

Minutes
Jasper County Chamber of Commerce

May 11, 2017

Members Present:

Linda Simmons
Carol Ann McMichael
Leah Dumas
Dr. Mike Newton
Dana Leach
Lathadra Sands
Jeff Greeson
Skip Davis
Tom Joye
Tracey Nelson
Towonder Dennis
Pam Mayor
Katie Cannon

Members Absent

Russell Hicks
Tony Lewis
Mike Benton
Monica Loftin
Mandi Tanner

Others in attendance

David Dyer, executive director of Economic Development Authority

The meeting was called to order in the council chambers by Leah Dumas. A prayer was given by Dr. Mike along with everyone standing for the pledge of allegiance.

A motion was made by Skip to approve the agenda as presented, it was seconded by Dr. Mike, all approved.

A motion was made by Linda to approve the April minutes after making one correction, it was seconded by Tom, all approved.

From the handouts Tracey pointed out that as of April 2017, the balance at Hamilton Bank is \$13,992.58 and at Bank of Monticello the balance is \$45,250.03. For the golf tournament there was an income of \$6,706.00 with expenses of \$3,170.87 for a profit of \$3,535.13. It was pointed out that there would be around \$7,000 in hotel/motel tax that will go toward tourism this year. A motion was made by Dr Mike to accept the treasurers report as presented, it was seconded by Skip, all approved.

BUSINESS:

Pam informed everyone that membership is up to 150 entries for an increase of \$15,810.00 to date.

David Dyer and Pam explained that they went to the city and recommended reactivating the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). Mayor Standifer met with the 7 member board, two positions left to be filled. The city's recommendation was to ask the Chamber Board if they would be willing to have Pam oversee the Downtown Development Authority by using the market and promoting what's already here. Pam and David's proposal to the city was that the city match the amount that the county gives to help with salaries, promotion design and research which is \$38,400/year. David pointed out that the heart of our community right now is not something to be proud of. We need to make this community "a destination" for people, to come to. David also pointed out that the DDA has the capability to own property and borrow money. After some discussion, there was a motion made by Towonder to add this to the agenda for a vote at our next meeting it was seconded by Tom and approved.

Pam informed everyone that she was still working with Shane on the Event Ordinance. They have been in touch with other communities to obtain copies of their city and or county ordinances to compare and build on.

Linda informed everyone that she had sent an email out with the corrections and changes made to the bylaws. After some discussion a motion was made by Skip to add back the general membership section, it was seconded by Tom and approved.

Pam pointed out that the city's fiscal year runs from July to June and the county's year runs from January to December. In the proposed Memorandum of Understanding to the City a section will be added for DDA and Pam will present this at their July meeting for them to supplement salaries.

There was discussion about what color to make the 51st Annual Deer Festival shirts. It was agreed to keep the color orange like last year since that color was well received last year.

Pam informed everyone that Katie's 90 day review was attached to her presidents report for all to review. Katie was applauded for a job well done.

Our next meeting will be Thursday June 8, 2017 at 12:30. As there was no other business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Ann McMichael, Secretary