

## **Minutes of 17th Annual General Meeting of Sahiwal Chamber of Commerce & Industry held on 29th September, 2023**

Annual General Meeting of Sahiwal Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Sahiwal was held on 29th September, 2023 at 7.30 p.m. at Victoria Marquee, Sahiwal. Mr. Muhammad Kashif Riaz Ch, President of the Chamber presided over the meeting. The meeting was started with recitation of Holy Quran by Mr. Ahmad Abdullah, followed by Naat Sharif by Mr. Ali Hassan and relay of National Anthem. The proceedings were conducted by Mr. Muhammad Tariq Awan, Secretary General of the Chamber.

At the very outset, the President welcomed the participants in the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of Sahiwal Chamber of Commerce & Industry and expressed his heartfelt gratitude for their participation. In his welcome address, the President apprised the House that Trade Organizations' Elections for Office Bearers are held under Sub-Section (1) of Section 11 of Trade Organization Act, 2013 and Elections of Executive Committee are held under Rule 13 of Trade Organizations Rules, 2013. The Trade Organization (Amendment) Act, 2022 was notified on 3.11.2022 starting the tenure with effect from 1.1.2022 for 2 years.. However, the said Bill only addressed the tenure of the Office Bearers of Trade Organizations which was increased from "One Year" to "Two Years" but it omitted the rotation clauses in Rule 21 (13) about the tenure of Executive Committee. Some of our valued members of Rahim Yar Khan and Gujranwala Chambers preferred an appeal in the Islamabad High Court vide Writ Petition No.2226/2023 on 13.07.2023 contending that elections under Rules 13 to 19 of the Trade Organizations Rules, 2013 regarding Executive Committee cannot be held without the amendments in order to make consistent with the forestated statutory amendment to cater for the increase in the term of office from 1 to 2 years. The said Honorable Court granted Stay Order by suspending the operations of the DGTO Order dated 7.7.2023 regarding "Conduct of Elections for the year 2023-24 on Vacant Seats and fixed the next date of hearing on 5.10.2023. In view of the Stay Order, The Regulator/DGTO has completely suspended all sorts of actions under Trade Organizations Act, 2013 and Trade Organizations Rules, 2013 with regards to composition of Election Commission, Display of Voters List, Nomination for Executive Committee Membership and nomination of Office Bearers etc.

In nutshell, the Honorable Islamabad High Court, Islamabad vide their order dated 18.09.2023 directed the Federal Government to amend rule 21(13) of the TOR 2013 (as amended) to provide that the 2 year tenure of any member of an Executive Committee shall ipso facto be deemed extended by such term as required for such Executive Member to complete his 2 year tenure as an office bearer. In the wake of forestated scenario, the elections of the Chamber on all the seats will now be conducted in the year 2024 and by that time the detailed Notification from Director General/Regulator, Trade Organizations will hopefully be received.

Thereafter, the formal proceedings of the meeting were started in lines with its agenda circulated vide SCCI letter No. No. SCCI/2023/969 dated the 9th September, 2023 as detailed hereunder: -

### **1. Approval of minutes of last Annual General Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

The House unanimously approved the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 30th September, 2022.



**2. Passing of Audited Accounts of the Chamber for the financial year 2022-23**

Mr. Faiz-ul-Hassan Gillani, Chartered Accountant of M/s Mahboob Sheikh & Co., presented the audited accounts of the Chamber for the financial year 2022-23 and highlighted its salient features categorically stating at the same time that no serious violation/misappropriation of any nature came across during the conduct of audit. The House expressed their satisfaction over it.

**3. Appointment of Auditor and fixation of their remuneration**

The House was apprised that the periodical audit of Sahiwal Chamber is being conducted by M/s Mahboob Sheikh & Co., Chartered Accountants, Multan at the remuneration of Rs.50,000/- since a pretty long time and their services have been rated as satisfactory by all the stakeholders. Hence it was proposed that the said Firm may be engaged for the year 2023-24 as well at the remuneration of Rs.60,000/- which the House unanimously approved.

**5. Approval of expenditure approx. Rs. 8,00,000/- for the Dinner to be served in AGM being held on 29.09.2023**

The House was apprised that as per item No.4 of the Agenda of the Annual General Meeting-2023, circulated vide Chamber's notification dated 9.9.2023, approval of the House was proposed for an estimated expenditure of Rs.8,00,000/- to be incurred on the Dinner being hosted on that very day of Annual General Meeting i.e. 29.09.2023 for 800 expected guests. It was added that owing to increase in the enrolment of new memberships, the enhancement of arrangements in the same way has become inevitable. It was therefore, felt appropriate to make arrangement for atleast 800 guests. Hence negotiations were held with the concerned Marquee personnel on the issue and finally the expenses of approximately Rs.8,00,000/- were agreed upon. Therefore, approval of the House for an expenditure of Rs.8,00,000/- is solicited which the House having been convinced with the logical reasons put forth before them have unanimously approved the amount of expenditure of Rs.8,00,000/- for the stated purpose.

**6. Consideration of the Annual Report of the Chamber**

The salient points of the Annual Report were read out in the meeting by Mr. Muhammad Tariq Awan, Secretary General of Sahiwal Chamber of Commerce & Industry which are enumerated below: -

**i. Construction of Chamber's own building**

It had been our dream for the last 16 years to have Chamber's own building which Insha'Allah is now becoming a reality. Alhamdulillah, Chamber has paid Rs.55,00,000/- to the Contractor during the current term and have succeeded to arrange roof of 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the building after the construction of basement structure in the last year. It was reiterated that very soon you all will be there in Sahiwal Chamber of Commerce' gorgeous own building at Sahiwal Bypass provided the financial assistance from you people sustains the same way for ensuing atleast one or two years.



ii. **EXPO-23**

- a) A high-profile Expo-2023 with the title "Sahiwal Expo-2023" was arranged in Hockey Stadium, Sahiwal from 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 wherein more than 100 stalls were installed. The objective of the Expo was to project the potential of "**Made in Sahiwal**" products, domestically and internationally. It was inaugurated by Mr. S. M. Tanvir, Provincial Minister for Energy, Industries, Commerce, Investment & Skill Development (ISI&SD) and witnessed by Madam Maria Agnes M Cervantes, Ambassador of Philippine, Ms. Nyambura Kamau, Ambassador of Kenya, Mr. Baligh-ur-Rehman, Governor of Punjab, Presidents of Vehari & Rahim Yar Khan Chambers of Commerce & Industry and thousands of legend businessmen and inhabitants of the city. It proved to be a very useful and impressive Expo, duly recognized at National and International level.
- b) The President of Sahiwal Chamber of Commerce & Industry led a delegation comprising of tycoons of the business community to witness Everest International Expo (Private) Limited arranged in "Pakistan Industrial Expo-22", Expo Centre, Lahore and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Sponsors.
- c) The President also participated as Chief Guest in the I.J.A Tax Pakistan Exhibition which was organized by Fact Exhibition Private Limited in Expo Centre, Lahore.

iii. **Seminars**

- a) As many as 4 Seminars were arranged through the courtesy of SMEDA and Pakistan Trade Development Authority on different dates which were based on the sale promotion and other burning issues being confronted by the traders and their solutions.
- b) The President of SCCI also participated in a Seminar organized by the Government of Punjab, Environment Protection Department in Aiwan-e-Iqbal Complex, Lahore on the topic of "Green Development Program" and represented the Chamber befittingly.

iv. **Establishment of various Desks in the Chamber'**

The President of the Chamber in consequent to his personal interest and vigorous efforts succeeded to establish in the premises of the Chamber "**Job Centre**" of Punjab Information Technology Board, Lahore, **Facilitation Desk** of Federal Ombudsman (Tax), Islamabad and **Facilitation Counter** of Labour Department, Government of Punjab, Lahore wherefrom all the businessmen regardless of being members of the Chamber can avail their services as per their need and convenience.

v. **Close Liaisoning with other Chambers**

We tried our level best to maintain our old traditions of keeping close liaison with other Chambers of Commerce & Industry and exchanged our experiences and useful information as well as suggestions of mutual interest. Glimpses thereof are reproduced below: -

- a) Mr. Muhammad Kashif Riaz, President, SCCI participated in **International Chamber's Summit** organized by Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry in



January, 2023 and also visited President of Pakistan's House as a member of their delegation.

- b) He also took part in "All Pakistan Presidents of Chambers Conference" organized by Rahim Yar Khan Chamber of Commerce & Industry in February, 2023
- c) He represented Sahiwal Chamber of Commerce in a meeting of Punjab Chambers of Commerce & Industry's Coordination Committee, organized by Lahore Chamber at Lahore
- d) He also shared his views in Zoom meeting arranged by Bahawalpur Chamber of Commerce & Industry on the topic of "Pakistan Business Summit"
- e) Sahiwal Chamber of Commerce arranged a Zoom meeting with Mr. Muhammad Asif Panjwani, President of International Corporation Sector of Mozambique Chamber of Commerce and discussed issues relating to expansion of business and innovative schemes
- f) Sahiwal Chamber of Commerce welcomed delegation of Vehari Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Office Bearers of Multan Chamber of Commerce & Industry and discussed important issues of national interest relating to business community

vi. Welcome to dignitaries in Chamber's Office

Sahiwal Chamber of Commerce welcomed in the Chamber following very high profile dignitaries and exchanged very useful ideas of exploring new business avenues globally.

1. Mr. Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan
2. Mrs. Andres Wicke, Ambassador of Austria
3. Dr. Asif Mahmood Jah, (Hilal-i-Imtiaz) (Sitara-i-Imtiaz), Federal Tax Ombudsman for the inauguration of Facilitation Desk of his Office
4. Delegation of Pak China Business Forum, headed by Lt. Gen (Retd) Abdul Qayyum
5. M/s Faisal Mujeeb, Executive Vice President/ Head of Islamic Banking & Muhammad Noman Hashmi, Head Business Development Islamic Banking "Sa'adat" of Sindh Bank, Karachi
6. A Team of Punjab Information Technology Board headed by Syed Umar Saeed, Manager for deliberations on Integration of Data Base under the Project "Establishment of Job Centers in Punjab Province"
7. Mr. Ahmad Saeed, Regional Manager, Sui Northern Gas Department to interact with the stakeholders about execution of fresh agreements
8. Mr. Mudassar Rizwan Khan, Director, Labour & Welfare, Sahiwal Division
9. Regional Head, Employees Old Age Benefit Institution, Sahiwal
10. Dr. Mushtaq Sipra, Medical Superintendent, DHQ Teaching Hospital, Sahiwal
11. Print Media Personnel to update them on the issues relating to business community regarding de-sealing of various business centers on account of approval of maps for enhanced construction of shops and payment of conversion fee for change of category of building from Non-Commercial to Commercial
12. Welcomed Mr. Ali Muazzam Syed, CEO & Imran Saeed, GM(Coord), Punjab Industrial Estate Development & Management Co. Lahore for meeting regarding establishment of Industrial Zone
13. Heads of various Local Government Departments viz: Superintendent of Central Jail, Excise & Taxation Officer, Commissioner, Inland Revenue, Regional Police Officer and District Police Officer

vii. **Events Organized in the premises of Chamber**

As many as 33 very important, informative and useful to the point of view of the business community were arranged in the premises of Chamber. A few of them having high significance are discussed hereunder: -

- a) Establishment of Industrial Estate, Phase II at Sahiwal remained the burning issue for the Chamber throughout the year and in this context meetings with the high-ups viz: Mian Muhammad Aslam Iqbal, Provincial Minister for Industry, Managing Director, Punjab Small Industries Corporation, Lahore, Regional Director, Punjab Small Industries Corporation, Sahiwal, Commissioner & Deputy Commissioner, Sahiwal and attained tangible progress in this regard.
- b) In the recent past, meeting on this point was also held with Mr. Moeen Naqvi, Chief Minister and Mr. S.M. Tanveer, Provincial Minister for Industry & Energy who assured expeditious earmarking of land for the purpose.
- c) Appointment letters to 55 Chairmen of various Standing Committees of the Chamber were delivered to the nominees of Sahiwal, Pakpattan, Chichawatni and Arifwala cities
- d) Organized a get-together with Regional Police Officer, District Police Officer as well as other Field Officers of Police Department to pay tribute to them for maintaining praiseworthy law and order control in the city
- e) Celebrated 76<sup>th</sup> Independence Day on 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2023 with full enthusiasm by conducting flag hoisting and cake cutting ceremonies in the Chamber
- f) The Chamber also took active and leading role in the welfare activities of the city and invited experts of Rescue 1122 to apprise the participants about safety measures in case of fire or any other calamity occurrence. Besides this, programs on awareness about "Breast Cancer" and Training Program of "Akhuwat" were arranged in the Chamber.

viii. **Participation in the Events organized outside the Chamber**

The President of the Chamber participated in various activities organized outside the Chamber's premises and represented the Chamber there in a very befitting manner. A few are enumerated below: -

- a) Participated in "Business Gala" and Islamic Banking Program organized by the COMSAT University, Sahiwal Campus
- b) Participated in 4<sup>th</sup> Convocation arranged by COMAND Group of Colleges, Sahiwal wherein Mr. Baligh-ur-Rehman, Governor of Punjab was the Chief Guest.
- c) Participated as Chief Guest in the "Job Fair-2022" organized by Government College of Technology, Sahiwal
- d) Participated in inaugural ceremony of RP-9, Sahiwal organized by Sahiwal University, Sahiwal in coordination with Punjab Information Technology Board, Lahore and also signed Memorandum of Understanding with them
- e) Participated in the meetings of Advisory Committees of Government College of Technology, Sahiwal and Punjab Welfare School, Sahiwal



- f) Participated in Candle Lighting Event organized by Regional Police Officer, Sahiwal in commemoration of Shuada of Police Department
- g) Participated in **“Inaugural ceremony of Free Health Screening Camp”** organized by Punjab Small Industries Corporation, Sahiwal
- h) Arranged meeting of Mian Khalid Saeed, Founder Member of the Chamber and Chairman, Standing Committee for “Prisoners Welfare” with the Superintendent of Central Jail, Sahiwal

ix. **Meetings of Executive Committee**

The Chamber arranged meetings of Executive Committee on 9 occasions to discuss the important issues concerning to the Chamber and resolve them amiably after due consideration.

x. **Close liaisoning with the Local Administration of Punjab Government**

The President of the Chamber maintained close liaison with the various Government Departments and participated as many 39 meetings with them, glimpses thereof are discussed hereunder in brief: -

- a) Held meetings with the Commissioner, Sahiwal Division on various occasions to share problems concerning the Chamber as well as business community which includes allocation of land for the establishment of Industrial Estate, Phase II at Sahiwal, Concluding session of Expo-2023, construction of roads of Sahiwal City especially Fateh Sher Road, de-sealing of various business centers on account of approval of maps for enhanced construction of shops and payment of conversion fee for change of category of building from Non-Commercial to Commercial - Commissioner granted relaxation.
- b) Held meeting with Mr. Mehboob Rasheed Mian, Regional Police Officer, Sahiwal regarding law and order situation in the city and formation of Citizen Police Liaison Committee at Sahiwal & Pakpattan and security arrangements on the eve of Expo-2023
- c) Held Meetings with Deputy Commissioner, Sahiwal on various occasions viz: regarding establishment of Small Industrial Estate, Phase II, Sahiwal with regular intervals and have succeeded to attain tangible progress; to witness presentation made by Punjab Intermediate Cities Improvement Investment Program (PICIIP), Local Government & Community Development Department, Sahiwal regarding Land Use Zoning Plan 2020-2045 and Site Development Zone Structure Plan Report; Participated in the meetings of District Consumer Protection Council; District Rehabilitation & Training Committee, Sahiwal; to review Anti-Smog Activities.
- d) Held introductory meeting with Deputy Commissioner, Pakpattan and requested for the inclusion of our members in various District Liaisoning Committees of Pakpattan District
- e) Held Meeting with the District Police Officer, Pakpattan for the formation of Citizen Police Liaison Committee
- f) Held meeting with District Police Officer, Sahiwal on different dates for introduction of new Management and inclusion of our members in various Citizen-Police Liaisoning Committees and holding of combined meeting of SCCI-Police Liaisoning Committee; for the deployment of Security Staff at Expo-2023; regarding security arrangements during transit of cash from and to the Banks; fixation of round the clock from Saturday night to Monday morning exclusive facility to the members of SCCI and their families to acquire Driving Licenses through one window operations



- g) Held meeting with Mr. Riaz Ahmad, Deputy Superintendent of Police (Traffic) in Chamber's premises to discuss traffic problems of the city
- h) Called on Mr. Sajid Mehmood Gondal, Sub-Divisional Police Officer, Chichawatni to streamline liaison with the nominees of SCCI, Chichawatni as per notification of Regional Police Officer, Sahiwal
- i) Held meeting with Director General, Parks & Horticulture Authority, Sahiwal regarding plantation in Sahiwal City
- j) Called on Dr. Khalid Javed, Vice Chancellor, Sahiwal University to discuss matters of mutual interest and finalize agenda for ensuing meeting with the Governor of Punjab
- k) Participated in Awareness Program regarding Education abroad arranged by Mukabbar School, Sahiwal
- l) Participated in the meeting convened by Mrs. Solat Saqib, Commissioner, Punjab Revenue Authority in PRA's office at Sahiwal regarding payment of Workers Welfare Fund under the Punjab Workers Welfare Fund Act, 2019.
- m) Participated in the meeting of Advisory Council of Punjab College of Technology, Sahiwal
- n) Participated in International Literacy Day organized by Literacy & Non-formal Basic Education Department
- o) Participated in meeting of Integrity Committee convened by the Commissioner, Inland Revenue, Sahiwal

xi) **Signing of Memoranda of Understanding with various Vendors**

Sahiwal Chamber of Commerce & Industry had been able to sign Memoranda of Understanding with various Vendors so as to provide substantial discount/rebate to our Members on production of valid Chamber's Cards. These Vendors include Hameed Latif Hospital Laboratories, Sahiwal, Essentials Aesthetics, Pathologist, Model Lab, Sahiwal, Alina Dental Clinic, Super Market, Al-Ghani Plaza, Opp: Govt Commerce College, Sahiwal, Essentials Rehab Services, International Hospital & Care Hospital, Sahiwal, Chughtai Health Care, Alflah Medical Complex Opposite DHQ Hospital, Noor Shah Road Sahiwal, Allura Beauty Salon, Studio & Training Institute, 247-F Farid Town Road, Sahiwal, Punjab Informational Technology Board, Government of Punjab through the courtesy of Sahiwal University under Regional Plan-9, Bhatti, Bhatti Traders, Main 86/6-R-Chowk, Sahiwal, Haji Bag Mahal, Saddar Bazar, Sahiwal, New Trend Garments, Ansar Road, Outside Soree Gali, Sahiwal, Sajjad Fabrics, Pakpattan Bazar, Sahiwal, Karwan-e-Sialvi Tours Pvt Ltd., 555-Mufti Market, High Street, Sahiwal, Italian Pizza, Dawood Chowk, Sahiwal, Pizza Cucina, Near Gujjar Ahata, Shami Shaheed Road, Sahiwal, Pizza House, Liaqat Road, Sahiwal and Tabarak Restaurant, Pakpattan Road, Sahiwal.

xii) **Any other item with the approval of the Chair**

**1) Revision of Financial Powers of President as well as of Executive Committee of SCCI**

- a) The House was apprised that presently the President of SCCI is empowered to sanction an expenditure not exceeding Rs.5,000/- at a time from the funds of the Chamber in terms of Clause 28(iii) of Memorandum & Article of Association. In the wake of high rate of inflation in the country and abnormal rise in the prices of general commodities, it was proposed that this amount of Rs.5,000/- may be raised to the tune of Rs.20,000/- as has also been recommended by the Executive Committee in its meeting held on 27.09.2023. Mr. Muhammad Faisal Ikram, Former President of the Chamber pointed out that he also remained President of



the Chamber and is very well aware of the day to day expenses of the Chamber and in the wake of his experience, this amount is a little bit on high side and may be fixed at Rs.10,000/-. In its reply, it was argued that ceiling of Rs.10,000/- will not suffice to the Chamber's requirements and the practical problem would remain the same as is existing at the moment. The House keeping in view this explanation, approved the enhancement of limit upto Rs.20,000/- (Rupees twenty thousand only).

- b) The House was also apprised that the Executive Committee of the Chamber is authorized to allow payment of Rs.50,000/- on any one item in terms of Clause 53 of the Memorandum & Article of Association. Owing to abnormal hike in the inflation rate, it is proposed that this amount of Rs.50,000/- may be enhanced to Rs.2,00,000/- for the sake of smooth functioning of the Chamber. Both the Former Presidents namely M/s Sh. Azmat Saleem and Rashid Hameed Ch., respectively expressed their point of view that the recommended increased in on very high side and does not commensurate with the prevailing inflation rate and thus it may be restricted upto Rs.1,00,000/ (Rupees one hundred thousand only). The House was convinced with this suggestion and unanimously approved the same.

2. Address by Sh. Azmat Saleem, Former President

Sh. Azmat Saleem, Former President expressed a great deal of his satisfaction over the working of the Chamber during the year under review and appreciated the role of all the stakeholders in maintaining fraternal and harmonious atmosphere in the day to day working of the Chamber and prayed for its continuity in the times to come. He also congratulated the Office Bearers as well as the Members of Executive Committee for the extension of their tenure by one year and hoped that they will carry on their strategic plans with the same spirit.

During his address, he also requested the Executive Committee of the SCCI to review their decision with regards to increase of Renewal Fee upto Rs.5,000/- at uniform rate from all the Members and may revert to the previous rate of Rs.4,200/- inclusive of cost of Chamber's Membership Card in the wake of current economic condition of the businesses at large.

3. Address by Mr. Rashid Hameed Chaudhary, Former President

Mr. Rashid Hameed Chaudhary, Former President also lauded the efforts of the Executive Committee and Office Bearers of the Chamber in the conduct of daily working of the Chamber in a congenial and friendly environment and also conveyed his heartfelt greetings to them for one year's extension in their tenure. He lauded the efforts of the Building Committee and the President and Secretary General of the Chamber in succeeding the roofing of 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the new building. He also greeted the Office Bearers and Members of Executive Committee for extension of their tenure by 1 year and hoped that now they would successfully reach their significant milestones.

In his address, he also endorsed the point of view of Mr. Azmat Saleem, regarding revision of Renewal Fee and proposed the continuation of previous amount of Rs.4,200/- in view of the fact that economy of Pakistan is currently passing through a very difficult phase due to falling value of rupee and many others factors. Finally, he prayed for

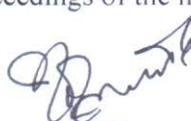


the success and prosperity of the Chamber and expressed his confidence about better performance in the upcoming time.

4. **Address by Mr. Muhammad Kashif Riaz, President**

Mr. Muhammad Kashif Riaz, President of the Chamber in his concluding address expressed his gratitude to the audience for their participation in the Annual General Meeting and active role played therein. He also expressed thankfulness to both the forestated Former Presidents for their compliments and the supportive role they have always played in addressing the concerns of business community. In reply to the proposals putforth by them with regards to revert to the previous amount of annual renewal fee, he explained that this matter remained burning issue in various meetings of Executive Committee repeatedly and every time it was deferred on compassionate grounds keeping in view the bitter fact that Pakistan's economy is in a precarious situation and record-high inflation. He added that on the other hand, owing to the abnormal rise in the prices of general commodities subsequent to decrease in the currency value and wave of global hike in prices, incurring of day to day expenses of the Chamber has become a challenging job. The increase in renewal fee was approved by the Executive Committee under compelling circumstances having no other option so as to pay the electricity bills, salary of staff, refreshments on Events and ever-increasing cost of construction of new building of the Chamber. He also asserted that increase in the renewal fee from Rs.4,200/- to Rs.5,000/- works out to just Rs.800/- which is highly negligible and insignificant. However, despite that we welcome the proposal most cordially and cheerfully and proclaim publicly that there will be no increase in the Renewal Fee and it will be charged at the old rate of Rs.4,200/- inclusive of cost of Chamber's Identity Card till further decision. This announcement was embraced with clapping by the audience.

Finally, the President bade goodbye to the audience, wrapped up the proceedings of the meeting and invited the participants to the exquisite dinner.

 10/10/2023

(Muhammad Tariq Awan),  
Secretary General

**Dated: 10th October, 2023**