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## Anthony Chamber of Commerce

### Board of Directors Minutes

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September 2, 2009

A regular meeting of the Anthony Chamber of Commerce was held on September 2, 2009, at Smokehouse Café & Supper Club. Board of Directors present was Bryant Anderson, Vicky Knapic, J.D. Hays, Ron Poor, Mary Hixson, Lori Allen, Judy Brummer and Gwen Warner. Absent were Karen Younce and Tim Gates. Also present was Mike Lanie, Don Heidrick and Barbara Muse.

President Bryant Anderson called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m. Minutes of the previous meeting of August 19, 2009 were presented and approved as corrected by motion from Ron Poor, seconded by J.D. Hays. Motion Carried.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

- ❑ **Pole Decorating Contest** – Gwen reminded those present to begin thinking if they would like to participate in the Pole Decorating Contest. If so, they can contact Karen Ryan and she will assign them a pole to decorate.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Downtown Discussion** – President, Bryant Anderson welcomed Mike Lanie, Don Heidrick and Barbara Muse to the meeting. Bryant explained that the Chamber board has been discussing the downtown for the last several meetings. One of the things the board has discussed as one of the representatives of the downtown was that it is the Chambers responsibility to make sure that what we are doing and the direction we are going makes sense particularly to the dues paying members of the Chamber.
- ❑ Bryant said that one thing discussed was taking an informal survey, basically getting with the downtown and see what they felt about the process. Two things that we looked at was asking the proprietors to comment on the process that has taken place so far and the proposed Main Street revitalization plan. Bryant mentioned that this survey was not scientific but this is what they found out from 17 respondents. 71% believed that the Anthony Chamber of Commerce, the Harper County Economic Council and possibly the Industrial Development Board should have the responsibility for coming up with a plan for the downtown. Further what was found was that the business owners are opposed to a downtown revitalization plan that includes the City securing a loan to rebuild the downtown and becoming property owners. This survey was based on information from the Harper County Economic Development that was presented to the city at their last meeting.
- ❑ Mary Hixson said that she was concerned that this was supposed to be a unified effort and at this time the table is not full.
- ❑ Barbara Muse and Don Heidrick each agreed that this is what the people wanted and was their desire also. They also felt that a board with good representation of the community should be formed.

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- Bryant stated that we need the city and county involved in the form of incentives. The city will have much investment in utility rebates and taxes and things of that nature.
- Ron Poor asked who would own the lots after the demolition. Ron said that everyone needs to understand that the position the Chamber of Commerce takes regarding the vote on a sales tax will have an effect on whether or not it passes. If our members say that they are not going to support a sales tax then there will be a problem.
- Barbara stated that the city really doesn't want to be property owners.
- Judy Brummer said that she thought it was absolutely necessary to form a committee so we could communicate thoughts and ideas.
- Mike Lanie said that in order to bring people to this town we would have to provide incentives. He said that the NRP is a good incentive but everyone has it. Hutchinson Kansas has wind turbines coming in but the city stepped up to the plate with 3 million dollars for them to come in. Mike said that he has shared his sales tax plan with various entities and they feel that this is our only chance. If we don't do this we're not only not going to have businesses on the north side of the street, but you will lose businesses on the south side of the street also. Mike believes that a planning committee must be formed before we can move forward. Mike said that good guidelines and a strong planning commission would be vital if his plan was implemented or we could have businesses from across the street moving in for the benefits offered in the new building. (Mike's plan was presented in a separate letter for all to review).
- Bryant said that his response from merchants concerning the sales tax was a give and take. In theory you would decrease their sales because you increased the sales tax, therefore there is less sales because people won't come in since we have such a high sales tax. You would get it on the front and lose it on the back end. Comments were that this town has such a high tax from the county and the city and we would be the highest taxed city in county.
- Mike said that he thinks that the merchants will support the sales tax because if they don't, how many of them will still be here 10 years from now. Also, if they get ready to sell their business, how easy will they be able to sell?

Discussion was held on who should be represented on the planning committee and it was decided that the City of Anthony (Mayor, Barbara Muse (volunteered) & Don Heidrick as advisor) should be represented as well as someone from retail, I D Board, Harper County Economic Development (Mike Lanie, volunteered), and the Anthony Chamber of Commerce. It was decided that it would be up to the Anthony Chamber of Commerce President, Bryant Anderson, to make those appointments. Seven appointments were decided on. The committee will be called the Downtown Planning Committee. Don Heidrick stated that he has contacts available that can be of help. Bryant thanked Don, Barbara and Mike for their input on this matter.

## NEW BUSINESS

- 1) **Review August Financial** –. The board reviewed the August financial.

### BUSINESS CLIMATE REPORT

- President, Bryant Anderson informed the board that the Anthony Medical Center did not get their grant as it apparently didn't score as high on need as other applicants. They will try again next year.
- Judy Brummer updated to the board on the problems that Irwin Potter Drug has run into with the new rules regulating durable medical equipment. This is a very serious situation while they wait for Medicare to do their inspection. If you wish to help with a phone call you may contact Joe Brummer for that information.

**Meeting Adjourned:** A motion was made by J.D. Hays, seconded by Judy Brummer, to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

**Minutes respectfully submitted by Gwen Warner, Executive Director.**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❑ The next Chamber meeting is September 16, 2009 at Smokehouse Café & Supper Club.
- ❑ The next Retail Meeting is September 22, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. at the Chamber office.
- ❑ *Helping Hands & Hooves Trail Ride* is September 26, 2009.
- ❑ *Anthony For the Arts Fall Fest* is scheduled for October 3, 2009
- ❑ *Sunflower Arts & Crafts Fair* is November 7, 2009
- ❑ *Christmas Arts & Crafts Fair* is December 5, 2009