

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 23RD DAY OF MAY, 2024

The Caddo Parish Appropriation Committee met in legal session on the above date at 2:00 p.m., in the Government Plaza Chambers Conference Room, with Mr. Cothran, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cothran, Jones, Thomas, and G. Young (6). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts and J. Young (2).

Mr. Jones gave the invocation and Mr. Thomas led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Jon Glover came before the Committee and gave the following comment:

As I shared with you all a couple of days ago in your Work Session with regards to Ordinance No. 6432 and 6433 of 2024, [inaudible] to encourage you all to deny the request. Not the request based on the merit, but the request based on its timely position. You all know that a few weeks ago you approved a process that you said you would hold fast to. Then, these two pieces of legislations come forth, and now we are having to discuss beyond the process. I don't think that's right. I think, had I or anyone, had come before the Commission and asked for this situation, we would be denied based up on the merit of the process. You have the process that you have to have the applications in a certain time period. If they did not meet that timeline, then they would be denied based on that alone—not the essence of what we're trying to do, but the timeliness of the process. Thank you.

There being no more Citizens Comments or Agenda Additions, the Committee moved to New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

- *Review scores and make recommendations regarding Compassion for Lives' 2024 application*

Mrs. Bryant said that Compassion For Lives did not score high enough for funding. This Committee has since revisited the application and rescored the application. The organization now has a passing score of 80%.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know how much they are requesting. Mrs. Barnett said that they are requesting \$100k, but in prior years, they only received \$5k. Mrs. Barnett also pointed out that they did not receive any funding last year.

Mr. Thomas said that he was impressed on the organization's impact on the prisoners in CCC. The organization provides several programs for the inmates to become productive citizens once they are released.

Mr. Jones wanted to know how much is available for funding. Mrs. Barnett said that the Riverboat Fund has a fund balance of \$400k. Mr. Atkins wanted to know if the fund balance was for 2024. Mrs. Barnett said that it is.

It was **moved by Mr. Jones** to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$5k for *Compassion for Lives*.

Substitute motion by Mr. G. Young to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$50k for Compassion for Lives.

Substitute motion by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. G. Young, that an appropriation of \$30k for Compassion for Lives be recommended to the full body.

Mr. Jones said that there needs to be an explanation of the “huge jump from \$5k to \$30k”, so the public and other NGOs understand.

Mr. G. Young does not feel that the organization’s mission or work was much appreciated by this body in years’ past.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know the median allocation for funding. Mrs. Barnett said that typically organizations receive between \$10k-\$15k, with the exception of organizations such as the Food Bank. Compassion for Lives did receive funding in 2019, 2020, and 2021 (two years at \$6,500 and one year at \$5,000). She also said that \$30k is high for a non-economic typical NGO.

Mrs. Barnett cautioned that several of the NGOs were cut last year, and this motion is significantly higher than the allocated amount for NGOs. She feels that this recommendation might “open up Pandora’s box”.

Mr. G. Young disagreed and said that Pandora’s Box was open up long before this request came before the Committee. He also said that NGOs fill the gaps where government can’t and do it more efficiency. Mr. G. Young said that Compassion For Lives provides a service to reduce recidivism with inmates at CCC.

Mr. Jones commended Mrs. Butyn and her team for all of their hard work with the inmates. He wanted to know if the Parish asked for the services that Compassion For Lives is providing. Mrs. Bryant said that the Parish has not specifically asked for these services. Mr. Jones suggested that the Sheriff’s Office could possibly fund this organization. Mrs. Bryant said that the Sheriff’s Office is in the middle of transitioning. Mr. Jones also said that he does not see the justification in providing such a huge increase in funding for this organization. He also mentioned that if this is allocated, then the Commissioners should expect to receive phone calls for other organizations to receive additional funding.

Substitute motion by Mr. Atkins, seconded by Mr. Thomas, that an appropriation of \$15k for Compassion for Lives be recommended to the full body.

Mr. Atkins said that the Committee needs to find a number that everyone agrees on. He respects the work that Compassion for Lives does.

Mr. Burrell said that the Committee scored the NGOs last year, but does not feel that the work was appreciated in terms of the process. He said that scoring the NGOs provides consistency and fairness across the board.

Mr. Cothran reminded the Committee that this appropriation is for 2024. The applications for 2025 have not been received just yet.

At this time, Mr. Atkins’ motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cothran, Jones, Thomas, and G. Young (6). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts and J. Young (2).

DUE TO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES, THE FOLLOWING MINUTES WERE BASED SOLEY ON THE NOTES PROVIDED BY THE COMMISSION CLERK WHO WAS PRESENT IN THE COMMITTEE MEETING.

- *Discuss and make recommendations regarding Dinner With Day event related to Ordinance No. 6432 of 2024 and Ordinance No. 6433 of 2024*

Mr. Thomas, who was the original sponsor for the legislation, asked to withdraw Ordinance No. 6432 of 2024 and Ordinance No. 6433 of 2024. These ordinances had not been introduced by the Caddo Parish Commission and were remanded to Committee during a Work Session meeting. The Committee agreed to withdraw the ordinances.

- *Update on timeline of 2025 grant cycle*

Administration requested that the timeline for applications be set to June 17, 2024 through July 31, 2024. Mr. Cothran asked for a motion from the Committee.

It was **moved by Mr. G. Young**, seconded by Mr. Cothran, *to recommend to the full body that the 2025 NGO grant cycle timeline be set to accept applications from June 17, 2024 through July 31, 2024. Motion carried by acclamation.*

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned.


Assistant to the Commission Clerk