

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 24th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2020

The Caddo Parish Commission met in an Appropriations Committee Meeting, on the above date, at 2:00 p.m., via Zoom teleconference, with Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson, Chairman, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Hopkins, and Johnson (5). ABSENT: Commissioner Lazarus (1).

Mr. Burrell gave the invocation, and Mr. Hopkins led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CERTIFICATE FOR TELECONFERENCE

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Louisiana has declared a statewide Public Health emergency, inclusive of Caddo Parish, in Proclamation Number 25 JBE 2020; and,

WHEREAS, the Governor, has further extended that declaration via Proclamations Number 96 JBE 2020 and Number 97 JBE 2020; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 42:17.1 allows members of political subdivisions to participate in its meetings electronically under certain limited circumstances.

THEREFORE, in accordance with the Provisions of R.S. 42:17.1, the presiding officer of the Caddo Parish Commission hereby certifies that this meeting is to address matters that are:

- (a) directly related to the public Commission's response to the Coronavirus Pandemic and are critical to the health, safety, or welfare of the public.
- (b) that if they are delayed will cause curtailment of vital public services or severe economic dislocation and hardship.
- (c) critical to continuation of the business of the Commission and that are not able to be postponed to a meeting held in accordance with the other provisions of Open Meetings Law due to a legal requirement or other deadline that cannot be postponed or delayed by the public body.

Date: September 20, 2020

/s/Lyndon B. Johnson, Chair

Mr. Johnson opened up the floor for Citizens Comments.

Ms. Nicole Odom submitted the following comment:

Hello, I am the program manager for WEB DuBois Child Enrichment Center. We applied for funding through the Caddo Commissioner NGO grant. Our mission is to help improve the lives of children and families, giving special interest to under-served children and communities. We serve children and youth from low income and disadvantaged backgrounds. Our Out of School program focus on STEM science, technology, engineering, and math education for K-12th. WEB DuBois Child Enrichment Center has touched the lives of many and strives to continue making a positive impact on the community. Our program is a unique learning experience for bright, forward-thinking school age children who will evolve into our next generation of innovators, engineers, doctors, software developers, mathematicians, and physicists. During our course, students learn by doing as they take part in hands-on simulations, workshops, and site visits, while making new friends and having unforgettable adventures. These activities occur in the Shreveport area. We ask that you would consider funding our program. Thank you so much for your time and willingness to help! Best regards, Nicole Odom

Mr. Travis Bogan called in with the following comment:

My name is Travis Bogan with Grace Project. We also are requesting funding through the NGO pool. We are a local nonprofit that is primarily concerned with housing opportunities, community revitalization, and community development in areas of providing information for upcoming entrepreneurs. Some of the things that we've done in the past is that we've joined the Commission and some other groups in providing backpacks to local students. We're in the process of cataloging abandoned properties in the primarily the Allendale area for development. We actually are now an affiliate of an entity called Workshop in Business Opportunity; the abbreviation is WIBO. It is a 16-week class for up and coming entrepreneurs. We had our first class completion in 2019. We did plan another class for this particular year in 2020. We're also partnering with some local agencies for Allendale Creatives, which is an effort that will take some of the at risk youth and put them into some of the performing arts programs. So we will certainly be eager to partner again with the parish, and participate in the program. Thank you.

Mr. Johnson asked the reason Grace Project was not in compliance. Mrs. Barnett,

Finance Director, said that they have not received any reports from their 2019 funding.

Mr. Johnson welcomed everyone to the meeting to discuss the following items:

- Review 2020 NGO application responses
- Discuss Appropriation Process and funding for NGOs regarding the 2021 Budget cycle

Mr. Johnson wanted to know how much revenue was received this year, and the total amount of funding not released from the 2019 budget. Mrs. Barnett said that the revenues for this year are \$462,000, and the expenses total \$451,000. She also mentioned that the budget was for \$991,000.

Mr. Burrell wanted more clarification on the NGOs from the 2019 budget. Mrs. Barnett explained that the appropriations from 2019 have expired, and the Salvation Army was the only entity that the Commission re-appropriated funding for. Mr. Burrell disagreed and said that ICE was also voted on and re-appropriated funding for. He said that they never received a letter. Attorney Frazier explained that ICE funding was appropriated subject to an ethics opinion. She stated that she had not seen that opinion. Attorney Frazier also explained that the Commission suspended all funding, except the ones who were already allocated funding. She said that ICE was not one of those that was released. Mr. Burrell then wanted to know if this was voted on by a committee or the Commission. Attorney Frazier explained that the full body voted on this, but it would only go forward subject to a favorable ethics opinion. She further said that the Commission additionally came back in 2020 and suspended all disbursements of funds that were budgeted with the exceptions of those who were released by resolution. Mr. Burrell argued that there was no conflict because he resigned from the organization. He asked that Attorney Frazier provide those minutes to him.

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that the NGOs who are in compliance and who were suspended in 2020 due to COVID be funded at 60% at the amount allotted for the 2020 Budget.*

Mr. Hopkins clarified that the Commission budgeted \$990,000 and spent \$451,000. He said that the budgeted amount was based on the revenue projections. He wanted to know how much money was left in the fund. Mrs. Barnett said that incoming revenues is \$462,000 and \$451,000 of it has already been spent. She further explained that there are three months left to collect revenues. They are projecting about \$180,000 from riverboat revenue. Mr. Hopkins wanted to know if there would be a deficit. Mrs. Barnett said that there will still be a deficit for the year, but there is a fund balance that could cover the difference.

Substitute motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *that the NGOs who are in compliance and who were suspended in 2020 due to COVID be funded at 50% at the amount allotted for the 2020 Budget.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Johnson, and Hopkins (5). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Lazarus (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Mr. Johnson said that Finance is suggesting that this committee's budget be \$750,000.

Mr. Burrell asked for additional time to peruse the spreadsheet provided by Mrs. Barnett, Finance Director regarding the 2021 Budget. Mrs. Barnett stated that she would like to have her first draft printed by Friday, October 2. Mr. Hopkins agreed. Mr. Johnson suggested that the Committee review the spreadsheet and reconvene on Tuesday, September 29 at 5:00 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:41 p.m.


Michelle Nations
Deputy Commission Clerk