

**SYLVESTER-WORTH COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
January 13, 2020 1:00 PM
SYLVESTER-WORTH COUNTY CHAMBER/EDA**

The following committee members were in attendance: Becky Geer – Chair, Gina Connell, Sherry Curry, Earnest Carter, Fred Dent, Lauren Grimsley, Jean Brooks, Shelly McPhaul, Mitch Willis, Christie Foerster, and Karen Rackley.

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Geer. Prayer led by Jean Brooks. Pledge led by Beck Geer.

INTRODUCTION – This was the first meeting of 2020 for the Government Committee. Committee members introduced themselves and welcomed the new members to the committee.

AGENDA – Gina Connell made a motion to accept the agenda as submitted. Shelly McPhaul seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES – Jean Brooks made a motion to accept the minutes with discussion on the change in several political offices. It was pointed out that the March election year should be 2019 instead of March 2020. Shelly McPhaul seconded the motion to accept the minutes with discussion and changes. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Voter Signs – Voter signs have been distributed. It was reiterated to committee members that candidate voter signs should not be displayed alongside chamber vote signs so as not to appear that the chamber is endorsing any candidate. Mr. Fred Dent gave a brief overview of what voters can expect when using the new voter machines and how the data is stored.

NEW BUSINESS:

Legislative Directory – Review and update 2020 Legislative Directory -The committee reviewed the revised directory for changes. The directory is updated at each government committee meeting.

February 4, 2020 – There is a special election Senate race on February 4th for Greg Kirk’s vacated seat. The following candidates are on the upcoming ballot, Jim Quinn – Lee County, Carden Sumner – Cordele, and Mary Egler – Lee County.

March 24, 2020 – Ward 3 and City of Sylvester and Mayor Election - Fred Dent reported that qualifying for all constitutional offices is March 2, 2020 and the Presidential Primary is March 24th. The election will be held on April 2nd.

Government Tour - April - Cities Week - The WCMS government tour will be held again during cities week this year. The dates for cities week and the government tour will be finalized at the April government committee meeting. The agenda will be sent to the committee to check their availability to join the tour.

Set Date - Meet and Greet Worth County Leadership - The committee is planning to have a meet and greet to meet the new Worth County Leadership in the summer and have Eggs and Issues after the November election. The committee tabled both discussions for both events until the April meeting to have time to bring back ideas for each event.

Board Retreat Ideas - When deciding on choosing ideas from the board retreat, the committee will keep focused on the vision of the Chamber and government committee as it relates to supporting businesses.

- Voter Awareness
- Keep voter awareness and vote signs
- Educate on legislative issues (Eggs & Issues and Meet and Greets)
- WCMS Government Tour
- Support what Leadership Worth will develop
- Census Education
- City, County, & School Board Meetings (Encourage committee member attendance and give report)
- Combined Government Meetings
- Government Tour for WCHS students (Leadership Youth Group)
- Scholarship for Leadership Worth (Leadership Worth and Government Committee Coordinate on an effort to help fund for participant who can't afford the \$250 fee)
- Advocate for PAGES at the capitol
- Advocate for explanations on state constitutional amendments (Join Kiwanis)
- Advocate for local non partisan elections
- advocated for the EDGE program to streamline business applications (add to membership committee list)

ADJOURN – With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting:

The Government Committee will have a special called meeting on February 10, 2020 to discuss plans for the meet and greet.

Minutes submitted by:

Jaki S. Johnson