

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 7TH DAY OF APRIL, 2022

The Caddo Parish Economic Development Committee met in legal session on the above date at 1:30 p.m., in the Government Plaza Chambers Conference Room, with Mr. Chavez, Chairman, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Lazarus, and Young (7). ABSENT: Commissioner Johnson (1).

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

AGENDA ADDITIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, no audible second, *to add Discussion of a Business Fair under New Business.*

At this time, the Chair opened the floor for anyone to speak in favor or against adding this item to the agenda. There being no one to speak in favor or against, the Chair closed the public hearings.

At this time, Mr. Chavez's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Lazarus, and Young (7). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Johnson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

NEW BUSINESS

- *Discuss Ordinance No. 6219 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund for the year 2022 to provide an appropriation of \$25,000 for the Shreveport Bossier African American Chamber of Commerce and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Young, *to discuss Ordinance No.6219 of 2022.*

Mr. Chavez wanted to know if Bossier City will be matching funds for this event. Mrs. Gage-Watts said that she is unaware if Bossier City will match funds or allocate any funds for this.

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$10,000 for the Shreveport Bossier African American Chamber of Commerce.*

Mr. Jackson explained that he spoke with Ms. Brittany Dunn, and these funds will be used for their annual expo. He is proposing that the funds that are set aside for cash mobs be utilized for Black Restaurant Week.

Mrs. Gage-Watts wanted to know the appropriation request amount for the Cash Mob. Mrs. Bryant said that they have not received an actual application, but there was a motion made by the Commission for \$130,000. She further explained that the concept was approved, but there was not an actual organization named, so they have not proceeded on that particular project.

Mr. Young wanted to know what a cash mob is. Mrs. Bryant said that cash mobs are similar to flash mobs, where you show up to a business and infuse them with cash. The Clerk of the Commission explained that funds are used to promote days or businesses for "mobs" to spend money at businesses.

Mrs. Gage-Watts wanted to know how much would be allocated to the cash mob. Mr. Jackson explained that his motion is for the expo, with a separate ordinance for the cash mob amount and Black Restaurant Week.

Mr. Jackson also said that the Shreveport Bossier African American Chamber of Commerce are not in attendance today because it is Chamber Day in Baton Rouge.

Substitute motion by Mrs. Gage-Watts *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$25,000 for the Shreveport Bossier African American Chamber of Commerce. Motion died due to the lack of a second.*

Mr. Atkins and Mr. Jackson suggested changing the name for Cash Mob.

At this time, Mr. Jackson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Lazarus, and Young (7). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Johnson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if an ordinance is needed for the cash mob. Mrs. Bryant explained that the money is there, but a vote for the organization with the appropriation would be appropriate at this time.

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson** *to recommend to the full body the Shreveport Bossier*

African American Chamber of Commerce as a designee for the small business initiative.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if an RFP was needed. Mrs. Bryant said that they will reach out to them to issue the RFP.

Mr. Jackson withdrew his motion.

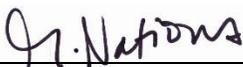
Mrs. Bryant also explained that there are certain situations where the Parish does not have to issue an RFP, and in those instances, those organizations would be responsible for following the same federal guidelines that the parish would have needed to follow due to it being federal funding. She said that April 14, they will be reviewing the proposals for the American Rescue Plan funds because of the wide variety of purposes.

- *Discussion of a Business Fair*

Mr. Chavez said that this business fair would invite businesses to attend and guide them on how to fill out an RFP or an RFQ for local governing entities. He said that the business fair would help grow small businesses to do business with the Parish.

Mr. Jackson said that Ms. Karen Barnes used to put something like this together with the Caddo Parish Commission, School Board, City, State, etc. on how to do business with these types of entities. Mr. Chavez requested that Administration reach out to Ms. Barnes and come back to the Committee.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.



Michelle Nations
Assistant Commission Clerk