

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 21st DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2019

The Caddo Parish Economic Development Committee met in the Administration Conference Room on the above date at 1:00 p.m., with Mr. Lynn D. Cawthorne, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Atkins, Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, and Lyndon B. Johnson (4). ABSENT: Commissioners Louis Johnson and Smith (2).

Also in attendance were Parish Administrator Dr. Woody Wilson, Parish Attorney Donna Frazier, Mr. James Scott, and Commissioner Jackson.

Mr. Atkins gave the invocation and Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Lynn D. Cawthorne opened up the floor for citizens comments. There being no one to speak, Mr. Atkins closed public comments and moved onto New Business.

Mr. Cawthorne welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated today's meeting is to discuss the following items:

- Discuss Shreveport-Caddo Sports Weekend
 - Global Mixed Gender Basketball
- Discuss funding for Real Cowboy Association National Black Rodeo

Mr. Cawthorne moved onto the first New Business item, *Discuss Shreveport-Caddo Sports Weekend, Global Mixed Gender Basketball*:

Mr. James Scott, CEO Global Mixed Gender Basketball, introduced himself to the Committee. He said that their team consists of four NBA players, four WNBA players, and four unknowns. He also said they hosted a sold-out game at the Gold Dome a few years ago. Master P, Trick Daddy, Trina, and Ice-T are a few of the stakeholders of the Global Mixed Gender Basketball team.

Mr. Scott would like to host their game at George's Pond. He said that there will be celebrities in town. This game will also be shown on television.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know the lineup. Mr. Scott explained that Master P's team, New Orleans Gators, will be playing against Ice-T's team, New York Nights. Mr. Atkins also wanted to know if the NBA/WNBA players were retired players. Mr. Scott said that some of them are retired, while the others are still playing.

Mr. Cawthorne wanted to know if this was a game or a league. Mr. Scott explained that this would be an exhibition game for their league, which starts in June.

Mr. Kelly Wells, Shreveport Bossier Sports Commission, provided an economic impact for this event.

Mr. Jackson went to the press conference and said that it was "almost an event in itself". He also said that the previous game had a packed house and was full of energy. He also said that the concessions were sold out by the second quarter.

Answering a question from Mr. Jackson regarding if the impact study was based on this game alone, Mr. Wells said that this study is an estimate for the basketball game.

Mr. Scott also said that there will be a van testing citizens for diabetes. If a citizen is tested for diabetes, they get a ticket to the game. He also said that a portion of the proceeds for ticket sales will go to the family of Officer Payne.

Answering a question from Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson regarding the length of the event, Mr. Scott said that the players will arrive on April 26 and leave on the April 28. The game is on April 27. Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson suggested that they add the second night to the economic impact study.

Answering another question from Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson regarding the funding request, Mr. Scott stated that they are asking for at least \$80,000 from the four governing bodies.

Answering a question from Mr. Cawthorne regarding the funding request from the Commission, Mr. Scott stated they are asking for \$60,000.

Mr. Atkins stated that the game sounds great, but he is not sure that if the economics could support that level of contribution. Mr. Scott stated that they really need \$60,000, but understands if it is not possible for the Commission to contribute the full amount.

Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson suggested that they also reach out to the other governing bodies

for funding requests. Mr. Wells stated that this has not come before the Sports Commission just yet, so the other bodies have not been reached yet.

Mr. Jackson also suggested to reach out to the private stakeholders in the community to help assist with funding this game. Answering a question from Mr. Jackson regarding a non-profit, Mr. Scott stated that they do have a non-profit.

It was **moved by Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, to *recommend to the full body an allocation of \$15,000 for the Global Mixed Gender Basketball game.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, and Lyndon B. Johnson (4). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Louis Johnson and Smith (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Mr. Cawthorne then moved onto the next New Business item, *Real Cowboy Association National Black Rodeo*. Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson asked that this be pulled from the agenda.

There was no further discussion, meeting adjourned.

/s/Todd Hopkins
Todd A. Hopkins
Commission Clerk