

# Leon Chamber of Commerce

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Meeting Minutes – December 2015

## **Call to Order:**

Shane Akers called the regular meeting of the Leon Chamber of Commerce to order at 7:03 a.m. on Thursday, December 3, 2015 in the Decatur County Hospital Conference Room.

## **Roll Call:**

Maggie Lindsey, Heidi Bell, Laura and Monte Beemer, Marcia McAlpin, Rudy Evertsen, Kevin Frost, Ethan Pitt, Shannon Erb, Sue Kelly, Jo Beth Smith, Greg Crocker, Joe and Marcia Stephens, Jack Depond, Shane Akers, and Kolton Hewlett.

## **Secretary's Report:**

Kolton Hewlett distributed minutes from the November meeting. Heidi Bell made a motion, Sue Kelly seconded, to approve the secretary's report. M/C

## **Treasurer's Report:**

Marcia McAlpin distributed the treasurer's report. Ending bank balance for November was \$4,484.22. There was \$2,850.10 in the banner account, \$30,558.41 in the LCDC account, and \$26,575.25 in the USDA account. Kolton Hewlett made a motion, Sue Kelly seconded, to approve the treasurer's report. M/C

## **Old Business:**

Election of Officers: The nomination of officers was presented by Ethan Pitt as follows:

Shane Akers – President  
Shannon Erb – Vice President  
Kolton Hewlett – Secretary/Treasurer

Jo Beth Smith made a motion, Sue Kelly seconded, to approve the nomination of officers for 2016. M/C

Kolton Hewlett made a motion, Heidi Bell seconded, to elect Chris Coffelt to fill the vacant board member position. M/C

Committee Sign-Up: Kolton updated that they are still needing committee members for Banner Committee, Decatur County Fair, and Fourth of July. Shannon Erb volunteered to Chair the banner committee and Marcia Stephens the county fair.

Christmas Lights: Maggie will send a thank you to James Cornell for hanging lights again this year, and Marcia M will get a \$50 Chamber Bucks to Maggie to send with it.

Leon Noel: Maggie Lindsey gave an update on Leon Noel. It will be Saturday, December 5 from 10 to 1. Same format as last year. Movie at SCIT Theatre afterwards. Marcia M reported that around 15 groups have signed up for a Christmas tree but some usually just show up. There are only 3 window contest entries.

## **New Business:**

Athletic Complex Brick: Kolton Hewlett made a motion, Sue Kelly seconded, to purchase a \$100 brick in Leon Chamber's name for the new CD football athletic complex. M/C

Chamber Group Insurance: Shane shared that he was approached by someone that was interested in a group insurance policy through Chamber. Other chambers are doing it as well. Shane will continue to look into the idea.

501(c)3 Status: Shane reported that we received confirmation that we are approved for 501(c)3 non-profit status effective immediately.

Budget: Kolton passed around a proposed budget for 2016 with last year's budgeted amount and what was actually spent.

Sue Kelly made a motion, Jo Beth Smith seconded, to move the development money from the general chamber account to the LCDC account. M/C

Heidi Bell made a motion, Jo Beth Smith seconded, to approve the proposed budget. M/C

Membership Dues: Kolton passed out a proposal for an increase in membership dues. Each year, Chamber is continuing to spend more than we are bringing in and our carryover amount continues to decrease. This increase would be a way to avoid constant fundraisers and also continue to pay for the many events that Chamber sponsors throughout the year.

Jo Beth Smith made a motion, Sue Kelly seconded, to approve the proposed increase in membership dues. M/C

**Committee Reports:**

City of Leon: Greg Crocker reported that he is still working on the capital improvement plan for the streets. He has been in contact with a gentleman within the county that would be interested in helping tear down some dilapidated housing.

DCDC: Ethan Pitt shared that he is working on a business incentive kit for all communities in the county, including both local and state incentives. He passed out a rough draft for review. He can use this to recruit businesses as well as retain current businesses that are wanting to expand. Ethan also shared that he has completely updated the DCDC website. It now has updated information, as well as available land for sales, job opportunities, etc. Ethan shared that as of the most recent workforce statistics, Decatur County is at 2.5% unemployment and the state average is 3.5%. This is because the definition of unemployment is people actively seeking employment. Ethan and Rudy Evertsen are going to a meeting this afternoon at SWCC to gather information on ways to create partnerships between students and businesses. Ethan has also been working with a local that is wanting to purchase the old bed and breakfast building and re-open it. The individual has also applied for a revolving loan fund through both Chamber and DCDC.

**Suggestions for the Good of the Group:**

There was discussion about utilizing search engine optimization tools and google, bing, yelp, etc. Shannon will compile some information and instructions and send it out to the group.

**Adjournment:**

Jo Beth Smith made a motion, Sue Kelly seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 a.m. M/C



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**Kolton Hewlett, Secretary**