

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
HELD ON THE 21st DAY OF MARCH, 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, Chavez, Gage-Watts, and Lyndon B. Johnson (4). ABSENT: Commissioners Cawthorne, Dominick, and Jackson (3).

Also in attendance were Parish Administrator Dr. Woody Wilson, Assistant Parish Attorney Randy Lucky, Parish Attorney Donna Frazier, Finance Director Mrs. Bryant, and Commissioner Middleton.

The invocation was given by Mrs. Gage-Watts and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Chavez.

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

- Discuss Ordinance funding for the Norwela Council – Boy Scouts of America.
- Discuss Shreveport Stuffed Shrimp Festival and funding

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 Boy Scouts of America funding*.

Mr. David Brainis, Norwela Council Board member, stated that when the budget was approved for 2019 the Boy Scouts were left out of the funding because there was a misconception that the local council did not need the money. Mr. Brainis stated that Norwela Council does in fact need the money in that the Cherokee arm (inner City of Shreveport) scouts need help in funding troops from disadvantaged areas. Mr. Brainis stated that of the nine arms of Norwela (Cherokee and Caddo) have troops that need help in supplementing scouts from disadvantaged homes with enrollment funds, uniforms, books, supplies and transportation; most of that need comes from within the Cherokee arm but there are needs from rural troops in the Caddo arm. The \$12,000 shortfall would keep young people out of scouting and he believes that will negatively affect future leaders of the community. Mr. Brainis also stresses that this money would only be used in Caddo Parish with (Caddo & Cherokee). Currently they are servicing 1,729 youth, 535 encompass the Cherokee arm.

Mrs. Gage-Watts appreciates Mr. Brainis and the others coming today to give us an update. Mrs. Gage-Watts stated that it has been proven that when young people are given opportunities like scouting they are more likely to not stray into bad habits and have been provided the information to make better decisions in their life. Mrs. Gage-Watts stated that she supports helping with this issue because in the long run that is potentially 500 young people that may never have to see the inside walls of Juvenile Services.

Answering a question from Mr. Middleton regarding would more money be able to help more youth, Mr. Brainis stated potentially would could help more people but the amount requested would definitely help those we have identified at this time.

Mr. Middleton would like for the committee consider appropriating \$20,000 for this program. Mr. Middleton believes money like the BSA, Boys and Girls Clubs are what we need to be doing to decrease both our juvenile incarceration and adult incarceration rates.

Answering a question from Mrs. Gage-Watts regarding appropriating more funds than originally requested, Attorney Frazier stated that funds could be appropriated on whatever amount the Commission adopts at final passage.

Answering a question from Mr. Chavez regarding the \$7,000 that was appropriated in 2018, Mr. Brainis stated that they had numbers showing a little over \$10,000 but they wanted to build in a little extra with the possible influx of females into scouting for an amount of \$12,000.

Answering a question of whether \$11,000 would be enough for the current request, Mr. Brainis stated they feel like \$12,000 is a good number that would address needs for 2019.

Dr. Wilson informed the members that he is a product of the BSA and Scouting is probably the best and cheapest diversion program there is when addressing juvenile crime. He stated supporting this program will be well worth the money spent.

Mr. Bowman welcomed Mr. & Mrs. Hughes and requested that give a brief overview of the festival and their financial request from the Commission.

Mrs. Mavice Thigpen Hughes came forward and presented to Commissioners an event sponsorship proposal. She shared that their plans were to hold the inaugural Shreveport Stuffed Shrimp Festival on Saturday, May 11, 2019 in conjunction with the Eddie E. Hughes Foundation, at the Louisiana Fairgrounds. The Eddie Hughes Foundation is a Shreveport foundation to provide scholarships to students from Woodlawn Leadership Academy or Huntington High School to obtain Culinary Arts training from Bossier Parish Community College.

Answering a question from Mr. Bowman regarding other areas of support, Mrs. Hughes stated that the Tourist Bureau along with the Lt. Governor are having discussions on ways they might help the festival both monetarily and in-kind. There is also a golf tournament fund-raiser being held that weekend at the Northwood Country Club course in Blanchard to help raise funds for the festival.

Answering a question from Mr. Chavez regarding whether this request belongs here or in the Economic Development Committee, Ms. Frazier stated that it might be more appropriate but it could be funded out of either committee.

Mavice provided a preliminary budget for the festival with a request for \$20,000 to the Commission.

Mrs. Gage-Watts believes that this is a positive event that will be good for the community and citizens.

Answering a question from Mrs. Gage-Watts regarding which committee or fund should handle this appropriation, Mrs. Bryant stated that it is not an issue this appropriation could come out either committee or fund.

Answering a question from Mr. Chavez regarding expenditures for this event, Ms. Frazier stated since this is economic development there is more leeway available than a programmed NGO. Ms. Frazier stated that technically it can be voted on by this committee and money would come from the economic development fund but would still have to be approved by the full Commission; she stated that she would not advise that but she does not believe it would be against current by-law regulations.

Ms. Frazier also stated that the budget presented looks okay with the exception of alcohol beverages and money services.

**Motion by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, to appropriate \$20,000 for the Stuffed Shrimp Festival.

Answering a question from Mr. Chavez regarding fund this money will come from, Mrs. Bryant stated that it will come from River Boat Fund like many other economic development projects but technically could come out of other funds as well if the Commission so desired.

Mr. Chavez wants to stress that he wants the citizens to know that this appropriation is for something that will build the community up and provide economic worth to the parish.

Ms. Frazier stated the in coming years the Shrimp Festival will have to provide economic impact numbers for the festival to continue funding.

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts motion carried, by the following vote: YEAS: Commissioners Bowman, Lyndon Johnson, Chavez and Gage-Watts (4) NAYS: None (0) ABSENT: Dominick, Cawthorne, and Jackson (3).

**Motion by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, to appropriate \$12,000 Norwela Council Boy Scouts of America for the Cherokee and Caddo disadvantage scouts needing help to participate.

**Substitute motion by Mr. Lyndon Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, to appropriate \$15,000 to the Norwela Council Boy Scouts of America to help disadvantage scouts within Cherokee and Caddo with fees, uniforms and other items required by BSA. Motion carried, by the following vote: YEAS: Commissioners Bowman, Lyndon Johnson, Chavez and Gage-Watts (4) NAYS: None (0) ABSENT: Dominick, Cawthorne, and Jackson (3).

          /s/Todd Hopkins  
Todd A. Hopkins  
Commission Clerk