

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 23rd DAY OF MAY, 2019

The Caddo Parish Economic Development Committee met in the Administration Conference Room on the above date at 2:30 p.m., with Mr. Lynn D. Cawthorne, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Atkins, Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, and Lyndon Johnson (4). ABSENT: Commissioners Louis Johnson and Jim Smith (2).

Also in attendance were Assistant Parish Administrator Randy Lucky, Parish Attorney Donna Frazier, Finance Director Erica Bryant, Commissioners Chavez, Linn, and Middleton and Mr. Jim Taliaferro.

Mrs. Gage-Watts gave the invocation and Mr. Atkins led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

- Discuss funding to Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Regional Conference

Mrs. Irma Rogers, representing Zeta Beta Sorority, Inc. informed Commissioners of the planned Regional Conference to be held in Shreveport in June. Mrs. Rogers informed that one of the southern Louisiana cities that had been planned to hold the conference could not meet all the requirements so at that time members started looking and decided upon Shreveport for the conference site. Mrs. Rogers informed members that approximately 700 members would come to Shreveport for this conference and it would be a positive impact on economic development for that conference weekend.

Mrs. Rogers stated that putting on a good conference this time could lead to more conferences in the future. Based on her numbers to hold the conference here in Shreveport, she is requesting \$20,000 for this conference from the Caddo Parish Commission.

Mr. Atkins questioned how many actual guests are coming for this conference and what type of economic impact would that make on the area, Mrs. Rogers stated that approximately 1,400 is the current number and believes the economic impact would be more than 1,000,000 dollars.

Mr. Atkins requested that Mrs. Rogers contact the Caddo-Bossier Convention & Tourist Bureau on a formalized economic development study concerning this conference, once she has that information please send to Parish Attorney's Office for documenting.

Mrs. Gage-Watts would like for the committee to go ahead and vote on this matter contingent upon economic development study so that it can begin the process since this will be an ordinance that will have to lay-over for a time to hold public hearing and vote.

Mr. Atkins stated that he would not be prepared to vote yes today to move this to the full body but he understands that he is just one vote.

Asking a question from Ms. Frazier regarding earlier conferences held in Shreveport and their economic impact study numbers, Mrs. Rogers stated that they were held sometime ago and she is not sure if there is an economic impact study on that conference.

Asking a question from Mr. Chavez regarding monies from the hotel /motel tax, Mr. Atkins stated that those monies go to the Indy Bowl, Shreveport Airport and Shreveport-Bossier Sports

Commission.

Mr. Chavez questioned whether they have approached the City of Shreveport for monetary help, Mrs. Rogers stated that we are hoping for help on the parking at the Convention Center and they have included a few other in-kind ways of help.

Mr. Cawthorne stated that he was brought this information and thought the Parish should have the opportunity to help on a project of this magnitude and how it could stir up increased tax dollars for the City and Parish. Mr. Cawthorne questioned that amount requested from Zeta Beta Sorority, Inc.

Mrs. Rogers stated that their ask was for \$20,000 and provided a brief budget for members to look over. She also stated that she will work to secure an economic development impact study from the Tourist Bureau.

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Lyndon Johnson, *to send a recommendation to the full body, to authorize funding \$20,000 for the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, and Lyndon Johnson (4). NAYS: Commissioner Atkins (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Louis Johnson and Jim Smith (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

There was no further discussion, meeting adjourned.

/s/Todd Hopkins
Todd A. Hopkins
Commission Clerk