



**Hawkinsville-Pulaski Chamber of Commerce
Board Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2023**

Present: Tyler Bryant, Jessica Davies, Maisie Pilkinton, Bobbie Clemons, Cami Jones, Michael Dupree, Tiffany Jolly, Daniel Mullis, Sylandi Brown

Absent: Robert Herman, Mark Caruso, Kristin Slayton, Donna Clark

I. Call to Order

Sylandi Brown called the meeting to order at 8:17am.

II. Presentation by Middle Georgia Military Affairs

Scott Cox with Middle Georgia Military Affairs presented to the board how the Middle Georgia Military Affairs organization serves families stationed in Warner Robins and how to send care packages to the deployed military members as well as letters, cards, and artwork, and/or make donations.

III. Minutes

Tyler Bryant presented the August 31, 2023 minutes. They were reviewed by the board. Michael Dupree made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, Bobbie Clemons seconded. Passed unanimously.

IV. Financials

Tyler Bryant presented the September 2023 financials to the board for review. The financials were reviewed and discussed. Cami Jones made a motion to accept the financials as presented, Maisie Pilkinton seconded. Passed unanimously.

V. Chamber Report

The chamber has 183 members. Tyler Bryant gave a brief overview to the board of the events hosted by the chamber in the month of September. Business After

Hours at Planter's First Bank was successful with over 50 people in attendance. Street Eats had a good turnout. The Pulaski Restaurant Week has been cancelled due to a lack of participation.

VI. Chamber Report: Upcoming Events

- a. Columbus Day – Chamber Office Closed, October 9
- b. 80th Celebration - Harris Kuntry Meats & Grocery, October 14, 10am
- c. Movie Night – Broad Street Baptist Church, October 14, 6:30pm

VII. Annual Meeting Discussion

The board began to discuss the 2023 Annual Meeting details. Since the Annual Meeting is the following month (November), the board has decided not to change the event space and continue to allow The Steak House to host the meeting. At the Board Retreat, further discussion will take place as the board wishes to update the plans for the 2024 Annual Meeting to include more of the chamber's members.

VIII. Amendment to Employee Contract

Michael Dupree made a motion to change the language in the Employee Contract to state the *Executive Committee* would be responsible for the annual evaluation of the President & CEO instead of the of *Chamber* (as it was too vague), Cami Jones seconded. Passed unanimously.

IX. Directors & Officers Insurance

Tyler Bryant purchased Directors & Officers Insurance for \$800 per year. The insurance is to cover any board member and/or their spouse in the event legal action is taken against them for slanderous or insulting behavior while serving as a board member.

X. Board Nominations

Michelle Dowdy from Bow Ty's & Buttons and Jose Luis Lopez-Cruz from La Cabana have been nominated to serve on the board (2026 term). Cami Jones made a motion to approve the nomination for Michelle Dowdy, Maisie Pilkinton seconded. Passed unanimously. Bobbie Clemons made a motion to approve the nomination for Jose Luis Lopez-Cruz, Daniel Mullis seconded. Passed unanimously. Bobbie Clemons moved to nominate and approve Daniel Mullis as 2024 Vice Chair, Cami Jones seconded. Passed unanimously. Bobbie Clemons made a motion to approve Jessica Davies as the 2024 Secretary/Treasurer, Michael Dupree seconded. Passed unanimously.

XI. Ocmulgee RiverFest: November 4, 12-7pm

Sponsorships are still needed for Ocmulgee RiverFest. Daniel Mullis made a motion to approve the first-place prize of the Duck Race as a \$500 gift card to Harris Kuntry Meats & Grocery with the second-place prize being \$250 for Shop Local and third-place prizes as \$150 dollar to Eat Local (Chamber members only), Michael Dupree seconded. Passed unanimously.

XII. Approval to Close Chamber Office

Michael Dupree made a motion to approve the request made by Tyler Bryant to close the Chamber office from December 18, 2023 to January 2, 2024, Cami Jones seconded. Passed unanimously.

XIII. Adjourn

Cami Jones made a motion to adjourn, Bobbie Clemons seconded. Passed unanimously.