**Westerville Area Chamber Office 99 Commerce Park Dr. 43082**

**Meeting Minutes Tuesday, December 3, 2024, 3:30-4:45 PM**

**Attendees:** Laura Hartman, Brandon Lawson, Matthew Tway, Amy Balster, Rita Bassiet, Janis Mitchell, Graham Guthrie, Brian Reed

**Staff member:** Janet Tressler-Davis

**Welcome- Introductions** – Laura Hartman

**Member of Teams**

* Business Regulations – Janis
  + **Marijuana Moratorium:** The city will revisit the marijuana moratorium on **January 25**.
* Taxation/Worker’s Comp. – Brandon – NA
* Workforce: WorkWISE – Janet
  + **Virtual Workforce Internship Program:** Scheduled for **Thursday, December 5**.
* Ohio Chamber Small Business Council Meeting- Laura/Janet/Janis
  + Most recent meeting also dealt with tax laws
  + Any concerns as an Ohio Small Business, Laura, Janis, or Janet can bring to OSBC

**New Tax Laws Effective January 2025: Discussion led by Tony LaNasa and Matthew Hollis.**

* Explanation of change from 2024-2025
* Please reference the email Janet sent out on Thursday, 12/5, with updated information on this [presentation](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1NbwOHoOVXN58c8AeHMDalYr1Jq1VklD3/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=102911401261004932117&rtpof=true&sd=true).

**Westerville School Levy Failure:** Next steps to be shared in an update from **Graham** at next meeting.

**Questions for Legislators (Beatty & Balderson) at December 20th Meeting** (*I reworded these to come from a federal view, please speak up if you disagree with the wording*)**:**

1. At the federal level, what is the rationale behind the Beneficial Ownership Information Report (BOI) requirement under the corporate Transparency Act, and are there any updates or predictions from the Texas court ruling?
2. How do you anticipate federal policies and the recent election outcomes will impact small businesses in Ohio, including considerations beyond the presidential level to state and local dynamics?
3. What are your key priorities for 2025, particularly as they relate to small businesses and economic development?
4. What is the federal government’s role in supporting or influencing Ohio’s marijuana legalization process?
5. What actions are being taken at the federal level to address the challenges related to Know Your Customer (KYC) compliance?
6. How is the federal government working to ensure infrastructure readiness, specifically how it will impact Ohio’s infrastructure such as reliable energy and water supply and improved roadways, to support new data centers and prevent rolling blackouts?
7. If the Department of Education is eliminated, what would be the federal strategy to address higher education funding and the future of programs like FAFSA?
8. What efforts are being made at the federal level to reduce healthcare costs for small businesses with fewer than 500 employees?
9. How is the federal government addressing the challenges posed by the Affordable Care Act, especially its impact of increasing costs to small and micro-businesses?

*If anyone has any additional questions they’d like to share, please send them in.*

**Volunteer Roles at 12/20 event:**

* **Janis Mitchell** and **Rita Bassiet** will screen audience questions during upcoming sessions.

**Key Political Updates:**

1. **JD Vance’s Senate Seat:**
   * Potential candidates for Governor DeWine's appointment include **Jim Jordan**, **Mike Carey**, and **David Joyce**. I believe another name was mentioned but I missed it.

**Future Topics for Discussion:**

1. City development updates.
2. Smart City initiatives (**June**).
3. Update from the **Director of Columbus Airport** (**March**).
4. Possibility of hosting a job fair.

**Future Meetings:**

* Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 7th
* If you have any meeting topic suggestions, please share them.
* Meetings: The Business Advocacy Council meets on the first Tuesday of every month

**Adjourn**