

MARION COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES . 3/16/23

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met on February 16, 2023, at noon CST at the Western Sizzlin in Jasper, TN.

Travis Hickman asked for a roll call.

Board members present: Mayor David Jackson, Travis Hickman, Staci Brockwell, Dave Pestillo, Joyce Burkhalter, Mike O Hagan, Kathie Tierney, Sonya McShane and Michael Griffith. **Guest in attendance:** Trey Chance with Builtwell Bank, Alli Johnson with Colonial Chemical, Gina Panell with Re/Max, Dannie Bradford, Wesley Brewer, and Anna Belk with UT Extension, and Cindy Hopkins, coordinator for the Marion County Chamber, was also in attendance.

Joyce Burkhalter motioned to accept first, Travis Hickman seconded.

A quorum of board members was present for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Travis Hickman and seconded by Kathie Tierney to approve the minutes from February 16, 2023.

All In favor unanimous, all opposed none.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Dave Pestillo presented the following financial reports: “Banking Summary – February 2023” and “Account Balances as of February 2023”. Dave stated no red flags, expenses are all in order. There was a discussion regarding the decrease of funds within the Chamber checking account, the cause of that, and how many new Chamber memberships are to be expected in the near future. Kathie Tierney will be moving Spencer Wayne Grant’s money out of Chamber checking account to transfer to the Chamber grant account. Each board member present at today’s board meeting received a copy of the financial reports.

Joyce Burkhalter motioned to accept first, Travis Hickman seconded.

All in favor unanimous, all opposed none.

MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Jackson updated us on current events in the county. 3.9 million of TNTAP noncompetitive grant money to use toward Marion County utility upgrades. The airport will be receiving a new runway, new drainage, and new runway lights. County Commission may approve a grant from American Rescue money coming from the state of TN to help remodel Marion County Health Department. Chattanooga State – Kimball has received money toward a new building and will need another grant to complete it.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Membership Update**

Out of 22 members unpaid (last meeting), there are 6 left that have yet to renew. All members have been contacted multiple times. President Travis Hickman reaffirmed that 3/15/23 was the last day to pay to continue membership. All unpaid members are to be mailed/emailed a thank you letter letting them know that they are no longer a member and hopes for renewal in the future. Joyce Burkhalter motioned to send a release letter, Kathie Tierney seconded.

- **Sponsorship**

n/a

- **Advertising**

Marion County Newspaper – February newspaper ad is complete, we will have more information on the next 2 ads at our next meeting.

- **Career Days 2022/23**

Dave Pestillo said that Jasper Middle School Career Day happening on 3/17/23 will be held slightly differently due to the number of students and presenters. There are currently 16 volunteers through the Chamber and a total of 150 students will be present. 1st presentation at 8:20am, 2nd presentation at 8:50am. Then the Chamber picture, and Lodge presentation at 10:10am.

- **Social Media Meeting**

Mandy Finotti shared the Guidelines that were created at the meeting of the Social Media / Digital Committee Mention of having a discretionary \$20 monthly budget to use for boosting Facebook posts to target small businesses and individual membership. Asked for Chamber to pay the \$120 to get a CANVA account for Chamber to use for creating social media ads, a logo, and branding ability. Some topics included: content must be event, commerce or community-related. Solicitation-related requests must go through the Social Media Committee. Cindy Hopkins should create QR codes for various information sharing and invites. Cindy Hopkins should also create separate email lists to distribute information to our members and non-members.

Kathie Tierney motioned first to approve for \$120 CANVA subscription, Mandy Finotti seconded.

- **Banking**

Kathie does have access to our Internet banking, she will grant viewing access to Dave Pestillo and access to Cindy Hopkins as soon as she can. We can set up a trial for Autobooks when access is granted.

- **2023 Spencer Wayne Small Business Grants**

Cindy can go ahead and notify Chamber Board Members of the results from the Spencer Wayne Small Business Grant Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

- **2023 Golf Tournament**

June 9th, 2023 date confirmed. Will have 2 rounds, needing to change start times to 10am and 2 pm. Sue Bobs is not responding to be a sponsor for the food. We will need 80 pack lunches, and possibly a sponsor to cover the food cost from another local source. Kathie will be meeting with the committee soon.

- **Membership**

Kathie motioned to remove the \$30 extra person fee option on our Marion County Chamber of Commerce Membership Application.
Joyce Burkhalter seconded this motion.

Kathie asked to form a membership committee. Mandy Finotti agreed that a formal membership committee is needed. The committee will be discussing a possible dues increase, and more opportunities to have events like Coffee, Lunch & Learn and Happy Hour Events. Sonya mentioned many different options including a business expo. Staci Brockwell will head the membership committee.

Membership Applications

- Sassy Soaps & Scrubs, owner Cassie Matthews, membership is approved.

Miscellaneous and sharing from community partners

Ribbon Cuttings

- Adoration Hospice 3/22 @ 9:30am
- Marion Health & Wellness 3/28 @ 4pm

Wesley Brewer mentioned the Open House at UT Extension Building and also the Addams Family play being held on April 13th-15th at the Princess Theater.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until the next board meeting which is scheduled for Thursday, April 20, 2023, at noon at the Western Sizzlin. Joyce Burkholder motioned first to adjourn, Dave Pestillo seconded.