

MARION COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES . 4/20/23

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met on April 20, 2023, at 12 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: President Travis Hickman, Vice President Eric McDaniel, Dave Pestillo, Joyce Burkhalter, Kathie Tierney, Sonya McShane, , Mandy Finotti, Staci Brockwell, and Mike Griffith. **Guest in attendance:** Alli Johnson with Colonial Chemical. Jessica Wright, Melissa Hubbard, and Gina Pannell with Re/Max. Patrick Chiles, David Barry, and Cindy Hopkins, coordinator for the Marion County Chamber, were also in attendance.

Joyce Burkhalter motioned to accept first, and President Travis Hickman seconded.

A quorum of board members was present for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Travis Hickman to approve the minutes from March 2023. Eric McDaniel seconded.

All In favor unanimous, all opposed none.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Dave Pestillo presented the following financial reports: "Banking Summary – March 2023" and "Account Balances as of March 2023". Dave stated everything is in check, expenses are all in order. Kathie Tierney did move Spencer Wayne Grant's money out of Chamber checking account and transferred it to the Chamber grant account. There has only been 1 check paid out from the Grant account to date. The credit card statement was sent to the prior Chamber Administrative Assistant, Judy Blevins, she dropped it off at Chamber Office. Each board member present at today's board meeting received a copy of the financial reports.

Joyce Burkhalter motioned to accept the financial report first, and Sonya McShane seconded.

All in favor unanimous, all opposed none.

MAYORS REPORT

No Mayors are present today.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Autobooks**

Autobooks is up and running. Cindy stated it is a very user-friendly program. A discussion was had regarding who pays the credit card fee. Dave Pestillo asked about current fees, Cindy Hopkins stated its currently just under 3%. Joyce Burkhalter motioned for the payer to pay the credit card fee at the current rate that the credit card company is charging, Staci Brockwell seconded. Dave

NEW BUSINESS

- **Builtwell Bank Credit Card**

The board discussed taking Judy Blevins off of the Builtwell Bank checking accounts and credit cards. Joyce Burkhalter described that there must be a person's name on the credit card. Credit cards will now be in the names of the Marion County Chamber of Commerce and Cindy Hopkins. Staci Brockwell motioned to remove Judy from the credit card account, and Eric McDaniel seconded

Joyce motioned to remove Judy Blevins from accounts and replace her with Cindy Hopkins as a user, Travis Hickman seconded

All in favor unanimous, all opposed none.

- **Membership Committee**

Staci said the committee has met 3 times so far. 2 topics are how to increase membership and how to increase dues. The City Annex office located in Jasper, TN will provide the Chamber with a list of newly licensed businesses within our county, Cindy Hopkins picked it up recently. The committee is putting together a presentation folder to hand deliver to new area businesses. Sonya McShane has a contact for printed items and offered to pay for stickers to go on the folders. Committee agreed that Ribbon Cutting Events should be only for Chamber members. Joyce Burkhalter made a motion to have only Chamber members be allowed to have Ribbon Cutting Events, and Dave Pestillo seconded. All in favor is unanimous, all opposed none.

Mike Griffith mentioned more of a basket to hand out, including Chamber member promotional items. Staci Burkhalter included that the committee is looking for ways to increase revenue in order for the Chamber to offer a basket to the new businesses. Joyce Burkhalter agreed and suggested members make donations for the baskets. Staci Brockwell brought up wanting to increase Whitwell membership, she has a contact wanting to do a coffee event. The increase in membership dues is actively being discussed and hopefully will be voted on at the next board meeting.

- **Social Media / Digital Committee**

The committee created a photo contest to increase community involvement and increase the number of images we have to use of our whole county for website and

social media use. The committee will vote on the photos the 1st week of May. Recognition and a gift card will be awarded to the contest winners.

- **Golf Classic**

17 teams so far, there is a Silver sponsor, and goody bag items are coming in. Lunch is sponsored by Re/Max Realty South. Drinks sponsored by Erlanger. Morning volunteers start at 8:00a. Check-in at 9:00a, tee off at 10:00a. Signage will be purchased from Private Logo. We need a Premiere sponsor. Prizes are needed for various things.

Membership Applications

- Spill Coffee Co., approved
Motion to accept Joyce Burkhalter first, and Kathie Tierney seconded

Miscellaneous and sharing from community partners

- **Cornbread:** Carnival will have \$30 nightly wristbands until Friday, then its ticket purchases. Joyce mentioned the Friday night reception at Builtwell Bank April 28th, all Chamber members are welcome. Mandy Finotti mentioned they will have big headliners, so they're expecting a big crowd. Keep in mind potential parking issues, try to come early. The Festival layout will be different this year.
- **Job Fair:** May 6th from 8-12 noon at the Lawson building in Jasper. All employers and people seeking employment are welcome.
- **Colonial Chemical:** Staci Brockwell reminded us of the shredding event tomorrow 8-10a.
- **Chamber Coffee:** At The Borders - June 13th
- **Career Day:** The last event went well. Looking forward to this October, December, February, and March of next year. Dave encourages people to attend and share with the kids.
- **Annual Banquet:** The membership committee discussed a possible change of venue. Looking into Lodge, The Hooch, and Raulston Woods. Mandy Finotti and members collectively brought up that the annual banquet should not cost us money. Kathie Tierney reminded the board members that Pat Summit is no charge, they just require us to use their catering. She said we can increase ticket prices to cover the cost, and there will be a silent auction this year.
- Sonya McShane informed us about upcoming events in surrounding counties and offered tickets to our board members. Also that Erlanger in South Pittsburg is expanding, more to follow.
- Travis encouraged members to attend Valley Fest in Sequatchie Valley, and reminded us to continue to support surrounding chambers.

Ribbon Cuttings

- none

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until the next board meeting which is scheduled for Thursday, May 18th, 2023, at 12 noon cst at the Western Sizzlin. Joyce Burkholder motioned first to adjourn, Dave Pestillo seconded.