

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S
NGO APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 17th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2021

The Caddo Parish Economic Development Committee met in legal session on the above date, at 1:30 p.m., via Zoom teleconference, with Mr. Cawthorne, Chairman, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Young (6). ABSENT: None (0).

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

CERTIFICATE OF 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;

WHEREAS, the Governor, has further extended that declaration via Proclamations Number 158JBE 2020 and Number 159 JBE 2020; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 42:17.1 allows members of political subdivisions to participate in its meeting 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.
- (d) critical or time-sensitive and have been determined by the undersigned should not be delayed;*

* Consideration of matters under Paragraph (d) will initially require a two-thirds vote of those members present. (This does not affect the vote necessary for adoption or any motion).

Date: September 14, 2021

/s/Lynn D. Cawthorne
Chair

NEW BUSINESS

The Chair moved to the New Business item, *Discuss appropriation process and funding for economic development requests regarding the 2022 Budget Cycle.*

Mr. Cawthorne stated that the total requests were over \$2M, but the targeted budget is \$406,000. At this time, the Committee reviewed the organizations' requests:

Acadiana Legal Services of Northwest Louisiana

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$20,000 for Acadiana Legal Services of Northwest Louisiana. Motion carried by acclamation*, as shown by the following members in attendance: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Young (6). ABSENT: None (0).

CoHab

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$25,000 for CoHab. Motion carried by acclamation*, as shown by the following members in attendance: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Young (6). ABSENT: None (0).

Competition Planning Partners (WOD Godz)

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$20,000 for Competition Planning Partners (WOD Goz).*

Mr. Burrell asked for more information regarding this program. Mr. Cawthorne said that it is a two-day regional fitness competition. Mr. Cawthorne also wanted to know if this is Fit for Life. Mrs. Barnett said that it is not, but it is a CrossFit competition.

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts' motion carried by acclamation, as shown by the following members in attendance: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Young (6). ABSENT: None (0).

Delta Upsilon Lambda Foundation

Mr. Cawthorne said that this is better suited for NGO instead of Economic Development. Mr. Burrell wanted to know why it is listed here. Mrs. Barnett explained that it was funded out of Economic Development in prior years.

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell** *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$7,500 for Delta Upsilon Lambda Foundation.* Motion died due to the lack of a second.

Substitute motion by Mr. Cawthorne, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$5,000 for Delta Upsilon Lambda Foundation.* Motion carried by acclamation, as shown by the following members in attendance: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Young (6). ABSENT: None (0).

Dress for Success

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$5,000 to Dress for Success.* Motion carried by acclamation, as shown by the following members in attendance: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Young (6). ABSENT: None (0).

Fit for Life

Mr. Atkins said that the application made reference to purchasing new sporting equipment. He wanted to know if it was appropriation for the Committee to fund capital expenditures. Mrs. Barnett said these funds normally go towards the award dollars, not purchasing equipment. Attorney Frazier agreed.

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins** *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$25,000 for Fit for Life.*

Substitute motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$30,000 for Fit for Life.*

Mr. Johnson said that Fit For Life is for multiple events over the weekend, including an international sanction that brings people to Caddo Parish from all over the world. Mr. Burrell wanted to know the dollar amount given by the Commission in prior years. Mrs. Barnett said that the Commission has given \$30,000 in the prior years.

At this time, Mr. Johnson's substitute motion carried by acclamation, as shown by the following members in attendance: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Young (6). ABSENT: None (0).

Harmony Faith Ministries

Mr. Cawthorne explained that this organization hosts the Soul Food Festival at LA State Fairgrounds.

It was **moved by Mr. Cawthorne**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$20,000 for Harmony Faith Ministries.* Motion carried by acclamation, as shown by the following members in attendance: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Young (6). ABSENT: None (0).

Highland Area Partnership

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$10,000 for Highland Area Partnership.* Motion carried by acclamation, as shown by the following members in attendance: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Young (6). ABSENT: None (0).

Independence Bowl Foundation

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins** to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$45,000 for the Independence Bowl Foundation.

Substitute motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$65,000 for the Independence Bowl Foundation.

Mr. Johnson explained that the Independence Bowl Foundation went out and got a title sponsor and now have some conference allegiance. He said that the Commission should be supporting this event.

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

Kennedy Foundation

Mr. Burrell wanted to know how many years has the Commission funded this program. Mr. Cawthorne said that this is the first year, but they have been in existence for five years.

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$10,000 for the Kennedy Foundation. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Young (5). NAYS: Commissioner Cawthorne (1). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

North Caddo Fireworks Festival (Christmas on Caddo)

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$8,000 for North Caddo Fireworks Festival (Christmas on Caddo).

Mr. Burrell pointed out that this organization did not make a request. Mr. Hopkins said that there was an application submitted, but Finance did not receive it, so they re-submitted it.

Substitute motion by Mr. Burrell to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$6,500 for North Caddo Fireworks Festival (Christmas on Caddo). Motion died due to the lack of a second.

At this time, Mr. Atkins' original motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Young (5). NAYS: Commissioner Burrell (1). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

North Louisiana Economic Partnership

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$50,000 for the North Louisiana Economic Partnership.

Substitute motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$75,000 for the North Louisiana Economic Partnership.

Mr. Johnson said that NLEP has been working to bring job opportunities and economic development opportunities to Caddo Parish. Mr. Burrell wanted to know the funding level in the years prior. Mrs. Barnett said that they have been given \$50,000 for the last few years. Mr. Cawthorne does agree that NLEP has been helpful in bringing jobs and economic development to the Parish. Mr. Burrell wanted to know the funding amount from the City. Mr. Cawthorne said that there isn't anyone on the line from the City. Mrs. Barnett said that she will review their application with the City and let Mr. Burrell know if that information is in it.

At this time, Mr. Johnson's substitute motion carried by acclamation, as shown by the following members in attendance: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Young (6). ABSENT: None (0).

Playaz & Playettes

It was **moved by Mr. Cawthorne**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$20,000 for Playaz & Playettes Inc. with a caveat that the organization provide the Commission with an economic impact study. Motion carried by acclamation, as shown by the following members in attendance: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Young (6). ABSENT: None (0).

Prize Foundation

It was **moved by Mr. Cawthorne**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$35,000 for the Prize Foundation.*

Substitute motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$30,000 for the Prize Foundation.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Young (5). NAYS: Commissioner Cawthorne (1). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Red River Revel

It was **moved by Mr. Cawthorne**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$10,000 for the Red River Revel.* Motion carried by acclamation, as shown by the following members in attendance: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Young (6). ABSENT: None (0).

Samaritan Counseling Center

Mr. Cawthorne said that this application is best suited for the NGO requests. Mr. Atkins agreed. Mrs. Barnett said that this should have been an NGO request.

Setting the Standard Barbering & Natural Hair Academy

Mr. Cawthorne said that this is a new request.

It was **moved by Mr. Cawthorne**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$40,000 for Setting the Standard Barbering & Natural Hair Academy.*

Mrs. Gage-Watts wanted to know if this funding is for the entire program or just a portion of the program. Mrs. Barnett said that based on their application, they've only requested funding from the Commission.

Mr. Burrell said that this is more educational than economic development. Mr. Atkins agreed and said that there are other organizations providing this service. Mrs. Barnett said that this is an established organization and believes that the funding request is to cover tuition costs for sixteen students. Mr. Burrell wanted to know if the students will be qualified for licensing after they graduate from the school. Mr. Cawthorne said that they will. Mr. Burrell agreed that this would be economic development because jobs are being created.

At this time, Mr. Cawthorne's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Young (5). NAYS: Commissioner Atkins (1). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Southern Hills Business Association

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$24,000 for Southern Hills Business Association.* Motion carried by acclamation, as shown by the following members in attendance: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Young (6). ABSENT: None (0).

Southern University At Shreveport

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$125,000 for Southern University at Shreveport.* Motion carried by acclamation, as shown by the following members in attendance: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Young (6). ABSENT: None (0).

State Fair of Louisiana

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$10,000 for the State Fair of Louisiana.* Motion carried by acclamation, as shown by the following members in attendance: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Young (6). ABSENT: None (0).

Strand Theater

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$20,000 for the Strand Theater.* Motion carried by acclamation, as shown by the following members in attendance: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Young (6). ABSENT: None (0).

Strategic Action Council

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$40,000 for the Strategic Action Council. Motion carried by acclamation*, as shown by the following members in attendance: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Young (6). ABSENT: None (0).

Mrs. Barnett said that the new total is \$612,000. Mr. Cawthorne pointed out that there is a fund balance of \$929,000. Mrs. Barnett agreed and said that the budgeted revenues for next year are \$406,000.

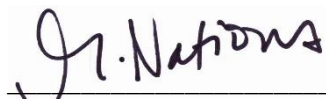
It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Young, *to reduce the funding for each of the organizations by 30%*.

Mr. Atkins respects the process that was done today, but he would like to keep the funding within budget.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know if this budget qualifies for revenue replacement. Mrs. Barnett said that it does, and the projected revenues does not include the revenue replacement because it is not a significant amount. Mr. Johnson also pointed out that the Commission has gone over budget in the past for big ticket items. Mrs. Barnett agreed and said that they normally pull from the Oil & Gas Fund when they go over budget. Mr. Johnson said that this has a significant fund balance, so they can pull from there.

At this time, Mr. Atkins' motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins and Young (2). NAYS: Commissioners Cawthorne, Epperson, Gage-Watts, and Johnson (4). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

There be no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned
2:54 p.m.



Michelle Nations
Assistant Commission Clerk