

## **Marion County Chamber of Commerce**

### **Board of Directors' Meeting**

**January 17, 2019**

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met at the Western Sizzlin at noon on January 17, 2019. Board members in attendance were President Kathie Tierney, Erik McDaniel, Joyce Burkhalter, Secretary/Treasurer Shelby Potterfield, Vice-President Brett Del Balso, Garret Faugot, Walker Henley, and Donna Sartin.

Others in attendance were Latosha Morrison and Jan Hawthorne with Hospice of Chattanooga, Carmen O'Hagan with Colonial Chemical, Jamie Lawson with Parkridge Hospital, Robert Kelly with First Volunteer Bank, Michael Jenkins with Chattanooga Skydiving Company, Daniel McDermott with Dan's Handyman Service, Mayor Paul Wayne Evans with Town of Jasper, and Mayor David Jackson with County of Marion.

President Tierney called the meeting to order and thanked those in attendance.

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Walker Henley and seconded by Joyce Burkhalter to approve the minutes from the December 20, 2018 board meeting. Motion was carried unanimously. Minutes are on file in the chamber office and are posted on the chamber's website.

#### **Financial Report:**

Treasurer Shelby Potterfield presented the financial report "Banking Summary" for the month of December 2018. "Account Balances as of 1/16/19", and "Income/Expense Graph by Category" for the current fiscal year to date. A motion was made by Garret Faugot and seconded by Walker Henley to accept the financial report. Motion was carried without dissent. Copies were distributed to all present and are on file with the minutes.

#### **Old Business:**

##### **A. Small Business Grants 2019**

Walker Henley reported that the committee has met and recommends that the chamber begin accepting grant applications from interested chamber members in good standing (defined as having paid dues for the current fiscal year). Applications will be sent via email and by postal service to all chamber businesses/organizations with the target date of 1/21/19. Deadline for applications to be returned would be 2/15/19. The grant committee would then meet to review applications received and determine grant recipients for 2019. The committee also recommends that the grant recipients be recognized at the 2019 chamber golf tournament. Following discussion regarding grant amounts given in the past as well as discussion about renaming the grants for Spencer Wayne, Erik McDaniel made a

motion that the chamber offer business grants as stated above with the total amount of grant money not to exceed \$8,000 with no stipulation as to how much is requested by an individual grant application and that the grant program hereby be referred to as the Spencer Wayne Small Business Grant. Motion was seconded by Walker Henley and approved by unanimous voice vote of the board members present.

**B. Spencer Wayne Memorial**

As stated in item “A” above, the chamber voted to honor Spencer Wayne by naming the business grants for him. The expectation is that the grant program will be ongoing and offered annually. By naming the grant program for Spencer Wayne, the chamber is continuing to recognize that the grant program was initiated when Spencer was chamber president in 2015 and that he continued to chair the grant committee in 2016.

**New Business:**

**A. 2019 Golf Tournament**

Brett Del Balso reported that contact has been made with the Sweetens Cove Golf Course in regards to a chamber sponsored golf tournament in 2019. Initial contact revealed a price increase, but the chamber hopes to be able to negotiate for the same rate as last year. At meeting time, a price and date is pending further contact with golf course personnel. (Desired date is June 1<sup>st</sup>).

A motion was made by Joyce Burkhalter and seconded by Walker Henley to allow the committee to proceed with plans for the tournament and to report to the board at the February 21, 2019 board meeting. Motion was carried unanimously.

**B. Request for Sponsorship – Distinguished Young Women of Marion County**

A letter has been received requesting sponsors for the 2019 Distinguished Young Women of Marion County program. Copy of letter was presented to all in attendance and is on file with the minutes.

Joyce Burkhalter made a motion that the chamber sponsor at the platinum level for \$150. Motion was seconded by Shelby Potterfield and was carried without dissent.

**C. Application for Membership – Dan’s Handyman**

An application for membership has been received from Dan’s Handyman Service and reviewed by the membership committee with recommendation to approve. Copy of application is on file with minutes.

Walker Henley made a motion and Erik McDaniel seconded the motion to approve the membership application. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Mayor's Report:**

### **Mayor Paul Wayne Evans – Town of Jasper**

Mayor Evans reported that Jasper has received a Main Street Grant in the amount of \$15,000 and that the Town of Jasper is matching that amount for a total of \$30,000 to be made available to downtown businesses. Individual grant recipient amounts will not exceed \$3,000 and will require a 25 percent match. The grants are targeted to improve the appearance of downtown businesses.

Mayor Evans also reported that Jasper is undergoing a sewer rehab and extension program and apologized for any inconvenience while work is being done.

### **Mayor David Jackson – County of Marion**

Mayor Jackson reported that it has been a busy three months. The county recently learned that a two million dollar grant has been approved to extend CSX rail spur in New Hope. This will benefit Colonial Chemical and the Nickajack Port Authority specifically.

The county has applied for a \$500,000 ARC grant to be used to offer a nursing program in Marion County.

The next step in a tourism grant for wayfaring signage will be for the tourism committee to recommend a consultant to be approved by the county commission.

Several RFI's have been received. Two automotive parts suppliers are interested in the Port Authority. Project Whisper has made two site visits and has narrowed their choice to two with Marion County being one. The mayor is hopeful that the Marion County site will be chosen.

Mayor Jackson stated that we should look for a big announcement on facebook next Thursday (1/24) but gave no further details.

According to the mayor there will be a ribbon cutting at Chattanooga State's second building in Kimball but that the date is pending acceptance of an invitation for Governor Lee to attend.

Improvements continue at Marion County Park under supervision of the new park manager Mac (Hot Dog) Parker. March 9<sup>th</sup> a fishing tournament for youth will be at the park. Whitwell High School will have a team. The mayor would like for the chamber to make a donation. Formal request will be forthcoming.

IT work is being done at the courthouse to update computers, firewalls, etc. Planning is also underway to eventually have all county employees with consistent email addresses.

There are new owners at the prior Rarity property near Nickajack Dam. The plan is to have 200 home sites.

Mayor Jackson was asked about the possibility of Parkridge West reopening inpatient beds. He stated that Parkridge CEO Tom Osborne is looking at options, and that although there are no plans for the immediate future, the mayor remains hopeful.

### **Miscellaneous**

Members present were given an opportunity to share news about their businesses.

Shelby Potterfield announced that SVEConnect has moved into the Kimball area although not into Industrial Blvd yet.

Garret Faugot stated that Covenant Asthma and Allergy will be doing screenings in the local high schools. Covenant is also available to do onsite screenings at interested businesses.

Reporting for SOCOMO, Mr. Faugot stating they are waiting approval for their trademark.

Carmen O'Hagan announced that Colonial Chemical has been chosen as the Adopt-A-Highway business of the month through the "Nobody Trashes Tennessee" program. Watch for a press release later this month. Colonial is also scheduled for their next litter pickup on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Announcements**

Upcoming events were listed on the back of the agenda.

The next chamber meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2019 at noon at the Western Sizzlin.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Judy Blevins

Reviewed by President Kathie Tierney