

**SMITHVILLE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
AUGUST 9<sup>TH</sup> 2006  
MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting was called to order at 11:50 by President Becky Sellers.

Recognition of Co-Sponsors: Healthy Families Counseling & Support and Time Werner Cable.

Motion was made by Earl Soetart and seconded by Don Hanks to accept the Treasurer's Report and Minutes of last meeting as presented.

Program was presented by Healthy Families with special speaker Ken Howard of the National Center For Fathering. Mr. Howard presented some of the issues surrounding fathers today and the effectiveness of being a good father. Also an Invitation was given to attend the seminar "Seven Secrets of Effective Fathers" at the Pleasant Valley Baptist Church on November 10, and 11<sup>th</sup>.

City Administrator Gerry Vernon gave the City Report mentioning that the occupational licensing structure was still being considered with several different options. The street excise fee is the other subject that would have the largest impact on the business community. These and other topics will be discussed at the monthly City Council meeting.

The School Report was presented by Dr. Rob Leachman. Summer is almost over! School will commence August 17<sup>th</sup>. 2200 students are anticipated in this year's enrollment, showing an increase of approximately 120-130 students over last year. State and Federal funding is one of the largest obstacles the school has to overcome. There is a possibility of a bond proposal on the April ballot; this would not cause a tax increase.

Fire Chief Mark Ferguson expressed the Smithville Area Fire Protection District is having tough times because of budget cuts. Sales Tax has tax the largest decrease in funding along with the high cost of fuel. The staff is working hard on the 2007 budget and updating the Fire Code. Upcoming events are the Muscular Dystrophy Drive and visiting schools during "Drug and Fire Prevention Week".

Suzanne Bernritter was unable to attend, so Susan Cintron gave both Chamber University and the Executive Director's Report. There are some changes coming up this year making Chamber University a little easier on the businesses. Students will be shadowing their mentors, and will attend the Chamber monthly meeting with them. Susan informed us in her Executive Director's report that we are up to 225 current members. We have a new tenant in the Chamber building. We welcome Starla Henderson of Keller Williams Realty. Also the Chamber Board has purchased furniture for the board room of the Chamber office. Any member is welcome to use the board room for clients if they would like. Let Susan know in advance to plan your time needed.

Octoberfest Report was given by Cheryl Taylor. The pace is beginning to pick up. We are still urging support from sponsors, and volunteers are badly needed. A sign up sheet was passed to all were encouraged to give a little time for the Chamber event.

The Hospitality Report was very positive with Kelly Busch mentioning that she still has not had to mail out any packets. Kelly is finding that week-ends and evenings are a good time to find people willing to visit with her.

There was no old or new business to discuss at this time.  
Drawings were done, and meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Submitted by: Cheryl Taylor