



## **Tupelo Coliseum Commission**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**May 18, 2020**

#### **Opening**

Be it known the Tupelo Coliseum Commission did meet in regular session Monday, May 18, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom and in person with the following present:

Chairman Scott Reed  
Vice Chairman Neal McCoy  
Commissioner Moe Livingston  
Commissioner Stephanie West  
Commissioner Alfred Wallace  
Commissioner Will Beasley  
Commissioner Jason Hayden

Representatives of the City of Tupelo Present: Don Lewis  
Todd Hunt, Executive Director – BancorpSouth Arena

Chairman Reed called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

#### **Approval of Minutes from April 20, 2020 Regular Meeting**

Commissioner Wallace made a motion to approve the minutes from April 20, 2020 as presented seconded by Commissioner Hayden. All commission members voting aye, the motion passed.

#### **Financial Report**

Director Hunt gave the financial report. As of April 30 we have current year revenues over expenses of \$268,811.87. With the \$275,830 from the city yet to be transferred, the arena will have enough cash to get through the fiscal year even if we don't host another event.

#### **Director's Report**

The complex remains closed by government order. "We will reopen as soon as the governor ends the restriction on gatherings of 10+ people," said Hunt. All employees are working remotely, with the operations staff coming in to rearrange and sort through the warehouse.

#### **Expansion:**

Hunt reported work continues to progress towards a completion date of January 1, 2021. The existing conference center should be ready to go by the end of June, 2020.

**New Business:**

**Conference Center Refund Requests:**

The Clay/Homan wedding scheduled for July 18 has decided to hold a smaller backyard ceremony due to COVID. They have requested a refund of their deposit, which was approved by the commission.

The SHAMMCH group requested a refund for their event deposit for their event (originally scheduled for October 12, 2019, and then rescheduled for September 19, 2020. The commission declined to act on this refund request, as the date is too far into the future.

**Approve Checks**


Chairman Reed asked for a motion to approve the checks. Commissioner West motioned to approve the checks. Commission Wallace seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye; the motion passed.

**Executive Session**

Director Hunt shared a letter with the commission stating that he had decided to retire from his post effective June 26. Upon hearing this, Chairman Reed requested that the commission go into executive session to discuss this news. A motion was made by Commissioner Wallace and seconded by Commissioner McCoy. COO Don Lewis joined the commission in executive session. Once the commission emerged from executive session, no action was taken.

**Adjournment**

After no other business, Chairman Reed adjourned the meeting.



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Moe Livingston  
Secretary



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Scott Reed  
Chairman



# **BancorpSouth Arena** **& Conference Center**

May 18, 2020

Tupelo Coliseum Commission members:

It is with mixed emotions that I write to inform you that I will be retiring as Executive Director of the BancorpSouth Arena and Conference Center effective June 26, 2020. While I had hoped to complete the expansion and renovation project before moving on, the shutdown of our venues due to COVID-19 along with another job opportunity within the venue management industry make this the right time to step aside.

The list of accomplishments we have created together since 2007 is tremendous. We have generated over \$100,000,000 in economic impact for the City of Tupelo, enhanced the quality of life for area residents by offering a variety of entertainment options, expanded our operations by assuming management responsibility for the BancorpSouth Conference Center, and made physical improvements to the facility that the community can be proud of. And most importantly in this time of economic uncertainty, we have increased our cash reserves from less than \$10,000 in 2007 to more than \$800,000 as of April 30, 2020.

I will always be proud of what we have been able to accomplish as a group and look forward to watching the exponential growth that will occur once the expansion is completed. Just as my predecessor Michael Marion left a great foundation to build upon back in 1997, I have no doubt that the right person can take the BancorpSouth Arena and Conference Center to even greater heights.

Thank you all for giving me the opportunity to lead this facility.

Sincerely,

Todd Hunt