

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA
HELD ON THE 4TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2022

The Caddo Parish Animal Services Committee met in legal session on the above date, at 1:37 p.m., in the Government Plaza Chambers, with Mr. Chavez, Chairman, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Johnson, Lazarus, and Young (6). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts and Jackson (2).

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

NEW BUSINESS

- *Discuss and Make Recommendation Regarding Funding For Ronald McDonald House*

Mr. Atkins informed the Committee that Commissioner Johnson will need to leave the meeting and requested that the presentation has time for Commissioner Johnson to ask his questions. Mrs. Janell Mason stated that it is critical the Committee sees a four-minute presentation introducing Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Mrs. Mason played a video by Ronald McDonald House. Mrs. Mason stated that the video gives a view of the house. She said that the family story in the video is usually from mothers, and that this video includes the man's perspective. Mrs. Mason stated that their goal is to bring Ronald McDonald House to serve the Northwest Louisiana families for healthcare. She said that because there is a Ronald McDonald House in Little Rock, families from north Louisiana area choose to stay there versus hotels. Mrs. Mason said that the Ronald McDonald House will enhance Shreveport's medical community. Mrs. Mason said that the Ronald McDonald House is a well-established nonprofit and has established programs in other places. Mrs. Mason stated that the Clinton School of Public Service Research Project evaluated there is a need in north Louisiana.

Mr. Roy Griggs expressed support for a Ronald McDonald House in Shreveport. He and his wife tried to get a Ronald McDonald House and a mobile care unit to Shreveport over the last eight years but were not successful. Mr. Griggs said that cooperating with Mrs. Mason and her resources could help lead the project. He said that there is a need for a Ronald McDonald House. Mr. Griggs explained McDonald's and the Ronald McDonald House are all about kids living healthier, better lives. He said that most of the residents in Shreveport cannot afford a long-term stay in a hotel outside of the city. Mr. Griggs stated that the House can provide comfort, care, peers plus a place to stay. Mr. Griggs said that the House would support the medical corridor in Shreveport. Mr. Griggs stated that Willis-Knighton has offered property.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know why the Parish is being asked for funding. He explained that he is not against Ronald McDonald House. Mr. Johnson voiced concerns about working with all hospitals. Mr. Johnson said if Willis-Knighton, Oschner, Highland and Shriners Hospitals worked together to put in at least two million dollars each, the project would meet its \$8 million expense. Mr. Johnson said that families would be visiting other hospitals, but only Willis-Knighton is on board. Mr. Johnson pointed out that Ronald McDonald House is geared towards children, but the location of the Ronald McDonald House would be located at Willis-Knighton South. Mr. Johnson also pointed out that it would be easier for families to walk or take the bus in the medical corridor where Willis-Knighton North, Oschner and Shriners are located. Mr. Johnson questioned the estimated \$1.2 million economic impact. Mr. Johnson said that the economic impact might not be that high because families are currently staying in hotels and spending money locally. Mr. Johnson wanted to know how the project is capital outlay for the Parish when the Parish does not own the building. Mr. Johnson stated that he is against funding projects past the Commission term. He explained that there are two years remaining in the current terms of the Commission and funding this project would extend after two years. Mr. Johnson also wanted to know the sustainability of the project.

Mrs. Mason stated that sustainability is never an issue. She explained that the House exists solely on donations, grants, individuals and fundraising. Mrs. Mason said that the operating budget is about \$640,000 per year and the Little Rock, Arkansas location has an annual budget of \$2.3 million. She said that their Ronald McDonald House in Little Rock, Arkansas has tripled in size, but the budget did not double. Mrs. Mason said that programs are continually added to take care of the families. Mrs. Mason said that they do not live in the area and are reaching out to everyone, including neighboring parishes and the City of Shreveport with presentations. Mrs. Mason said that they are reaching out to the Parish because the Ronald McDonald House impacts the Parish's communities.

Mr. Johnson requested a list of Parishes and Cities the Ronald McDonald House has requested funding from and the dollar amount requested of each entity. Mrs. Mason responded that she is working on a list and that she has requested \$1.5 million from the City of Shreveport. Mrs. Marson stated that based on medical data from admissions, she will seek out those communities and individuals.

Mr. Johnson reiterated his question about the location of the Ronald McDonald House. Mrs. Mason responded that she was unsuccessful to connect with other hospitals. She explained that Willis-Knighton gave a tour of their 50 bed NICU department and found families living in four rooms. Mrs. Mason described the private rooms having tiny baby rooms. Mrs. Mason pointed out that people are not living in Shreveport's hotels and spending money in and out.

Mr. Johnson requested a meeting with all the hospitals. Mrs. Mason said that Mr. Griggs hosted a party and invited all the local hospitals. Mrs. Mason said that Christus and Shriners attended the party. She said that LSU did not attend the party. Mrs. Mason expressed that Ronald McDonald House will not unite the local medical community and advised the Committee not to expect that. Mr. Johnson pointed out that families will have children in those hospitals and that those hospitals need to participate. Mrs. Mason stated that Sportran can do custom routes and has an upcoming meeting with Sportran to further discuss transportation.

Mr. Griggs stated that hopefully over time all the hospitals will come on board, but right now the project is not getting participation. He said that Ronald McDonald House is a great need, and the project should move forward with the players on board. Mr. Griggs explained that the Ronald McDonald House is going to service all hospitals and the project team is trying to work through transportation and guidelines. Mrs. Mason pointed out that hospitals have not been approached for money. Mrs. Mason explained in Little Rock that they have built programs with other hospitals. She said that there is much opportunity to move forward with the project.

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *to add language requiring local and minority participation proportionate to the Parish's contribution at a minimum, to include stipulations to encourage MOUs with other local hospital systems, and to participate in a coordinated care system.*

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if there was acceptance by the hospital system. Mrs. Mason responded that their project had participation from Christus and the Christus Foundation, Ochsner and Shriners.

Mr. Jackson pointed out that there has been harmony in the medical community in recent years. He suggested that the Parish establishes rules of engagement if the Parish gets involved. Mr. Jackson said that he did not want to see a disagreement between hospitals about receiving patients. Mrs. Mason said that Willis-Knighton's name would not be on the front door of the Ronald McDonald House. Mrs. Mason stated that Mr. Griggs is the project's Program Director. Mr. Jackson said that historically Willis-Knighton's would receive blame when their name was not on a lot of stuff. Mr. Jackson said that he would like to see the project work. Mrs. Mason stated that the Ronald McDonald House will serve families. She quoted Mrs. Donna Csunyo, Programs Director at Ronald McDonald House, that the project is like the field of dreams. Mrs. Mason explained that if the House gets built, then people will come. Mrs. Csunyo understood Mr. Jackson's concerns. Mrs. Csunyo stated that her vision and mission as the Programs Director is to establish a Ronald McDonald House and help offset the load on hospitals. She explained that the Ronald McDonald House could guarantee a certain number of rooms. Mrs. Mason said that when the Ronald McDonald House has more rooms, then hospitals would feel more assured. Mr. Jackson said that from his experience in healthcare it is not a matter of if, but a matter of when a priority arises. Mrs. Csunyo stated that the project team is interested in memorializing. Mrs. Mason stated that the Ronald McDonald House controls their operations and that a hospital has no say. Mr. Jackson reiterated that the project team should memorialize. Mr. Jackson recalled a story from some years ago about a hospital contract that had several blank pages in the contract. Mrs. Csunyo stated that the project stays separate and independent from hospitals. Mrs. Csunyo further stated that her duty is to talk with hospitals about how the Ronald McDonald House can help serve patients.

Mr. Jackson said that the Parish tries to emphasize local wealth creation and local participation. Mr. Jackson explained that the motion is only referring to what the Parish contributes and not requesting all contributors to the House project cost to be from local and minority organizations. Mrs. Mason stated that all of their work and operating expenses will be done locally. Mrs. Mason said that they are cherry-picking staff for the best of the best. Mrs. Mason explained that once their Board is confident that the funds can be raised, then the project will transition from a feasibility study phase to a campaign phase. She said that at the campaign phase the project team will be selecting main fundraiser professional. Mr. Jackson stated that he has a concern in coordinated care and health care. Mrs. Mason mentioned that she has had meetings with many people.

Mr. Burrell stated that he is not as optimistic from his experience with hospitals. Mr. Burrell explained that there were many hospitals in his legislative district, and he helped negotiations between hospitals. He said that there were tensions. Mr. Burrell said that his grandchild had open heart surgery after birth and his family had to stay in a nearby hotel. Mr. Burrell wanted to know if there is a preference by hospitals in terms of room usage. Mrs. Mason stated that the House reserves a certain number of rooms for certain hospitals. She explained that partner hospitals sponsor fundraising events, but the Ronald McDonald House does not receive any funds from hospitals. Mr. Burrell said that once the Ronald McDonald House is established, the hospitals will see the need. Mrs. Mason agreed with Mr. Burrell and explained that the project could be family rooms in hospitals or a house within a hospital. Mrs. Mason mentioned that the project team has spoken with Willis-Knighton about shared services, such as the hospital doing the groundskeeping, maintenance and linens for the House. She said that in-kind partners

would donate, support or invest through volunteerism.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know which process the Parish could use to appropriate funds for the project for multiple years. Mrs. Barnett responded that the Capital Outlay Fund was used, because the monies do not last every year like other operation funds. She explained that if the Commission is going to fund a project for two or three years, the monies are moved over to the Capital Outlay Fund to sit. Mrs. Barnett said that once contingencies are met, then the funds would be released. Mrs. Barnett said that the Capital Outlay Fund is the only fund that appropriations lapse every year. She explained that this process has been used to fund other capital outlay projects, such as Shreveport Commons and the LSU Medical Center.

Mr. Atkins also wanted to know how the Commission could get the project approved. Mrs. Bryant responded that the Parish would be investing in a large economic development project as capital, the Administration does not view the service provided as an NGO process. She explained that there have been other entities that do not go through the NGO process and that is how Administration will handle the Ronald McDonald House project. Mr. Atkins pointed out that the Ronald McDonald House was introduced by four commissioners instead of the Economic Development Committee. Mrs. Bryant explained that if the project receives approval from the full body, then the appropriation will be in the budget presented to the Commission. Mrs. Bryant explained that the project would not need to go through an application process in 2023, because Finance will follow the ordinance. Mr. Atkins requested that Administration and Finance guide the Commission through the process to ensure that Commissioners are on board.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if the Commission has identified the process for projects like the Ronald McDonald House. Mrs. Barnett responded that Finance has not identified projects because projects like the Ronald McDonald House are uncommon. Mr. Atkins stated that these are special projects. Mrs. Barnett agreed with Mr. Atkins. Mrs. Barnett stated that big ticket items the Parish has funded across years have always taken the same approach, whereas the smaller NGOs go through the NGO approach. Mrs. Bryant stated that Administration could conceive recommendations to qualify projects like the Ronald McDonald House. Mr. Burrell expressed concerns that there have been transitions in administration, but the issue repeats itself.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if the Ronald McDonald House has its own credentialing for physician. Mrs. Mason declined that the Ronald McDonald House does not provide health care worldwide. Mrs. Mason said that Ronald McDonald House provides room and board, no medical.

Mr. Jackson stated that he would like to visit Ronald McDonald House. Mrs. Mason invited him for a tour. Mr. Jackson pointed out that Shreveport Common is the nine-block neighborhood and Caddo Commons is the park.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know if Attorney Bernstein would have any issues drafting an MOU per Mr. Jackson's motion. Attorney Bernstein responded that Mr. Jackson is referencing MOUs between Ronald McDonald House and the hospitals. Attorney Bernstein stated that the Parish is not involved in that. Mrs. Bryant stated that the Parish is encouraging Ronald McDonald House to have MOUs and provide the MOUs to the Parish, which would be in the ordinance.

Mr. Atkins wanted clarification on Mr. Jackson's request for minority suppliers. Mr. Jackson responded that he adds minorities to all projects. Mr. Chavez said that if the Parish has been working towards a 25% achievement rate for small, emerging businesses. Mr. Atkins stated that the Parish has met that rate already.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know what the design would be. Mrs. Mason said that the concept should be completed by the end of August. Mrs. Mason explained that the goal is to compliment the community, but the fun design is on the inside.

Mr. Young requested that fruit trees be planted on the property. Mrs. Csuyano stated that some houses have gardens and second floor terraces. She explained that Ronald McDonald House has very stringent design guidelines handed down from their Board of Organization that incorporates sustainability. Mrs. Mason stated that if the project does not raise \$8 million, then the property would be smaller. Mrs. Mason reminded the Committee that she was waiting to be introduced to names and contacts to request funding from. Mr. Chavez made a note to correspond with Mrs. Mason. Mr. Atkins said that his excess capacity has gone to the Griggs building project.

Point of Order, by Attorney Bernstein, that the ordinance regarding the funding for Ronald McDonald House is on the agenda for introduction and Mr. Jackson's motion would be taken as a request at this time. Attorney Bernstein said that he would draft an amendment to be available in two weeks when the ordinance can be amended.

At this time, Mr. Jackson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Jackson Lazarus, and Young (6). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts and Johnson (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to show the Economic Development*

Committee be shown as the author for the ordinance regarding Ronald McDonald House.

Mr. Chavez stated that he wanted the record to show that the amendment came from the Economic Development Committee. Attorney Bernstein clarified that the amendment is to the original ordinance.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if there would be a publication issue. The Clerk advised that the amendment is not in the title.

At this time, Mr. Chavez's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Jackson Lazarus, and Young (6). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts and Johnson (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

There being no more business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:29 p.m.



Administrative Specialist I