

**SYLVESTER-WORTH COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES  
October 14, 2019 @ 1:00 PM  
SYLVESTER-WORTH COUNTY CHAMBER/EDA**

The following committee members were in attendance – Becky Geer – Chair, Christie Foerster, Fred Dent, Bill Settle, Shelly McPhaul, Jean Brooks, and Staff – Karen Rackley

**CALL TO ORDER** – Becky Geer presiding. Prayer led by Fred Dent. Pledge led by Becky Geer.

**AGENDA** – No motion made to approve agenda at this meeting.

**MINUTES** – Shelly McPhaul made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted. Christie Foerster seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**November Election** – Early Voting began today on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Regular Election will be held on November 5<sup>th</sup> for Special Election to fill the State House 152 Seat.

**Vote Signs** – Vote signs will be posted by October 1<sup>st</sup> in front of current Chamber location and the old Chamber Annex, Schools, and Yards. Bill Yearata signs can not be placed near vote signs.

**Eggs and Issues** – Eggs and Issues event has been rescheduled for 2020. Due to Senator Kirk and Ed Rynder’s illness, Karen Rackley suggested inviting both men to lunch in the future. The committee agreed this was a good idea.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Updated Legislative Directory** – The committee reviewed the revised directory for changes. Several revisions were made to the city of Warwick and Town of Sumner. Bill Settle confirmed that information for Board of Education was correct. Fred Dent confirmed information for County Board for Commission. Karen Rackley gave the names of replacements on EDA Board. Corrections to the Legislative spreadsheet will be made by Chamber staff.

**Special Election -March 24, 2020 – City of Sylvester – Mayor’s Race** – The date is not set for the Mayor’s race. Generally, if there is a special election, it will be held during the general election on March 24, 2019.

**2020 Political Meet and Greet** – The date for the Political Meet and Greet will be determined depending on who runs for office.

**Upcoming 2020 Voter Dates:**

February 4, 2020 -Applications for Absentee Ballots to be Mailed  
February 24, 2020 – Voter Registration Deadline for Upcoming Election  
March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - Presidential Primary  
Mayor’s Election – TBA

**Census 2020** – The census committee will meet next week, and still encouraging the community to spread the word that “We are WORTH Counting”. The census is very important due to the funds available for accurate counts. Cities and Counties lose funds when persons are not counted.

**County Update – Fred Dent** – The county is applied for another grant for road improvements and received \$329,00.00 which will be used to pave Medders Road. A larger grant has been applied for through a funding process which loans money, if approved for a loan it will be a great addition on grant application. TSPLOST has been very helpful as well with other various road projects.

**OPEN DUSCUSSION:**

There will be two meet and greet events for Bill Yearta. The first will be held at Ed’s Truckstop tonight (October 14, 2019). The next meet and greet will be held on October 28, 2019 in Jeffords Park from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Karen suggested to Superintendent Settle that the Welding class present the bench to Mr. Yearta before the election at the school. Mr. Settle will coordinate with the school for the bench to be presented to Mr. Yearta. The date will be announced. Karen invited the Education committee members to the VIP Luncheon at the WCHS College and Career Academy on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Local industries and leadership will be invited to the meet and greet as well. This event is scheduled to held from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

The Georgia Peanut Festival starts this week with the Carnival arriving on Thursday night (October 17<sup>th</sup>). Concert on Friday night. The Peter Pan Parade starts at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday with pageant and farmer recognitions in Jeffords Park at 12:00 noon. The Ed’s Truckstop scavenger hunt for Mr. & Mrs. Peanut has been very successful.

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

**The next meeting:**

The next Government Committee meeting is scheduled to be held on Monday, January 13, 2020.

**Minutes submitted by:**

Jaki S. Johnson

**ACTON ITEMS:**

- Mr. Settle will coordinate with WCHS welding department to present bench to Mr. Yearta.