

**Kountze Chamber of Commerce  
City Hall  
August 10, 2017**

**In attendance:** Linda Miller (BBVA Compass), Kathleen von Feldt (Benchmark Plumbing), Denise Duke (Lifeshare), David Reed (Angel Gardens), John Ferguson (Kountze ISD), D'Ann White (WhiteHall Crafts), Lauri Thompson (State Farm), 3 guests from the Alabama-Coushatta tribe

Lauri Thompson called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Kathy von Feldt gave the invocation.

Lauri Thompson led the pledge.

Mr. John Ferguson gave a presentation on the Tax Swap (Tax Ratification Election) for the Kountze ISD, which entails moving pennies on the debt service tax (I & S) rate to the maintenance and operation tax (M & O) rate. This will leave the overall total tax rate the same, but will increase state funding.

Lauri Thompson welcomed the guests from the Alabama-Coushatta tribe. They gave a presentation on the tribe's Naskila Gaming, located between Woodville and Livingston.

Approval of the minutes---Kathy von Feldt moved to approve the minutes, and Linda Miller seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's report was given by Kathy von Feldt. Current balance is \$20,613.82. Linda Miller moved to approve. David Reed seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

#### Old Business

Commercials---The TV station has a waiting list that are confirmed: Reid's Mini Storage, Angel Gardens, Dale Williford, Wymer Wrecking, and Etheridge Farms. Other businesses that are still thinking: Hardin County Motors, Wildwood, Plumbing Services. Tracy Davis had to take a leave of absence as her son was in a bad accident, which has delayed filming.

Email Poll Results---Regarding the poll for the best meeting time and day, D'Ann White reported that the majority of the people stated evenings would be better for them, and that Tuesday would be the best day. Noon meetings were the second choice. Lauri Thompson stated that she cannot add another evening meeting to her schedule. It was decided by general consensus to move to quarterly meetings. The first quarter meeting will plan for the banquet. The second quarter meeting will plan the Blueberry Festival. The third quarter meeting will be a mixer. The fourth quarter meeting will plan the Christmas parade. It was decided that any other business that might come up between the meeting could be handled by email.

#### New Business

Many of the Chamber officers are overloaded and changes need to be made. Kathy von Feldt proposed that we hire a part time Chamber secretary that can work 20/hrs per week at \$7.50 per hour for a total of \$7800 annually. D'Ann White moved to pursue hiring someone for 20 hours/ week. David Reed seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Next meeting was decided by general consensus for Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at noon, and we would try to have the meeting at the library.

Board Member---David Reed has been appointed by Lauri Thompson to replace Larry Shows.

By general consensus, we decided to not sponsor a Community Cleanup and to allow another organization to sponsor this event.

Meeting adjourned at 3:46 p.m.