

Minutes
Jasper County Chamber of Commerce
September 21, 2017

Members Present:

Tom Joye	Towonder Dennis
Leah Dumas	Dana Leach
Carol Ann McMichael	Mike Benton
Linda Simmons	Tracey Nelson
Tony Lewis	Skip Davis
Mandi Tanner	Katie Connon
Lathadra Sands	Mike Newton
Pam Mayer	

Members Absent:

Russell Hicks
Monica Loftin
Jeff Greeson

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

A motion was made by Linda to accept the agenda, it was seconded by Tom, all approved.

A motion was made by Tracey to accept the August minutes, it was seconded by Linda, all approved.

Treasurer Report:

Bank of Monticello - \$ 35,224.50
Hamilton Bank-----\$13,784.43
Cash-----\$ 49,008.93

Pam informed everyone that Rachael Torrence owes the Chamber \$500.00 but she would like to be put on our agenda for next month to discuss this with the board.

On the Credit Card statement, there were \$659.00 charged for the month.

A motion was made by Linda to accept the Treasurer Report, it was seconded by Dana, all approved.

Membership:

To date, we have 169 entries for a total of \$17,912.00, it is time to update our membership application, Pam asked that the board please read and make any suggested changes at our next board meeting in October.

Event Ordinance:

The process has begun, it will go before Planning and Zoning first and then the County Commissioners before approved.

Policy:

No changes at this time.

Downtown Development Authority:

DTDA met three times, they received a grant where they were able to award 5 people with \$200.00, Trisha Armistead, CPA, and Scott Smith with Big Chic spent \$500.00 which was matched through this grant.

Two restaurants are pursuing us. Beas and Fleas, and Rusted Roots Salon/boutique are two new businesses coming to the square.

House Bill 53 allows communities like ours to become an opportunity zone area and help with revitalization by receiving \$3,500.00 if businesses in the area employ two new employees.

Leadership/Workforce/Education/Community Development:

The job fair held at Southern Crescent was a huge success, over 100 people were in attendance. Plan to make this an annual event in hopes to pursue growth.

First Friday Breakfast was also a huge success due to the graduation of our Leadership Class and Mr. Paul Chambers with ATT speaking on behalf of the upgrades we will see in cell phone service here in our community.

Tourism: Our visitor center has been very busy lately with the gridlock on Friday and Saturday the market was swamped, there were over 100 visitors that came through. On Saturday alone, we were able to fill all of our local motels. The Vanilla Bean gave out free breakfast offers to all out of State tags. Our community really came together to help out with the storm victims.

SPLOST/2017: The Chamber has been asked to organize and take on the lead role for forming a local committee to promote the importance of voting in this election which will be November 7th. Four people have already asked to serve on the committee. Some projects that SPLOST monies will be used to improve are: Sheriff's Department, Recreation, Paving, New facility for gas and electricity, Water improvements, and more. After some discussion, a motion was made by Skip that the Chamber would not be encouraging people on how to vote but just the importance of voting period, it was seconded by Tom, all approved.

Event Updates:

The Market on the Square has been a success this year but it is winding down. The last one will be 9/30/17 and all the vendors have been invited back for that date.

Deer Festival - currently we have received 62 entries totaling \$4,500. Food categories are full, entertainment is filling up Bubba has agreed to MC and set up the stage again this year. Parade will be at 3pm leaving from the Methodist Church.

No pageant this year. Only the 11th and 12th grade girls will be invited this year to fill out an application to attend a social here at the Chamber where they will be interviewed by out of town judges and write an essay on "Why you want to represent Jasper County". Little Miss Fawn will continue to include 3, 4, and 5 year olds who fill out an application and also write an essay (by guardian) on "Why you want to represent Jasper County". The court for both will be determined that day, Sunday October 22, but the queens will be announced the day of the Deer Festival during the program.

We currently have 10 entries for the Deer Dash. Sponsors are in and will be ordering shirts. We have a new application for the venison cook off.

Pam thanked Katie for all her hard work during the storm. She informed the board that the City had approved for the "Get Ahead House" to use the side street by DFCS for an event. She informed everyone of a concerned phone call she received this week.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Ann McMichael, Secretary