in starting and maintaining the garden to make fresh vegetables available in the coming years. She reported that street repairs would be delayed this year, due to our contractor passing away. A new contractor was being pursued. She thanked VDOT for replacing broken sidewalks around Lee Drive. She reported that VDOT planned to address more of the old sidewalks in town and possibly repave Main Street this summer. She reported that the grants that the town had been awarded for the water treatment plant were all moving forward. The town would be receiving bids on the wall project at the water plant in the near future. She also announced that Fries tote bags with the new town logo were available at town hall for \$5.00. Funds raised from the sale of the bags were to go toward the upkeep of the community garden. She thanked everyone for attending and then proceeded with the meeting.

Organization Updates:

1. Tourism: Nan Chase reported that the town had been receiving many visitors this summer. One of the visitors had created an illustrated Fries history book while they were here and gave it to her for town use. She planned to leave one in the library and the town hall. The mini gazette had been successful to date. After printing expenses were covered, the mini gazette

raised \$120 per month in advertising fees. With those funds she had ordered two new picnic tables for the depot/market. She planned to attend a tourism conference in Abingdon the next day and represent the town, and she also reported receiving some feedback on the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration. She had received several complaints about the parade being moved to the hottest part of the day and the fireworks lasting too long. Next, she discussed the proposed Market Manager Contract that council had received in their packets.

**Town of Fries, Virginia**  
**Fries Common Market Manager Contract**

This document serves as a Contract between Rachel Roberts \_\_\_\_\_ and the Town of Fries, P.O. Box 452, Fries VA 24330.

The period of this contract begins July 1, 2023, and ends October 28, 2023, and may be renewed or renegotiated for the complete 2024 market season that begins May 4, 2024, and ends October 26, 2024.

**Payment:** The Market Manager is paid \$80 per market session (all Saturdays from July 1, 2023, to October 28, 2023). Additional market days and payment may be negotiated between the Town of Fries and the Market Manager.

The Market Manager should submit an invoice to the Town of Fries for:

- July and August 2023, listing market dates
- September and October 2023, listing market dates
- Bi-monthly for additional market dates during the 2024 market season

**Duties:** The Market Manager is responsible for the smooth operation of the Fries Common Market @ The Depot, including but not limited to:

- Establishing and maintaining a Facebook page and other social media.
- Establishing relationships with local and regional media and with all regional tourism officials about Common Market operations, dates, features, and special events.
- Establishing and maintaining contact with current and potential vendors.
- Posting market day signs.
- Collecting market fees, issuing receipts, tabulating receipts, and delivering monies collected in a timely manner to the Town of Fries.
- Making sure the market structure is neat and clean, including bathrooms, and that any problems are relayed to the Town of Fries in a timely manner.

**Termination:** This Contract may be terminated by the Town of Fries upon 14 days written notice for non-performance of Duties specified above.

**For Market Manager**

**For Town of Fries**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(date)

(date)

She reviewed the changes in the contract, such the manager reporting directly to the council, suggested that the manager pay increase from \$75 per market date to \$80 per market date, and the contract end date be October 31<sup>st</sup>, to give council time to make any changes that they wished before the next market season. After some discussion, Mary Ann Cabbage moved to approve the contract as presented, Johnny Dickson provided the second. All present voted Aye and the contract was approved. The Mayor thanked Nan for her report.

2. Rachel Roberts, Market Manager: Rachel reviewed the new vendor agreement that council received in their packets.

## Vendor Agreement

The following is an agreement between the Town of Fries and any vendor who wishes to display and sell their products at the Fries Common Market located at the depot. The receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, and the vendors agree as follows.

### Rules of Operation:

All vendors are responsible for reserving a space in advance if power/water hook up is needed during set up.

All vendors must agree to use the designated area for tobacco use (located behind the depot). If tobacco is used outside of designated are (such as restrooms, parking lot or sidewalk) this will result in termination of vendor.

Vendors agree to participating at least two weeks each month.

"As is" condition: Vendors have inspected the space and agree to use the location in its "as is" condition.

Set-up and teardown: Vendors will have access to their space and must be set up by 8am on each market day. Vendors will only erect tables for the purpose of selling goods. Vendors should have their space clear of tables and debris by 1:15pm.

Permitted wares: Vendor will use the space solely to sell fresh fruit, vegetables, flowers, sauces, meats, cheese and other food products, as well as crafted items and household goods. No alcohol shall be sold.

Fries Common Market will supply trash cans and restrooms to all vendors during market hours.

Fees will be collected during set up each market day. Fees start at, but are not limited to \$5.00 for one table space. If power/water is needed for set up, there will be an additional \$15.00 charge. Food truck/carts will be charged depending on the size of set up.

Hours of Operation are 9am through 1pm every Saturday through October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

All vendors will get a copy of the upcoming season dates prior to the ending of current season.

Refunds will not be given if vendor chooses to leave the market before ending time of 1pm.

Rules and vendor fees are subject to change at any time.

Yearly fees can be paid in advance. The annual fee is \$150.00. Annual fees are NOT required. Week to week payment is acceptable.

Vendor Signature\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

Manager Signature\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

She also discussed possible changes for the next market season, such as increasing the vendor fee, possibly changing the market start time and possibly purchasing some tables for vendors to rent. After some discussion, Jo Ann Gunter moved to approve the new vendor agreement, Yvonne Burr provided the second. All present voted Aye and the agreement was approved. Rachel reported that she would begin using the new agreement next season to avoid any confusion. The Mayor thanked her for her efforts.

3. Fries Community Center: No report given.
4. Fries Theatre: Yvonne Burr reported that the Jam Sessions had been moved back to the theatre and were doing well. She reported having visitors from Nova Scotia the week before. She also reported that there would be music at the depot on July 14<sup>th</sup> and invited everyone to attend. The Mayor thanked her for the report.
5. Fries Fire & Rescue: No report given.
6. Friends of Fries: Mary Ann Cubbage reviewed the following report:

### **Friends of Fries Recent Activities—Update for Fries Council Members**

#### **7/7/2023 From Sharon Billings**

The following are volunteer activities that our group of 43 members have been involved in for 2022, 2023.

1. Weekly mowing of grass on roadside of Riverview Ave—Johnny Dickson
2. Twice monthly trash pickup on South side of Hwy 606 to low water bridge—Ed Rehkopf in charge
3. Removal of diseased/dead shrubs and trees at the Caboose with bobcat—Mark Vestal
4. Replacement plantings and regular maintenance at Caboose
5. Planting flowers and regular maintenance at town fountain
6. Planting flowers and regular maintenance at bed in front of Town Hall
7. Maintenance of flower bed in front of Fries Theater—new assignment

8. Maintenance of plantings at Town Sign on N. Hwy 94 (this sign could use a coat of fresh paint on backside)
9. Composition of Dolly Parton letter—Jill Snyder and Nan Chase
10. Weekly Saturday Table at Farmer's Market with free coffee and sales items to benefit the town.
11. Three advertising signs made for Fries Farmers Market by son of Combs, C.J. Sudman.
12. Contact with Grayson Co. Extension Agent, Kevin Spurlin, in concern about Poison Hemlock growing extensively along Riverview embankment. This has led to a possible control solution in the fall.
13. Yearly party to feed the Jesuit Students

The Friends of Fries has held multiple yard sales to raise money for the above plantings in town. We currently have approximately \$600 in our treasury and would like suggestions on ways to spend this money. Some suggestions have been: picnic tables to be placed near the caboose, more understory trees planted near caboose or new town Market, improvements at Fries Activities center (i.e., Painting walls, etc.).

The Mayor thanked Mary Ann for presenting the report.

#### Old Business:

1. No old business was discussed.

#### New Business:

1. Raffle, Saul Chase: Saul Chase explained the raffle he organized to raise funds for bands for a fall music event. The raffle had three prizes, a Willard Gayheart color pencil sketch entitled "Doc Watson Tuning Up"; a genuine cowhide satchel; and a hand crafted mobile. Saul Chase "The Mobile Man", made the mobile out of remnants of the old theatre floor he collected when the floor was being replaced. The mobile also featured 10 semi-precious stones, such as real turquoise, alabaster and coral. The drawing was to be held at the music @ the depot on Friday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:45pm. Yvonne thanked Saul for his efforts. The Mayor thanked him for his report.
2. Twin County Humane Society: Jill Andrews reported that the Twin County Humane Society had recently come to town and trapped over 20 cats. They took them to be spayed and neutered and then returned them in an effort to control the feral cat population in town.
3. Fries Theatre Sign: Sherry Watson inquired if the sign above the theatre entrance still worked. Yovonne Burr reported that it needed some electrical work done to be able to be used again. She and Denny Brooms were looking into getting the work done.

#### Announcements:

1. Old Time Music & Dance @ the Depot- Friday, July 14th @ 7pm - \$5.00 Admission
2. Thunder by the River Classic Car Cruise-in – Saturday, July 15th @2pm – Town Park



3. Fries Fire & Rescue Horse Show-Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm
4. Thursday Night Jam Sessions—Every Thursday at 7pm- Fries Theatre
5. Fries Farmers Market—Every Saturday at 9am—Fries Depot
6. Pie Days at the Depot—July 28<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm, sponsored by Fries Community Center

With no further business to discuss, Johnny Dickson moved to adjourn. Mary Ann Cabbage provided the second and the meeting was adjourned.

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

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

Fries Town Council  
June 6, 2023  
Budget Public Hearing  
Minutes

Members Present: Yvonne Burr, Bill Davis, Johnny Dickson, Jo Ann Gunter and Junior Young.

Others Present: Cynthia Grant, Mayor and Karen Dickson.

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 FY2023/2024 budget. She read the budget and reviewed the purposed changes. She then opened the floor for comments.

There were no comments or concerns.

Jo Ann Gunter moved to present the budget for approval at the regular session. Johnny Dickson provided the second. All present voted Aye and the motion carried.

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

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

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

Fries Town Council  
June 6, 2023  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

Members Present: Yvonne Burr, Bill Davis, Johnny Dickson, Jo Ann Gunter and Junior Young.

Others Present: Cynthia Grant, Mayor; Deputy Landreth & Officer Brannock, Grayson County Sheriff's Department; Rachel Roberts, Market Director and several citizens.

Call to Order: The Mayor called the meeting to order.

Invocation: Jo Ann Gunter gave the invocation.

Minutes & Bills: Junior Young moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to approve the minutes and bills as presented. Johnny Dickson provided the second to the motion. All present voted aye and the minutes and bills were approved.

Police Report: Deputy Landreth, accompanied by Deputy Brannock, provided the police report for the month of May, which included: 2 criminal arrests, 4 fourth searches, 1 warning ticket and 2 warrants. Investigation of 7 misdemeanors. Routine activities: 419 closed business checks, 43 service calls, 99 church checks, 91 directive patrols, 37 open business checks, 24 forestry checks, 19 warrant service attempts, 1 ECO/ LE ECO, 8 open bank checks and 1 TDO for a total of 282 hours. He also reported that Deputy Brannock had been patrolling in the early morning hours and had recently written two reckless driving tickets for speeding in town. The Mayor thanked him for his report and their service to the town.

Mayor Commentary: Mayor Grant reported a list of accomplishments since the last meeting that included: Explored the possibility of starting a museum in Fries. She thought that she had a location for it, but it didn't work out. She planned to continue to pursue options for the project. She also stated that she was open to suggestions and input concerning a new museum. She reported attending the Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting, the grand opening/ribbon cutting of the Frosty Monkey, performed the opening ceremony for the Common Market, attended a planning meeting with representatives from Carroll County VDOT, Grayson County VDOT, New River Trail State Park, Hurt & Proffitt Engineering and Settler's Landing Commercial. Received notice that the town would be receiving a small grant that was recently applied for, (an official announcement would be made in the near future), attended the budget workshop on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, signed checks, attended the Music & Dance @ the Depot event, made some changes to the depot in the interest of safety, and attended the Blue Ridge Rising meeting and represented Fries.

Organization Updates:

1. Tourism: Nan Chase could not attend due to illness. Rachel Roberts reported that the Farmers Market was going well. but she asked that a few maintenance issues be addressed, such as safety tape around the stage and the bathroom lights cutting on and off. She also discussed creating a vendor agreement document to help address some current issues she had been

dealing with concerning the vendors. The Mayor asked her to create the document and present to council at the next meeting. The Mayor thanked Rachel for her report.

2. Fries Community Center: No report given.
3. Fries Fire & Rescue: Junior Young reported that the fireworks would be held on July 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:30pm and the parade would be on July 4<sup>th</sup>, lineup would start at noon and parade would begin at 1pm. The theme would be "America the Beautiful-United We Stand." He also announced the Fries Community CPR Day on June 10<sup>th</sup>. CPR would be taught at 10am at the Fries Fire & Rescue building and at 1pm at the Fries Town Park. This annual event was being held in preparation of making Fries a HeartSafe community. This program would also be putting AEDs in several locations in the Town, such as the Fries Community Center, Tri-Area Community Health office, Town Hall and more. He also reported that a phone app was being developed to give the locations of all the AEDs in town. The Mayor thanked him for his report.

Old Business:

1. No old business was discussed.

New Business:

1. FY2023/2024 Budget: The Mayor announced that the council had held a budget workshop, properly advertised the budget and held a public hearing for the proposed FY 2023/2024 budget. She then read the following budget aloud:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 15.1-16.2 of the 1950 Code of Virginia as amended, of a public hearing on the proposed Town of Fries budget for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2023. The public hearing will be held in the Fries Community Center Dining Room at 6:30pm on Tuesday, June 6, 2023. Town residents are welcome to attend and express their views. The Final Budget meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 6, 2023 at 7:00pm in the Fries Community Center Dining Room.

The tax rates will be as follows:

- \$ .32/\$100 value—Real Property
- \$2.25/\$100 value—Personal Property
- \$2.25/\$100 value—Machinery & Tools
- \$ .32/\$100 value—Public Utility Real Estate

Water, Sewer & Garbage rates will be as follows:

- \$ 26.50 for 1<sup>st</sup> 2000 gallons—Water
- \$ 5.25 for each additional 1000 gallons—Water
- \$ 22.25 for 1<sup>st</sup> 2000 gallons—Sewer
- \$ 5.75 for each additional 1000 gallons—Sewer
- \$ 18.00 per month—Garbage

Meals Tax Rate: 6%

Transient Occupancy Tax Rate: 5%

Business License Fee: \$50.00

Water/Sewer Tap Fee: \$450.00

The proposed budget shall be for planning purposes only and obligates the Town to no expenditures.

### **Town of Fries Proposed Budget FY2023/2024**

#### **Revenue**

##### General Fund

Real Estate, P. Property, M&T Tax	\$182,000.00
Del. Tax	\$ 8,000.00
Pen. & Interest	\$ 2,000.00
Utility Tax	\$ 12,000.00
BPOL	\$ 4,500.00
Meals Tax	\$ 8,700.00
CATV	\$ 10,000.00
Vehicle License Fee	\$ 6,000.00
Fines	\$ 500.00
Refunds, Gifts, Misc.	\$ 15,700.00
Lodging Tax	\$ 9,000.00
RD Grant – WTP Wall	\$388,000.00
MRPDC Grant—WTP Filters	\$100,000.00
SERCAP Grant---WTP Generator	\$ 40,000.00
<u>Misc. State Funds:</u>	<u>\$ 51,600.00</u>
 Sub Total:	 \$838,000.00

##### Enterprise Fund

Water, Sewer, Garbage, Penalties & Deposits	\$312,500.00
Sub Total	\$312,500.00

#### **TOTAL REVENUE**

**\$1,150,500.00**

#### **Expenditures**

Gen. Government	\$ 75,516.00
Police	\$ 36,000.00
Public Works	\$169,920.00
Rec., Fire, Admin., Grants & Reserves	\$561,762.00
Water	\$124,498.00
Sewer	\$129,668.00
Garbage	\$ 53,136.00

#### **TOTAL EXPENDITURES**

**\$1,150,500.00**

She then opened the floor for council comments or questions. There were none. Yvonne Burr moved to adopt the proposed budget as presented. Richard Hawks provided the second. All present voted Aye and the FY2023/2024 budget was adopted.

2. July Meeting Date Change: Due to the regular meeting date falling on July 4<sup>th</sup>, the July council meeting was moved to Tuesday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at the regular meeting time (7pm),

Announcements:

1. Fries Community Center- Pie Days at the Depot – Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup>—6pm – 9pm
2. Fries Community CPR Day – Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> – 10am-Fries Fire Dept, & 1pm-Fries Park
3. Old Time Music & Dance @ the Depot- Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm - \$5.00 Admission Fries
4. Thunder by the River Classic Car Cruise-in – Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> @2pm – Town Park
5. Creek Bottom Brewing Co.: Go with the Flow Brewfest- Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 12pm—8pm
6. Independence Day Parade: July 4<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.
7. Jesuit High School Students/New Orleans will be here July 9<sup>th</sup>—20<sup>th</sup>. Please contact town hall to be included on the work list or provide food for the students.
8. Hippies Only VW Festival –September 30<sup>th</sup> in the Fries Town Park.
9. The Mayor thanked Junior Young for spraying the sidewalks around Lee Drive. Jenny Durham reported that people were driving the wrong way on Lee Drive, which is a one-way street. She asked if the “wrong way” sign could be moved further out so it could be seen sooner and perhaps prevent someone from driving around the wrong way. The Mayor reported that the street was maintained by VDOT and the town could not move the sign. VDOT would have to be contacted.

With no further business to discuss, Johnny Dickson moved to adjourn. Junior Young provided the second and the meeting was adjourned.

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

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

Fries Town Council  
May 2, 2023  
Minutes

Members Present: Yvonne Burr, Mary Ann Cubbage, Bill Davis, Johnny Dickson, Jo Ann Gunter and Richard Hawks.

Others Present: Cynthia Grant, Mayor; Robert Bullington, Virginia Municipal League; Jim Werth, Nan Chase, Tourism Director; Mike Hash, Grayson Board of Supervisors; Jayden McGraw and Family; Officer Phipps, Grayson County Sheriff's Department and several citizens and visitors.

Call to Order: The Mayor called the meeting to order and Johnny Dickson 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 Phipps provided the police report for the month of April, which included: 1 criminal arrest, 1 fourth search, 3 warning tickets and 2 warrants. Investigation of 2 misdemeanors. Routine activities: 385 closed business checks, 36 service calls, 80 church checks, 96 directive patrols, 44 open business checks, 18 forestry checks, 15 warrant service attempts, 1 ECO/ LE ECO and 2 open bank checks for a total of 181 hours. The Mayor thanked him for his report and service to the town.

Virginia Municipal League State Essay Winner: The Mayor introduced Mr. Robert Bullington from the Virginia Municipal League. Mr. Bullington reported that Virginia Municipal League's publication, Virginia Town and City, sponsors an annual essay contest for 7<sup>th</sup> graders, statewide. This year the essay was entitled, "If I Were Mayor". Mr. Bullington then announced that the state winner for 2023 was a student at Fries School. He then introduced Jayden McGraw and family and presented him with a certificate and a \$250 gift card. The Mayor congratulated Jayden and also presented him with a gift. Below is Jayden's winning essay:

Statewide/President's Award Winner  
If I Were Mayor  
By Jayden McCraw

Do you know someone with a disability? At Fries School we have some kids with mobility issues that make it hard for them to walk up and down stairs. Also, some people have trouble with stairs because of health problems. Our school will benefit from an escalator. Escalators are better transportation than stairs. It will help students a lot.

We can also make a new ramp outside to access the playground area. I suggest we build a mobility ramp to help students get from place to place on the playground. The ramp that we used to have was damaged by a flood in 2013 and removed in 2019, so some students can't go to the playground now. Depending on the town's budget, we could repair the old ramp, or build a new one. I will ask the state to let us borrow money and some of the money can come from tax revenue.

We need more equipment for people with disabilities, so they won't miss out on fun playground activities. To pay for these things, we could hold a fundraiser for the equipment. My idea would be a video game contest! Many students in our area like video games like Minecraft. We could charge a small fee to enter the contest and the prize could be a video game or game console. We could ask a major retailer to donate the console or games.

In conclusion Fries needs more accessible areas for those with disabilities. I will ask the town council to think about those ideas at their next meeting. The town council can add this expense to the budget for the next year. This can help make Fries a better place for individuals with disabilities and will be better for the whole town as well.

Mayor Commentary: Mayor Grant reported a list of accomplishments since the last meeting that included: April 10<sup>th</sup>, meeting with an electrical contractor concerning electrical upgrades to the caboose. Solicited 2 bids and saved \$2,000 by doing so. April 12<sup>th</sup>, Cemetery Committee meeting, reviewed mowing bids and selected one. Negotiated the contract and saved \$1,000. April 14<sup>th</sup>, signed checks. April 18<sup>th</sup>, Met with SERCAP representative, Anna Mann. Toured the water plant, water plant dam and the water tower. Discussed the next steps for the asset management plan. April 19<sup>th</sup>, signed the cemetery mowing contract and attended the senior citizen lunch. April 24<sup>th</sup>, she attended a mayor's meeting and luncheon in Abingdon, hosted by the Mayor of Saltville. She planned to host an upcoming mayor's meeting. April 25<sup>th</sup>, attended the monthly meeting at Grayson County and met Steve Boyer, Mike Hash, Paul Hoyle and Deb Jones. April 28<sup>th</sup>, Repairs began in theatre and caboose electrical work was completed. She also reported attending a meeting concerning a possible museum and personnel issues and signed checks.

#### Organization Updates:

1. Tourism: Nan Chase handed out copies of the May Mini Gazette. She reported that the gazette would be printed monthly, April through October, and included a QR code that linked to the town website and town events. There was also an advertisement on the back side of the gazette each month. Those spots were sold for \$150, which more than covered the cost of printing. She planned to purchase more picnic tables for the depot building with any surplus funds. The second annual wildflower walk was held on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and was a success, in spite of the weather. The cards used for the walk were still available for anyone who would like to do a self-guided wildflower walk. The New River 50k/25k was held on April 15<sup>th</sup>. 115 runners participated and it was a great success. Nan reported that many locals volunteered to help with the race and things went very smoothly. The Frosty Monkey opened for the event and had a great day as well. The Grand Opening and ribbon cutting for The Frosty Monkey was scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. She reported that the Common Market would open up the season on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Friends of Fries planned to set up and approximately 25 to 30 vendors had shown interest in participating. Scheduled for May 26<sup>th</sup>, would be the first Old Time Music and Dance at the Depot at 7pm. Whitetop Mountain Band would be performing. The music series would be held once monthly through September. Also, the first Thunder by the River Cruise-In of the season was scheduled for May 27<sup>th</sup>. Last, she reported that Fawn Comb's son, who is a graphic artist, offered to provide free signage to advertise the market. After discussing some sign ideas, Nan asked for council approval to proceed with the signage. Mary Ann Cabbage moved to proceed. Yvonne Burr provided the second. All present voted aye and the motion carried. The Mayor thanked Nan for her report.



2. Fries Community Center: No report given.
3. Fries Fire & Rescue: No report given.

Old Business:

1. Theatre: Yvonne Burr reported that the old, damaged floor had been removed from the theatre and work had begun on installing the new hard wood floor.

New Business:

1. Fries Community CPR Day Resolution: The Mayor presented the following resolution for council consideration:

**PROCLAMATION OF  
THE Town Council of the Town of Fries  
IN SUPPORT AND RECOGNITION OF  
Fries Community CPR Day**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Fries recognizes that rapid cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) by trained lay providers is crucial to the life safety of a citizen or visitor of Fries suffering from sudden cardiac arrest; and

**WHEREAS**, it is recognized that it takes several minutes for our dedicated fire and rescue professionals to be notified, respond and arrive at a cardiac arrest event; and

**WHEREAS**, citizens of Fries have shown willingness and a strong desire to assist our emergency response professionals by learning to care for our citizens until they arrive on scene; and

**WHEREAS**, science indicates that public awareness and training are a critical component of our emergency preparedness; and

**WHEREAS**, immediate access to automated external defibrillators is a key component to treatment of sudden cardiac arrest.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town of Fries Town Council hereby proclaims June 10, 2023 as Fries Community CPR Day and encourages all citizens and businesses to participate in CPR training activities and support the installation of automated external defibrillators available to the public throughout the Fries community to improve the health and safety of our citizens and guests as we work together toward creating a more prepared society.

***Adopted this 2nd day of May 2023, in Fries, Virginia.***

---

**Mayor**

---

**Attest**

After reviewing the resolution, Yvonne Burr moved to approve. Mary Ann Cubbage provided the second. All present voted Aye and the resolution was adopted.

2. VDH Funding Resolution: The Mayor presented the following resolution for council consideration:

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF  
THE TOWN OF FRIES

The governing body of the Town of Fries, consisting of seven members, in a duly called meeting held on the 2nd day of May, 2023, at which a quorum was present, RESOLVED as follows:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that, in order to facilitate obtaining financial assistance from the Virginia Department of Health—Office of Drinking Water for the Water System Improvements Project, the governing body does hereby adopt and abide by the covenants contained in the agreements, documents, and forms required to be executed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor or Vice Mayor be authorized to execute on behalf of the Town, the above-referenced agreements as may be required in obtaining the said financial assistance.

This Resolution is hereby entered into the permanent minutes of the meetings of this Town Council.

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary/Clerk

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

After reviewing the resolution and some discussion, Johnny Dickson moved to adopt the resolution. Yvonne Burr provided the second. All present voted Aye and the resolution was adopted.

3. Budget Workshop was scheduled for Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 3pm in the Fries Community Center Dining Room.
4. Budget Public Hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the Fries Community Center Dining Room.
5. Providence Supervisor, Mike Hash: Mayor Grant recognized Mike Hash and thanked him for attending. Mr. Hash gave a brief update on the county budget workshop sessions, a brief history of his accomplishments since becoming supervisor and an update on town projects that were currently underway that he had assisted with. He reported that he continued to work on the town’s behalf and would continue to do so. He also planned to consult with Deb Jones, the county grant writer, to see if funding would be available to fix the playground access mentioned in the state winning essay by Jayden McGraw. The Mayor again thanked Mr. Hash for attending and for his work with the town.

6. The Frosty Monkey, Jessica Newton: Ms. Newton announced that the caboose was open and serving ice cream, shaved ice, sub, sandwiches and nachos. She planned to be open every day except Tuesday and Wednesday and was still looking to hire a few more workers. She preferred to hire someone local if possible. She also announced that she planned to have her ice cream trailer at the Common Market on May 6<sup>th</sup>. The Mayor thanked her for attending.
7. Potholes: Saul Chase asked that council look at the large potholes on Smith Street and try to get it repaired as soon as possible. Michelle Bobbitt thanked council for the pothole repairs on Hester Street last year and asked that they please tar and gravel Hester this year as was the plan last year.

Announcements:

1. Frosty Monkey Express Grand Opening –May 5<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.
2. Fries Common Market Season Opening – May 6<sup>th</sup> at 9am.
3. Fries Fire & Rescue – Bingo -- May 6<sup>th</sup> @ 4pm.
4. Republican Party Canvas Voting—May 6<sup>th</sup> at 9am.
5. Old Time Music & Dance @ the Depot- May 26<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm - \$5.00 Admission.
6. Thunder by the River Classic Car Cruise-in – May 27<sup>th</sup> @2pm – Town Park
7. Large Item Curbside Pickup – June 5<sup>th</sup>—No registration required this year.

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

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

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

Fries Town Council  
April 4, 2023  
Minutes

Members Present: Yvonne Burr, Bill Davis, Jo Ann Gunter and James Young.

Others Present: Cynthia Grant, Mayor; Officer Landreth, Grayson County Sheriff's Department; Jim Werth, Tri-Area Health and several citizens and visitors.

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

Minutes & Bills: Bill Davis 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: Officer Landreth provided the police report for the month of March, which included: 1 criminal arrests, 1 fourth search, 1 warning ticket and 1 warrant. Investigation of 1 felony and 3 misdemeanors. Routine activities: 336 closed business checks, 33 service calls, 92 church checks, 98 directive patrols, 86 open business checks, 16 forestry checks, 5 warrant service attempts, 2 civil papers and 2 open bank checks for a total of 202 hours. Officer Landreth also reported that he had received some complaints concerning the speed bumps that had been installed on Riverview Avenue. Because of the speed bumps, some of the school traffic has started using Firehouse Drive as an alternative route, which puts the speeding vehicles going by the town park. He suggested the town look into the situation. Nancy Griffin then reported that she lives near the speed bumps and that they had slowed down traffic tremendously. The Mayor thanked him for his report and service to the town.

Mayor Commentary: Mayor Grant reported a list of accomplishments since the last meeting that included: the March 10<sup>th</sup> Mount Rogers Planning District Meeting was moved to March 20<sup>th</sup>; March 13<sup>th</sup>, grant meeting; March 14<sup>th</sup>, signed checks; March 15<sup>th</sup>, Cemetery Committee meeting to put out for mowing bids; March 20<sup>th</sup>, met with Aaron Sizemore and Brian Reed of Mount Rogers Planning District Commission concerning grant applications; March 21<sup>st</sup>, canceled a wastewater treatment regional meeting due to a funeral; March 22<sup>nd</sup>, met with Aflac representative to discuss offering the benefit to our employees; March 29<sup>th</sup>, attended our monthly meeting with Grayson County and met the new county administrator and signed checks.

Organization Updates:

1. Tourism: Nan Chase was out of town, so Jill Andrews reported there were over 120 participants registered for the 50k/25k in April. Grayson County Tourism as well as Fries Tourism were donating items for gift bags for the runners. She also reported that Fries was the spotlight article in the New River Outdoor Guide for their spring edition.
2. Fries Community Center: Yvonne Burr reported that window replacement would be completed in the theater by the end of the week. Belfor was scheduled to begin floor repairs soon and that the Jam was doing well in the dining room.

3. Fries Fire & Rescue: James Young reported that the fire department had run 30 fire calls for the year and 35 rescue calls for the month of March. He reported that the scheduled bingo was being postponed until a licensing issue could be sorted out and that the fundraiser for Larry Williams had been completed and all the expenses were paid.

The Mayor thanked them all for reporting.

Old Business:

1. No old business was discussed.

New Business:

1. Friends of Fries: Dollywood Foundation Letter: Jill Andrews presented a letter that she had composed requesting funds for various projects in the town. After she reviewed the letter, she asked for council input and approval to submit the letter. Yvonne Burr suggested adding some current pictures of the Jam Session to the letter before sending it. After some further discussion, Bill Davis moved to approve the letter as presented and to submit it. Yvonne Burr provided the second. All present voted Aye and the motion carried. The Mayor thanked Mrs. Andrews for her efforts.

Announcements:

1. New River Trail 50k/25k – April 15<sup>th</sup> @ 8am
2. Second Annual Wildflower Walk – April 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 9:30am
3. Frosty Monkey Express Grand Opening – May 5<sup>th</sup> at 1pm
4. Fries Common Market Season Opening – May 6<sup>th</sup> at 9am
5. Fries Fire & Rescue – Bingo -- May 6<sup>th</sup> @ 4pm
6. Fries Musical Heritage Festival – May 20<sup>th</sup> @ 11am – Fries Theatre
7. Old Time Music & Dance @ the Depot- May 26<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm - \$5.00 Admission. Yvonne Burr reported that she was still collecting donations to help pay for the bands.
8. Thunder by the River Classic Car Cruise-in – May 27<sup>th</sup> @2pm – Town Park
9. Large Item Curbside Pickup – June 5<sup>th</sup>—No registration required this year.
10. Jim Werth reported that the new medical office had opened the previous week. He planned to have the center open on Tuesdays and Fridays to start and expand the days and hours as needed. He also reported that he planned to have the pharmacy up and running in the near future.

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

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

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

Fries Town Council  
March 7, 2023  
Minutes

Members Present: Yvonne Burr, Bill Davis, Mary Ann Cabbage, Johnny Dickson, Jo Ann Gunter, Richard Hawks, James Young.

Others Present: Cynthia Grant, Mayor; Nan Chase, Tourism Director; Officer Cody Sharp, Grayson County Sheriff's Department and many citizens and visitors.

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

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

Police Report: Officer Cody Sharp provided the police report for the month of February, which included: 22 criminal arrests, 1 fourth search, 2 traffic and 1 warrant. Investigation of 2 felonies and 2 misdemeanors. Routine activities: 569 closed business checks, 34 service calls, 72 church checks, 89 directive patrols, 57 open business checks, 7 forestry checks, 7 warrant service attempts and 9 open bank checks for a total of 193 hours. The Mayor thanked him for his report and service to the town.

Mayor Commentary: Mayor Grant reported a list of accomplishments since the last meeting that included: February 9th, grant meeting; February 13th grant meeting and signed checks, February 22nd grant meeting; Work on the community center pillars had been completed and paid for; completed a conference call with Aaron Sizemore of Mount Rogers Planning District Commission; Met with Kevin Heath of the Lane Group to discuss our grants that were already under contract. Kevin reported that the USDA Rural Development grant was on track to have the engineering work submitted by the end of the month, and that the VDH grant for replacing water lines and meters did not get funded for this year. Very few projects had been funded in Southwest Virginia, but he planned to reapply for the town for the upcoming year. For March she reported having a meeting scheduled with Brian Reed and Aaron Sizemore on March 10th and a Cemetery Committee meeting scheduled for March 15th.

Organization Updates:

1. Tourism: Nan Chase reported the following:
  - Two new picnic tables had been delivered to the depot/farmers market. She planned to order more as the tourism budget allowed.
  - She reported that the New River Trail 25k/50k event would be held on April 15th beginning and ending at the Fries entrance to the New River Trail State Park. More information was to be available on the town website.
  - Jessica Newton of the Frosty Monkey had signed the caboose lease and planned to be open for the April 15th event and then hold the Grand Opening on May 5th. She also thanked the town for updating the inside of the caboose.

- Announced a new summer music and dance series at the depot on Friday nights. Four dates had been scheduled, May 26<sup>th</sup>, June 16<sup>th</sup>, July 14<sup>th</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup>. Yvonne Burr had organized the music for the events. Admission would be \$5.00 and all funds raised would be used for picnic tables, benches and amenities for the depot structure. Cynthia Grant had provided 4 radio spots to help with advertisement for the event.
  - She had formed a 5-member committee to start the Fries Mini Gazette. The rack card sized publication would be produced monthly and be distributed April through October. The gazette would include information on lodging, events and the town website. She had already secured 3 donors who had pledged \$150.00 each. She hoped that it would be a valuable resource for citizens and visitors as well.
  - She also reported that she was gathering information for the proposed park restrooms and planned to meet the April 1<sup>st</sup> submission deadline for the T-Mobile grant. The Mayor thanked her for her report.
2. Fries Community Center: Gene Adkins reported that the Jam Sessions had started back in the community center dining room and that Belfor had not yet started the repairs in the theatre. He had the visiting student group drape plastic over the quilts to keep them clean during the repairs. He also reported that he would be taking a leave of absence from the Jam's and the theatre for awhile and that Yvonne Burr and Karen Snyder would be taking his place. Karen Snyder reported that the center was hosting the students from Holy Cross for the week and they would be in attendance at the Thursday night jam. She asked that people come out to meet them. She also reported that the center was finishing up the youth basketball season and accepting registrations for softball. The Mayor thanked them for their reports.
  3. Fries Fire & Rescue: James Young reported that the fire department had planned a Rook Tournament for March 25<sup>th</sup> and that the AED project was still moving forward. He also reported that Chief Randy Lineberry was still in the hospital. The Mayor thanked him for the report and asked that everyone remember Randy in their prayers.

#### Old Business:

1. No old business was discussed.

#### New Business:

1. No new business was discussed.

#### Announcements:

1. Fundraiser for Larry Williams to help with the funeral and burial expenses of his brother Jimmy. Contact Dawn Patton at (276) 233-9648 or Junior Anderson at (276) 744-2798 for information on how to donate.
2. Fries School -- Rook Tournament & Hotdog Sale—March 11<sup>th</sup> @ 4pm
3. Fries Fire & Rescue – Rook Tournament—March 25<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm
4. Fries Fire & Rescue – Bingo – April 1<sup>st</sup> @ 4pm
5. New River Trail 50k/25k – April 15<sup>th</sup> @ 8am
6. Second Annual Wildflower Walk – April 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 9:30am

- 7. Frosty Monkey Express Grand Opening –May 5<sup>th</sup> at 1pm
- 8. Large Item Curbside Pickup – June 5th—No registration required this year
- 9. The Mayor reported that Joel Vaughan had written a good article about the bank closing and posted it on Facebook. She encouraged those with Facebook to read it.
- 10. Al Griffin reported that the post office box rental had went up dramatically. He reported that if residents live within 1/3 mile of the post office there was a possibility of getting a discounted rate. The form to apply was available at the post office.

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

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

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



Fries Town Council  
February 7, 2023  
Planning Commission/Town Council Joint Public Hearing Minutes

Members Present: Yvonne Burr, Bill Davis, Johnny Dickson, Jo Ann Gunter, Richard Hawks, James Young.

Planning Commission Members Present: Junior Anderson, Bobby Jones and Brenda Vaughan.

Others Present: Cynthia Grant, Mayor; Nan Chase, Tourism Director and many citizens and visitors.

The Mayor called the hearing to order and announced that the purpose of the hearing was to receive recommendations from the Planning Commission concerning proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance and also to receive public comment on those proposed changes.

The Mayor then asked the Planning Commission for their recommendations. Bobby Jones then reviewed the committees' recommended changes and their reasoning for making the changes. Most of the changes made were to align our ordinance with the Grayson County ordinance and to encourage economic development in the downtown area.

The Mayor thanked the committee for their efforts and then opened the floor for citizen comments and concerns. There were no comments or questions.

With no further discussion, Jo Ann Gunter moved to close the joint public hearing. Bill Davis provided the second. All members present voted Aye and the hearing was adjourned.

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

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

Fries Town Council  
February 7, 2023  
Regular Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Yvonne Burr, Bill Davis, Johnny Dickson, Jo Ann Gunter, Richard Hawks and James Young, Jr.

Others Present: Cynthia Grant, Mayor; Junior Anderson, Bobby Jones and Brenda Vaughan, Planning Commission; Nan Chase, Tourism Director; Randy Lineberry, Fries Fire Dept. Chief; John Fant, Grayson County Supervisor; Richard Vaughan, Grayson County Sheriff; and many citizens and visitors.

Call to Order: The Mayor called the meeting to order. Jo Ann Gunter 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. Johnny Dickson provided the second to the motion. All present voted aye and the minutes and bills were approved.

Police Report: Sheriff Richard Vaughan welcomed the new mayor and new council members and then provided the police report for the month of January, which included: 8 criminal arrests, 8 fourth searches and 2 warning tickets. Investigation of 9 felonies. Routine activities: 584 closed business checks, 45 service calls, 96 church checks, 103 directive patrols, 89 open business checks, 12 forestry checks, 6 warrant service attempts, 2 civil papers and 10 open bank checks for a total of 228 hours. He also reported that the speed buggy was in town near the school and that he would be sending a new contract for police services in the near future as the old one was originally completed in 2011. The Mayor thanked him for his report and service to the town.

Mayor Commentary: Mayor Grant reported that she had learned that many things happen behind the scenes and that everyone wasn't aware of the efforts being made on behalf of the town. She then reviewed a list of accomplishments since the last meeting that included: January 19<sup>th</sup>, a meeting with Skyline Bank; January 24<sup>th</sup>, meeting with Grayson County Supervisor Mike Hash, Acting Administrator, Mitch Smith and Emergency Services Coordinator, Paul Hoyle; January 25<sup>th</sup>, Mount Rogers Planning District Commission Managers Meeting; January 30<sup>th</sup>, DEQ WWTP Grant Teams Meeting; Her term began on February 1<sup>st</sup>; February 2<sup>nd</sup>, signed documents and February 6<sup>th</sup> signed her first check for the sprinkler system repairs. She also reported that she had learned in the Grayson County meeting that Grayson County Economic Development Authority had donated \$65,000 for an imaging (x-ray) machine for Tri-Area Health to use in the Fries office. The office was on track to open in April.

Organization Updates:

1. Tourism: Nan Chase reported the following:
  - There had been a recent article in the Gazette and the Declaration about the new town website. Kevin Combs had designed a beautiful, streamlined site that made it easy to find needed information. He had also included many of his beautiful photos. She encouraged people to check it out.

- She reported that the New River Trail 25k/50k event would be held on April 15<sup>th</sup> beginning and ending at the Fries entrance to the New River Trail State Park. More information was available on the town website.
- Jessica Newton of the Frosty Monkey had signed the caboose lease and planned to be open for the April 15<sup>th</sup> event and then hold the Grand Opening on May 5<sup>th</sup>. She also thanked the town for updating the inside of the caboose.
- She ordered 2 heavy duty picnic tables (one 6ft and one 8ft that is ADA compliant) for the depot/farmers market and planned to order more as allowed by the budget.
- Announced a new summer music and dance series at the depot on Friday nights. Four dates had been scheduled, May 26<sup>th</sup>, June 16<sup>th</sup>, July 14<sup>th</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup>. Yvonne Burr had organized the music for the events. Admission would be \$5.00 and all funds raised would be used for picnic tables, benches and amenities for the depot structure.
- She had formed a 5-member committee to start the Fries Mini Gazette. The rack card sized publication would be produced monthly and be distributed April through October. The gazette would include information on lodging, events and the town website. She had already secured 3 donors who had pledged \$150.00 each. She hoped that it would be a valuable resource for citizens and visitors as well.
- She reported that she had applied for the VA Department of Wildlife Resources and the Wildlife Foundation of Virginia grant that would allow us to put up wildlife signage and start a pilot program where people could check out binoculars to go bird watching along the trail. She also planned to apply for the T-Mobile grant for \$50,000 to build restrooms at the town park. The grant deadline was April 1<sup>st</sup> and she hoped to have all the information she needed to be able to submit the grant application. She had also been in touch with the New River Conservancy concerning their grant that might be a possible solution for the footbridge near the river. The first step in applying would require that the Town Council create a deed of dedication for the property that would ensure that no structural developments would be allowed on the property. She then requested that council approve the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF  
THE TOWN OF FRIES**

**WHEREAS:** The Town of Fries holds exceptional opportunities for visitors and residents alike to enjoy the marvels of nature along the New River in town, and

**WHEREAS:** The footbridge allowing access to the portion of the riverside closest to the New River Dam site has been closed for safety reasons, and

**WHEREAS:** Many grant opportunities exist to upgrade the bridge structure and reopen it to foot traffic, and

**WHEREAS:** Some of those opportunities require the Town to provide a Deed of Declaration to ensure that no structural developments will be allowed on that portion of the river bank,

**NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED:** That the Town Council of Fries, Virginia, supports the creation of a Deed of Declaration so declaring.

After some discussion, Jo Ann Gunter moved to approve the resolution. Yvonne Burr provided the second. All present voted Aye and the resolution was approved. The Mayor thanked Nan for her presentation.

2. Fries Community Center: Karen Snyder reported that youth basketball was underway for boys and girls grades 3 through 7. She reported that the Community Center was open Monday through Friday, from 4pm—6pm. The District III Senior Group had resumed their meetings after a short break due to the water being shut off for repairs. She also reported that the center and the town were replacing two pillars on the front porch, as well as repairing some of the brick work, installing new light fixtures and down spouts. Gene Adkins reported that the town had signed a contract with Belfor to get the theater repaired from the water damage and that they planned to begin work near the end of February. He planned to start the Thursday Night Jams back up March 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Dining Room. The Mayor thanked them for their reports.
3. Fries Fire & Rescue: Randy Lineberry reported that in 2022 they had responded to 136 fire calls and 586 EMS calls. The department was working to get the Providence Substation up and running to help improve response times. They had it under roof and hoped to have it ready for use in the spring. He announced the departments upcoming events that included: February 19<sup>th</sup>—Drive-Thru Spaghetti Supper; March 29<sup>th</sup>—Rook Tournament; April 1<sup>st</sup>—Bingo; a Poker Float (date to be determined); and the Annual Fiddlers Convention, August 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>. The department was also discussing hosting lawn mower races in the fall. He then introduced Jeff Daly. Mr. Daly, the Fries Fire Department and Paul Hoyle, Grayson County Emergency Service Coordinator were collaborating to start a new pilot program in Fries that would allow AED's to be placed throughout town and a phone app made available with their locations. The program would also provide "pop-up" CPR classes at events and town functions. Their goal was to make Fries a Heart Smart Locality. A citizen asked if the department had worked out the issues with the fireworks for July 4<sup>th</sup>. Randy reported that they had and fireworks would be a part of the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration. The Mayor thanked Randy and Jeff for attending and for their presentations.
4. Grayson Supervisor, John Fant: The Mayor welcomed Mr. Fant and thanked him for his efforts on behalf of the Town of Fries. Mr. Fant thanked the Mayor and then reported on the county current priority list which included the following: 1. Communication- providing access to reliable broadband and cellular service and enhancing connectivity for fire departments and rescue squads. 2. Updating the 911 system-working with other counties to create a new 911 system. 3. Healthcare-he was happy that Tri-Area Community Health was coming to Fries and hoped that they would also open a location in Whitetop. 4. Childcare-working to bring desperately needed childcare services to our area or near here. He also reported that Mike Hash and Tracey Cornett were actively pushing to solve the portage issue around the Fries dam. The Mayor thanked him for reporting.

#### Old Business:

1. Zoning Ordinance Amendment: Bobby Jones, on behalf of the Planning Commission, reported that all advertising requirements were met, a public hearing had been held and the planning commission recommended that council approve the proposed amendments to

the zoning ordinance. Yvonne Burr moved to amend the zoning ordinance with the proposed changes recommended by the planning commission. Richard Hawks provided the second. All present voted Aye and the zoning ordinance amendments were approved.

New Business:

1. Truist Bank Resolution: The Mayor asked Junior Anderson to review the following proposed resolution to Truist Bank:

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF**

**THE TOWN OF FRIES**

**WHEREAS:** Truist Banks decision to merge the Fries office of Truist Bank into the Galax office of Truist Bank, some 10-20 miles away depending on where you live in the Fries market area, has been received with much concern both from the stand point of customer service and the impact on the community, something that Truist Bank takes great pride in as one of their core-values.

**WHEREAS:** The Town of Fries has had a bank in the town since 1902, the beginning of the town. The town was a cotton mill town. The first bank in Fries was Washington Bank & Trust Company. Later, the name was changed to First National Bank of Fries, then Citizens National Bank, which was the start of branch banking in the town. Then it was sold to Virginia National Bank. Virginia National later merged with First & Merchants to form Sovran Bank. Sovran later merged with C&S to form Nations Bank, who later sold off several small branches in Southwest Virginia to Premier Bank. Sometime later, Premier Bank sold out to First Virginia Bank, who then merged with BB&T, now Truist after the merger of BB&T & SunTrust Bank.

**WHEREAS:** Through these 121 years the bank has been the "hub" of the downtown business block. The bank brought many people to the downtown area that supported the other businesses as well.

**WHEREAS:** The Town of Fries has been working diligently the past few years to become involved in tourism as a means to draw people to the community to be able to expand its revenue flow since there is no industry in the town. The impact of losing the bank would be a drawback to our tourist trade as well as putting an unneeded financial stress on the town with the loss of the bank stock tax.

**WHEREAS:** The Town of Fries has been blessed with financially strong and caring banks, who cared for both the customers and the community, the closing of Truist Bank in Fries will be a huge loss for our town and the surrounding communities.

**THEREFORE:** If Truist Bank is determined to leave the Town of Fries, we ask that it be considered to completely sell the bank building with the loans and deposits to another financial institution, or, if that is not reasonable, to sell the bank, only to another financial institution that would operate a bank in Fries.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** That while the Town is hopeful of a different outcome from the closing of the bank, we as a town wish the best for Truist Bank as they continue to grow and prosper.

Bill Davis moved to approve the resolution. Yvonne Burr provided the second. All present voted Aye and the resolution was approved.

2. Council Vacancy: The Mayor opened the floor for nominations. Yvonne Burr nominated Mary Ann Cubbage. Richard Hawks provided the second. James Young nominated James Dowell. Johnny Dickson provided the second. There were no further nominations. Bill Davis moved to close nominations. Johnny Dickson provided the second. All present voted Aye and the nominations were closed. The Mayor called for a vote. Council asked for paper ballots. The vote, tabulated by the clerk, was Mary Ann Cubbage – 4 votes, James Dowell – 2 votes. Mary Ann Cubbage was appointed to council.

Announcements:

1. A fundraiser was underway for Larry Williams to help with the funeral and burial expenses of his brother Jimmy. Contact Dawn Patton at (276) 233-9648 or Junior Anderson at (276) 744-2798 for information on how to donate.
2. Karen Snyder announced that the Holy Cross students would be at the community center in March.
3. The clerk announced that the Jesuit High School students would be in town July 9<sup>th</sup> –20<sup>th</sup>.
4. Richard Hawks thanked Nan Chase and Kevin Combs for the outstanding job on the town website.

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

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

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

Fries Town Council  
January 3, 2023  
Regular Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Yvonne Burr, Bill Davis, Johnny Dickson, Cynthia Grant, Jo Ann Gunter, Richard Hawks and James Young, Jr.

Others Present: Richard Farmer, Mayor; Susan Herrington, Grayson County Clerk of Court; Deputy Phipps, Grayson County Sheriff's Department and several citizens.

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

Swearing in of Council: Susan Herrington, Grayson County Clerk of Court, swore in the new council. The Mayor thanked her for attending and performing the confirmation.

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 Phipps provided the police report for the month of December, which included: 2 criminal arrests, 1 traffic arrest, 1 warrant, 3 fourth searches and 1 warning ticket. Investigation of 1 felony and 4 misdemeanors. Routine activities: 410 closed business checks, 27 service calls, 96 church checks, 99 directive patrols, 41 open business checks, 12 forestry checks, 9 warrant service attempts and 6 open bank checks for a total of 189 hours.

Organization Updates:

1. Tourism: Nan Chase was unable to attend, but the mayor announced that the caboose contract would be signed in the very near future.
2. Fries Community Center: Karen Snyder reported that youth basketball would soon be underway. The District III Senior Group had not been meeting due to the water issue from the frozen pipe burst in the building. She reported that the building had received minimal damage this time. The Mayor suggested that a different type of fire suppression system be investigated and thanked all that helped with the clean up of the building. Gene Adkins reported that the Theater lost a projector, a piece of audio equipment and a few rugs. He wasn't sure about the floor at the time.

Old Business:

1. Grayson Street Wall Update: The Mayor reported that the wall project was almost complete and should be finished in the next few days.

New Business:

1. Appointment of Mayor: The Mayor opened the floor for nominations. Bill Davis nominated Cynthia Grant. Yvonne Burr provided the second to the nomination. James Young

nominated Johnny Dickson. Jo Ann Gunter provided the second to the nomination. There were no further nominations. After some discussion, council voted by ballot and appointed Cynthia Grant as Mayor by a 5—2 vote.

2. Appointment of Vice Mayor: The Mayor opened the floor for nominations. Bill Davis nominated Jo Ann Gunter. Johnny Dickson provided the second. There were no further nominations. The Mayor called for a vote and Jo Ann Gunter was appointed as Vice Mayor unanimously.
3. Appointment of the Clerk/Treasurer: The Mayor opened the floor for nominations. Cynthia Grant nominated Jill Hill for the Clerk/Treasurer position. Yvonne Burr provided the second to the nomination. There were no other nominations. All present voted Aye and Jill R. Hill was appointed Clerk/Treasurer.
4. Service Recognition: The Mayor recognized Nancy Hawks for her 31 years of service to the Town of Fries as council and Vice Mayor. She was unable to attend, but he thanked her for her dedication to the town. He reported that she would be receiving a small token of appreciation from the town. Jo Ann Gunter then presented Richard Farmer a mantle clock in recognition of his 8 years of service as Mayor to the town. She stated that the town was appreciative of his diligent work with the town and thanked him for his service. The Mayor thanked council for putting their confidence in him.

Announcements:

1. Twin County Chamber of Commerce Calendars were available in Town Hall.
2. The Mayor announced the loss of Carolyn Jones who had served the town for many years as council and Mayor. He sent prayers to her family.
3. Michelle Bobbitt inquired about how to get appointed to the zoning committee. The Mayor replied that members were appointed for 4-year terms and that there was not a vacancy at this time. The next appointment would be in approximately two years.
4. Nancy Griffin asked about the status of the Washington Inn. The Mayor replied that the last he had heard that there had been a change in the business plan and they could also be going up for sale.

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

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

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