

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S  
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN COMMITTEE  
HELD ON THE 20th DAY OF MARCH, 2023

The Caddo Parish American Rescue Plan Committee met in legal session on the above date, at 12:10 p.m., in the Government Plaza First Floor Conference Room, with Mr. Cothran, Chairman, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cothran, and Jackson (4). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Young (3).

The invocation was given by Mrs. Glover, and Mr. Cothran led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk advised that due to the lack of a quorum, the Committee would not be able to make official action during the meeting.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Public comment by Jon Glover regarding providing information on agenda items.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- American Rescue Plan Overview

Mrs. Barnett reviewed the list of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) projects that Finance had worked through. There were three entities that did not respond by the deadline of Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> which were Lakeside Neighborhood, Save Our Sons, and Seedlinks. Mrs. Barnett explained that those entities will be removed from the list due to unresponsiveness or lack of contact with the Parish. Mrs. Barnett will work through the entities on the list as the Parish receives information.

The Clerk advised that the Committee achieved a quorum with the arrival of Commissioners Burrell and Jackson.

Mrs. Barnett explained Finance's procedure of revenue replacement and the transfer of loss from year to year. Mr. Jackson clarified with Mrs. Barnett that the declined status refers to entities that informed the Parish of lack of interest and that the non-responsive status was for entities that did not meet the deadline. Mrs. Barnett explained that entities with declined and non-responsive statuses were off of the table and that she would correspond with Mr. Jackson on the updated balance of ARPA requests.

Mr. Cothran advised the Committee to address the concerns of citizens present in the meeting.

- Discuss Responses to Housing RFP

Mr. Sheldon Bartell, employee of the National Development Council (NDC), provided a presentation about housing. Mr. Bartell explained that the NDC is contracted with the Parish on housing related issues. Mr. Bartell defined commonly used terms in the housing industry, reviewed the multifamily real estate characteristics in Shreveport-Bossier City area, the statistics of household income and the market rent costs, and subsidized rental housing. Mr. Bartell reviewed the goals of the two million dollar ARPA funds that the Parish appropriated for affordable housing in the area. Mr. Bartell explained that the Parish's housing funds are to further the supply of affordable housing and the proceeds could be a loan or a grant. Mr. Bartell discussed the two out of four proposals received, which scored over 75% of available points. Mr. Bartell discussed his role as the underwriter to review the financial capacity and management capacity to undertake the proposed projects and the rate restrictions of the projects. Mr. Bartell recommended that the Parish consider a covenant that says developers can not sell the property that would cause the rent to go to market rate or a covenant that says the property can be sold to another affordable housing manager or developer in order to keep the qualifying households affordable.

Mr. Bartell answered Mr. Jackson's inquiry that it is not uncommon for subsidized housing to operate at an insufficient net operating income to leverage debt, because the housing project is not for profit. Mr. Bartell and the Committee reviewed the readiness and budget of the two affordable housing proposals: Fairfield Estate Phase 2 proposal by the Housing Authority and 114 Texas proposal by Brown Taylor Development. Mr. Atkins and Mr. Bartell discussed Mr. Bartell's recommendation that the Parish award one million dollar grant to each proposal which could be subject to the developers meeting contingencies by a specified date.

Answering Mr. Burrell, Mrs. Bryant advised that ARPA funds must be obligated by 2024 and must be used by 2026. Mrs. Bryant explained that the Administration is hoping to have the contingencies met by the end of 2023. Mr. Bartell and Mr. Young discussed the effect of affordable housing to existing neighbors, and the contingencies to prevent the property from being another generation of negative influence on the neighborhood. Mr. Jackson and Mr. Bartell discussed property

standards and managing those standards. Mr. Bartell explained that the Parish received proposals for rehabilitating existing housing but it was not qualified. Mr. Jackson advised that existing housing developers have an opportunity to learn about some money that's available to them on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Answering Mr. Jackson about how Caddo Parish compares to other counties in housing and workforce development, Mr. Bartell explained that affordable housing is a national crisis.

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to advance to the full body the recommendation from NDC and staff on the Housing Trust Fund for introduction on Thursday.*

Mrs. Bryant acknowledged that she will invite speakers for a brief presentation on Thursday per Mr. Jackson's request.

Motion carried unanimously.

- Discuss and Make Recommendations Regarding American Rescue Plan Funded Projects

Mrs. Bryant discussed Commissioner Chavez's request to transfer appropriation from the security trailers project to provide additional appropriation of \$12,000 to NSA Crime Stoppers and about \$30,000 the Southern Hills Neighborhood Association. Mrs. Bryant recommended to delay the discussion since the Commissioner who made the request was not in attendance. Mrs. Bryant discussed that the Administration will vet Crime Stoppers. Bryant explained that the Administration will need guidance on projects that have not started. Mr. Atkins discussed need for additional appropriations to Crime Stoppers'. Mr. Johnson and Mrs. Bryant discussed the qualifications of the security trailers. Mrs. Barnett, Mrs. Bryant and Mr. Johnson discussed the relationship of crime statistics to qualify the security trailers for ARPA funding. Mr. Johnson requested rolling up the appropriation to college football games and sporting events for the Parish's revenue replacement. Mrs. Barnett calculated the total of declined, non-responsive, and requests that do not meet parameters to about \$750,000 per Mr. Johnson's request. Mrs. Barnett, Mrs. Thomas and Mr. Johnson reviewed the status of the Lakeview Water, Pine Hill Water, Lakeside Neighborhood, and the MLK Homeowners Association.

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Young, *that the ARP requests that have decline, no responses and do not meet criteria be stricken from the list, except the ones under Commissioner's Programs, and allow that savings to offset the \$800,000 over allocation balance.* Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Jackson requested that Staff clean up the list, which Mrs. Bryant agreed.

Mr. Atkins requested that Staff provide the cleaned up list to the ARP Committee.

Mrs. Jon Glover requested a copy of the cleaned up list.

There was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the meeting was adjourned at 1:16 p.m.