



Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce
Membership Meeting
August 8, 2007

CALL TO ORDER: The Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce's monthly membership meeting was held at the Good Shepherd Catholic Church with approximately 62 members present. Steve Wolcott called the meeting to order at 11:57am. Reverend Bob Hovorka gave the invocation. Steve Wolcott led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES AND TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Minutes: Motion by Ruth Holmes, 2nd by Jack Woods, motion passed.
- Treasurer's Report: Motion by Jack Woods, 2nd by Sharon Jones, motion passed.

Program: Sen. Ridgeway & Rep. Ervin – Sponsored by Show Me Institute

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

City Report: Gerry Vernon reported.

- Board of Alderman Meeting last night
 - Overflow parking for lot located East of Heritage Park was closed this year and they are looking at additional parking issues
 - Mass communication issue
- New Topic – Reimplementation of Property Tax without a vote issue
 - 1989-90 the property tax was removed with the sales tax passing
 - Goal is to revisit this yearly, complimenting with goals of the city
 - Public Hearing on August 21st for your input
 - Motion is currently set at zero but will be addressed for yearly re-visitation

School Report: Robert Leachman reported.

- School begins 1 week from tomorrow, just under 2300 students (up 100 from last yr)
- 8.5 new positions added
- Welcome back George Curry
- 2007 tax rate is estimated to decrease by 10 cents, 2nd lowest tax levy rate in Northland
- Construction of Phase 4 – Morton Buildings awarded lowest bid
- Having a hard time getting the 15% bond issue increased to 20% for district growth needs

Octoberfest: Cheryl Taylor reported.

- The Good, Bad, and Ugly Speech
 - Enthusiastic meeting with lots of participation
 - Volunteer sheets are on the tables, please sign up
 - Having a budget shortfall
 - See budget summary on tables, cost to run the event every year is approximately \$35,000 and we have so far pledged \$11,400. We do not want to spend the money we have in reserve and be left with zero in the pot if the weather doesn't cooperate.
 - Estimating about \$6000 more in pledges to feel comfortable going forward
 - Final decision on weather we have the event or not will take place in 2 weeks at the next Board Meeting

Executive Director: Susan Cintron reported.

- Money notes - Susan notes that the money in the bank is what is to get the Chamber through the entire year on expenses, \$7000 is what the last year's Octoberfest fundraiser added to this year's budget
- 222 members
- Newest members
 - Absolute Dignity
 - Healthy Attitudes
- Office at Chamber is for rent - \$275/mo
- Additional directory additions mailed out – as of March we had 12 new members
- After hours at Citizen's Bank & Trust – August 23rd from 5-7 pm

Chamber University: Suzanne Bernritter reported.

- 4th year for program, first meeting in a couple of weeks, 6 students per quarter will participate in picking a business to visit, 22 businesses participated last year
- The 2007-2008 Chamber U dates
 - October 10th
 - December 12th
 - February 13th
 - April 9th

Hospitality Hostess: Kelly Busch reported

- Just finished up with 30 new visits
 - Few of those were not new, moved within Smithville
 - List is always 1 month behind, estimating approximately the same number next month

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- None

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:12 P.M.