

Marion County Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors' Meeting

July 20, 2017

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met at the Western Sizzlin at noon on July 20, 2017. Board members in attendance were President Jamie Lawson, Vice President Joyce Burkhalter, and board members Patrick O'Hagan, Walker Henley, Shelby Potterfield, Nick Holcomb, Kevin Merrell and Vickie Messer.

Others in attendance were Sonya McShan with Erlanger Health System, South Pittsburg Mayor Virgil Holder, South Pittsburg City Administrator Gene Vess, Wendy Barrett with N2 Publishing, Keisha Durham with Platinum Recruiting, Art Rask with MWK Advisory Services, Andrew Lawrence with Colonial Chemical, Nichol Osborne and Agnes Porter with Chambliss Law Firm, Kimball Mayor Rex Pesnell, George Jackson representing the Marion County Food Bank, Beth Duggar with SVEC, Kyle Holland with US Stove and H&H Management, Orme Mayor Jerry Godsby and his sister Ann, Spencer Wayne with Western Sizzlin, Garret Fugott with Covenant Allergy, Alyssandre Grizenko with Greensteps, and Judy Blevins, administrative assistant for the chamber.

President Jamie Lawson called the meeting to order and recognized guests and members in attendance.

A motion was made by Patrick O'Hagan and seconded by Joyce Burkhalter to approve the minutes from the June 15, 2017 board meeting. Motion was carried without dissent. A copy of the minutes is on file in the chamber office.

Financial Report:

Judy Blevins presented the "Income and Expense Report" for the month of June 2017, "Income and Expense Report" from beginning of fiscal year through the end of June 2017, and "Account Balances Report" as of July 19, 2017. Copies were distributed to all present and are on file with the minutes. Motion was made by Joyce Burkhalter and seconded by Shelby Potterfield to accept the financial reports as presented. Motion was carried without dissent.

Old Business:

A. Chamber Website Revision

President Lawson announced that the revised website is now live. He encouraged everyone to look at it and let us know if there are corrections and/or questions. President Lawson thanked all committee members for their hard work.

B. 2017 Annual Banquet

President Lawson reminded everyone of the date and details of the chamber banquet. Tickets are available through any board member or member of the banquet committee as well as through the chamber office.

At last month's meeting the board authorized a maximum amount of \$7,000 for banquet expenses. The banquet committee is asking for that amount to be increased to \$7,500 in case expenses exceed \$7,000.

Walker Henley made a motion to increase the maximum expense amount to \$7,500 with the understanding that the committee may be able to keep the expenses within the original expense amount. Nick Holcomb seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. A list of projected expenses is on file with the minutes.

Judy Blevins reminded the chamber that nominations for Citizen of the Year and Business of the Year are being accepted through Friday, July 21st.

C. Anti-Litter Campaign

The winners of the anti-litter grants were recognized – George Jackson, Treasurer of the Marion County Food Bank, Jerry Godsby, Mayor of the Town of Orme, Alyssa Grizenko, Executive Director of Greensteps Chattanooga, Vicki Messer, Manager of Platinum Recruiting, and Gene Vess and Mayor Virgil Holder with the City of South Pittsburg. A list of projects approved for each of the recipients is on file with the minutes. President Lawson congratulated all recipients.

It was also announced that Parkridge West will be adopting a highway along Hwy 28 from the hospital entrance to the Jasper exit.

Andrew Lawrence announced that on Saturday, July 22nd, Colonial Chemical would be picking up trash along the stretch of highway they have adopted in New Hope.

New Business:

A. Purchase of a Second Computer Monitor for the Chamber Office

President Lawson spoke about how a second monitor could enhance the ability to carry on daily work at the chamber office.

Shelby Potterfield moved that the board approve the purchase of a second monitor for the chamber office. Vicki Messer seconded the motion which carried without dissent.

- B. Request for Donation for the Greater Jasper Jaycees 2017 Outboard Drag Boat Associations World Championship Drag Boat Race scheduled for October 14 and 15 at Marion County Park

After discussion, Walker Henley made a motion that the chamber donate \$2,500 for lane sponsorship which is the same amount as was donated last year. Joyce Burkhalter seconded the motion . Spencer Wayne spoke about the tourism dollars this brings to Marion County each year. Following discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

- B. Opportunity for Advertisement – Marion County Newspapers Football Review.

Request failed for lack of motion.

Mayors' Reports:

Marion County Mayor David Jackson

Mayor Jackson was unable to attend the meeting today due a conflicting appointment, but he asked that we mention two things:

- Marion County was awarded a \$15,000 three-star grant which will be used for scholarship money for eligible students attending Polytech Academy at Chattanooga State in Kimball.
- A walking track is being built at Chattanooga State in Kimball. It will be open to the public and is made possible through a grant from the State of TN Health Department.

Mayor of the Town of Orme Jerry Godsby

Mayor Godsby stated that Orme is putting up a basketball goal for community kids to use and that the town is making plans to use the anti-litter grant. Mayor Godsby invited everyone to come visit Orme just down the road from Russell Cave.

Kimball Mayor Rex Pesnell

Mayor Pesnell stated that Kimball has a new police chief, Tim Allison, and that they are hiring a new officer also. Soccer sign-up for youth begins on Saturday July 29th and ends on Saturday August 5th from 9:00 AM until noon at Kimball Town Hall.

Mayor of South Pittsburg Virgil Holder

Mayor Holder introduced the new South Pittsburg City Administrator Gene Vess. Mr. Vess explained that the tree removal in downtown South Pittsburg was necessary as the roots were protruding and causing damage on the surface as well as underneath. He stated that the street

front is going to be renovated and that this is a positive move for the city. The South Pittsburg Senior Citizen Center is also being repaired.

Mr. Vess announced that the South Pittsburg Pirates football season kicks off on August 18th with a home game.

There is an auction of vehicles and surplus equipment scheduled for July 22nd at 10:00 AM CDT at the National Guard Armory in South Pittsburg.

The city is looking at ways to enhance the use of The Princess Theater by offering movies for kids and booking speakers and plays in the future. Events are posted on the website calendar of upcoming events.

Miscellaneous:

Persons present at today's meeting shared information about their organizations and upcoming events.

Announcements

Announcements were reviewed as distributed. A copy is on file with the minutes.

Trivia Question

Question: When is tax free weekend in Tennessee and what does it cover?

Answer: Begins at 12:01 AM on Friday, July 28th, and ends at 11:59 PM on July 30th. Items covered include clothing up to \$100, school supplies up to \$100 and computers up to \$1,500.

The winner was Nicole Osborne with Chambliss Law Firm. For her answer, she received a free lunch today.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Next monthly board meeting will be September 21, 2017 at noon at the Western Sizzlin. Next Chamber Coffee is August 8th at Whitwell Church of God. Annual Banquet will be August 17, 2017.

Minutes submitted by Judy Blevins

Reviewed by President Jamie Lawson