

# MINUTES

## Montevallo Main Street (MMS) Board of Directors Meeting

July 9, 2020

### In Attendance (term expiration)

√	Smitherman, Julie (2020)	√	Lightfoot, Kirk (2022)
	Tate, Casie (2020)		Chappell, Dessilyn (20220)
√	Barone, Olivia (2020)	√	Jones, Ken (2022)
	Gutierrez, Omar (2020)	√	Hendren, Sarah (2022)
	Shunnarah, Stephanie (2021)		
√	Sanders, Tom (2021)	√	Bennett, Courtney ( <i>Ex officio</i> )
	Vacant (2021)	√	Cost, Hollie ( <i>Ex officio</i> ) asst. Maggie Benson
	White, Cheryl (2021)	√	Gilbert, Steve ( <i>Ex officio</i> )
√	Honeycutt, Patricia (2021)		Stewart, John ( <i>Ex officio</i> )
√	Lehman, Herman (2022)	√	Woodham, Dee ( <i>Ex officio</i> )

### Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

President Julie Smitherman called the meeting to order via videoconferencing due to the COVID pandemic, at 8:00 a.m.

Minutes of the June 11, 2020 meeting were reviewed. *On a motion by K. Lightfoot, seconded by P. Honeycutt, the minutes were approved as presented.*

### President's Report

President, J. Smitherman, reported on the following:

- **Sustainability Task Force** – Mayor Cost reported that sales taxes are currently higher than anticipated after the City made their initial budget adjustments due to COVID-19, and budget reductions have been made by eliminating one full-time position, not filling a few of the current job openings, and other expenses to stabilize city finances. This Task Force will meet again following the MMS Board meeting. A major focus of the Task Force's work is to promote that city businesses are open.
- **Comprehensive Plan** – Mayor Cost also reported that there is an upcoming work session to discuss the proposed Montevallo Comprehensive Plan. This meeting will be via videoconferencing due to the pandemic. Everyone is invited to participate.
- **COVID Response Plan** – With the Governor's order to wear facemasks in public, MMS will promote this practice as part of its COVID response communications.
- **Main Street Alabama Conference** – This statewide meeting is still scheduled for August 19-21 in Monroeville as an in-person event. MMS has budgeted for six attendees. Please contact Courtney if interested in attending. Kirk and Patricia indicated an interest.

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## Treasurer's Report

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Committee Chair, S. Hendren, presented a report dated July 7, 2020 indicating:

- **Income Statement (Profit & Loss for June 11 – July 7):** Total Income = -\$2,467; Total Expenses = \$8,990; Net Income = -\$11,457 (Note: the decrease is due to some checks clearing during the month for “Opening” banners, and CBS 42 promotion video and ads.)
- **Balance Sheet (as of July 7):** Total Assets = \$38,490; Total Liabilities = 0; Total Equity = \$38,490
- **Gross Statement Balance (as of July 7):** \$38,490, less approved Work Plan allocations (see report in agenda for details) = Unencumbered Operating Funds = \$9,934
- **Membership Dues:** \$321 received during month
- **Façade Grant Fund Donations** – \$0
- **Veterans’ Banners** – \$882 – 3 sold
- **Miscellaneous** - \$29 – 2 Bicentennial note card sets sold
- **Donations** - \$0
- **Work Plans Funding** – see Agenda for allocations by committee and projects. “Open” banners was \$554 over budget due to purchasing an additional banner; Photo Frame project needed increase allocation from \$200 to \$600 for upgrading the frame.

*On a motion by K. Lightfoot, seconded by P. Honeycutt, the financial reports were approved as presented.*

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## Board Committee Reports

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**Organization Committee** – President, J. Smitherman, provided the following report:

- **Open Store Banners** – These have been distributed and are on display and look great.

**Design Committee** – Committee Chair, K. Lightfoot, provided the following report:

- **Picture Frame** – Kirk expressed thanks to John and Jan McKinnon for renovation of the frame to make it more engaging. It is being widely used.
- **Sculpture Relocation** – The committee visited the Recycling Center to review sculptures previously displayed at MES that might be reinstalled downtown. The committee also visited Parnell Library to review their sculpture trail. The visits continued to Main Street to look for needs and opportunities the committee might address.
- **Veteran’s Banners** – This project continues to be going well with ongoing sales of banners and excellent feedback on the installed banners.

**Promotion Committee** – C. Bennett reported that there was not a meeting this month.

**Economic Vitality Committee** – The Chair, K. Jones, reported that the committee meeting had to be rescheduled until next week.

**Sustainability Committee** – Committee Chair, O. Barone, reported that recycling education initiatives are continuing and that local businesses will be contacted soon regarding a new Green Business Registry program currently being developed and spearheaded by the MMS Sustainability Committee.

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### • Executive Director's Report

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- **Business Transitions** – C. Bennett provided a detailed report (see Agenda) on property/business activity in the City.
  - **Opened this month** – none reported
  - **Opening soon** –
    - Slice Pizza & Brew House (corner Ashville Road/Wadsworth St) – TBD;
    - Cozumel (Main Street) – TBA;
    - Pit 119 BBQ on Main Street (Old Tavern location) – TBA;

- CozBee Wireless (former Russel Cellular location in shopping center on Main Street) – TBA;
  - The Soul Spot Wings – 728 Main St. (former Frios locations) – TBA;
  - Navarro’s Fresh Mart (former TTT Gas Station), to open in Village on Valley – TBD;
- **Ownership Transitions** – none reported
- **Property for sale** – Office building at 951 Island St. listed by Nathan Stamps; Lot on Island Street for sale or build to suit (Bob Nesbitt)
- **For Rent** – Spaces in the CVS Shopping Center (Urmish Patel); former Southern Vape at 707 Main St.;
- **Business Closing & Relocations** – Lucky Penny Boutique (626 Main Street), storefront closed as of July 6 – they may do some pop-up locations in the future for events and will operate online; Best Cleaners has closed their store and relocated to Happy Dollar Store for drop-off and pick-up of cleaning. It was reported that there are issues with the building and rent that led to the move.
- **Sale of Businesses** – none reported
- **Prospects** – none reported
- **Hotel/Motel** – no report
- **How to Start a Business** – A factsheet is being prepared to help businesses know exactly how to start a business in Montevallo. The factsheet will be available in both English and Spanish.
- **Building Permits** – Work is underway to improve this process with both the city and with Shelby County.

## Old Business

- **Volunteer Hours** – These were collected in the meeting via chat.
- **Membership Renewals** – These are coming in. We need to continue to promote membership.

## New/Other Business

- **Funding Request** – There was a request from the Design Committee to increase the funding allocation from \$200 to \$600 to cover the cost of renovating and enhancing the “picture frame” next to the Post Office. *On a motions by H. Lehman, seconded by T. Sanders, this adjustment was approved.*
- **Support for Businesses** – Board members were asked to continue to check-in with local businesses regularly to ascertain how they are doing and if there is anything MMS can do to help and to remind them of State aid that is available through the “Revive Alabama” grants. Courtney has more information if needed.
- **Vacant Board Positions** – Nominations are now open to fill currently vacant positions. Please let Courtney or Julie know of any nominations.
- **Grants for Weatherizing Homes** – Courtney reminded members to communicate that grant funds are available from the State to help low-income, elderly, and disabled residents with work on their homes to lower their energy costs. Contact O. Barone for more information.
- **Food Stores in Montevallo** – There was a substantial discussion of issues with local food stores that seem to be hurting business and could undermine the viability of this sector of the local economy due to competition from Publix and Walmart. These concerns relate to COVID compliance, service, and prices. There was a suggestion that some consumer research be done on these complaints to provide to store management. Since this is in the Highway 25 business district, the Montevallo Chamber will follow-up on this matter.

## Announcements

**Upcoming Events** – Board members were encouraged to support the events listed in the agenda by community organizations during the month, particularly the weekly Farmer’s Market on Monday afternoons.

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## Next Meeting

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The next meeting will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday August 13, 2020 via videoconferencing unless otherwise notified.

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## Adjournment

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The meeting was adjourned at approximately at 8:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom J. Sanders  
Secretary