**Cochran-Bleckley Chamber of Commerce Meeting**

**In Person at City** **Auditorium**

**Tuesday, October 18, 2020**

**8:00 AM**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Mike Stoy – Chairperson, Dani Dykes – Vice Chairperson, Catherine Mullis Secretary – Treasurer, Rusty Lloyd – Past Chair, Quincy Nobles, Henry Whitfield by phone and staff – Andy Lucas.

**Absent:** Scott Cox, Ann Bennett, Lisa Chastain, Brock Wilcher, Mike Davis, Matt Fordham, Billy Yeomans, Steve Smith

**Recognition of Guests:** Richard Newbern, City of Cochran, James Tidwell, Times Journal Post.

**Welcome and Call to Order-Chair Mike Stoy**

**Approval of Minutes:** Tuesday, September 8, 2020. Motion by Dani Dykes, Second by Quincy Nobles and Board Consent

**Financial Report:** Motion by Cat Mullis, Second by Dani Dykes and Board Consent

CDs: Citizens Bank around $65,000k with rate for a year at 0.55%

Citizens Bank around $82,000k rate is 1.65% due October 4, 2020. Renewed at .51%

Balance Sheet: August 2020

**Membership Update**

**Information:**

Since Monday, May 4th our lobby hours for the public are:

Monday 8-5 Tuesday 8-5 Wednesday 8-12 Thursday 8-5 Friday 8-12

**2020 Chamber Business of the Month:**

***It has been difficult to continue this program with COVID-19 and being limited staff.***

January – McDonald’s February – Paulk Landscaping

March – Dairy Queen April – Davis Propane

May – State Farm June – Food Depot Market Place

July – Bleckley County Hospital August – Heartland EMS

September – At Home Senior Living October – O’Reilly Auto Parts

November – Dixie Lawn & Landscaping December - None

2020 Business of the Year: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Dr. Stoy suggested O’Reilly Auto Part and Dani suggested Dixie Lawn and Landscaping for November.*

**2019 Chamber Business of the Month**:

January – Destiny Fitness February – Dykes Pharmacy

March – Back to the BASICS 101 April – Cochran Bank

May – Larry Sumner June – Cochran Hardware

July – Hon’s Automotive August – Needle n/a Haystack

September – Stevie’s Collision October – ABC Women’s Clinic

November – Scott’s Barbeque December – NONE

**2019 Business of the Year – Dykes Pharmacy**

**Agenda Items:** Motion by Quincy Nobles, Second by Cat Mullis, and Board Consent of the agenda.

Chairman Stoy – general comments

Recognized guest DDA Director, Richard Newbern City of Cochran, Times Journal Post James Tidwell.

Candidate Forum Recap/Discussion – Board received many positive comments.

Chamber Bylaw Review – Moving forward for Staffing Chamber. Dr. Stoy established the executive committee to be the steering committee for setting up a meeting with DDA, IDA and other potential stakeholders for moving forward with Chamber Staffing. Dr. Stoy presented the idea to keep current Chamber Board in place for 2021. He said if someone were unable to commit or would like to step down, please let himself or Andy know as we would move forward to secure a replacement to maintain the 10-member Chamber board. Motion by Dani Dykes, Second by Cat Mullis with Board Consent to keep the Chamber Board officers and current Chamber Board Members in place for 2021 due to COVID-19.

Essential Worker Appreciation Day - Motion by Dani Dykes, Second by Cat Mullis, and Board Consent to move forward with this event using a drive through method and social distancing for attendees to space out.

Trunk or Treat – Request from Police Chief. Motion by Dani Dykes, Second by Rusty Lloyd, and Board Consent to move forward with this event to support drive through with $200 candy purchase and offer left over bags from Biking Bleckley.

Old Copier disposal. Board decided to solicit 501c within the Chamber Membership to see if they would have an interested in a donated copier and if more than one party was interested, use a drawing to determine who receives it.

Digital Sign Project – pending discussion with Zoning Committee, City Council and/or City Attorney. Discussion will continue in the city council work session on 10/13.

Budget 2021- Presented proposed budget. Move it to November 2020 agenda.

Chamber Events in 2020 - **postpone** Country Fest and we have promoted on Facebook and in our newsletter and send an email directly to venders, entertainers, and supporters.

Legislative Breakfast – postponed for 2020 in September’s Chamber Board Meeting. Move to November program of work/budget agenda for November to consider a State of the County/City address from Mayor and New Commissioner in an online version.

Wednesday, October 28, 2020 Mobile Food Pantry – Volunteers needed and would be appreciated. Please be at Cotton Peanut Museum at 8:30 am to help and 9:30 to start picking up supplies.

Fireworks inventory – Purchased for Country Fest 2019. Rusty and Brock suggested at the conclusion of the Bleckley Royal High School Football Schedule for games either the 10/23 (Homecoming against Lamar County) and 11/6 against Washington County. Pending approval with city of Cochran.

Hotel Motel Tax – Chamber approved at the August 11, 2020 meeting. Presented at 9/8 City Council Work Session. On the agenda for 10/13/2020. Richard and Andy if approved will work to get it in State Rep Danny Mathis hands for the 2021 state general session.

Cochran Clean-up Day was held Saturday, September 19, 2020 – City of Cochran, DDA and Chamber sponsored event was from 9 am until noon. About 40 volunteers attended and helped pick up litter. Chamber provided drinks, donuts, and hotdogs/chips for lunch.

Statewide General Election is November 3, 2020. Advance/Early Voting in Cochran-Bleckley begins on October 13.

**Next Chamber Meeting Date:** Tuesday**,** November 10, 2020 at 8 am City Auditorium.

**Adjourn -** Motion by Cat Mullis, Second by Dani Dykes and Board Consent