

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 7th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2023

The Caddo Parish Economic Development Committee met in legal session on the above date, at 2:00 p.m., in the Government Chambers Conference Room, with Mr. Johnson, Chairman, presiding, and the following members in attendance, constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Johnson, Jones, and Lazarus (7). ABSENT: Commissioner Jones (1).

The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was skipped due to having been done in the previous Audit & Finance Committee meeting.

There being no agenda additions nor public comments, the Chair moved to New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

- *Discuss appropriation process and funding for economic development requests regarding the 2024 Budget*

Mr. Burrell wanted to know why the Shreveport-Bossier African American Chamber of Commerce's funding amount was less than requested. Mr. Johnson said that the Chamber of Commerce hosts expos and job fairs, but there was not a huge economic impact coming out of those expos.

Mr. Johnson stated that the budgeted amount for economic development is \$400,000. He presented his recommendations as follows: CoHabitat Foundation \$25,000; Competition Planning Partners \$25,000; Film Prize Foundation \$30,000; Fit For Life \$60,000; Goodwill Industries \$10,000; Highland Area Partnership \$10,000; Independence Bowl Foundation \$65,000; North Caddo Fireworks \$9,000; Rho Omega & Friends \$40,000; Shreveport Bossier African American Chamber of Commerce \$10,000; Shreveport Bossier Sports Commission \$40,000; Southern Hills Business Association \$24,000; The Betty & Leonard Phillips Deaf Action Center \$5,000; and The Strand Theater \$15,000. Mr. Johnson's recommendations totals to \$368,000, which is under the budgeted amount of \$400,000.

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to recommend to the full body the Chair's recommendations, as listed above, for the economic development appropriations the 2024 budget cycle.*

Mr. Epperson said that the Chairman's recommendations are under the budgeted amount. Mr. Atkins agreed and stated that he scored the applications.

At this time, Mr. Epperson' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Johnson, Jones, and Lazarus (7). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Jones (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Mrs. Barnett requested that the scored applications be submitted to Finance for auditing purposes.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.



Michelle Nations
Assistant to the Commission Clerk