

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

The Caddo Parish Appropriations Committee met in legal session on the above date, at 2:00 p.m., in the Government Chambers, with Mr. Jerald Bowman, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Bowman, Cawthorne, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Jackson, and Lyndon B. Johnson (6). ABSENT: Commissioner Dominick (1).

Also in attendance were Parish Administrator Dr. Woody Wilson, Parish Attorney Donna Frazier.

The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was given in the previous meeting.

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

- Discuss Ordinance No. 5840, amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Capital Outlay Fund in the amount of \$350,983 to provide funding for the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund
- Discuss Ordinance No. 5855 of 2018, amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund in the amount of \$30,000 to provide an additional appropriation for the Broadmoor Neighborhood Association
- Discuss Allendale Food Co-op

Mr. Bowman opened the floor for public comments. There being no public comments, Mr. Bowman close the public comments at this time and moved onto the first item of New Business, *Discuss Ordinance No. 5840*.

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson, *to allow discussion of the Allendale Food Co-op be moved up on the agenda. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Bowman, Cawthorne, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Jackson, and Lyndon B. Johnson (6). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Dominick (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Ms. Rebecca Scott, Allendale Food Co-Op, introduced herself to the Committee. She thanked the Commission for their previous funding support. She explained that they did not use all of their funding from the previous. They are asking if that funding could "roll over" into 2019.

Answering a question from Mr. Cawthorne regarding the allocation amount, Ms. Scott said the original funding was \$5,000 with a little over \$3,000 left over. She also explained that the \$5,000 is also a match grant from a group out of Minnesota that are helping with the creation of food co-ops around the nation.

It was **moved by Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *to recommend to the full body the reallocation of the remaining funds from 2018 for the Allendale Corner Store Co-Op. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Bowman, Cawthorne, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Jackson, and Lyndon B. Johnson (6). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Dominick (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

The Allendale Corner Store Co-Op invited the Commissioners to attend their meetings to learn more about the co-op. Answering a question from Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson regarding meeting dates, Ms. Scott stated that the meeting dates are every third Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m., 320 North Avenue.

Mr. Bowman would like to see these types of efforts throughout all of the districts in the Parish to help combat food deserts.

Ms. Scott said there are farmers in the Allendale community that are farming on their own land.

Mr. Jackson stated that Louisiana Healthcare Connections (LHC) is looking at what they can do to address food deserts and food. They are providing grants to co-ops and farmers' markets, in which they match a dollar for dollar for food.

Dr. Wilson pointed out that Ms. Senerica Smith, Parks & Recreation Department, is a master gardener who is researching land that could be used for community gardens.

Answering a question from Mrs. Gage-Watts regarding the funds for Keep Louisiana Beautiful Project, Dr. Wilson stated that they applied for it, but did not receive it.

Mr. Bowman then moved onto the first New Business item, *Discuss Ordinance No. 5840, amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Capital Outlay Fund in the amount of \$350,983 to provide funding for the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund.*

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *to send Ordinance No. 5840 back to the Commission floor for introduction.*

Mr. Chavez asked for more clarification on the funding sources. Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson stated that it would be funded with the remaining funds from completed capital projects and the annual appropriations from the Economic Development Fund.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know, at this point, how much funding is available. Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson said that \$400,000 is available.

Mr. Chavez also wanted to know if this was a loan. Mr. Jackson stated that it was. Mr. Jackson also explained that they have been in conversations with several banks who are interested in this Housing Trust Fund. He also pointed out that most of this money may never go anywhere. He explained that this trust fund could be used as a loan reserve, bond, etc.

Mr. Chavez asked for further clarification on the process to obtain a loan. Mr. Jackson explained that the Technical Committee would determine whether a bank would process the loan or if the Parish would process the loan.

Mr. Jackson explained that it is \$1M total, but the Commission could vote in the future to put add more to the trust fund. Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson explained that \$400,000 is already in the trust fund, and the Commission would have to vote for the \$200,000 for the year 2020. He also explained that this ordinance would bring it closer to that \$1M total by utilizing under spent funds from capital projects.

Mr. Jackson also explained that the intent of this trust fund is to get people into affordable homes as homeowners.

Answering a question from Mr. Chavez regarding the makeup of the Technical Committee, Mr. Jackson explained that it will be seven members: Commission President, Economic Development Chair, Long Range Planning Chair, a community bank representative, banking industry representative, MPC Director, and United Way representative.

Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson wanted to know the purpose of this ordinance. Attorney Frazier explained that there still needs to be an ordinance to move the remaining funds from the Capital Outlay Fund to another fund. Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson pointed out that the full body has already voted for the \$1M,

and this ordinance is just to move the funds from one fund to the other.

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson, *to call for the Question. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Bowman, Cawthorne, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Jackson, and Lyndon B. Johnson (6). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Dominick (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Jackson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Bowman, Cawthorne, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Jackson, and Lyndon B. Johnson (6). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Dominick (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Mr. Bowman then moved onto the next New Business item, *Discuss Ordinance No. 5855 of 2018, amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund in the amount of \$30,000 to provide an additional appropriation for the Broadmoor Neighborhood Association.*

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to recommend to the full body an additional \$20,000 to the Broadmoor Neighborhood Association (BNA) for appropriation of \$40,000.*

Mr. Chavez stated that they are prudent with their funds and believes it should go to the full body for discussion.

Mrs. Gage-Watts withdrew her second. She also wanted clarification on what the ask is. Attorney Frazier explained that this would be in additional to the funds already appropriated to them.

Mrs. Gage-Watts' concern is that the other NGOs would come back to the Commission requesting additional funds.

Mr. Bowman seconded Mr. Chavez's motion.

Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson's concerned with BNA's attendance policy. He feels that a child should not be kicked out of a program if they are absent. He also pointed out that if a teacher teaches a child during school hours, they cannot be paid for teaching that same student after school. Attorney Frazier pointed out that those teachers may not be teaching the same children.

Attorney Frazier also said that the 2018 ethics opinion states that the teachers can be paid for tutoring at the school that they teach, but they cannot have the same students after school that they have during the school day.

Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson also explained that during the NGO Committee, all of the organizations took a budget cut. He is totally against this additional appropriation because it will "open Pandora's box" and the other NGOs will come back to the Commission for additional funding.

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to amend the ordinance and reduce the \$30,000 and appropriate the following: \$2,000 to BNA, \$3,000 to MLK CDC, \$5,000 to Shady Grove, \$5,000 to NWLA First Tee, \$5,000 NWLA CDC, \$5,000 to Ivy Crown, and \$5,000 to Boy Scout of America.*

Mr. Chavez agreed that he does not want other organizations coming back asking for more money.

Mr. Chavez pulled his original motion.

At this time, Mr. Jackson's amendment failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Bowman, Gage-Watts, and Jackson (3). NAYS: Commissioners Cawthorne, Chavez, and Lyndon B. Johnson (3). ABSENT: Commissioner Dominick (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson moved to adjourn. There were no more discussion, the meeting adjourned.

____/s/Todd Hopkins
Todd A. Hopkins
Commission Clerk