

## **Marion County Chamber of Commerce**

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

**December 17, 2020**

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met via Zoom on Thursday, December 17, 2020 at 12 noon CT. Logging into the meeting were the following board members: Shelby Potterfield, Erik McDaniel, Travis Hickman, Patty Henry, Cody Fox, Patrick O'Hagan, Carmen O'Hagan, Dave Pestillo, and Vicki 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.

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

A motion was made by Patrick O'Hagan and seconded by Patty Henry to accept the minutes from the November 19, 2020 Zoom board meeting. Copy of the minutes was sent to board members prior to today's call and is on file. Motion carried without dissent.

#### **Financial Report:**

Judy Blevins presented the following financial reports, which had been emailed to board members prior to today's meeting: "Banking Summary November 1, 2020 – November 30, 2020" and "Account Balances as of December 16, 2020".

Travis Hickman made a motion to approve the financial reports. Patty Henry seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Copy of financial report was sent to board members prior to today's meeting and is on file with the minutes.

#### **Report from Mayor Jackson**

Mayor Jackson addressed the COVID situation in Marion County. As of yesterday Marion County has had 1,559 cases (or 5.5% of the population). There are currently 256 active cases in the county which has had 22 deaths due to COVID. We are testing 176 persons per day. Mayor Jackson stated that the increase in active cases is not the direction we want to take.

Mayor Jackson addressed the issue of a mask mandate in the county. He stated that many counties that have mask mandates are still seeing a rise in positive cases. A mask mandate has not been issued in Marion County, but wearing masks and taking other precautions to minimize the spread is being encouraged. Mayor Jackson stated that a PSA will be in the local paper next week and that the local radio/TV station is working to run spots as well.

Because of increased positive COVID cases, all in-person county commission meetings have been suspended for the month unless absolutely necessary.

Mayor Jackson did inform the group that the state and county is in good financial shape even during the COVID outbreak. Local option sales tax revenue is good. The only tax decrease has been in liquor by the drink. According to Mayor Jackson, all Marion County manufacturers are doing well. And more RFI's (Request for Information) have been returned this month than ever before.

Regarding the recent Pfizer vaccine, Tennessee has received an allotment of the vaccine with health care providers and first responders being the first to be vaccinated.

Steve Lamb, our Emergency Management Director, is coordinating resources. Since this is fast breaking news, more information will become available in the coming weeks.

Mayor Jackson concluded by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

### **Old Business**

Copier for the Chamber Office

As follow-up to discussion last month and continued correspondence with the board via email, the recommendation from the administrative assistant was to purchase or lease a Lanier Color Copier (MP C2503) from Beeler Impressions. The purchase price is \$930 plus tax. A maintenance contract would be determined monthly based on copies made (.008 for black and white; .06 for color). This is a used machine but in good condition.

Travis Hickman made a motion to purchase the Lanier Color Copier and enter into a maintenance contract with Beeler as stated above. Included in the motion was a request to find out if we can pay in installments without accruing interest. Patty Henry seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Note: following the meeting, an email was sent to Gerry Warner with Beeler to inquire about payment options. Mr. Warner replied that we could make payment within 90 days same as cash. An email was sent to the board requesting their preference to the following options: 1) one payment of \$930 plus tax; 2) two equal monthly payments or \$465 plus tax; 3) three equal monthly payments of \$310 plus tax.

### **New Business:**

No new business to bring before the board.

## **Miscellaneous**

President Potterfield explained that following the new year, we will begin to open the 2021 Spencer Wayne Small Business Grant application period. More information on that at the January 2021 board meeting.

The chamber office holiday schedule is as follows; closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. All other days will remain the same (open weekdays from 8:00 AM until 12 noon CT).

## **Sharing from Community Partners**

Several people mentioned the opening of a bakery in South Pittsburg, Alessandros Italian Artisan Bakery. The bakery owners are chamber members, and before opening the store on Cedar Avenue in South Pittsburg, they sold goods at farmer's markets and other public events.

Cody Fox pointed out that there is also another new food business in South Pittsburg. "Yum Yums" is located at 1212 South Cedar Avenue and is currently for carry out only.

Shelby Potterfield announced that Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative and TVA have provided community grants to local food banks and to Smiles. Even though SVEC was unable to hold the fund raising silent auction this year, they were able to donate \$12,000 to the Multi-Cancer Support Network.

Next scheduled meeting of the board is Thursday, January 21, 2021 at noon. It will continue to be via Zoom.