

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S  
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN COMMITTEE  
HELD ON THE 9<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2022

The Caddo Parish American Rescue Plan Committee met in legal session on the above date, at 1:24 p.m., in the Government Plaza Chambers, with Mr. Johnson, Chairman, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Atkins, Hopkins, Johnson, and Jones (4). ABSENT: Commissioner Gage-Watts (1).

The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were given at the last committee meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- *Discuss funding for the Harbor One Stop Center for Juvenile Justice partnership between Parish, City, and School Board over two years until the center is self-sustaining*

Mr. Clay Walker said that this is a collaboration between the City Council, Parish Commission, and School Board to obtain Building 6 on Knight Street. This building would allow all of the programs that Juvenile Services has with the City and School Board to be under one roof, i.e. CASA, truancy, misdemeanor referrals, Volunteers for Youth Justice, etc. The remaining square footage would be rented out to the programs in the community that serve these programs like tutoring programs, mental health programs, job training programs, etc. The rent money could be used to pay for additional FINS officers. The School Board is giving \$900,000 for the building, and the City and Parish are being asked to provide \$300,000 each for the building over two years. They estimate that it will take three years to rent the office space and get the building self-sustaining. The School Board will maintain the building and the cost during those three years.

Mr. Atkins clarified that the Parish would provide \$150,000 per year for two years for a total of \$300,000. Mr. Walker agreed. Mr. Atkins then wanted to know the remaining balance of the American Rescue Plan dollars. Mrs. Barnett said the unallocated balance is \$1,397,000. Mr. Atkins then wanted to know if these expenditures would qualify for funding. Mrs. Barnett said that they believe this would qualify under crime prevention.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know if the items that were pre-approved for ARP dollars qualified. Mrs. Barnett said that some are still pending, and they are sending letters out to all of the agencies with forms that they need to fill out so they can get a thorough vetting. She said that they've started the process but they haven't been able to eliminate anyone yet.

Mr. Johnson then wanted to know about the teens who are picked up off the streets for being out past curfew. Mr. Walker said that they would go to this building.

Mr. Johnson also asked about the other organizations that will be housed in this building. Mr. Walker explained that they will open up a process, similar to the RFP process, to the mental health community. Mr. Johnson is concerned with organizations renting out space in the building, then coming to the Commission for help paying the rent. Mr. Walker explained that there are already some organizations who already pay rent somewhere else and transition them to this building. This would provide a more streamlined referral process.

Mr. Hopkins wanted to know if the Parish would have any reoccurring monies after this two-year period. Mr. Walker said that this will be self-sustaining in three years, and the School Board would be responsible for maintenance during that time.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know if this would help with the capacity challenges at the detention center. Mr. Walker explained that it will not, but it will house the misdemeanor referral center which is the primary relief for the detention center. He also said that the Parish already funds the misdemeanor referral center, and there will not be any additional funds beyond that.

Dr. Wilson asked if the School Board would maintain ownership of the building. Mr. Walker said that it will.

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation for the Harbor One Stop Center for Juvenile Justice pending the contractual agreement with the City of Shreveport and the Caddo Parish School Board. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Hopkins, Johnson, and Jones (4). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Gage-Watts (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

- *Discuss funding request from Fire District No. 4 for purchase of additional PPE equipment*

Mrs. Erica Bryant explained that the Commission has already appropriated some funding for Fire District No. 4, but they were not aware that they could also request funding for PPE equipment. Mrs. Hayley Barnett said that they are requesting \$60,164 to purchase twenty sets of PPE for their paid and volunteer first responders.

Answering a question from Mr. Johnson regarding the type of PPE equipment, Mrs. Barnett

said that it is the masks, gloves, boots, and air packs. Mr. Johnson said that the Commission appropriated funding for the bulletproof vests.

Mr. Johnson also said that the residents of Fire District No. 1 are hit with fees or taxes to allow them to purchase equipment. He suggested that Fire District No. 4 needs to either raise the fees or taxes so they can purchase PPE equipment.

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *to delay until proper representation from Fire District No. 4 is present.*

Mr. Atkins does not feel that this request is well-represented or well-presented.

Mr. Hopkins mentioned that Fire District No. 4 is in District 11.

Mr. Johnson would like the other fire districts to be at the same level of taxes as Fire District No. 1. Mr. Hopkins said that the likelihood of those districts getting a tax passed right now is low. Mr. Johnson said that Fire District No. 4's mill is 25.29.

At this time, Mr. Atkins' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Hopkins, Johnson, and Jones (4). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Gage-Watts (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

- *Discuss Sewer District No. 7 infrastructure funding request*

Mrs. Barnett said that Sewer District No. 7 is requesting \$1.5M. They have eleven stations, but only one pump. They have issues with pond levees and erosion on all ponds. They would like to install a secondary access pond to the treatment facility and upgrade the treatment facility due to extensive growth.

Mr. Johnson asked that each project be broken down by costs. He would like additional information regarding each of the projects. Mr. Johnson said that they have other issues as well, such as line seepage from the ground into the system, which is overloading the pumps when it rains.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know if the Parish will be receiving infrastructure dollars from the Infrastructure Bill. Mr. Johnson said that it has not left Capitol Hill yet. He also said that the American Rescue Plan covers water, sewer, and broadband, so this project fits ARP.

Mr. Hopkins wanted to know if the Parish applied for an LCDBG grant. Mrs. Barnett said that it was for Fire District No. 7, but they have not heard anything back. She said that it is in the final stages of being submitted. Mr. Hopkins suggested that this request be submitted for LCDBG.

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Committee, so the meeting adjourned at 1:49 p.m.

  
Assistant Commission Clerk