

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S
LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 5TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2024

The Caddo Parish Long Range Planning Committee met in legal session on the above date at 12:00 p.m., in the Government Plaza Chambers, with Mr. Kracman, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Kracman, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (4). ABSENT: Commissioner Lazarus (1).

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

There being no Citizens Comments, the Committee moved to New Business. The Clerk of the Commission administered the oath.

NEW BUSINESS

- Ordinance No. 6413 of 2024, *an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures to appropriate funds for a Caddo Community Lighthouse Pilot Project and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

Mr. J. Young said that this is under consideration so that the new Commissioners can familiar themselves with this project and the American Rescue Plan Fund Act.

Mrs. Bryant said that this item is up for a vote during Thursday's Regular Session. She then explained that this project was approved in 2023 for ARPA funding, but since then, Administration became aware that it did not meet APRA guidelines. Now this ordinance is back before the Commission to change its funding source to the Oil & Gas Fund.

Mr. J. Young said that this was a two-part pilot project. One project was funded for Oil & Gas, and the other was funded with ARPA. After the appropriation was adopted, Administration realized that the project didn't meet ARPA guidelines due to making changes to a religious center.

Mr. Kracman wanted to know if the funding would cover solar and water. Attorney Frazier said that the Highland Center has identified a water source that they will fund from. She said that was one of the conditions.

Mr. Kracman is concerned that the former Commission body passed this ordinance without really know what the funding source was. Mrs. Bryant said that the Commission appropriated two pilot projects, Morning Star and Highland Center, for a total of \$500k--\$250k coming from APRA funding and \$250k coming from Oil & Gas funding. They did not identify which project would come from which source. Mrs. Bryant said that the former Commission body was supportive of the project.

Mr. G. Young wanted to know how many more churches would be funded for this sort of project. Pastor Mayes in attendance explained that the churches in the MLK area have come together and discussed roles and responsibilities in the event of an emergency. The churches will canvas the area and determine the needs of the people during a time of crisis. Mrs. Bryant also said that the Parish is only funding two pilot Lighthouse Projects, not all twenty.

Mr. Walker said that when it comes to emergency preparedness, there are three different groups—SPAR, schools, and the twenty Lighthouse facilities—who will working to provide services to citizens in need. He further explained that the churches, like Pastor Mayes said, would be canvassing the MLK area to determine the needs for those citizens.

Attorney Frazier said that the Parish is only funding two Lighthouse projects—Morning Star and The Highland Center. She also explained that if there needs to be more projects, the Lighthouse organization would need to come back before the Commission who would then consider all the data and make a decision.

Mr. Kracman wanted to know when could the facilities turn the lights on. Ms. Poche said that this project would be a huge cost savings to the facilities, which could be used for food, water, etc. Mr. Kracman understood, but then wanted to know if the Lighthouse project would be a separate facility from the church. Mr. Burrell said they are separate projects.

Mr. J. Young said that he is familiar with The Highland Center. The Center does great work and house several people for various reasons. He said that during the last natural disaster, The Highland Center served as a shelter and provided food, water, and electricity to several Caddo Parish citizens.

Mr. J. Young also reiterated that the twenty sites are intended to be funded by the Parish. He also said that the Parish is not in the emergency preparedness business, but the lighthouse projects would allow a partnership to provide emergency services, i.e. food, water, shelter, electricity, etc., in

emergency situations. Originally, the projects were supposed to be funded from ARPA and Oil & Gas, but the guidelines from ARPA would not allow for funding this type of project because it is a religious facility.

Attorney Frazier explained that part of the project was to show the economic impact the Parish would receive when funding this project. It showed that the Parish would receive its money back over a period of twenty years. Mrs. Bryant reiterated that they would not be losing ARPA dollars, it would just be moved to a different project.

It was **moved by Mr. J. Young**, seconded by Mr. G. Young, *to recommend to the full body Ordinance No. 6413 of 2024, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures to appropriate funds for a Caddo Community Lighthouse Pilot Project, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (3). NAYS: Commissioner Kracman (1). ABSENT: Commissioner Lazarus (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 12:52 p.m.


Assistant to the Commission Clerk