

**Greater Muskogee Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism
Board of Directors Meeting**

Tuesday, June 16, 2020 3:30 pm
ZOOM Call

Members Present: Greg Eby, TyJuan Walker, Gary Dunlap, Michele Keeling, Joseph Fuller, Stephanie Isaacs, Steve White, Dr. Ronald Ramming, Stacy Burns, J. Tyler Hammons, Tony Pivec, Jon Stogsdill, Alma Pickle, Corey Sisson

Ex-Officio Non-Voting: Angela Wilson, Mike Miller

Not Present: Jason Hughes, Joy Sloan, Tammye Howell, Eric Anderson, Dr. Jarod Mendenhall, Scott Robinson, Marie Synar, Janie Boydston

Staff: Justin O'Neal, Sherry Pilant, Corynne Jewson, Amanda Johnson, Amber Crall

Guests: None

I. Call to order – Greg Eby

- 3:31 pm

II. Approval of Minutes – Greg Eby

- Motion to approve minutes for the May 19, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting was made by Joseph Fuller. Tony Pivec seconded.
The motion carried with the following votes: **AYE** – 13. **NO** – None. **ABSTAIN** – 1(S. Issacs).
The motion carried.

III. Acceptance of May 2020 Chamber Financials – Amber Crall

Amber Crall presented financial reports for May 2020

- Joseph Fuller made a motion to accept the financial report. Alma Pickle seconded.
The motion carried with the following votes: **AYE** – 14. **NO** – None. **ABSTAIN** – None.
The motion carried unanimously.

IV. President's Executive Report – Angela Wilson

- Angela Wilson presented the Executive Report
 - Total Chamber Members: 498
 - Total 2020 Membership Dues collected: \$141,169
 - 2020 Membership Dues Outstanding: \$22,527
 - Total Non-Dues Revenue Collected: \$76,784
 - New Members Since Last Meeting: 1
 - New Member Dues Collected in 2020: \$3,022
 - Outstanding Non-Dues Revenue for 2020: \$19,690
 - Total Tourism Revenue/Reimbursement: \$96,297
- Angela has been working with Marie Synar, and the Muskogee Economic Recovery Task Force, MUSKOGEE FORWARD. The goal of the Task Force is to strategically address how the community moves from disaster response to economic recovery. We are working on a grant program for local businesses through the city of Muskogee Foundation and are waiting for approval from that board.
- Angela has been working with the City Manager Mike Miller on the Tourism Contract.
- The Chamber & Tourism staff are back in the office; however, the doors are still locked. We are taking appointments if people are needing assistance.

V. **Membership Report – Amanda Johnson**

Amanda Johnson presented the following member for approval: Refresco

- Joseph Fuller made a motion to approve the new members as presented. Dr. Ronald Ramming seconded. The motion carried with the following votes: **AYE** – 14. **NO** – None. **ABSTAIN** – None. The motion carried unanimously.

Amanda Johnson recommended the following members be dropped: AFLAC Mark McDaniel, First Baptist Church – Ft. Gibson, Lakota Restaurant Group.

- Jon Stogsdill made a motion to drop members as presented. TyJuan Walker seconded. The motion carried with the following votes: **AYE** – 14. **NO** – None. **ABSTAIN** – None. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. **Program & Committee Reports**

Staff presented Program/Committee reports(Attached).

VII. **Tourism Reports**

Amber Crall presented the Tourism financial report for May 2020.

- Joseph Fuller made a motion to accept the May 2020 Tourism Financial Report. Alma Pickle seconded. The motion carried with the following votes: **AYE** – 14. **NO** – None. **ABSTAIN** – None. The motion carried unanimously.

Justin O’Neal presented the Tourism Director’s Report as follows:

- Bassmaster is in town right now at the Port of Muskogee on the Arkansas River.
- Hotel stays are beginning to rise. Hotel stays were down 68% in April, they are currently down about 25%. Muskogee is higher than the national average for hotel stays.
- Tourism Board Meeting will be tomorrow at 3:30 pm.

VIII. **Other Reports:**

City of Muskogee: Mike Miller reported that he is focused on the City Budget right now. Sales Tax is currently down 9%, and Hotel Tax is down 47% over the last 60 days. In the budget, they are projecting a 40% decrease in Hotel Tax collections. Street projects will begin soon. More than \$10 million will be invested in road projects during the next year. Don’t forget to Vote on June 30th. There are two local items on the ballot; Mayoral runoff and the strong mayor proposition, which if passed would revoke the City Charter. Mike asked that everyone educate themselves on the issues and go out and vote!

Port of Muskogee/Industrial Development: No Report.

IX. **J. Tyler Hammons spoke about Proposition 1(Strong Mayor) which will be on the ballot June 30th.**

J. Tyler Hammons made the following motion: “The Board of Directors of the Chamber does hereby oppose Muskogee Proposition No. 1 and encourages all members to vote NO on June 30· 2020. Joseph Fuller seconded. The motion carried with the following votes: **AYE** – 9. **NO** – None. **ABSTAIN** – 5(M. Keeling, S. Issacs, Dr. R. Ramming, T. Pivec, J. Stogsdill). The motion carried.

Adjourned 4:25 pm.

Minutes approved by:

Angela Wilson
President & CEO
Board Secretary

Greg Eby
Board Chair