



**Hawkinsville-Pulaski Chamber of Commerce  
Board Meeting Minutes  
January 13, 2023**

**Present:** Sylandi Brown, Tonya Boyd, Bobbie Clemmons, Mark Caruso, Donna Long, Tiffany Jolly, Tyler Bryant, Jessica Davies, Kristin Slayton, Daniel Mullis, Cami Neisler, and Robert Herman

**Absent:** Michael Dupree

**I. Call to Order**

Robert Herman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone at 9:19 am. Mark Caruso said a prayer. The board then introduced themselves.

**II. Tyler's Presentation**

Tyler presented a PowerPoint slideshow titled "Your Role in the Success of Your Chamber" with the assistance of Robert Herman, showcasing what they learned on their board retreat last year.

**III. By Laws**

Tyler Bryant opened the floor to review and alter the Chamber's by laws. Tonya Boyd made a motion to table the by laws to be reviewed in the February meeting so that everyone has an opportunity to read them in detail. Bobbie Clemmons seconded this motion. There was no other discussion and none opposed.

**IV. Minutes**

November 2022 minutes were presented by Tyler and reviewed. Mark Caruso made a motion to accept the November 2022 minutes, Kristin Slayton seconded the motion. There was no other discussion and none opposed.

**V. Financials**

Tyler presented the 2022 calendar year financials including the profit and loss statement. It was noted that we had a change in leadership with increase in pay and a loss on Ocmulgee Riverfest that put our profit into the negative range. Bobbie Clemmons made a motion to accept the 2022 financials, Mark Caruso seconded the motion. There was no other discussion and none opposed.

**VI. New Membership Fee Proposal**

Tyler proposed a new membership investment fee schedule for the Chamber. It was noted that banks will be listed under premium partner investment fees. Tyler briefed the board on how this method is fair to all businesses in comparison to the current method. This proposal included charging a \$10 fee for Business After Hour tickets. Tyler proposed that to prevent push back for this fee he will be providing a guest speaker and/or entertainment for these events. Cami Neisler made a motion to accept the new membership fees, Daniel Mullis seconded the motion.

**VII. Tyler's Approach to New Membership Fees**

Tyler will be sending out a letter to each member about the increase in membership fees stating that the members can contact him directly if they have any questions about the fee increase.

**VIII. Updates to Chamber Website**

Tyler briefed the board on the updates to the chamber's website including a new tool that allows our members to post job openings, pay/renew their membership and sign up for events via the website.

**IX. 2023 Chamber Budget**

The 2023 budget was presented by Tyler Bryant. Daniel Mullis made a motion to approve the budget, Mark Caruso seconded the motion. Tyler Bryant made a counterproposal regarding BAH tickets. Each member will receive one complimentary ticket to each BAH and additional tickets and non-members will be \$10 each. Mark Caruso then made a motion to accept the chamber budget with the revision of BAH tickets. Sylandi Brown seconded this motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed with no opposition.

**X. Break/Lunch**

At 11 AM the board took a break to take headshot photos. At 11:20AM, the board reconvened with a team building exercise led by Robert Herman. At 12:06 PM a break was taken for lunch. At 12:38 PM the board retreat resumed with the calendar year dates.

**XI. 2023 Yearly Event Calendar**

**a. January:**

- Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup>: Annual Chamber Board Retreat
- January 28<sup>th</sup>- February 14<sup>th</sup>: Fall in Love with Hawkinsville Campaign (partnered with DDA, showcases local business on social media)

**b. February:**

- January 28<sup>th</sup>-February 14<sup>th</sup>: Fall in Love with Hawkinsville Campaign
- Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>: Chamber Board Meeting 8:15AM
- Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>: News & Brews at Yummy Frozen Yogurt 7:45AM

**c. March**

- Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>: Chamber Board Meeting 8:15AM
- Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>: News & Brews, 7:45AM
- March 10-11: Peaches to Beaches, 8AM-6PM (We currently have 13 non food vendors and 6 food vendors)
  - **Volunteers:** Friday- Tiffany, Saturday: Bobbie Tyler will send out an email closer to the event date with time slots for volunteers.
- Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>: Street Eats 4-9PM
- Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>: Business After Hours 5:30PM

**d. April**

- Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>: News & Brews 7:45AM
- Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>: Motorcycle Poker Run 10AM-3PM; This was proposed by Tyler Bryant and approved by everyone as long as the proceeds benefit a charity of some sort. It was noted by Cami Neisler that April is Autism Awareness Month, but charity wasn't decided at this time. Daniel Mullis proposed partnering with another local chamber to put this event on.
- Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>: Chamber Board Meeting 8:15AM
- Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>: Street Eats 4-9PM

**e. May**

- Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>: News & Brews 7:45AM
- Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup>: Chamber Board Meeting 8:15AM
- Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>: Business After Hours 5:30PM
- May 15-16: Historic Preservation Month School Tours
- Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>: Business Community Dinner, 5:30PM (Cater dinner at a long table on street after hours, open to all businesses and for fellowship. Ticket prices will be determined at a later date.)
- Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>: Historic Preservation Month Public Tours

**f. June**

- June 1-30: Spend the summer in Hawkinsville campaign (partnered with DDA.)
- Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>: Chamber Board Meeting 8:15AM
- Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>: Joint Business After Hours with Cochran-Bleckley Chamber, 5:30PM
- Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>: Street Eats 4-9PM

**g. July**

- Friday, July 7<sup>th</sup>: Chamber Board Meeting 8:15AM
- July 17-21: Restaurant Week
- Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>: Back to School Bash 4-6PM

**h. August**

- Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup>: Chamber Board Meeting 8:15AM
- Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>: Joint Business After Hours with Perry Chamber (Southern Hills Golf Club) 5:30PM
- Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup>: Street Eats 4-9PM

**i. September**

- Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup>: Chamber Board Meeting 8:15AM
- Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>: News & Brews 7:45AM
- Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup>: Lunch & Learn 12-2PM
- Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>: Street Eats 4-9PM
- Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>: Business After Hours (Planters First Bank) 5:30PM
- September 27-30: Murder Mystery Fundraiser at Hawkinsville Opera House, 7PM

**j. October**

- Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>: News & Brews 7:45AM
- Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>: Chamber Board Meeting 8:15AM

**k. November**

- Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>: Chamber Board Meeting 8:15AM
- Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>: Ocmulgee RiverFest 12-7PM (Backup date is Nov 18<sup>th</sup>, New proposed time is 12-7PM. It was agreed upon that there will be a people's choice award for food competition. It was brought up that t-shirts are not popular at Riverfest. It was decided that things regarding Riverfest will be voted on at a later date.)
- Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>: Veterans Day Event 6PM
- Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>: Pulaski's Premier (The Steak House) 6PM (This is the annual dinner's new name.)
- Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>: Ocmulgee Riverfest rain date
- Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>: Decorate Hawkinsville Holiday Contest Due Date
- Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup>: Small Business Saturday

**I. December**

- Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>: Parade @ 6:30 PM, Tree Lighting @ 7:30 PM, Community Choir @ 7:30PM

Tyler proposed that all events relating to Christmas be done on the same day, this was approved.

**Holiday Marketplace:** It was decided that since Mary Wells does a holiday marketplace on the same date, that the chamber will give their holiday market place over to DDA's authority and no longer assist. Mary is also a chamber member and we do not want to compete against her. Our market place also blocks the parking lot for our chamber member Treasures on Lumpkin.

**Christmas Tree:** Tyler proposes purchasing a new Christmas tree and letting Little Children Growing decorate the tree. Tiffany Jolly mentioned asking Play Day Pals to help with decorating. These were approved.

**Parade time:** It was decided to move the parade's time to the evening due to the community's feedback from last year.

Daniel Mullis made a motion to approve the 2023 calendar. Kristin Slayton seconded.

**XII. Adjourn: 3:31PM**

Mark Caruso made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Daniel Mullis seconded the motion.