

MARION COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES . 1/19/23

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met on January 19, 2023, at noon CST at the Western Sizzlin in Jasper, TN.

Pastor Eric McDaniel started with a prayer.

Travis Hickman asked for a roll call.

Board members present Travis Hickman, Staci Brockwell, Dave Pestillo, Michael O’Hagan, Kathie Tierney, Mandy Finotti, Sonya McShan, Joyce Burkhalter, Michael Griffith, and Erik McDaniel.

Guest in attendance: Trey Chance with Builtwell Bank, Kyle Summers, and Jerry Lynn Tuders with Chattanooga State-Kimball. Donald Kilgore with TN American Job Center and Cindy Hopkins, coordinator for the Chamber, was also in attendance.

A quorum of board members was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Joyce Burkhalter and seconded by Staci Brockwell to approve the minutes from the December 15, 2022 board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

A copy of the minutes is on file in the chamber office.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Dave Pestillo presented the following financial reports: “Banking Summary – December 2022” and “Account Balances as of 1/19/2023”. Each person present at today’s board meeting received a copy of the financial reports.

Treasurer Pestillo reported on the chamber’s current CD at Builtwell Bank. Following discussion from prior meetings, Mr. Pestillo contacted Robert Kelly at Builtwell Bank who said that Builtwell would try to match the best interest rate of any other bank in the area. Builtwell Bank increased the interest rate to 3.95% and Mr. Pestillo said that CD rates will be completed soon. The motion was made by Staci Brockwell and seconded by Mandy Finotti to accept the financial reports as presented. Motion carried without dissent. A copy of the financial report is on file with the minutes.

Cindy Hopkins information was given to Joyce Burkhalter to complete her approval for signature on the chamber bank accounts. Electronic access will be granted to Kathie Tierney. Joyce Burkhalter asked who the administrator would be on the account and recommended having separate persons be able to make deposits and sign checks. Kathie Tierney mentioned that the chamber has not had electronic access until now. Kathie Tierney agreed to be the administrator of the account and then gave visual access to Cindy Hopkins and Dave Pestillo.

Kathy Tierney motioned first and Mandy Finotti seconded.

All in favor unanimous, all opposed zero.

2nd motion was to maintain current signers, Travis Hickman, Kathie Tierney, and Joyce Burkhalter on both chamber checking and grant account and add Cindy Hopkins to both accounts. Also making Kathy Tierney the administrator for all internet access.

President Travis Hickman motioned first and Joyce Burkhalter seconded.

MAYORS REPORT

No mayors were in attendance at today's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- 2022 Spencer Wayne Small Business Grants

Travis Hickman brought to our attention that he had met with Kathie Tierney, Eric McDaniel, and Mandy Finotti regarding Raulston Woods and Gardens, they had agreed to approve the grant and disburse the grant money to Raulston Woods and Gardens. Travis Hickman and Joyce Burkhalter signed the check for \$2200 at this meeting. The board then recognized that Raulston Woods and Gardens were not current on their yearly membership dues. It states in the grant guidelines that in order to receive grant monies the member must be current on their dues. Cindy Hopkins was asked to remind them of this and to not pay them the grant money until yearly membership dues were paid.

- Sponsorship

As the chamber continues to strive to keep within an advertising/request for funds budget, Travis Hickman reiterated that anything totaling above \$5000 will need board approval. A new funding request had been received from Tennessee Broadcasting/The River 104.9 FM for \$1200 for the year. A second funding request was made by Marion County Children's Fund. Joyce Burkhalter requested clarity on whether Marion County Children's Fund is a donation or sponsorship. Travis made the board aware of the fact that this organization was denied in previous years due to not promoting business, which is the goal of the Chamber. Mandy Finotti mentioned previous conversations amongst the board regarding non-profits and whether or not to look at having lower membership dues given to non-profits. Kathie Tierney mentioned that the sponsorship would not have been approved regardless due to it not supporting our chamber goals.

Eric McDaniel asked to motion on the floor for the Tennessee Broadcasting sponsorship. Speech "for" given by Dave Pestillo and Sonya Mcshan. Mr. McDaniel asked for speech against, but there were none.

Joyce had a question regarding how members will know they can advertise through the radio station. Kathy Tierney and Mandy Finotti mentioned Cindy Hopkins posting on social media. Kathy Tierney had a question regarding since she is a member would the advertising include the rotary? Travis Hickman replied yes. Sonya McShan clarified that the \$1200 (\$100 monthly) every chamber member can utilize this and it's a great way to get a new membership. Mandy Finotti stated that there has been a pause in new membership due to COVID and that small businesses will greatly appreciate this free advertising. The board asked where the advertising would be seen/heard. Travis Hickman replied on I TV, 910 AM, 104.9 FM (13 counties and 3 states) SVE Connect, Channel 4, and on the 1st of the year there would be more banners on the tv channels.

Eric McDaniel asked to vote: Unanimous vote on approval - no opposition.

Travis asked for further discussion on Marion County Children’s Fund. Kathy Tierney stated that we usually do not do this and have denied a similar request in the past. Mandy Finotti stated that this does not fall into the parameters of the chamber.

No motion is needed.

- **Advertising**

N/A

- **Career Days 2022/23**

Dave Pestillo brought to our attention that the next Career Day program will be held on 2/3/2023 at Monteagle Elementary School. A total of 8 volunteers and 22 students will be present. The following Career Day program will be held at Jasper Middle School on 3/17/2023. There are currently 16 volunteers and a total of 150 students that will be present and he encouraged more volunteers to be a part of the Jasper Middle School Career Day. Sonya McShan included that she and 1 other volunteer will be attending the next two Career Day events.

NEW BUSINESS (1/19/23)

Membership Applications

- Yum – Yums Diner

Miscellaneous

- **ACH/Credit Card**

Sonya Mcshan suggested a credit card option to pay dues. Dave Pestillo said it was addressed at the last visit to the bank. Joyce Burkholder and Kathie Tierney mentioned Venmo, Cash App, etc. Builtwell bank looking into it. To be further addressed at the next meeting.

- **Membership Renewals**

Membership renewals have been recent as of 12/6/23. The chamber's current way to send reminders for membership renewal is through regular mail and should be updated.

After much discussion the board agreed to first try to reach out to any members they knew on the list. Dave Pestillo read down the list and chamber members at the meeting said whom they would get in contact with. Dave Pestillo emailed Cindy the list and she will update the list with the amounts due and email it to board members.

Motion: The board will reach out to 22 people, by the next board meeting. The goal is to have all dues in by the end of the month, but definitely by the next meeting.

Staci Brockwell motioned first, Kathie Tierney motioned second

- **Storage Unit**

Kathie Tierney brought up a question regarding the storage unit at First Choice Storage in Jasper that the chamber currently uses to store a few items. Cindy Hopkins had mentioned that with there only being a few storage boxes and a few miscellaneous items in the unit we could plan on storing those items at the chamber office in Jasper, TN. Travis Hickman asked to look into further details on how to make that happen. It would save \$50 monthly. Travis said it could be done by next week.

Kathy Tierney motioned first, and Mandy Finotti motioned second. All in favor, yes. Opposed, none.

- **Tech Issues**

Cindy Hopkins mentioned password issues and no access. Kathy Tierney recommends calling WinWorld for the email password. Cindy Hopkins will contact WinWorld, to be addressed next month.

Sharing from Community Partners

Guests from Chattanooga State – Kimball brought to our attention new programs being offered including nursing. Donald Kilgore with TN American Job Center introduced himself and mentioned his new role and availability.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until the next board meeting which is scheduled for Thursday, February 16, 2023, at noon at the Western Sizzlin.