

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE LAHORE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
HELD ON 19.12.2020 AT 1130 HOURS
IN AMIN HALL, LCCI BUILDING**

<u>S.No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Name of Member Organization</u>
1.	Mian Tariq Rehman (In Chair)	President	Pharmasales International (Pvt) Ltd
2.	Mr. Muhammad Nasir Hameed	Sr. Vice President	S. N. Traders
3.	Mr. Tahir Manzoor Chaudhry	Vice President	Lever Engineering Industries
4.	Sh. Muhammad Ibrahim	E.C. Member	Cannon Foam Industries (Pvt) Ltd.
5.	Mr. Shafiq Ahmad Butt	E.C. Member	Ayesha Fabrics
6.	Mr. Amir Anwar	E.C. Member	Crescent Dyeing & Embroidery (Pvt) Ltd.
7.	Mr. Fiaz Haider	E.C. Member	BB Chempack Industries (Pvt) Ltd.
8.	Dr. Riaz Ahmed	E.C. Member	Sharooq Pharmaceuticals (Pvt) Ltd.
9.	Malik Muhammad Khalid	E.C. Member	Gojjar Electrical Company
10.	Mr. Khadim Hussain	E.C. Member	Hussain Trading Co.
11.	Sh. Sajjad Afzal	E.C. Member	Afzal Machinery Stores
12.	Haji Muhammad Asif Sehar	E.C. Member	Haji Asif Group International
13.	Mr. Zeeshan Sohail Malik	E.C. Member	I.Z. Traders
14.	Mr. Wasif Yousaf	E.C. Member	Orient Pak International
15.	Mr. Yasir Khurshid	E.C. Member	Lead Concept
16.	Ms. Uzma Shahid	E.C. Member	Uzma Fabrics
17.	Mr. Muhammad Nadeem Qureshi	E.C. Member	4B Gentel International (Pvt) Ltd.
18.	Mr. Mardan Ali Zaidi	E.C. Member	Swera Departmental Store
19.	Mr. Abdul Wadood Alvi	E.C. Member	Adnan Printers
20.	Malik Riaz Iqbal	E.C. Member	Nadir Saidjan Industries
21.	Mr. Mubashar Naseer Butt	E.C. Member	Body Media International (Pvt) Ltd.
22.	Mr. Maqbool Siddique	E.C. Member	Mian Cables
23.	Mr. Saleem Asghar Bhatti	E.C. Member	Goshi Electronics
24.	Mr. Muhammad Naeem Hanif	E.C. Member	Hian Communication
25.	Mr. Shahid Nazir	E.C. Member	Filter House
26.	Mr. Muhammad Ali Afzal	E.C. Member	Afzal Sons
27.	Mrs. Shireen Arshad	E.C. Member	Shireen's Designer World

Mr. Shahid Khalil

Secretary General LCCI

1. Recitation from the Holy Quran

The meeting started with the recitation from the Holy Quran.

Condolence

The Executive Committee expressed grief and sorrow over the sad demise of Mother of Mr. Shahzad Waheed, Former EC Member and Mumani of Mr. Tahir Manzoor Chaudhry, Vice President, Mr. Pervaiz Anwar Sheikh, Former Senior Vice President, Father of Mr. Naveed Ullah Khan, Former EC Member, Father of Ch. Aurangzeb Aslam, Former EC Member, Father of Mr. Shahzad Aslam, Former EC Member, Brother-in-law of Mr. Javed Iqbal Siddiqui, Former EC Member, Mother-in-law of Mr. Khamis Saeed Butt, Former EC Member, Mother-in-law of Mr. Rizwan Akhtar Shamsi, Former EC Member LCCI and Ch. Ahmad Mukhtar, Former Defence Minister. The house offered *Fatiha*.

2. Leave of Absence

The leave of absence was granted to the following Members.

1. Mr. Ali Hussam Asghar
2. Mr. Nasrullah Mughal
3. Ch. Muhammad Nusrat Tahir
4. Mr. Muhammad Khashif Bashir
5. Mr. Shaltzad Butt
6. Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh

3. Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on 24.10.2020 were approved by the house with the following observations:-

- 3.1 Haji Muhammad Asif Sehar emphasized the need for provision membership card at reasonable price with same day delivery to members. The Senior Vice President clarified that we are providing good quality cards at a reasonable price after taking all aspects into consideration. The Vice President said that we welcome the suggestion of Haji Muhammad Asif Sehar and decision would be taken in the best interest of Chamber members and LCCI. The house appreciated the efforts of Office-Bearers for getting cards at a reasonable price.
- 3.2 The Vice President expressed his concern over the point number 7.9 on page 5 of the minutes and said we should not endorse that industry is misusing SROs and selling its imported raw materials into the open market. He said that office bearers should be consulted before sending such letters and requested to delete this paragraph from the minutes. He further said that the house should also approve minutes of Standing Committees which were deferred in the previous EC meeting.
- 3.3 Mr. Muhammad Ali Afzal asked about the point raised by Mr. Mubashar Naseer Butt regarding the definition of Corporate and Associate Classes of members under Article 3 (a) & (b). The Secretary General clarified that there is a difference only "EITHER" and "NOT" in both classes which he read one by one;

(a) **Corporate Members:**

- (i) This class of membership shall be open to all industrial and commercial undertakings **EITHER** a body corporate or a multinational corporation with its head office or branch office in Pakistan or a sales-tax-registered manufacturing or a sales-tax-registered business concern having annual turnover of Rs.50 million or above.

(b) **Associate Members**

- (ii) This class of membership shall be open to medium and small industrial and commercial undertakings, which are **NOT** a body corporate or a multinational or a Sales Tax registered manufacturing concern or a sales tax registered business concern having annual turnover Rs.50 million or above.

- 3.4 Mr. Sheikh Sajjad Afzal clarified about his point, which was highlighted by him in the previous EC meeting that raw materials which are not produced locally are subject to Regulatory Duty, but this regulatory duty is causing double damage to these small units in shape of increased production cost and for being uncompetitive against imported goods. He said this issue has already been taken up with the National Tariff Commission (NTC) and a letter from LCCI has already been sent in this regard.

4. **Implementation of Decisions of the EC**

Implementation Report on the decisions of the previous Minutes of Executive Committee meeting was approved by the house.

Mrs. Shireen Arshad appreciated the implementation report of the decisions of the Executive Committee and writing letters to the concerned departments and asked about the follow-up of these letters. The Secretary General said that the President himself talked with some Ministers on telephone for resolving problems of the business community and some Ministers has promised to visit LCCI but some policy-related issues are under process.

5. **List of Activities**

List of Activities approved by the house from 17.10.2020 to 11.12.2020 with appreciation.

The Vice President said that two activities are missing in the list one is 'A delegation of Brandreth Road' and the other activity is a 'meeting of Mrs. Shireen Arshad' which should be included in the list of activity.

6. **Statement of Accounts**

The Statement of Accounts for the month of October-November 2020 were approved by the house with the following observations:-

- 6.1 Mr. Muhammad Nadeem Qureshi asked about the decrease in Profit on Investment mentioned on page 9 of the statement. Finance Manager while replying to the point said that we were expecting a profit of Rs.24 lakh on our budgeted investment for five months but due to reduced rate of profit and withdrawal of security deposits by members, profit on investment decreased to Rs.16 lakh.
- 6.2 Mr. Wasif Yousaf asked about the reduction of Return on Investment on page 2 of the statement while the amount stands the same. The Finance Manager said that interest income did not reduce but we did not get receipts which will be received after maturity in January. Mr. Wasif Yousaf further asked about the reason for the reduction of salaries. The Chair said that three staff members were retired.
- 6.3 Sheikh Sajjad Afzal asked about LCCI Advance Income Tax which was outstanding for a long time. The Finance Manager briefed that the advance was suspended from the year 2012 to 2019 and it could not conclude that this advance keeps in our books or write off or claim the refund. He said that LCCI Exemption has withdrawn and we are already in appeal and the matter was with Chief Commissioner for review petition. He added that if the appeal goes against LCCI it would be written off against the liability otherwise LCCI will claim its refund. Mr. Mardan Ali Zaidi said that in the past Mr. Ahmad Shujah visited LCCI and the President LCCI highlighted the issue of LCCI Advance Tax in the meeting and Mr. Ahmad Shujah committed that he will pursue this case and resolve it. He suggested that LCCI should again pursue Mr. Ahmad Shujah, Chief Commissioner of Inland Revenue to resolve it. The Chair said that he will visit Islamabad next Monday and take up this issue.
- 6.4 The Vice President further clarified that the LCCI generated revenue in the previous regime before September regarding visa letters and Achievement Awards the said amount returned to the members in this tenure. He added that LCCI advance tax refund case of Rs.20.7 million linger on for a long time. He requested EC members to use their influence for resolving this issue. The SVP informed the house that LCCI Achievement Award will be organized very soon and a handsome amount will be generated and *Inshallah* LCCI deficit will be reduced.
- 6.5 Mr. Muhammad Nadeem Qureshi suggested that first of all LCCI should try to get an Exemption Certificate after that we should pursue adjustment of Income Tax to which the Chair agreed. The Chair constituted a 6-Member Adhoc Committee comprising the following members. The Committee will look into the affairs of acquiring LCCI Income Tax Exemption Certificate and outstanding issues of Income Tax of LCCI:-
- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|----------|
| 1. | Mr. Tahir Manzoor Chaudhry (VP) | Convener |
| 2. | Mr. Muhammad Nadeem Qureshi | Member |
| 3. | Mr. Mardan Ali Zaidi | “ |
| 4. | Mr. Wasif Yousaf | “ |
| 5. | Mr. Abdul Wadood Alvi | “ |
| 6. | Mr. Mubashar Naseer Butt | “ |

6.6. Mr. Mubashar Naseer Butt asked about the reason for the increase in benefits and also the change in other expenses in September on page 2 of the Accounts Statement. The Finance Manager said that the Office-Bearers awarded one basic salary to all staff in September as per previous practice otherwise it is same in October and November. Secondly, regarding the change in other expenses, as per Note No.17 our main expenses on Elections for Rs.2.6 million which is showing variance. He further said that in Note No.13 our major expenses in September on printing of Statutory Report and Ballot Papers under the head of Administration. Mr. Mubashar Naseer Butt further asked about the budget which was approved head-wise and if budget exceeds the approval of EC is needed monthly or annually. The Finance Manager said that we see as a total budget and if our expenses exceed at the end of the year then we seek approval from the Executive Committee.

7. **Problems of Trade and Industry**

- 7.1 Mr. Shahid Nazir appreciated the efforts of Secretary General LCCI for resolution of his problem regarding renewal of his license by Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA). He pointed out that despite complying and fulfilling all the requirements 10 days ago he still has no response from OGRA causing huge loss. He requested the Chair to help resolve this issue.
Mr. Muhammad Nasir Hameed Khan, SVP, also shared that the government is considering for an alternative solution as complaints from business community against OGRA are growing fast. He assured the house that LCCI will take up this issue with the Government for earliest possible solution of such problems.
- 7.2 Sheikh Sajjad Afzal said that majority of businesses in his sector are not registered in sales tax regime and we have to pay 3% additional tax, which makes our business incompatible. He requested to take up this issue with FBR.
- 7.3 Dr. Riaz Ahmad said that government wants to increase export of pharmaceutical products, which is not possible without fulfilling the international standards. To meet export promotion target cleanroom panels are considered most essential component in Pharmaceutical Industry for export of pharmaceutical products from Pakistan but to provide protection to local manufacturers, producing substandard panels, the government has imposed 23% Customs Duty, 10% Sales Tax and 1.5% Additional Sales Tax on the import of cleanroom panels. He suggested that the custom duty should be reduced to zero and there should be no Additional Sales Tax on import of these panels. He proposed to take up this matter with Chairman FBR.
- 7.4 Malik Muhammad Khalid said that traffic problems in Shahalam Market were discussed in the previous meeting and it was suggested to invite CTO at LCCI to discuss the said issues. The Chair said that LCCI Office-Bearers had a detailed meeting with Commissioner Lahore and various issues including traffic problems were highlighted and CTO will visit all markets soon. He asked Malik Khalid that he will talk to CTO on phone after EC meeting about traffic problems of Shah Alam Market. Malik Muhammad Khalid thanked the President for writing a letter to Mr. Abdul Razak Dawood regarding export of copper & aluminum. He requested that the same letter may be sent to Mr. Muhammad Hammad Azhar, Federal Minister for Industries & Production and Chairman FBR to restrict the export of copper and

aluminum as a raw material so that the requirements of copper and aluminum for local industries could be fulfilled. Malik Muhammad Khalid requested that DG IOCO Authority should be invited to visit LCCI to discuss the problems of LED lights manufacturers. The Secretary General said that he talked with Mr. Abdul Rauf, DG, IOCO, Lahore, Karachi & Islamabad and promised that he will visit Lahore in the next week. Vice President proposed to impose export duty on copper and aluminum to discourage export of these raw materials from Pakistan. Malik Muhammad Khalid also said that a large number of standing committees have been constituted and it is very difficult for every Executive Committee Member to go through minutes of these committees received with EC Agenda. He suggested that the assigning of standing committees to Executive Committee members in equal number so that every standing committee working is effectively monitored and issues could be properly presented in EC meetings.

- 7.5 Mr. Muhammad Ali Afzal requested for special focus on commercial importers problems in the next LCCI Budget Proposals to be submitted in February 2021. He pointed out that commercial importers are assessed under normal tax regime and they were forced to pay highest turnover tax, which resulted in liquidity crunch and at the end they were left with very little cash in hand. He suggested that in the forthcoming budget proposals, this matter should be looked into so that maximum cash in hand could be shown for their businesses.
- 7.6 Mr. Mardan Ali Zaidi said that despite continuous follow up by Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, FBR is not implementing points agreed between Chain Stores Association and FBR regarding POS system. He said now FBR has started serving notices and imposing penalty on Chain stores, which should be stopped immediately. He emphasized the need of holding awareness sessions at LCCI for retailers and customers for smooth functioning and better understanding of the integrated system in collaboration with Chief Commissioner, Lahore, to which the Chair agreed.
- 7.7 Mr. Khadim Hussain said that an Adhoc Committee was constituted under his headship to present a report based on facts regarding parking plazas and encroachments in city markets. He further said that the Committee had worked a lot on the subject and have collected information from different sources but due to Covid-19 we were forced to delay our report for some time. He said that the Committee will share its report with the President LCCI before the next meeting after proper verification of all facts and figures so that further actions could be initiated with the consent of worthy President.
- 7.8 The Chair informed the house that with the efforts of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry the government has appointed Mr. Shahrukh Jamal Butt as Chairman Board of Directors of Lahore Parking Company Limited which is a big achievement of the Lahore Chamber, to which the house appreciated. The Chair further said that during the meeting with Commissioner Lahore regarding parking

plazas he informed that the Chief Minister Punjab has instructed them to prepare a plan for construction of Parking Plazas in Lahore. He said that now the authority is with (because of appointment of Shah Rukh Jamal) the Lahore Chamber and we will make a plan for parking plazas. He further said that regarding encroachments, all government departments have shown their interest in visiting the markets but due to Covid-19 we have delayed their visits. He expressed that soon we will visit different markets of Lahore.

- 7.9 Mr. Khadim Hussain further pointed out presence of a large number of drug addicts in parking areas located on Ferozepur Road from Muslim Town Mor to Qartaba Chowk. These drug addicts are involved in illegal activities such as selling of drugs on these spots and are also causing road accidents. He said that the matter has already been discussed with the CTO and PHA. He suggested that it is a serious problem which should be taken up with the concerned authorities on priority basis. The Chair also endorsed Mr. Khadim Hussain and said that the matter would be taken up immediately. Mr. Mardan Ali Zaidi added that a special ward is available in Mental Hospital for the treatment of Drug Addicts and LCCI may contact authorities in Mental Hospital for such people. He also suggested that LCCI should write letters to M.S. Mental Hospital and the Secretary Health Punjab in this regard.
- 7.10 Mr. Saleem Asghar Bhatti highlighted three points; first parking problem in the markets which was elaborated by Mr. Khadim Hussain, second valuation of mobile phones and the third firefighting arrangements in markets. The Chair said that regarding firefighting issue soon we will visit your market. He further said that firefighting teams of Rescue 1122 and WASA will visit all big markets like Shah Alam, Brandreth Road, Hall Road, Anarkali and Mall Road for installation of Fire Hydrant and the WASA will connect these hydrants with its main water supply line. The Chair said that the Fire Hydrants would be installed in all big markets of Lahore. The house appreciated the efforts of the LCCI Office-Bearers.
- 7.11 The Senior Vice President informed that a Committee on "Firefighting" has been constituted which has started working on fire hydrants in markets. He said that Mr. Khadim Hussain highlighted a burning issue of begging at Ferozepur Road and beggars are also spreading Covid 19 and the same has been reported by the government. He further said that LCCI Office-Bearers have decided that each Convener of standing committee will bring ten new members within a time period of three months and if he does not complete this target then his standing committee will be withdrawn. The Standing Committee will mention the names of new members in their committee minutes. Regarding the issue of mobile phones signals in various markets the SVP said that LCCI has been in contact with PTA for the last two months and we have given mobile numbers of all EC members to PTA team who will visit different markets and confiscate the boosters and later on they will take action against them. On the point of Mr. Kashif Bashir regarding Solar System, the SVP said that he is heading this committee and at the end of meeting a presentation will be given to EC on Solar System and *Inshallah* very soon we will install Solar System at LCCI.

- 7.12~~e~~ Haji Muhammad Asif Sehar said that the Tourism Fee has been abolished in three Provinces while in Punjab the fee was abolished verbally but notification was not issued so far. The Chair said that he will talk to Director General Tourism in this regard. Haji Muhammad Asif Sehar further said that the fee of UAN is Rs.40,000/- but due to Covid-19 the department has waived off UAN Fee for only a few users. He suggested that the UAN fee should be waived off for all users. The Chair asked Haji Asif Sehar to provide any proof in this regard so that it could be taken up with the concerned authority. ✓
- 7.13 Mr. Khadim Hussain said that for new membership, two members' signatures on membership form as proposer and seconder are mandatory. He suggested that out of these two signatories one should be an executive committee member of LCCI. While replying to the suggestion of Mr. Khadim Hussain, Senior Vice President said that as per requirements of Trade Organizations Rules 2013, LCCI is not authorized to impose such restrictions on members. He was of the view that issuance of membership certificates are linked with the approval of EC and in this way your proposal is already being implemented.
- 7.14 Mr. Zeeshan Sohail Malik said that despite requests from business community and Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry last date for submission of Income Tax Returns was not extended by the government. He added that about 60 percent taxpayers could not submit their tax returns, therefore he requested the Chair to take up this matter with the government. The Chair said that the LCCI had sent letter to FBR Chairman and also given in the Newspapers for extension in last date for filing of income tax return. He further said that all other Chambers including FPCCI had sent letters in this regard but as per his information the date of tax return is not being extended. He promised to issue press statement again.
- 7.15 Malik Riaz Iqbal said that some industries are facing problems due to shortage of Sui Gas while Sui Gas is being provided 24 hours to some industries. He requested the Chair to take up this matter with the concerned authority to provide gas 24 hours to all industries. The Chair said that he will take up this matter. The Vice President said that we had some meetings with SNGPL and also had a meeting with General Manager SNGPL in this regard. He stated that Sui Gas shortage is for only those industries which are close to residential areas like Ferozpur Road or Multan Road otherwise Gas is being provided 24 hours to industrial estates. He said that the department will segregate pipeline for industries and residential areas to solve the problem. ✓
- 7.16 Mr. Muhammad Ali Afzal suggested that LCCI should announce Amnesty Scheme for those members who have not renewed their memberships for a long time and if LCCI announces some discount in their outstanding dues maximum members could avail this opportunity and our membership base will improve. The Chair said that it was also discussed in the Membership Committee meeting and after approval of the house it would be circulated among members.

- 7.17 Mr. Muhammad Nadeem Qureshi suggested that LCCI should arrange a Press Conference for extension of date of Income Tax Return up to 31st December as large number of people could not submit their tax returns. The Chair said that he will visit Islamabad on Monday to discuss this matter otherwise we will hold a Press Conference in this regard.
- 7.18 Mr. Muhammad Nadeem Qureshi highlighted the issue of grace period on loans extended by government under *Rozgar Scheme* during Covid-19 pandemic to support industries. Under this scheme, loans for payment of salaries for May, June and July were extended by banks with six months grace period for repayment of loans from 1st January 2021. When Covid-19 prolonged the government extended this facility for industries to pay salaries of August, September and October, 2020 on the same grace period. He further said now Banks are not accepting the second quarter grace period of six months and demanding payments of both quarters from 1st January 2021. He said that it was the Government domain (Ministry of Finance) who announced the package and its grace period. He suggested that a letter should be written to the government in this regard.
- 7.19 Mr. Maqbool Siddique said that before 2012 LCCI was accepting new membership fee in cash but now the only acceptable mode of fee payment is through cross cheque. He suggested that the same old practice may please be restored to facilitate new members and irrelevant documents such as account maintenance certificate should also be withdrawn to encourage new applicants. The Chair said all the documents are received as per Trade Organizations Rules for new membership, while Cheque is received for verification of applicant particulars. The SVP said that if a member submits cross cheque along with cash his membership application is accepted and LCCI issues membership certificate after receiving cash payment. Mr. Maqbool Siddique suggested that lawyer does not qualify the membership criteria as per law and LCCI should refuse such applications for membership of the Lahore Chamber. The Chair said that LCCI has stopped the enrollment of lawyers but only law firms can get LCCI membership. Mr. Maqbool Siddique said that PTA team will visit different markets to detect boosters and action will be taken against them in this regard. He suggested that a letter should be sent to PTA to increase towers in the markets instead of taking action against booster operators. He further proposed that the EC minutes should be translated into Urdu language for better understanding of members. The Chair said that he will look into these proposals.
- 7.20 Ms. Shireen Arshad Khan said that LCCI has signed MoU with PIA and its Chairman has promised to support Women Entrepreneur and it was announced by him that PIA will extend 17% rebate to LCCI members. She complained that when PIA Facilitation Desk at LCCI was approached for purchasing 50 tickets, they refused and said that the policy is still under formulation so far. She requested to take up this matter with PIA authorities. The Chair said that the discount facility is only for LCCI members and the request made by Mrs. Shireen Arshad was for non-members.
- 7.21 Mr. Abdul Wadood Alvi highlighted the issue of protests at Mall Road despite Lahore High Court orders under Section 144. He said due to these protests business community of Mall Road, Hall Road, Cooper Road and Beadon Road is very disturb.

He suggested that LCCI should write a letter to the concerned authority to take necessary action in this regard so that the businesses could not be disturbed.

- 7.22 Mr. Yasir Khurshid said that the last year LCCI started a campaign through social media and email as a reminder to all members for renewal of membership. The Chair said that LCCI is sending messages for Renewal of Membership through WhatsApp, Email and also placing banners in all markets.
- 7.23 Mr. Mubashar Naseer Butt said that the issue of WASA Tariff is not resolved so far and requested the Chair to look into this matter. He further said that the minutes of standing committee on Export are not included in the report and requested to make sure that the meeting of Export Committee should be held every month. The Chair directed Secretary General to look into the minutes of standing committee on Export and Industrial Zones. Mr. Mubashar Naseer Butt also pointed out that LDA is not approving maps of buildings applied by industries. He said that it is an opportunity for industrialization and import substitution and the government also wants to promote it and LCCI should make serious efforts in this regard. He further said that there is no shortage of Sui Gas but the government is not ready to supply gas at low rate. The Chair said that he would look into this matter.
- 7.24 Sheikh Sajjad Afzal said that parking and encroachments are the main issues in the Brandreth Road area. He said construction of parking plazas is part of long term solution which needs time and resources both. He suggested that for immediate and quick solution Yellow Lines should be drawn at Circular Road for parking area which will also help in removing encroachments from this road. The Chair said that he has already discussed the issue. Regarding mobile phone signals issue, Sheikh Sajjad Afzal suggested that PTA should take strict action against people involved to control the problem. He said that only two companies i.e. Ufone and Mobilink are suffering from signals disruption whereas Zong and Telenor signals are good in Brandreth Road area.
- 7.25 Mr. Muhammad Ali Afzal said that commercial importers were not allowed to remit advance payment in any bank against their import orders. He said according to a State Bank of Pakistan circular commercial importer can make payment up to US\$ 25,000 on behalf of manufacturer after submitting an undertaking from the manufacturer. He further elaborated his point by saying that if importer does not make payment in advance, the seller refuse to accept his import order. Due to the restrictions importers are forced to use illegal means for advance payment. He requested the Chair to write a letter in this regard to the concerned authority.
- 7.26 Dr. Riaz Ahmad said that PVC Film is a major component in packaging of pharmaceutical products and due to tariff protection to a local manufacturing company M/s Lucky Plastic Industries the price of PVC film remain unchecked and increased without any justification. He demanded that such unjustified protection should be withdrawn to provide level playing field to all stakeholders.
- 7.27 The Vice President said that Sheikh Sajjad Afzal wants a strict action against mobile signal boosters while Mr. Maqbool Siddique is for a lenient action. He said that in

AF.	Local Government Affairs WASA/LDA/LWMC/ MCL	21.11.2020
AG.	Small Business Harmonization	21.11.2020
AH.	City District Liaison Committee	24.11.2020
AI.	Customs Tariff & Ports	24.11.2020
AJ.	Pakistan Government Services	24.11.2020
AK.	Pak USA Economic Cooperation	24.11.2020
AL.	Religious Affairs	24.11.2020
AM.	Sundar Industrial Estate Affairs	24.11.2020
AN.	Finance & Taxation	25.11.2020
AO.	Motorcycle Auto Parts	25.11.2020
AP.	Auto Air Conditioning	26.11.2020
AQ.	Pakistan-Afghanistan Business Promotion: Minutes were approved except the point "proposed to write a letter to Addl. Secretary Interior to discontinue the physical appearance of person visiting Pakistan from Afghanistan in the office of CCPO for verification."	26.11.2020
AR.	Pakistan-Uzbekistan Business Promotion	26.11.2020
AS.	Pakistan-Poland Trade Relations	26.11.2020
AT.	Policy Matters of Auto Import and Manufacturing	26.11.2020
AU.	Chemical & Coating Industry	27.11.2020
AV.	Pakistan-Iraq Business Promotion	27.11.2020
AW.	Fashion & Textile Industry	28.11.2020
AX.	Pak China Business Promotion	28.11.2020
AY.	Export of Pharmaceutical, Cosmetics and Alternative Medicines	30.11.2020
AZ.	Hair Care & Skin Care	30.11.2020
AAA.	Pharmaceutical-New Vaccine	30.11.2020
AAB.	Agri Commodity Export	03.12.2020
AAC.	Haji Umrah Affairs	05.12.2020
AAD.	Market Affairs	05.12.2020
AAE.	Fashion & Clothing	07.12.2020
AAF.	Adhoc Committee on Encroachments and Parking Plazas	26.11.2020
AAG.	Information Technology and Open Source Software Dev.	27.11.2020
AAH.	Building	03.12.2020
AAI.	Membership	07.11.20, 14.11.20, 21.11.20, 28.11.20 and 05.12.20
AAJ.	LCCI One Window Smart Services	05.11.2020

- 8.1 The Secretary General informed the house that the Membership Committee had suggested to charge US\$ 500 as new membership fee from Companies owned by Foreign Nationals. He also informed the house that LCCI cannot increase or change membership fee without approval and resolution in EGM and subsequent approvals from Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan and Director General Trade Organizations, Islamabad. The Chair agreed to convene EGM.
- 8.2 Haji Muhammad Asif Sehar proposed that a Silver Certificate Distribution Ceremony should also be organized for those members who have completed 25 years of their membership with LCCI. The house approved the proposal and directed that a Special Edition containing information of all 25 years old members should be published. The Vice President said that during the tenure of Former President, Mr. Abdul Basit he was pointed out that various companies could not be included in the list of 50 years including his own and Mr. Abdul Basit promised that 50 Years Golden Certificate event would be organized again. The Secretary General said that as per the list prepared, 60 companies have completed 50 years and 1156 companies completed 25 years of membership. He informed the house that LCCI would require a company

profile and one advertisement of the company for Golden/Silver Certificates. The Lahore Chamber would also present beautiful Souvenirs to the members in the Certificate Distribution ceremony and revenue would also be generated.

- 8.3 Haji Muhammad Asif Sehar said that Membership Committee has already proposed Amnesty Scheme in its minutes for approval of the house to facilitate those members who could not renew their membership since long time. He further said that regarding urgent membership, it is written in the form that membership certificate will be issued after clearance of Cheque which is not an urgent membership. He said that it is not the requirement of LCCI Memorandum and Articles of Association. The Chair said that urgent membership means two days required for clearance of Cheque. Haji Asif said that as per Memorandum and Articles of Association, Bank Certificate is not required for new membership. The Chair said that the documentation for new membership is compulsory which is already approved by the Executive Committee to which the house agreed.
- 8.4 Mr. Khadim Hussain said that the Lahore Chamber is a prestigious institution and we should honor it and when we are going to be a member of this institution we should follow its formalities. He further said that if a member deposits urgent fee in cash along with Cross Cheque the membership certificate is issued immediately.
- 8.5 Mr. Maqbool Siddique said that the Membership Form placed on the LCCI Website is not being accepted due to which members are facing problems. The Vice President said that today the house approved previous EC minutes along with minutes of Membership Committee held on 17.10.2020 in which it was approved that *"New Membership Application on photocopy will not be acceptable after Oct.31,2020 and Membership form for new members would be issued after payment of Rs.100/- to maintain a standard and uniform look of the Form. Serial Number and Price of Application Form would also be printed.* Therefore, the procedure of form downloading and photocopy has been withdrawn.
- 8.6 The Vice President said that the attendance of Members and Special Invitees in the Minutes of the Standing Committees should be written separately instead of combined i.e. *"Member/Sp.Invitee"* and if Former Office-Bearers or EC members attend the meetings their attendance should be ensured. He further pointed out that in the Minutes of S/C on Pakistan-Afghanistan Business Promotion it was *"proposed to write a letter to Addl. Secretary Interior to discontinue the physical appearance of person visiting Pakistan from Afghanistan in the office of CCPO for verification."* He said that it is the government policy and the Chamber should not interfere. Therefore the minutes of S/C are approved except the said point. The Secretary General also explained that in the start of Agenda No.8 it was written *"that anything approved in the minutes, contrary to the Chamber policy or LCCI Articles or having financial implications will be considered as "not approved"*

9. **Any Other Items**

The following additional items were brought for discussion with the permission of the Chair.

9.1 **Presentation on Solarization of LCCI Building**

The Secretary General briefed the house that the President LCCI assigned the said Committee to Senior Vice President Mr. Muhammad Nasir Hamced Khan who worked on daily basis and prepared a presentation on Solar System for LCCI Building. He invited Mr. Majid Asghar, Finance Manager to give presentation to the Executive Committee.

9.2. The Finance Manager briefed that the said Committee was formed in previous tenure under the Headship of Syed Zia Hyder Naqi and Mr. Khadim Hussain as its member. In pursuance of the previous work of the committee the Senior Vice President continued his working. He said that LCCI main objective is to reduce the energy expenses. LCCI yearly consumption of electricity from 2018, 2019 & 2020 was 200,072 units, 321,000 units and 253,000 units respectively and we are expecting to consume 270,000 units in 2021. LCCI consumes about 90% of the total units while our tenants consume 10% units like IPO, Akhtar Ali & Associates and UBL which are charged by LCCI as electricity expenses according to their Meter readings. For the year 2021 LCCI is expecting about Rs.7,500,000/- as electricity expenses. LCCI total sanctioned load of LESCO is 400 KW and as per NEPRA Rules we can install maximum Solar Panels of 600KW. The LCCI average consumption is about 24,000 units per month. At the Main Building we can install upto 74KW Solar Panels and at FFC Building maximum 20KW Solar Panels but its efficiency will be reduced. As the roof of main building is made of corrugated sheets which cannot bear the load of solar panels therefore solar panels will be fixed at perlins. We have required load of 400KW but we have maximum capacity of 90KW and annual units will be produced about 115,000 and LCCI electricity bill will be reduced from 37% to 42%. The LCCI total working days are 284 and non-working days are 82 if we install Net Metering we can sell surplus electricity to WAPDA. The approximate cost of this system will be around Rs.6 million and the financing cost of State Bank of Pakistan on reduced rate will be 5% for ten years term. This solar system will be installed without batteries. We will produce electricity from Solar System about 6700 to 11400 units per month. Our total cost of Rs.61 lakh will be payback to LCCI in 2.61 years and life of this project is 25 years. If this project is installed we can save about Rs.25 million in 25 years and our internal rate of return will be around 40%. He said that our current investment is @ 7% return while we can borrow loan from State Bank @ 6% which will be cheap. We called quotations from several companies which are of B Category and are approved from Government and they have permission to install upto one MW Solar projects.

9.3 Mr. Mardan Ali Zaidi suggested that we should ensure to install latest solar panel with a maximum capacity. The SVP said that he visited CMH Lahore to check solar panels and they have installed maximum capacity of 535 Watts per solar panel and the same will be installed at LCCI.

- 9.4 Mr. Khadim Hussain said that during the previous tenure under the Headship of Syed Zia Hyder Naqi we also had several meetings and worked on this project. He suggested that we should check the steel structure of 5th Floor of Main Building whether it is feasible to install Solar Panels or not. The SVP said that we have already been worked on the steel structure and for safety purpose the Solar Panels will be installed directly at perlins (guarders) and there will be no load on corroborated sheet and it will also be water proofing to stop leakage. He added that the Technical Survey and Load bearing capacity is to be checked although the company has given permission to install the Solar panels.
- 9.5 The house appreciated the efforts of the Senior Vice President for acquiring a good proposal of Solar Project which was approved by the house. The Chair said that the Solar Project will be very useful for the Lahore Chamber and LCCI electricity expenses will be reduced on its installation. He added that the LCCI Solar Project should be finalized as soon as possible. The Vice President suggested that we should consult M/s. Izhar Group of Companies regarding load capacity of 5th Floor.
- 9.6 The Chair presented Special Membership Cards to newly elected EC Members i.e. Mr. Muhammad Nadeem Qureshi, Mrs. Shireen Arshad, Mr. Shahid Nazir, Mr. Mardan Ali Zaidi, Mr. Abdul Wadood Alvi, Malik Riaz Iqbal, Mr. Mubashar Naseer Butt, Mr. Saleem Asghar Bhatti, Mr. Maqbool Siddique, Mr. Muhammad Naeem Hanif and Muhammad Ali Afzal.
- 9.7 Haji Muhammad Asif Sehar appreciated the efforts of the President for resolving the issue regarding sale of sugar. He said that AC Sahib came to Lahore Chamber for resolving the issue and he also appreciated the Secretary General for helping in the matter. He asked M/s. Six Brothers and Cakes & Bakes to purchase sugar. The Secretary General informed that as directed by the President they purchased sugar worth millions of Rupees. Haji Muhammad Asif informed that AC Sahib thanked all EC members for this favour.
- 9.8 Haji Muhammad Asif Sehar requested the Chair for renovation of EC Room at 2nd Floor. The Chair said that the matter of renovation of EC Room has been discussed in the Building Committee meeting and it would be well furnished soon.
- 9.9. Mr. Abdul Wadood Alvi said that the various industries are facing problems related to LESCO and SNGPL. He suggested that an Adhoc Committee may be formed for resolving the issues. The Chair said that there is no need of such committee if they have any problem they must contact the Office-Bearers/Secretary General for resolving the issues.
- 9.10 Mrs. Shireen Arshad said that she visited LCCI NADRA Office regarding CNIC but there was a queue and she had to wait for about 50 minutes. She requested that EC members should be given honor. The Chair said that LCCI Desk Officers do not know all EC Members therefore, before visiting LCCI Desks they should inform the Secretary General so that EC members could be given priority.

- 9.11 Mr. Khadim Hussain suggested that due to increase in the number of visiting members at LCCI Facilitation Desks we are also facing parking problems. The Chair said that a letter has already been written to Commission Lahore in this regard. He further said that LCCI is trying to get parking of Ladies Club on lease so that our parking problem could be resolved.
- 9.12 Mr. Shafiq Ahmad Butt said that the WASA charges have not been reduced so far. He appreciated the Chair for plans to get installed Fire hydrant System in various markets and asked about the charges of this System. The Chair said that there are no charges as it would be done by the government. Mr. Shafiq Ahmad Butt said that in various factories the owners have installed this System and they only did a bore for which WASA is charging @ Rs.100,000/- per cusec. The Chair asked Mr. Shafiq Ahmad Butt to provide a copy of invoice so that this matter could be taken up. Regarding the reduction of WASA charges for industries the Chair said that he had a detailed meeting with Minister Industries, Secretary Housing and DG WASA in the office of Mr. Aslam Iqbal. He said that they are ready to reduce 50% WASA charges but he did not accept and asked to reduce the charges to Rs.25000/- and Rs.12500/- which will hopefully be done within a month. He further informed that WASA is insisting for recovery of arrears but we will not pay the arrears.
- 9.13 The Vice President suggested that one competent staff member should be deputed for providing information to the members visiting LCCI. The Chair agreed and said that a staff member would be deputed at LCCI Desk who will also get training from various government organizations.

The Secretary General invited the worthy EC members for lunch hosted by Mr. Muhammad Nadeem Quresih, Mr. Mardan Ali Zaidi and Mr. Abdul Wadood Alvi.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



Shahid Khalil
Secretary General