

PINE BLUFF ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

June 29, 2023

The regular meeting of the Pine Bluff Advertising and Promotion Commission was rescheduled to Thursday, June 29, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. due to a lack of quorum on Tuesday. The meeting was held at the offices of the A&P Commission, 623 S. Main Street. This meeting was audibly recorded. These minutes are a summarization.

PRESENT:

Advertising and Promotion Commission

Mr. John Lawson, Chair
Ms. Berinda Eugene, Vice Chair
Mr. Glen Brown, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer
Mr. Lloyd Holcomb, Jr. (via conference call)
Mr. Steven King
Mr. Jamie McAfee

Staff

Mrs. Sheri Storie, Executive Director
Mr. Jimmy Cunningham, Tourism Development Director
Mrs. Betty Brown, Recorder

Guests

Mr. Jesse Kearney, Attorney
Mr. Byron Tate, Pine Bluff Commercial
Mr. George Stepps, Compliance Auditor
Mr. Michael McCray, NAACP
Mr. Albert King, NAACP

Call to Order:

Lawson called the meeting to order at 4:34 PM.

Lawson addressed the Commission about his increase in obligations after the passing of his mother-in-law and business partner. Due to these current demands, Lawson resigned from the Commission.

Lawson asked for consideration of the minutes for the regular meeting of May 23, 2023. King moved to accept the minutes as presented. McAfee seconded. The minutes were approved as presented.

Attorney Jesse Kearney updated the Commission on the recent legal filings and judgment on the Aramark case. Circuit Court Judge Wyatt made a judgment on June 13, 2023, in favor of Aramark to be reimbursed for prior payments for the student meal plan. Kearney filed motion to reconsider with the Circuit Court on June 26, 2023.

Several questions were asked. Stepps asked if Judge Wyatt gave a reason for his decision and if Kearney filed everything in a timely manner. Kearney responded by reading the Judge's ruling that

stated that the defendant's position was without reasonable basis. Stepps asked what happens if the motion to reconsider fails. Kearney answered that the next step would be to file an appeal.

Director's Report

Storie reported on the tax collections for May.

Storie updated on another successful 2023 Operation Skyhook event. She briefly touched on marketing.

Storie presented the information on initiating an A&P Permit to businesses that collect the A&P Tax. Storie explained the benefits that a permit could bring with tax collections and maintaining accurate information on those businesses. She also recommended that there not be a charge for the permit. Much discussion ensued.

Brown made a motion to allow for Storie to pursue legislation to require A&P taxable businesses to obtain an A&P Tax permit. Holcomb seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Storie will contact the City Attorney office for the possible drafting of an ordinance to approve of the A&P sales permit.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Brown presented the financial summary report for the month ending May 31, 2023.

Marketing Committee – No meeting.

Old Business

Aramark was discussed with Kearney at the start of the meeting.

New Business

Storie spoke briefly on the 2022 Audit report. There were no findings required to be reported by GAS. The EGP representative was not able to return for this rescheduled meeting. Storie reported on the one change in the audit regarding standards of reporting on the leases. Any lease longer than 12 months should be reported on the balance sheet (Page 21).

Brown made a motion to approve the 2022 Audit. McAfee seconded. The audit was approved.

McCray was given the opportunity to speak. McCray was present on behalf of Ivan Whitfield, President of the local NAACP. McCray asked about the request of information that NAACP had presented previously to the A&P Chair. Lawson responded by stating his position on the matter that he had made no error in voting on the funding. McCray asked if they could have the answer in writing. Lawson said he would consider the request.

With no further business to be discussed McAfee moved to adjourn. Eugene seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:18 PM.

The next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, July 25, 2023 at 4:30 PM at the offices of the A&P Commission.

Respectfully submitted,



Berinda Eugene, A&P Commission Vice Chair
/beb



Sheri Storie, A&P Director

*The minutes contained herein follow the best practices of **Robert's Rules of Order** and is not a transcription of the meeting. As is standard procedure, these minutes serve as a record of the action(s) taken by the Commission and is not a record of detailed discussion that took place during the meeting.*