

## **Marion County Chamber of Commerce**

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

**August 20, 2020**

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met via Zoom on Thursday, August 20, 2020, at 12 noon CDT. Logging into the meeting were the following board members: Kathie Tierney, Shelby Potterfield, Joyce Burkhalter, Erik McDaniel, Mandy Finotti, Cody Fox, Dave Pestillo. Please note that Patty Henry and Vicki Messer tried but were unable to connect with the meeting or to access the audio for the full meeting. Because it appeared in the meeting that they had logged in, they were counted toward the quorum. Votes were taken from those listed as present. Evotes will be requested of Mrs. Henry and Ms. Messer. Also on the call was Marion County Mayor David Jackson and Judy Blevins, Administrative Assistant for the chamber.

President Shelby Potterfield called the meeting to order and recognized those in attendance. Judy Blevins documented attendance via roll call.

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

A motion was made by Erik McDaniel and seconded by Mandy Finotti to accept the minutes from the July 16, 2020 zoom board meeting. Copy of the minutes had been sent to board members prior to today's call and is on file with the minutes. Motion carried without dissent.\*

#### **Financial Report:**

Judy Blevins presented the following financial reports, which had been emailed to board members prior to today's call: "Banking Summary July 1, 2020 – July 31, 2020" and "Account Summary as of August 18, 2020". An update of checking account total as of today's meeting reflected a total of \$16,069.41. It was noted that membership dues renewals are being received daily. Motion to approve the financial report as presented was made by Dave Pestillo and seconded by Cody Fox. Motion carried unanimously. \*Reports are on file with the minutes.

President Potterfield reported that it would be advisable to appoint a committee to look at the chamber's income and expenses and to develop a budget. Although the goal of the chamber is not to make a profit, for the past several years expenses have been greater than income. If any board member would like to be on a budget committee, please contact the chamber office and/or the president.

## Mayor's Report:

The chamber appreciates County Mayor David Jackson joining our virtual meeting today. Below are points of interest shared by Mayor Jackson:

- No RFI's submitted recently.
- Renovations continue at the Marion County Airport – airport has been connected to Jasper Sewer System and a contract has been awarded to a company out of Crossville to re-skin the hanger, install new doors and windows, bring the bathroom up to ADA compliance.
- Work is being done on roads leading to the failed subdivision called Sequatchie Pointe. Marion County has been in a lawsuit with the bonding company, Lexon Insurance Company, for years regarding roads and waterlines, phase two and phase three. It has finally been settled. Bids will be awarded to build a road in phase three and tar and chip in phase two. The only part of the road that will not be finished is a section under a stay and desist order from TDOT due to a major slide. Currently the only way to enter the subdivision is to use Sligo Rd exit up the mountain through Dade County. Expenses will be covered by bond. No tax money will be used on this project.
- The county is good financially with no need to increase sales tax this year. Mayor Jackson commended the county office holders for being fiscally responsible.
- In spite of COVID-19 restrictions, manufacturers in Marion County are doing well. Some are hiring. Local option sales tax revenues for May generated \$900,000. Fifty percent of that money automatically goes to the school system. The remainder is divided among the municipalities. This is further indication that it pays to shop locally. In addition, fuel tax statewide is reported to have increased, although Mayor Jackson does not have the county numbers at this time. Internet sales tax is up as well, probably due to an increase in online shopping. The only drop in tax during this period of time is in mixed drink sales tax due to bar and restaurant closures.
- Regarding COVID-19, Marion County did not make masks a requirement although we are encouraged to wear masks and to practice safe measures as recommended by the CDC. Mayor Jackson pointed out that the number of positive cases reported by the TN Department of Health is a cumulative account (256 as of August 29). The number of active cases at this time is 73, which is 0.25% of the population of Marion County based on 2010 census numbers. The state also counts probable cases. The county is eligible for \$424,000 to be used on COVID related expenses. One person at the Justice Center tested positive with no symptoms. All persons at the center were tested with no additional positivity. Mayor Jackson expressed thanks to Parkridge West for processing the Justice Center tests within hours. Mayor Jackson reported that Marion County will receive \$30,251 for tourism affected by COVID-19. This is federal money awarded to the state and passed down to the counties. Additional COVID related funds are being approved on the state and federal level ongoing. The county is making every effort to collect funds for which we may be eligible. Prior to COVID, the state budget included county grant money. After COVID hit, that money was doubled. Marion County's portion

is \$904,899. The county commission has voted to put that money in an interest-bearing account at this time.

- The Marion County Commission will resume in-person meetings with some restrictions. The next monthly meeting of the commission is scheduled for Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 PM CDT at the county commission building. Doors will not be opened until 5:30 PM. A total of fifty persons (commissioners, press and visitors) will be allowed in the building. Masks and social distancing will be required. The meeting will be broadcast/recorded on WEPG and through “Marion County News”.
- Newly elected county officials – road superintendent, tax assessor, and five constables - will be sworn in on the steps of the courthouse on August 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 PM.

### **Old Business:**

#### **A. Follow-up From July 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting and July 30<sup>th</sup> Executive Board Meeting**

To confirm, President Potterfield stated that the following has occurred since the July 16, 2020 board meeting via Zoom:

- Motions related to the July 16<sup>th</sup> meeting approved by evote:
  - Minutes from June 2, 2020 Conference Call – approved
  - Financial Report - Approved
  - 2020 Spencer Wayne Memorial Golf Tournament – cancelled (approved)
  - 2020 Annual Chamber Banquet – cancelled (approved)
  - Bi-monthly Coffees – cancelled until further notice (approved)
  - Revision of Constitution and Bylaws – approved but vote by membership tabled for now. Decision made by Executive Board
  - Membership Application from Fancy DD’s Accessories – approved
- Motion not approved through evote:
  - Stipulation that any business who has won BOTY in the past three years would not be eligible to win this year – not approved
- Motion sent for evote on August 6, 2020 to take out a full page ad in “Living Here” 2021 edition in the amount of \$500, using the same graphic as used in 2020 – approved (could not wait for the next board meeting as deadline was August 14<sup>th</sup>)

Executive Board met via conference call on July 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM. (Kathie Tierney, Shelby Potterfield, Carmen O’Hagan. Erik McDaniel was unable to join in the call due to scheduling conflict.) Discussed were the following topics:

- Determined to send a letter to all chamber member businesses and organizations and membership by individual in order to vote on new board members, Cody Fox, Dave Pestillo, Carmen O’Hagan and Travis Hickman. Note: letters were mailed on Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup>. As of today, 20 votes have been returned. All received thus far were voting in favor.

- Kathie Tierney and Shelby Potterfield agreed to send an joint email to all on the chamber’s email distribution list confirming cancellations of annual banquet, 2020 golf tournament, bi-monthly coffees and in-person board meeting until further notice. (Done)
- Approving amendments to Constitution - executive board felt that another letter and request for vote from all chamber members should be postponed until a later date – board still wants to pursue the revisions, just not at this time.

B. Election of New Board Members

See minutes from July 16, 2020 board meeting and from executive board meeting on August 6, 2020. Since all votes received have been in favor, Cody Fox, Dave Pestillo, Carmen O’Hagan and Travis Hickman are officially board members for a three year term beginning immediately.

C. Citizen of the Year and Business of the Year 2020

See July 16, 2020 minutes. Applications are now being accepted through September 10, 2020. Press release, notice on email and facebook have been completed.

D. Highlighted Members for the Quarter

Erik McDaniel reported that the three chamber businesses highlighted for this quarter are Caps Roofing, MaxFit, and SueBob’s Diner. All three have been contacted and have submitted information which was edited by Erik McDaniel and Mark Kelly. Write-up and pictures will be featured on the chamber’s website.

**New Business:**

A. Beautification Award

Doodle’s Emporium in South Pittsburg has remodeled the exterior of their building on Cedar Avenue and has been nominated for a chamber beautification award. Kathie Tierney made a motion to present the beautification award to Jerry and Teresa White, owners of Doodle’s Emporium. Cody Fox seconded the motion. \*Arrangement will be made to present the award on Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 AM CDT.

B. Membership Application:

The following applications have been received and reviewed by the membership committee:

1. Primex Color, Compounding & Additives
2. All Ways Caring Homecare
3. Hearth Hospice

Erik McDaniel made a motion to accept all three membership applications. Kathie Tierney seconded the motion which carried without dissent.\*

### **Miscellaneous**

#### **A. Update Checking Account Signature Page**

Erik McDaniel made a motion to add President Shelby Potterfield as an authorized signer, removing Brett DelBalso and Patrick O'Hagan. Mandy Finotti seconded the motion which carried unanimously. \*

### **Sharing from Community Partners**

- Kathie Tierney announced that the Childrens Advocacy Center in Marion County will have a fund raiser dinner at Pat's Summitt, Jasper Highlands, on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Tickets will be available soon. Proceeds to go to Childrens Advocacy Center.
- Cody Fox announced that the television program "Building off the Grid" is working on a project in Altamont and will be featuring a spa from Tennessee Tub Factory.
- Shelby Potterfield announced that SVEConnect is expanding service to residents on South Pittsburg Mountain and in Orme beginning September 1<sup>st</sup>. Connecting Battle Creek is more challenging and will be delayed pending TDOT approval (necessary because I-24 cuts through Battle Creek in several places).
- Mandy Finotti shared that Lodge is hiring. Shelby Potterfield shared that SVEC has an IT opening.
- Mayor Jackson reminded us of the importance of the census count. He stated that 51% of Marion County residents have completed the census forms. The online option will end. Remaining options are door-to-door counts and mail-in forms. An accurate count is important and can impact a multitude of programs and funding for the next ten years!
- Judy Blevins announced that copies of the new "Southeast Tennessee Visitors Guide" are available in the chamber office.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting will be via zoom on Thursday, September 17, 2020. In order to make the meetings more accessible to all board members, President Potterfield will look into options such as audio only for those who can't access video and expanded time accessibility.

Minutes submitted by Judy Blevins

Reviewed by President Shelby Potterfield

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\* Evote requested and received from Vicki Messer and Patty Henry. Motion approved.