

Harrington Chamber of Commerce
Minutes
November 2, 2016

The November meeting of the Harrington Chamber of Commerce was called to order at 12:04pm by President Cassandra Pfaffle-Dick. Those present were: Paula Pike, Allen Barth, Timothy Tipton, Sharon Nighswonger, Jill Plaskon, Kathy Hansell, Jenna Fries, Heather Slack, Dave Michaelson, Cindy Haase, Margie Hall (EDC), Melanie Kennedy, Billie Herron, Bekah Downey, Cherie MacClellan, Summer Clark, Justin Bradford, Jennifer Versluis and Bunny Haugan.

After correcting the spelling of Paul to Paula, the minutes were accepted as corrected. The treasurer reported balances of \$5,449.78 in the checking and \$3,594.47 in the savings and was accepted as reported.

December 3rd Santa will be in the Opera House lobby for pictures and treats for the children. The Chamber will furnish the candy and small toys for these "goodie bags". Ray Harrington will be donating \$100.00 toward the purchase of these treats. Gift baskets for the senior citizens will once again be distributed. They will contain grocery items.

Business appreciation week was discussed at length and emphasis was put on the businesses and the Chamber working together and supporting each other. We need to strive to promote local shopping. Some suggestions that were heard:

- 1) Summer Clark from U.S. Bank told the group that U.S. Bank promotes a "Business Partner of the Month".
- 2) The social media is also a good place to promote our local businesses.
- 3) Feature a business and interview the owner for the local paper.
- 4) Need to update the web page
- 5) Various other web sites to consider for help
- 6) Have "welcome" packets to give that inform and promote local businesses and services
- 7) Structure a "scavenger" hunt to bring folks to the businesses.
- 8) Margie Hall suggested a "Did You Know" white board that would remind folks of trivia or events of interest to our town folks.

The group was reminded of the Community Forum on November 17, 2016 at 7:00pm at the Opera House Art room on Willis Street. The PTA is in charge of the program. This will be an opportunity for the various organizations to share ideas and hear what others are doing.

Those present were asked what their business was and a little about it.

President Cassandra asked the current officers what their intent was regarding their elected position and whether they wished to continue in that position.

President: Cassandra stated she would be stepping down leaving that position open.

Vice President: Sharon said if someone was interested in the position that was fine. Since the position was a shared position, Co – Vice President Kathy Hoob did not wish to continue.

Treasurer: Cindy was willing to continue in her position.

Secretary: Bunny was willing to let someone else take this position.

The newly revised By-Laws have been reviewed by the current officers and are available to the rest of the membership for comments and suggestions before a vote in December. The application forms have been redone also.

Cindy shared the steps necessary for the Chamber to become a non-profit organization and be registered as an official Chamber of Commerce. A motion by Paula and second by Jenna authorized Cindy to proceed and allowed the \$30.00 fee for the application and getting an EIN number from the State. Motion carried.

Jennifer Versluis was present to express an interest in starting a small bakery and selling her products to her customers. She will check out some possible building for a business.

Final comments:

- 1) Talk with Karen Robertson about some Chamber updates on the web page she manages.
- 2) PTA is having a fund raising drive to replace the stage curtains at the school.

Meeting adjourned at 1:01pm. The next meeting will be December 7, 2016 at 12:00 at the City Hall.

Bunny Haugan, Secretary