



Zoom Meeting – Monday, December 18, 2023@ 5:00 P.M.

MEETING AGENDA

THEME: Annual General Meeting

Call to Order

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Mr. James Schaefer, President

Year-End Report

Mr. James Schaefer, President

Financial Report

Mr. Jarret Thompson, Treasurer

****Election****

Nomination of Officers:

Position: Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Position: President

Position: Vice President

Position: Vice President and Executive Director

Position: Secretary

Position: Treasurer

Position: Advisor

Introduction of the 2023/2024 Board of Directors

General Discussion

Adjournment



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce in The Bahamas
December 18, 2023, via Zoom @5:00pm**

Present: Dan Romence, James Schaefer, Jarret Thompson, Doug Cowper, Craig Simms, Manuel Ruiz, Jeremy Cafferria, Brian Sawich, Ray Lightbourne, and Davina Bain

The meeting was called to order @5:10pm by James Schaefer.

The purpose of the Meeting was to re-elect a Board of Directors for the two-year term and discuss Goals and Objectives for 2024.

Jim thanked everyone for attending and opened by indicating that 2023 was a rebuilding year and one where AmCham worked with the US Embassy to host a few events; namely a fourth of July event in Nassau and a dinner event with the new US Embassy Political and Economic chief on Grand Bahama. One of the goals for 2024 is to put together an 'Ease of Doing Business' summit in collaboration with Bahamas Chamber of Commerce. Jim also introduced Brian Sawich, who previously worked at the US Embassy as Deputy Chief Financial Officer before retiring, who will be joining as an executive director and vice-president. Jim indicated that he is working on arranging a tour of the new US Embassy building in Nassau, along with planning to implement 'Guest Speaker Events' in 2024. There are also plans for a Trade Mission with the South Florida Chamber of Commerce to be held in Nassau in early 2024. A key goal for 2024 will be to build the membership of AmCham; new member Davina Bain was welcomed in the meeting and new member Jevon Butler was also acknowledged.

Jarret Thompson reported that the beginning financial balance for the year 2023 was \$4,760.00 with an aggregate sum of \$16,000.00 collected in dues for the period up to December 2023. \$8,636.00 was disbursed for operation expenses. Currently the on-hand balance is \$10,300.00.

Jim motioned for the previous board and officers to be reelected for 2024 for continuity purposes. This motion was voted on and approved. Jim proposed hosting another meeting in January 2024 for anyone who wants to step into various roles. Returning Board of Directors are Dan Romence (Chief Executive Officer), James Schaefer (President), Doug Cowper (Vice President), Craig Simms (Secretary), Jarret Thompson (Treasurer), and Robert Jensen (Advisor). Brian Sawich was added as a Vice President and Executive Director. This was seconded by Davina Bain and Doug Cowper.

During general discussion, Davina Bain pointed that she is having conversations with US based companies, wanting to do business in the Bahamas, but looking for a third party to vet Bahamian companies that they would be working with. She asked if this was an activity of AmCham and if it wasn't, it would be great to create a transparent vetting process for local businesses wanting to do business with US companies. She indicated that this was one of her goals for joining AmCham to increase these linkages and establish vetting processes.

Dan Romence commented that he was pleased with the effort put forth by the members to keep AmCham going and was looking forward to the new year. Doug Cowper echoed Dan's sentiments and thanked Jim for all of his efforts to keep AmCham going.

Jim adjourned the meeting @5:30 pm and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and blessed new year.