

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 18TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2020

The Caddo Parish Long Range Committee met in legal session on the above date, at 3:00 p.m., in the Government Chambers Conference Room, with Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson, Chairman, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Cawthorne, Chavez, Hopkins, Johnson, and Lazarus (5). ABSENT: None (0).

Also, in attendance were Parish Administrator Dr. Woody Wilson, Parish Commissioner Roy Burrell, Parish Attorney Donna Frazier, Assistant Parish Attorney Henry Bernstein, Finance Director Hayley Barnett, Assistant Finance Director Stephanie Rico, and Commissioner Burrell (1).

Invocation was led by Mr. Chavez and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Young in a previous meeting.

Mr. Johnson opened up the floor for Agenda Additions. There being no agenda additions, Mr. Johnson opened the floor up for Public Comments. At this time, there were no public comments.

Mr. Johnson welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that they will discussing the following item:

- Discuss funding for Ivy Crown

Mr. Johnson stated that Ivy Crown is requesting funding for 2020. He explained that the program tutors children.

Answering a question from Mr. Hopkins regarding the funding request amount, Mr. Johnson said they are requesting \$7,000.

Mr. Hopkins then wanted to know the number of years the Commission has provided funding for Ivy Crown. Attorney Frazier stated that they've been funding Ivy Crown since at least 2016.

Mr. Chavez requested a copy of the organization's application, which Mrs. Barnett stated she will send a copy via e-mail to the attendees in the meeting.

Mr. Chavez wanted clarification on the organization's purpose. Mr. Cawthorne explained that Ivy Crown is a non-profit of a larger group. He also said that they teach kids about reading and encourages them to read. Mr. Cawthorne pointed out that the unique thing about the program is Ms. Myers has been operating the program in the City of Shreveport for forty years. He recalled being a part of one of the programs called R.I.F (Reading Is Fundamental) during while he was in middle school.

Attorney Frazier also said that they have a shoe bank where Ivy Crown purchases shoes and socks for underprivileged kids. She also explained that they have an educational component called Ascend, in addition to the RIF program, where they tutor children who need extra help in school.

Answering the question from Mr. Lazarus regarding the number of children being helped, Attorney Frazier stated it is reported on their application but could not provide an exact number. However, she was certain there were several hundred children reported from the shoe bank alone.

Mr. Hopkins wanted to know whether the Ivy Crown reading program is the same as the library system, to which Mr. Cawthorne pointed out that the two programs were separate.

Mr. Chavez had received the Ivy Crown application, but hadn't read it over at that moment. He spoke highly on the shoe bank and posed the question on the impact of their programs.

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$7000 for Ivy Crown. Motion carried* as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Johnson, Hopkins, Cawthorne, Lazarus, and Chavez (5). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned.

Michelle Nations
Deputy Commission Clerk