

The Greater Hewitt Chamber of Commerce Bylaws

Revised
July 14, 2021

ARTICLE 1 – NAME AND LOCATION

The name of this organization shall be the Greater Hewitt Chamber of Commerce and the location of its principle offices shall be Hewitt, McLennan County, Texas. The organization will hereafter be referred to as “The Chamber”.

ARTICLE 2 – OBJECTS AND PURPOSES

Section 1-Mission Statement-

The purpose of the Chamber shall be to promote an environment of goodwill and prosperity among the businesses, citizens, and community organizations in the greater Hewitt area. The organization will strive to foster, protect, and promote the commercial, industrial, civic, agricultural, and general interests of the greater Hewitt community.

Section 2-Character-

The Chamber shall be a non-profit association of voluntary members, and shall have no capital stock. No part of the net earnings shall ever inure to the benefit of any member, private shareholder or individual. It shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Texas.

Section 3-Limitation of Methods-

The Chamber, in its activities, shall be non-partisan, non-sectional, and non-sectarian, and shall take no part in nor lend its influence or facilities either directly or indirectly to the nomination, election or appointment of any candidate for public office, nor shall any meetings of a political nature whatsoever be held within the premises occupied by or under the control of the Chamber.

ARTICLE 3 - MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1. Types of Members.

Members of the Chamber shall be classified as active members, lifetime members or honorary members.

Section 2. Eligibility

Any reputable firm, corporation, partnership, association, enterprise or individual in sympathy with the purpose of the Chamber shall be eligible to apply for active membership.

Section 3. Method of Application

Each applicant for membership shall make application in writing, stating corporate, firm or individual name and agreeing, if admitted, to conform to the Chamber's bylaws and the rules and regulations adopted from time to time by the Board of Directors. At least one half of the dues must accompany any membership application. Each applicant shall have the recommendation of at least one member of the Chamber in good standing. Each application shall be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval or disapproval.

Section 4. Election to Membership

All membership application shall be submitted as promptly as practicable to the Executive Committee, which shall then present them to the Board of Directors, with that committee's recommendations in regard thereto, and election to membership shall be within the power of the Board of Directors exclusively.

Section 5. Membership Dues

Minimum annual dues for active membership shall be established by the Board of Directors and shall be paid annually in advance. The current dues schedule will be disclosed on all new membership applications. Any increase in membership dues shall be by a majority vote of the membership present at any officially called general meeting. At least a quorum of the Board of Directors must be present to approve a dues increase.

Section 6. Representation-Right to Vote

Any active member other than an individual (such as a firm, corporation, partnership, etc.) may designate one or more of its active officers or executives for service on committees or in other Chamber activities, subject to appointment of the Chamber President; and each such active member shall designate one of its active officers or executives to exercise for it the right of balloting on any questions at issue. All active members of the Chamber shall have equal voting privileges, regardless of the amount of annual dues paid.

Section 7. Active Membership

Active membership shall be conferred on and in the name of that firm, corporation, partnership, association, enterprise or individual accepted as a member as provided in this article.

Section 8. Lifetime Membership

As recognition for personal work in maintaining strong financial support for the Hewitt Chamber of Commerce, the title "Lifetime Member" may be conferred upon individual members of the Chamber who demonstrate extraordinary dedication and support to all the activities, goals and objectives of the Chamber. This classification can only be conferred upon individuals (not businesses or firms) recommended to and approved by the Board of Directors. Lifetime members shall be exempt from paying dues but will have the privilege of voting.

Section 9. Honorary Membership

Honorary membership in the Chamber may be offered from time to time to individuals as the Board of Directors may determine. Such honorary membership shall be without dues and with the privilege of voting.

Section 10. Forfeiture of Membership

Any member whose dues are unpaid for a period of three months after the date of maturity shall not be eligible to vote, and such membership may be forfeited by a majority vote of the Board of Directors at any duly called meeting; and if in arrears for six months after date of maturity, the membership shall immediately cease and the holder thereof deprived of all membership privileges without action by the Board of Directors,

but forfeiture of membership shall not relieve the holder from any contractual obligations to the Chamber.

Section 11. Reinstatement of Forfeited Membership

Any membership forfeited for non-payment of dues and upon which six months dues or less are delinquent, shall be immediately reinstated upon payment of such dues and without action by the Board of Directors, if such payment is made within six months following date of forfeiture. After the expiration of six months following date of forfeiture, the membership may be reinstated by the payment of all arrearages up to the date of forfeiture, or without such payment if approved by the Board of Directors.

Section 12. Membership on a Continuous Basis

All membership shall be on a continuous basis from year to year without renewal and shall automatically continue in full force and effect until changed or cancelled by the member by filing written notice to the Chamber, it being provided that any change in the amount of annual dues of any member shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. Any member may resign at any time by submitting written notice of such resignation to the Chamber, accompanied by full payment of all membership dues or other obligation that are due at the date of such resignation.

Section 13. Sale or Assignment of Membership

No member may sell, assign, transfer, or in any manner whatsoever dispose of his membership in the Chamber, or be deprived thereof, except in the manner herein provided.

Section 14. Termination of Membership

Upon the recommendation of the President or any officer for the removal of a Member, and upon the vote of at least two thirds (2/3) of the Directors present at any meeting of the Board of Directors in which a quorum is present in favor of the removal of a Member, the Member will be immediately removed from membership in the Chamber and from all Committees upon which the removed Member sits.

ARTICLE 4 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Personnel

The personnel of the Board of Directors shall be as follows:

- (a) Directors shall be elected annually by the membership, as hereinafter provided, for three-year terms
- (b) Additional directors from the membership may be appointed by the President subject to the approval by the board of elective directors, for one-year terms
- (c) In addition to the Directors provided for in this section, the president, with the concurrence of the Board of Directors, is authorized to designate from time to time a representative of certain civic, educational, governmental, or military groups as honorary members of the Board of Directors who shall have no voting rights nor shall they hold office by reason thereof.
- (d) Any duly elected officer shall automatically be a member of the Board of Directors during his term of office even though his tenure

as a Director may otherwise expire on January 1 next following his election as an officer.

- (e) Ambassadors shall be selected by the Board of Directors for the purpose of attending and promoting all Chamber functions such as Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies, Business after Hours, Breakfast Meetings, etc. In addition to the officers and elected Board of Directors, the Ambassadors will help serve as the "Face of the Chamber" and will serve one-year terms.
- (f) Upon the recommendation of the President or any officer for the removal of a Director, and upon the vote of at least two thirds (2/3) of the Directors present at any meeting of the Board of Directors in which a quorum is present in favor of the removal of a Director, the Director will be immediately removed from the Board of Directors and from all Board of Director Committees upon which the removed Director sits.

Section 2. Authority

The government of the Chamber, the direction of its work, and the control of its property shall be vested in the Board of Directors. The Board may adopt such rules and regulations for conducting the business of the Chamber and for carrying on its work as may be consistent with these Bylaws, and shall authorize and define the powers and duties of all committee and other action groups. Decisions on issues properly brought before the Board of Directors will be decided by a vote of those Board members present. As long as a legal quorum is present at the Board meetings, a majority vote of those present will decide issues brought before the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Meetings

The Board shall meet at least once each month at such place, date, and hour as may be fixed by the Board, or by the President, if the Board fails to so provide. The Board shall make available to the membership (in writing if requested, or by electronic access, internet, Chamber website) an annual report of the work and finances of the Chamber.

Section 4. Quorum at Board Meetings.

One-half (50%) of the Board of Directors shall be required for a quorum at any Board meeting.

Section 5. Attendance at Board Meetings

Absence from four consecutive meetings without an excuse deemed reasonable shall vacate the place of a Director on the Board, and his successor shall be chosen. An absence shall be deemed reasonable if the Chamber office is notified prior to the meeting and the President accepts the excuse as being reasonable.

Section 6. Vacancies of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall have the power to fill all vacancies on the Board between the annual elections of Directors, and those appointed shall serve out the unexpired terms of the person they succeed.

Section 7. Limitation of Tenure

The normal length of the term of office for Directors elected by the membership shall be three years. It will be the responsibility of the sitting Board and officers to stagger the terms of the board members so there will be continuity and experience sitting on the Board. The President shall encourage a healthy rotation of members on the Board in order to foster an environment of fresh, new ideas, and to encourage participation by new members. Board members shall be eligible to be re-elected to the Board upon completion of their three-year term.

Section 8. Election of Board

(a) Date of Election.

Election of new directors shall be completed by the final quarterly meeting of each year.

(b) Nominating Procedure

The President shall appoint a five member nominating committee (made up of Directors only), subject to approval of the Board. The Nominating Committee shall give due consideration to an equitable distribution of its nominees among the different types of businesses and professions represented in the membership of the Chamber. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a list of qualified nominees, after first determining whether the members nominated are willing and able to serve. If the list is unanimously accepted by the Board of Directors in a meeting in which a quorum is present, then those individuals listed shall become new board members without further action, however, if the list is not unanimously accepted by the Board, then the list shall be presented to the Chamber membership. This list shall be mailed (either by physical mail or electronic mail) to the voting membership with a statement that any five members in good standing may nominate any other member or members who are eligible by filing in the office of the President of the Chamber within one week from the date of such mailing a nomination statement for each candidate thus nominated, signed by the five or more joining in making the nomination, to which statement there shall be appended the signed statement of each candidate so nominated, stating, if elected, he or she is willing and able to serve as a Director.

(c) Ballots

Any election of the Board of Directors shall be by ballots (sent either by physical or electronic mail) bearing names of all nominees submitted in accordance with provisions of Article 4, Section 8 (b) of these BYLAWS. One such ballot shall be sent to each voting member in good standing at least ten (10) days before the date required for return of the completed ballot. Each ballot shall clearly state the number of directors to be elected from the nominees on the ballot, the date by which the ballot must be returned in order to be counted.

(d) Voting

No proxy voting shall be allowed. Ballots on which votes are cast for more than the number of Directors to be elected shall not be considered.

(e) Election Canvassing Committee

The Nominating Committee appointed by the President shall serve as an Election Canvassing Committee. The committee shall canvass all timely cast ballots. In the event of a tie vote, the committee shall cast lots to determine results. The committee shall prepare a listing of the names of the nominees obtaining the highest number of votes or selected by lots to be presented to the President who shall declare those persons so named as the newly-elected Directors to take office on the following January 1.

(f) Nominating Procedure for Lifetime Board Member

As recognition for serving and maintaining strong financial support for the Hewitt Chamber of Commerce, the title "Lifetime Board Member" may be conferred upon individual members of the Chamber who demonstrate extraordinary dedication and support to all the activities, goals and objectives of the Chamber. This classification can only be conferred upon individuals (not businesses or firms) recommended to and approved by the Board of Directors. Lifetime Board Members will have the privilege of voting.

ARTICLE 5 – OFFICERS

Section 1. President

The principle officer of the Chamber shall be the President, who shall preside at all the meetings of the Chamber and of the Board of Directors. He shall, subject to the approval of the Board, appoint all committees and other action groups except the Executive Committee, and he shall be an ex-officio member of these committees. He shall preside at the annual meeting of the Chamber and at such other times as he deems proper, he shall recommend or suggest to the membership and the Directors such actions as may tend to promote the prosperity of the community and increase the usefulness of the Chamber. He shall have general supervision of the business and affairs of the Chamber and shall assist in formulating and promoting the general program of the Chamber. He shall be a member, and the chairman, of the Executive Committee. He shall submit an annual report of the activities of the Chamber to the membership. The annual report shall contain only a basic overview of the Chambers accomplishments for the year. The President shall hold office for a regular term of one year but can serve a second consecutive one year term if elected thru the normal nominating and election procedures. He shall not be eligible to hold office again within one year after the expiration of his second consecutive term of office. He shall have authority to sign all contracts, notes, or other obligations of the Chamber and to execute deeds, mortgages or deed of trust, when so authorized by the Board of Directors. The Vice-President or the Treasurer shall attest his signature on such documents.

Section 2. Vice President

The Vice-President shall act in the absence or disability of the President, and shall also perform such other duties as may be delegated to him by the Board of Directors and the President.

Section 3. Second Vice President

The Second Vice-President shall act in the absence or disability of the President and Vice President, and shall also perform such other duties as may be delegated to him by the Board of Directors and the President.

Section 4. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be the custodian of the funds of the Chamber, causing all such funds to be deposited in its name in a depository bank. He shall require that all incoming funds be transmitted first to the Chamber's offices where the Secretary shall record, or cause to be recorded, all payments of funds to the Chamber prior to depositing of such funds to the Chamber's credit in the regular depository. All checks or vouchers issued against the Chamber's account or accounts shall be signed by two designated signers (President, Treasurer, or other signers as designated by the Board of Directors and duly recorded at the bank where the Chamber's account is held). The Treasurer shall prepare financial reports, at least quarterly, monthly when possible, and present them to the Board of Directors. At the expiration of his term of office, the Treasurer shall deliver to the Board all books, papers, records, and property of the Chamber which may be in his possession.

Section 5. Secretary

The Secretary shall be an elected member and shall perform such duties as may be prescribed or delegated by the Board of Directors. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to conduct the official correspondence, preserve all records, documents, files and communication, keep books of account, and maintain accurate records of the proceedings of meetings of the membership, the Board of Directors, divisions, committee task forces and other action groups. At the expiration of the term of office, the Secretary shall deliver to the Board all records, files and property of the Chamber, which may be in his charge.

Section 6. Election of Officers

The Nominating Committee appointed by the President in Article 4, Section 8 above, shall prepare a slate of proposed officers for the new term and that slate, after confirmation by the Nominating Committee that the proposed officers are willing to serve if elected, shall be voted on in any regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting or any special meeting of the Board of Directors called for that purpose on at least ten (10) days notice. Nominations from the floor for officer positions shall be allowed and such nominees may be voted on assuming they are willing to serve if elected.

ARTICLE 6 – CONTINUANCE OF TERMS OF OFFICE

All Directors and Officers of the Chamber shall continue to hold their offices until their successors are elected and qualified, unless otherwise provided.

ARTICLE 7 – COMMITTEES AND OTHER ACTION GROUPS

Section 1. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall be composed of the President as Chairman, the Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President, the Treasurer, the Secretary and the Prior Year's President. The Executive Committee may meet as needed. It shall be the function of the Executive Committee to act, when considered necessary, in an executive capacity between meetings of the Board of Directors, upon matters requiring immediate attention and in cases where it seems impracticable to have a special meeting of the Board of Directors. The Board may, from time to time, delegate such other powers and functions to the Executive Committee, as the Board may deem advisable. The Executive Committee holds the responsibility of the Nominating Committee. Any vacancies of the executive committee will be filled as follows: The President will nominate the individual and he will be subject to board approval before taking on the responsibility. The individual will serve out the remainder of the term. Executive Committee will have the responsibility to determine salary and bonus for each employee which would be presented to the budget committee for inclusion into the budget. Once the budget committee has formulated into the budget, it will be submitted to the board for approval.

Section 2. Auditing

The Executive Committee of the Chamber each year shall be responsible for an annual audit being made of the financial records and books of account of the Chamber, either by the committee or by a special auditor or auditors appointed by the committee with the approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Committee Appointments and Tenure

The President shall appoint all committees and other action groups as provided in Article V, Section 1. He shall appoint an appropriate number of committee members of standing committees to serve three-year terms so that continuity of knowledge of the work of those committees will be preserved. Other committee members may then be appointed by the President to serve for one-year terms.

Section 4. Duties and Authority of Appointed Action Groups

All appointed action groups shall report to the Board of Directors and all decisions shall be subject to the approval of the Board before becoming binding upon the Chamber, unless the Board shall have given plenary powers in advance. No appointed action group shall represent the Chamber in advocacy of, or in opposition to, any matter without the specific confirmation of the Board of Directors, or such confirmation as may be clearly granted under general powers delegated to such a group by the Board. After the annual budget has been approved by the Board of Directors, all committees and other action groups must operate within the approved budget allocated to them. No additional funds shall be spent by such groups without the prior approval of the Board of Directors. No committee or other action group shall attempt to raise additional project money without such Board approval. In seeking Board authority to spend additional funds or to raise additional funds, the committee or other action group will submit to the Executive Committee a written request explaining the need, the amount of money needed, and how the money is to be raised. The Executive Committee will, in turn, submit such a request to the Board of Directors with its recommendations. There will be no fund-raising projects for, or in the name of the Hewitt Chamber of Commerce, without the approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 5. Budget Committee

The Budget Committee shall consist of the President, the Treasurer, and other personnel, if any, desired by the Treasurer. As soon as possible after the annual election of the President and officers, and prior to January 1, the Budget Committee shall compile a budget of estimated expenses and income for submission to the newly elected Executive Committee with the exception of salaries and bonus. Salary and bonus for each employee will be a recommendation from the Executive Committee which will be formulated into the budget. This Executive Committee shall submit the budget it has approved to the new Board of Directors at its January meeting. As passed by the Board, with or without modification, this budget shall be the appropriation measure of the Chamber.

ARTICLE 8 - CHAMBER PERSONNEL

Section 1. Personnel

Recommendation of potential employee must be submitted to the Board by the Executive Director or Board President for approval prior to the employment offer.

Employee compensation package must be submitted to the Board by the Executive Director or Board President for approval prior to the employment offer.

ARTICLE 9 – MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Chamber and Board of Directors shall be held as early as practicable after the preparation of accurate financial statements for the prior fiscal year.

Section 2. Other Meetings

The Board of Directors may provide for holding monthly, quarterly, or such other meetings of the Chamber's membership as may be considered necessary or desirable. The date for any special meeting shall be not less than five (5) nor more than fifteen (15) days after the posting of a mailed notice.

Section 3. Notice

Notice of annual meeting or any other membership meeting shall be either mailed, posted in the Chamber newspaper, or posted on the Chamber website at least fifteen days in advance of such a meeting.

Section 4. Quorum

10 percent of the membership in good standing shall constitute a quorum at any membership meeting of the Chamber.

Section 5. Limitation of Debate

Each member shall be entitled to speak on any subject under consideration by the Chamber. At the discretion of the presiding officer, the time allowed for debate may be limited to no more than five (5) minutes.

Section 6. Parliamentary Procedure

All questions on parliamentary procedure shall be decided according to Robert's Rule of Order.

ARTICLE 10 – FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Chamber shall extend from January 1 to December 31 inclusive.

ARTICLE 11 – REFERENDA

Upon request in writing of five (5) percent of the voting members in good standing the Board shall submit, or upon its own initiative may submit, a question to the members of the Chamber for a referendum vote by mail (physical or electronic), the ballot for such vote to be accompanied by a brief, stating both sides of the question.

ARTICLE 12 – DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS

All disbursements of the Chamber funds shall be made by check, except small expenditures from petty cash. No appropriations or expenditures of money shall be made or authorized except by the Executive Committee or the Board of Directors. No Director, Officer, or employee of the Chamber, without authority, shall contract any obligation or incur any debt on behalf of the Chamber. Nothing in this Article shall require direct action by the Executive Committee or the Board of Directors to permit disbursements for routine and legitimate expenses under a previously approved program of work and budget of the Chamber for the current year. No appropriation of money or other property of the Chamber shall be made for any purpose other than to defray the routine or budget expenses, except by two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors or a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at a membership meeting of the chamber.

ARTICLE 13 – SEAL

The Chamber may have a seal of such design as the Directors may adopt.

ARTICLE 14 – AMENDMENTS

Section 1.

These BYLAWS may be amended at any regular membership meeting by majority vote of the members present in good standing, or by majority vote of the members present at any special meeting called for this purpose, provided at least five (5) percent of the voting membership shall be present and voting provided that such proposed amendment shall be plainly stated in writing at their regular or called meeting before which they are to be considered, or by majority vote in a referendum for this purpose.

Section 2.

Notice of meetings at which such amendments are to be considered must be given not less than ten (10) days prior to such a membership meeting.

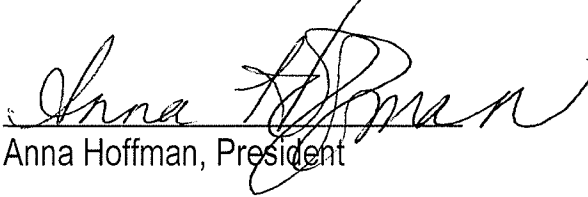
Section 3.


All proposed amendments to, or revisions of this instrument, should first receive the approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 4.

In lieu of amending these Bylaws at a regular or special called meeting of the membership of the Chamber, and upon the recommendation of the President or any officer for the amending of these Bylaws pursuant to the provisions of this section, and upon the vote of at least two thirds (2/3) of the Directors present at any regular or special called meeting of the Board of Directors in which a quorum is present in favor of adopting amendments to these Bylaws which have been previously approved by the Bylaws and Executive Committees, then such amendments to the Bylaws so approved shall become a part of the Bylaws of the Chamber.

APPROVED BY THE MEMBERSHIP THIS 14th DAY OF July, 2021


Anna Hoffman, President

ATTEST: 
Cassie Thomas, Secretary