

Marion County Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors' Meeting

September 19, 2019

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met at the Western Sizzlin at noon on September 19, 2019. Board members in attendance were Patrick O'Hagan, Erik McDaniel, Vicki Messer, Joyce Burkhalter, Dewayne Moser, and Joy Gunter.

(Please note that seven board members are needed for a quorum. In the absence of a quorum, a request for an e-vote for any motions made during this meeting will be sent to board members not in attendance.)

Others in attendance were Carmen O'Hagan with Colonial Chemical, Terry Kerlin with First Choice Storage, Travis Hickman with The River 104.9, Marion County Mayor David Jackson, South Pittsburg City Manager Gene Vess, Dave Pestillo with Emendee Tech, Sonya McShan with Erlanger Hospital, Mickey Rose with Shellmound Campground, and Michael O'Hagan with O'Hagan Law .

In the absence of President Kathie Tierney, Patrick O'Hagan called the meeting to order and thanked those in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Joyce Burkhalter and seconded by Erik McDaniel to approve the minutes from the July 18, 2019 board meeting. E-vote will be requested. Minutes are on file in the chamber office and will be posted on the chamber's website. Please note that the board did not meet in August in lieu of the annual banquet held on August 15th.

Financial Report:

Financial reports were presented and distributed to all present: "Banking Summary" for the months of July 2019 and August 2019, "Banking Summary" for fiscal year from August 1, 2018 through July 31, 2019, and "Account Balances as of 9/18/19". Erik McDaniel made a motion to accept the financial reports as presented. Joyce Burkhalter seconded the motion. E-vote will be requested. Copies of the financial reports are on file with the minutes.

Old Business:

A. 2019 Annual Chamber Banquet Wrap-up

The annual banquet "is in the books" for another year! The board was pleased with attendance, venue, food, entertainment and program. An accounting of income and expenses was included in today's packet of information. All expenses have been paid with some ticket funds yet to be received. See sheet "2019 Annual Banquet Income and Expenses" on file with the minutes.

B. SVEConnect

Judy Blevins reported that the chamber is switching internet and phone provider to our local SVEConnect as previously voted on by the board. (See July 18, 2019 minutes.) Effective date for SVEConnect technicians to make the transfer is September 20th.

New Business:

A. Election of Chamber Officers for Fiscal 2019/20

Joyce Burkhalter moved and Dewayne Moser seconded that the following slate of officers be approved:

- Kathie Tierney, President
- Erik McDaniel, Vice-President
- Shelby Potterfield, President-Elect (2020/21)
- Secretary/Treasurer, Joy Gunter

E-vote will be requested.

B. Chamber Committees

A list of current chamber committees was included in today's meeting packet. Patrick O'Hagan explained that committee membership is open to any chamber member and that all chamber board members are requested to be on at least one committee. Kathie Tierney will be in contact with board members regarding committee assignments. At today's meeting Joyce Burkhalter asked to be on the Business Grant Committee.

C. Membership Application

Three membership applications have been reviewed by the membership committee and recommended for approval. Copies of the applications were included in the meeting packet and are on file with the minutes.

- Collins Building Materials
- Fast Pace Urgent Care Clinic
- "Marion County News"

Erik McDaniel made a motion that all three be accepted. Joyce Burkhalter seconded the motion. E-Vote will be requested.

D. Request for Sponsorship/Donation

Letters from Tennessee River Rescue and Greater Jasper Jaycees were included in the meeting packet.

- Tennessee River Rescue 2019 is scheduled for October 5, 2019. Sites in Marion County include under the blue bridge in South Pittsburg, at Marion County Park, at Hales Bar Marina, and at Shellmound Campground & Nickajack Dam.

- Greater Jasper Jaycees are requesting sponsorship for the 2019 Spencer Wayne Memorial Outboard Drag Boat Associations World Championship Drag Boat Race scheduled for October 12th and 13th, 2019 at Marion County Park.

Joyce Burkhalter made a motion to make a donation 2019 TN River Rescue in the amount of \$300 and to be a lane sponsor for the World Championship Drag Boat Race in the amount of \$2,500. Eric McDaniel seconded the motion. E-vote will be requested.

Mayor's Report:

South Pittsburg City Manager, Gene Vess, reported that South Pittsburg will host a Trunk 'r Treat on Halloween night beginning at 6:00 PM CDT. He also gave an update on The Princess Theater. The South Pittsburg Historical Society has received a grant to make upgrades on the theater to include improvements to lighting and sound. A purchase of an adjacent building has been made to allow storage for prompts and other use as may be determined advantageous to programming at The Princess. The city is in negotiation with South Pittsburg Historical Society to lease The Princess to the SP Historical Society and for the society to manage the theater.

County Mayor David Jackson

Mayor Jackson stated that a well-known US company, now referred to as "Project Water", is coming to Marion County. They will bring 325 jobs to the county. Other details can not be disclosed at this time. Another company, "Project Spotlight", visited a site in South Pittsburg recently. No commitment at this time.

Marion County has received a \$50,000 grant from the State of TN, given to counties who have had hospital closures. Mayor Jackson said the grant will be used to put AED's (Automated External Defibrillator) into all county buildings.

The State of TN also has given Marion County a \$20,000 health grant which will be used to install exercise stations along walking areas at Marion County Park. These will be similar to the stations found at the Jasper City Park walking track.

We are still waiting on CSX rail spur work to begin. Hopefully, grant papers will be signed by all parties soon.

Work on Highway 41 which connects Marion County to Hamilton County is behind schedule. The solution to the slide problem has turned out to be more complicated than initially thought. The good news is that the bridge from Hwy 41 at Haletown to the interstate exit 161 to TN Hwy 156 is open today ahead of schedule.

Mayor Jackson has received an email notice from the TN Forestry Department that effective September 23rd a burn ban is in effect for all of Marion County.

Mayor Jackson expressed optimism that the lawsuit with the bond company regarding Sequatchie Pointe will be resolved at the next Marion County Commission Meeting. This suit has been in litigation for eleven years. The county will not get everything they want, but it will be a positive step to have the matter resolved.

Marion County has also received a matching grant (95 – 1) from TDOT Aeronautics Division. This will be used for work on the airport in Marion County. It will include re-skinning the hanger, new windows, doors, etc. A new roof may be added if sufficient funds are available. And the plan is to extend sewer line from the airport to hwy 41 to connect with Jasper sewer line.

Miscellaneous

Dave Pestillo stated that he is organizing a career day for Whitwell Middle School to be presented on December 13th. He would like to encourage chamber members to join him. A registration form with information about the event will be distributed through the chamber's email distribution list. Interested persons should complete the registration form and/or contact Dave Pestillo or the chamber office.

Mickey Rose encouraged folks to participate in the TN River Rescue. See information under "D. Sponsorship/Donation" section of the minutes. Mickey is manager at Shellmound Campground and is the Marion County Coordinator for TN River Rescue.

Joyce Burkhalter stated that all branches of First Volunteer Bank are accepting cash donations and non-perishable can goods for the Marion County Food Bank through September 27th. In addition, Jasper Elementary School and Jasper Middle School are collecting can goods with a party for the winning class.

Carmen O'Hagan announced that October 19th is the date for the next Colonial Chemical litter pick-up along their adopt-a-highway stretch in New Hope.

Patrick O'Hagan with Chattanooga State Economic and Workforce Development spoke about apprenticeship programs. Two businesses are currently working with the program – Primex Plastics and Valmont. The program is expanding to include other businesses and training programs.

Upcoming events are listed on the back of today's meeting agenda. Next chamber coffee is October 8th at Chattanooga State in Kimball. Next board meeting is scheduled for October 17th.

Minutes submitted by Judy Blevins

Reviewed by Patrick O'Hagan for Kathie Tierney

Addendum to Minutes – Recording of E-Vote requested on September 23, 2019:

All motions made in the September 19th Meeting passed without dissent.

Voting yes to all were:

- Patrick O’Hagan
- Vicki Messer
- Mandi Finotti
- Donna Sartin
- Patty Henry
- Erik McDaniel
- Shelby Potterfield
- Kathie Tierney
- Meegan Rogers
- Brett Del Balso

Voting no: None

No Response

- Garrett Faugot
- Joyce Burkhalter
- Joy Gunter