

# Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes

---

Tuesday, February 3rd, 2015

Foristell Chamber of Commerce met at the T/A restaurant in Foristell, MO on January 6th, 2015. Chris Gaines led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Aaron Baker gave the invocation. Chris Gaines called the meeting to order.

## **Upcoming:**

1) March chamber meeting (normally on the 3<sup>rd</sup>) is rescheduled for the 24<sup>th</sup> and will be combined with the Wright City Chamber. Breakfast meeting will be at 7:30am at the Diekroger park building, Wright City.

2) April speaker will be Loren Colby (Social Media & Marketing); May speaker will be St Charles Police Department (Cyber Crimes and ID theft).

**Minutes:** Meeting minutes from January were approved as stated.

## **Treasurer's Report:**

1) Account balance as of February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 was \$2,746.30. The treasurer's report was approved as stated.

2) The chamber currently has \$421 the Ray Alexander Scholarship Fund. Chamber will need to raise money for the scholarship, which will begin taking applications in Feb/Mar and be awarded in May.

3) Phil Reid will organize an After Hours event @ Ruiz Castillo's to help fund the scholarship.

## **Foristell City Report:**

1) Sandy Stokes reports that Donnelly (Mayor) and Dixon (Alderman) ran unopposed in the last election.

2) Larry Schroeth with Ameren was instrumental in helping the city of Foristell receive the donation of a bucket truck.

3) Court reforms are in process. An audit will proceed in March. If a court fee limit is enacted on the courts, the result may hurt the police department's funding.

4) Commercial property interest remains high. Construction is currently under way near the grade school.

**Wentzville School District:** No report given this month

## **Wright City School District:**

1) Chris Gaines reports that the HS Boys Basketball team has been doing well and placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in a tournament in Hermann. The games were well attended by students and school morale was high.

3) Christ Gaines was our featured speaker so more to come in that section...

## **Chamber Guest Speaker for February:** Dr. Chris Gaines, Wright City School District Superintendent

1) Chris discussed goals for 2020 which include establishing a preschool, enabling grades 4-12 to utilize mobile devices, address teacher salaries, and to meet MSIP standards.

2) In order to accomplish these goals, there will be a .49 cent tax increase on the upcoming ballot. For a \$100k house, the tax would be roughly \$74.10; for a \$150K home roughly \$111.

3) The preschool building has begun construction and if financial targets are in place will not have to charge tuition to parents.

4) Of concern to the WC district are teacher salaries. Their district is lagging behind teacher's salaries. Salaries were compared for districts within a 30 mile radius and the results showed that WC school teachers were indeed on the lower end of the pay-spectrum. In fact, the numbers suggested that the longer a teacher stays at WC, the less they get paid over time compared with teachers in other school districts. Obviously, the WC district wants to attract and retain high quality teachers and in order to do that, salaries will need to be addressed.

**Announcements:**

1) Marvin Rodenbaugh won the 50/50 drawing

2) Don't forget next month's meeting will be a combined meeting with the Wright City chamber, held on March 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30am at the Diekroger Park building in Wright City.

**Meeting attendees this month:**

Marvin Rodenbaugh, Costco; Ken Orf, Foristell Storage; John Pickering, City of Foristell; Sandra Stokes, City of Foristell; Aaron Baker, Foristell church of Christ; Nancy Hance, First State Community Bank; Jack Sanford, Wright City Schools; Jackie Stewart, WCAD; Kurt Daniels, Cochran Engineering; Pam Wiss, The Missouri Bank; Mark Van Dillen, AB Signs; Phil Reid, Westbound Real Estate; Chris Gaines, Wright City Schools

Submitted by Aaron Baker 2/5/2015