



**Smithville Chamber of Commerce  
Membership Meeting Minutes  
September 13, 2023  
Smithville American Legion Post 58  
Sponsored by Southern Bank**

Meeting called to order by Erika Winston at 12:01pm.

The invocation given by Pastor Rob Ernest was followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Member Introductions**

Chamber members introduced themselves and the business or organization they represent. All guests in attendance were also introduced and welcomed.

**Program – Carol Noecker, Real World Learning Facilitator**

Jeanne Saylor and Corey Dudley from Southern Bank thanked everyone and shared a little about Southern Bank before they introduced Carol Noecker from the Smithville School District. Carol had Dr. Mark Maus share a little about the start of the Real World Learning program and what their mission is. Carol shared a video from the Kauffman Foundation to introduce membership to Real World Learning. She spoke about the Career Fair that is coming up and how our members could be involved. She spoke about the many things that they have been doing to help the students prepare for the workforce and college. About 50% of Smithville students graduate with college credits already earned. She spoke about internships, client connected projects, and business members coming in to speak about their profession. She mentioned that the Green Tie Affair would be in March instead of December like in the past. Carol will be reaching out to members to help with mock interviews for students. She thanked our members for always being so willing to help anytime that she has asked for help.

**REPORTS:**

**Executive Director Report – Erika Winston**

- New members are The Ferrell Agency – Farmers Insurance and Nothing Bundt Cakes Northland.
- On August 21st from 5pm to 7pm at Courtyard Park there is an After Hours sponsored by Smithville Parks & Rec and Dream Properties Real Estate. This will also be the kickoff for our annual Smithville Community Awards Banquet on February 29th, 2024, at White Iron Ridge.
- October 4<sup>th</sup> will be the next Rise and Shine. There is no sponsor currently, so keep an eye out for updates.
- T-Mobile is having a Ribbon Cutting on Saturday October 7th at 11:30 am.
- Erika spoke about the upcoming BBQ Bash, Junkville, Whiskey Trail and ways that we could use some volunteers.
- We have a few months left for 2024 luncheon sponsorships.
- She announced that the Chamber now has a TV for members to use in the conference room for presentations in small meetings.
- The Member of the Month is Beshears Tree and Lawn. She congratulated them on their 40-year anniversary.
- Reminder to register for the luncheon and be present to get on the wheel and win a chance at being the member of the month.
- October Member of the Month will be Wild Bloom Art Company.

### **City of Smithville Report – Gina Pate**

- Gina spoke about the upcoming projects around town that include storm water improvements and phase 3 of the streetscape project.
- She mentioned that the Board of Alderman approved the Public Safety ballot language for the upcoming election on November 7<sup>th</sup>. The funds from this sales tax increase would go towards 2 new police officers, an animal control program, and equipment replacement needs.

### **Smithville Public Schools Report – Mark Maus**

- Dr. Maus thanked Carol for sharing information about the Real World Learning program.
- He mentioned that if you want to get involved getting connected with Carol is a great way to get started.
- He then thanked members for saying yes so many times and mentioned that they can tell Carol no, but she is very persistent.
- He gave an update on the school districts bond projects. The transportation facility is the project that we will continue to see most of being worked on. The HVAC units have been replaced and the sidewalks have been completed and both were under budget.
- Fall activities are in full swing.
- October 6<sup>th</sup> is the Homecoming Parade, and they will have an early release day.
- He thanked the Smithville CIA for the 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter events and everyone who volunteers and is involved in those events.
- They had their first Green Gala and raised a tremendous amount of money. That money goes directly back to teachers and scholarships.

### **Old Business:**

There is none currently.

### **New Business:**

There is none currently.

### **Special Drawings:**

No drawings.

### **Special Announcements**

Special announcements were made by Chamber members advertising future events and activities in the Smithville community.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:49pm.