

**Chamber of Commerce
Regular Meeting
City Hall
August 11, 2016**

In attendance: Linda Miller (BBVA Compass), Larry Shows (First United Methodist), Daniel White (First Baptist), Kristen White (Hardin County Veteran Services), Lori Burns (Citizen Direct Center), Susie & Ken DuBois (mobile concession), Penny Pearson (RSVP), Cindy & David Reed (Angel Gardens), Kathy von Feldt (Benchmark Plumbing), Regina Bolton (Health Dept.), Lauri Thompson (State Farm), D'Ann White (WhiteHall Crafts)

Lauri Thompson called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

Daniel White led the invocation.

Larry Shows moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Kathy von Feldt. All in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report given by Kathy von Feldt. No financial reports were given in June due to the "Meet and Greet", therefore, the reports reflect both June and July statements. Checking account balance: \$26,927.07. Education first savings and checking accounts were closed and balances were moved to the Checking account. There is one outstanding bill for the television commercials. Ending balance: \$29,289.57. Larry Shows moved to approve the treasurer's report and Linda Miller seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Guest Speaker, Penny Pearson (Volunteer Coordinator for Golden Triangle RSVP) spoke. The organization wants to get more involved in Hardin County. Currently, they only have volunteers at the Hardin Nursing Home. They do need Meals on Wheels volunteers. They are partnering with Rockin A in Beaumont for veterans, military, and first responders by serving free lunches. Volunteers need to be 55 years of age or older.

Visitors, Susie and Ken DuBois, introduced their business. They have a mobile concession trailer from Port Neches that travels to area events. They specialize in Cajun food but can cook anything.

Old Business

Kountze Chamber Sign--- Lauri Thompson reported that County Sign and Awning came and looked at the location where the sign would be placed. She originally thought that the sign could be placed in the flower bed on existing poles in front of her office. However, when County Sign and Awning surveyed the area, they estimated that it would cost \$2000-3000 to place the sign on the existing poles. Lauri Thompson has an electronic sign, below which there is metal that a magnetic sign could be placed. The bid for two 2 foot x 3 foot magnetic signs is \$350, but they will only last about five years since they are made out of vinyl. Linda Miller suggested that we get a bid from Spring Print for comparison. Daniel White so moved, and Larry Shows seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Website--- Lauri Thompson has asked that all members go to the member page at www.kountzechamber.com and review their business information. There is going to be a member login, where businesses can log on and customize their business card, even offering coupons and special offers. All 80 members are now on the website. She is also asking for feedback on what could be changed. Judge McDaniel tested the mobile version of the website and said it is working.

Events---

- Christmas party---(December 8) Kirby Hill House wants to host the event.
- Christmas parade---(December 2) Theme is “Keep Christ in Christmas.” Spring Print is working on a forms page for the website, and hopefully we will be able to put the float registration form on the website. Angel Gardens (Cindy and David Reed) offered to let us have a “Cookies and Cocoa event at their location after the parade, however, they have an event planned for December 2. Lauri Thompson stated she would talk to the other chambers and find out when their parades are, and maybe we could change the date of ours. This was decided by general consensus. Otherwise, we will see about have the “Cookies and Cocoa” event on the empty lot between First Baptist Church and the Music Hall. We will ask the churches to help provide cookies, cocoa, coffee, and caroling. Regina Bolton asked if we have a Parade Marshall. Kathy von Feldt suggested asking Representative James White. D'Ann White asked about judges for the parade floats. Larry Shows suggested that if Representative White is able to be the Parade Marshall, that maybe he could also judge. Kathy von Feldt suggested having three 8 year olds judge the parade.
- Daniel White reminded us that we have another website: www.hardincountyfestival.com to promote events.
- Blueberry Festival---David Reed suggested a Blueberry and Bluegrass Festival, and to have a Blueberry Queen. He offered the use of Angel Gardens for the event, if it is not booked.
- Regina Bolton, from the Health Department gave us health forms for vendors to fill out for events.

IRS--- Kathy von Feldt has completed all the paperwork. Now, she will go to the CPA and he will take over from there. Kathy had to get all the financial records ready to file. She is now working on form 1023. Once the non-profit status is reinstated, we should be ready to file.

New Business

Commercial Waiting List--- We now have four people on the waiting list for commercials. There were some questions as to why all the churches represented in the commercials were white churches, and not any of the black churches were included. Lauri Thompson explained that the churches in the commercials were already Chamber members and extended an invitation to all churches to join the Chamber and be placed on the waiting list. The following members are on the waiting list for the commercials:

- Church of Christ
- Mt Corinth Baptist Church
- Music Hall
- Kountze Nursing Center

September meeting--- Senator Robert Nichols would like to speak to the Chamber. It was decided by general consensus to change the September meeting to 12 p.m. on September 8 at Mama Jacks.

Daniel White moved to adjourn. Kathy von Feldt seconded. All in favor, meeting adjourned.