

MONTICELLO JASPER COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
FEBRUARY 8, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Towonder Dennis, Susan Denney, Tom Joye, Tracey Nelson, Mandi Tanner, Russell Hicks, Leah Campbell, Jeff Greeson, Tamala Alexander, Rob Andrews, Robert Cumbie, Rene Watts, Mike Benton, Dr. Mike Newton, Linda Simmons and Pam Mayer

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lathadra Sands

The meeting was called to order in the upstairs meeting room by Russell Hicks. A prayer was given by Dr. Mike Newton, along with everyone standing for the pledge of allegiance. Russell Hicks welcomed all new members and a roll call was taken via introductions.

The Agenda was presented to the members. A motion was made by Dr. Newton which was seconded by Tom Joye to approve the agenda as presented, all members approved.

Then the December board minutes were presented to the members. It was brought up that the minutes from the closed session had been excluded. A motion was made by Tom Joye which was seconded by Linda Simmons to approve the December minutes with the amendment that the closed session minutes be inserted in the budget section. All members approved.

Next, the treasurer's report was presented by Leah Campbell. Leah stated that the Chamber currently has \$14,704.17 on deposit at Hamilton State Bank and \$37,396.40 on deposit at the Bank of Monticello. Leah then presented the 2018 Proposed Budget which reflects total income of \$103M and total expenses of \$103M. After some discussion, the budget was approved as presented upon motion by Linda Simmons which was seconded by Leah Campbell. All members approved. Finally, with the appointment of new officers at the annual meeting all chamber signature cards would need to be updated to reflect current officers. A motion was made by Jeff Greeson to remove current signers Tony Lewis and Skip Davis and add the following executive committee members (Russell Hicks, Tom Joye, Leah Campbell and Tracey Nelson) as signers. This motion was seconded by Mike Benton which was approved by all members.

BUSINESS

2018 Membership Drive-Pam informed everyone that the membership drive was off to a great start. Since December 15th the Chamber has 102 members to date and has taken in \$12,755. She mentioned that there is a new level of membership called the Champion and outlined the benefits.

Monthly Newsletter-Pam mentioned that the February newsletter went out Feb. 1st and had a 47% read rate. She informed the committee that the newsletter had been sent out to all teachers in the school systems and they were working on getting it setup to where this would be sent to others in the community (bank and hospital employees, etc.).

Pam reminded everyone that our Annual Board Retreat will be on March 21st from 12:00-4:30 at the Beasley Event Center. The facilitator will be Carrie Barnes with Central Georgia EMC.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Tourism Day-Pam informed the board that she and Katie attended Tourism Day at the Capitol. They brought back about 15 cases of the travel guide featuring Jason Aldean on the cover. These will be distributed throughout the community.

County Event Ordinance - There is no new updates to report. The issue has been tabled for now.

EVENT UPDATES-presented by Pam Mayor

Chat with the Chamber- Pam informed everyone that this is a new event added this year. It is a networking lunch that will meet every Tuesday at 11:30 at a different location each week. Next Tuesday the Chat with the Chamber will be at Four Brothers. She invited everyone to attend.

Coffee Call- A coffee call will be hosted by Heartland Chiropractic on February 15th at 7:30.

First Friday Breakfast-This is scheduled for March 2nd at 8:00.

Pam also mentioned that a ribbon cutting would be held today for Peebles Antiques at 4:30.

Golf Tournament-The date has been set for May 2nd with a rain date of May 9th at Hunter Pope Country Club. Pam informed everyone that Tony Lewis has agreed to chair the event. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Jasper County Recreation Department.

Market on the Square-The market will begin on May 5th and will be overseen by Katie Cannon. This year there is no membership requirement and the cost is \$6/week or \$4/week if paid in advance. The city will again give \$1500 to the Chamber to help with the market. Pam proposed that the Chamber perform some maintenance to the lawn to improve the area where the Market and Deer Festival are held. The board gave Pam permission to get some bids for the work and will discuss at the next meeting.

Job Fair-The job fair will again be held at Southern Crescent in early August. A specific date is to be determined.

Deer Festival- At the last meeting that was some discussion about delegating some of the events related to the deer festival to other organizations/groups. The Downtown Development Authority has agreed to take over the Deer Dash while splitting the profit 50/50 with the Chamber. A motion was made by Linda Simmons to transfer the responsibilities of the Deer Dash event over to the Downtown Development Authority with stipulation that the profits will be split 50/50 between the two entities with a maximum cap of \$2000 going to the DDA this year which was seconded by Dr. Mike Newton. All members approved with Towonder Dennis abstaining. Pam also stated that she had reached out to Cissy Benton with the Historical Foundation/Thomas Persons Hall about taking over the Deer Festival Pageant. She is waiting to hear back from them.

Tom Joye presented a request to the board that the Chamber sponsor a dock at the Poker Run again this year. After much discussion, a motion was made by Linda Simmons which was seconded by Mandi Tanner to not provide a sponsorship this year but that the Chamber will actively market and promote the event. All members approved.

The next scheduled meeting is March 21, 2018. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Tracey Nelson
Secretary