

**Hempstead Commerce and Civic Association**  
**Executive Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday April 9, 2024**

<b>Board Members:</b> Cheryl Hardwick - Present	James Garfield - Present
Melissa Hegemeyer – Absent	Vicki LeBlanc - Present
Katherine Ward – Present	Thomas Payne - Absent
Raul Villarreal – Present	Kenneth Pilcher - Present

**Call to Order:**

President Cheryl Hardwick called to order the Executive Board Meeting of the Hempstead Commerce and Civic Association at 6:08 P.M. on Tuesday, April 9th, 2024.

**Roll Call of Board Members:**

President Cheryl Hardwick called roll call for the HCCA Board Members. President Cheryl Hardwick, Secretary Katherine Ward, Treasurer Raul Villarreal, Board Members James Garfield, Vicki LeBlanc, and Kenneth Pilcher were all present. Absent were Vice President Melissa Hegemeyer and Board Member Thomas Payne.

**Approval of Board Minutes for March 5th, 2024:**

Board Member Kenneth Pilcher made a motion to accept the March 5th, 2024, minutes and a second motion was made by Secretary Katherine Ward. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

**Report on Easter in the Park from Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024:**

President Cheryl Hardwick gave thanks to Hegemeyer Realty and Associates for the hot dogs, chips, and snacks. President Cheryl Hardwick and Sandra Koch with the Waller County Express each donated a \$50.00 gift card and thanks to the Lions Club for the color contest prizes. Due to the Opening Day of Little League, we did not have as many kids as in the past, so we only had to use half of the Easter filled eggs. The eggs will be saved to use next year are the eggs with the prizes in them.

**Hempstead Police Department and Hempstead Municipal Court Annual Meet and Greet:**

President Cheryl Hardwick stated that the Meet and Greet for the Hempstead Police Department and the Municipal Court will be held on Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, from 5:00 to 8:00 P.M. at the downtown gazebo. The HCCA will have color sheets for the children, and it would be great to give out some sweets to the children. A motion was made by Board Member

Kenneth Pilcher to approve \$100.00 to purchase sweets for the Police and Municipal Meet and Greet and a second was made by Board Member James Garfield. A vote was taken, and the motion carried. President Cheryl Hardwick will purchase the sweet snacks. We need volunteers to help with the meet and greet.

**Cinco de Mayo on Saturday, May 4, 2024:**

HCCA will be teaming up again this year with the St Katharine Drexel Catholic Church to help with the Cindo de Mayo Celebration for Saturday, May 4, 2024, the parade will begin at 10:00 A.M. beginning at San Antonio Street and will come down 13<sup>th</sup> Street. The Cinco de Mayo celebration will begin after the parade at the gazebo park downtown. President Cheryl Hardwick has purchased decorations and asked for volunteers to help on Friday, May 3, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. Two porta potties are needed for the event, one handicap and one regular. A motion was made by Board Member Kenneth Pilcher that we rent porta potties for the Cinco de Mayo and a second was made by Treasurer Raul Villarreal. A vote was taken, and the motion carried. President Cheryl Hardwick will call and order the porta potties.

**Discussion on the April HCCA Quarterly Event for Thursday, April 25th, 2024:**

The HCCA quarterly event has been cancelled for Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Board Member Kenneth Pilcher would like to reschedule it for May 6, 2024, at 5:30 P.M. and will get with the EDC Director on the date change.

**Watermelon Festival Update on Entertainment:**

President Cheryl Hardwick stated that all the entertainment for the Watermelon Festival has been booked. The HCCA needs to send in the deposits to each band. The Chris Rybak band deposit is \$200.00, Brown Sugar Band is \$900.00, Matthew Menke deposit is \$900, and the deposit for Glen Templeton is \$1,000.00. A motion was made by Board Member James Garfield that we approve all deposits to send in to the entertainers and a second was made by Secretary Katherine Ward. A vote was taken, and the motion carried. President Cheryl Hardwick will get the deposits sent to the entertainers.

**Watermelon Festival Chairman Needed:**

President Cheryl Hardwick stated that we needed a chairman for the day of the Watermelon Festival. She asked Board Member Raul Villarreal if we would like to serve again this year as chairman and he accepted the position.

**Approval for the Waller County Express Bill:**

HCCA received the advertising bill in the amount of \$130.00 for the Easter in the Park. A motion was made by Board Member Vicki LeBlanc that we may the \$130.00 bill to Waller County Express and a second was made by Board Member Kenneth Pilcher. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

**Discussion on Attending the Hempstead Chamber of Commerce's Annual Meeting:**

President Cheryl Hardwick stated to the board that the Hempstead Chamber of Commerce would be having their annual meeting on Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, at 6:30 P.M. at the Chamber of Commerce building located at 910 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Hempstead. The board discussed going to the meeting to ask about using their property for the carnival for the Watermelon Festival. Vice President Melissa Hegemeyer, Board Members James Garfield, and Kenneth Pilcher volunteered to go to the meeting. Board Member Kenneth Pilcher will put together a letter to present to the Chamber of Commerce for the use of the property.

**Discussion on Adopting 10 Hempstead High School Seniors:**

President Cheryl Hardwick asked the board if they would like to adopt 10 Hempstead High School seniors as they did last year. A motion was made by Board Member Kenneth Pilcher that we adopt 10 HHS seniors and that we buy them a \$50.00 gift card along with their gifts and a second was made by Treasurer Raul Villarreal. A vote was taken, and the motion carried. We will adopt our 2022 and 2023 Watermelon Queens and the other eight senior names will be given to us. President Cheryl Hardwick will get the gifts and the gift cards.

**Watermelon Festival Scholarships:**

The HCCA has two Watermelon Festival Queens graduating this year, the 2022 Queen is Haley Carter and the 2023 Queen is Hailey Anhorn. Each queen will receive a \$1,500.00 scholarship. The scholarship will be divided, and half will go the first semester and the other half will be given for their second semester. Each queen will need to show that they are registered in college in order to receive the scholarships. The Hempstead High School Graduation Scholarship Banquet will be held on Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024. President Cheryl Hardwick will attend the banquet and give out the scholarship certificate to both queens.

**HCCA Memorial Day Parade and Program:**

The Memorial Day Parade and Program will be held on Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The parade will begin at 9:15 A.M. and the program will begin after the parade at the downtown gazebo. Volunteers are needed on Sunday afternoon, May 26<sup>th</sup> and on Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**Discussion on HCCA Being a Sponsor for the Texas BBQ Throwdown:**

The board discussed being a sponsor again this year for the Texas BBQ Throwdown for the Texas Chrome Hero's Foundation in the amount of \$1,000.00. HCCA has been a sponsor for both 2022 and 2023. A motion was made by Board Member Kenneth Pilcher that the HCCA donate as a sponsorship again this year to the Texas Chrome Hero's Foundation in the amount of \$1,000.00 and a second was made by Treasurer Raul Villarreal. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

**Discussion on HCCA Being a Sponsor for Brianna Padilla:**

President Cheryl Hardwick stated that she had received a message from Hempstead High School student Brianna Padilla. She is the current 2024 Miss South Texas Universal Teen.

She will be competing at the national competition and asked if the HCCA would like to help sponsor her to compete. A motion was made by Board Member Kenneth Pilcher that the HCCA donate \$250.00 to her and a second was made by Treasurer Raul Villarreal. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

**Agenda for the Upcoming HCCA April Meeting:**

The next HCCA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024. President Cheryl Hardwick stated that the Superintendent Herbert O’Neil would be there to address the Hempstead ISD School Bond. We would recognize and honor the teachers and support staff of the HISD campuses and honor the FFA students that won the Grand and Reserve Championships from the FFA Ag Show. If anyone would like to add anything to the agenda to please let her know.

**Old Business:**

No old business.

**New Business:**

President Cheryl Hardwick stated that Mary Ann Drawl had stated that members were questioning the budget and spending for the HCCA since it was not talked about at the monthly meetings. The treasurer’s report is approved each month by the HCCA Board. Board Member Kenneth Pilcher suggested that we put together a pie chart to show where the money comes into HCCA such as memberships and sponsorships and show the amount of money that is given out for festivals, bills, and donations.

**Adjourn:**

Board Member Kenneth Pilcher made a motion to adjourn the meeting and a second motion was made by Treasurer Villarreal. A vote was taken, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 P.M.

**Submitted by Secretary Katherine Ward**\_\_\_\_\_

**Approved and signed by President Cheryl Hardwick**\_\_\_\_\_