

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 17TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2022

The Caddo Parish American Rescue Plan Committee met in legal session on the above date, at 2:18 p.m., in the Government Plaza Chambers 1ST Floor Conference Room, with Mr. Johnson, Chairman, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Atkins, Hopkins, and Johnson (3). ABSENT: Commissioner Gage-Watts and Jones (2).

The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were given at the last committee meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- *Updates And General Discussions Related To The American Rescue Plan*

Mrs. Barnett said that the State Fair and the American Rose Center have been deemed eligible. She explained that three organizations, Shreveport Green, Water District No. 7 and Lakeview Waterworks, are in the engineering review process and these entities are on the cusp of receiving approval. Mr. Atkins wanted to know more about the Shreveport Green project. Mrs. Barnett responded that the Shreveport Green project is for capturing and distributing rainstorm water and it is identified as a green infrastructure type project. Mr. Johnson asked if this project is a back-door deal because the project has not been discussed as a group. Mr. Johnson said that he does not want a commissioner to feel like they have a deal on the side and that the Commissioner spends money how they want. Mrs. Bryant said that Administration will look at the information regarding the Shreveport Green project. Mr. Johnson said that a commissioner spoke about levies, but none of that has been vetted by the body. Mr. Johnson mentioned consistency. Mrs. Bryant understood that the Parish had established processes.

Mr. Hopkins wanted to know if the Chief from Fire District No. 7 had contacted Finance. Mr. Hopkins said that supposedly Fire District No. 7 has gotten a fire truck. Mrs. Barnett responded that they have gotten fire trucks through ARPA under revenue replacement. She explained that revenue replacement does not replace the cost, but, due to the emergency protocol, the fire truck is considered medical response which meets the criteria. Mrs. Barnett explained that Fire District No. 7 needs to submit the explanation in writing to change their request from ineligible to eligible.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know the request for Shreveport Green. Mrs. Barnett responded with \$120,000. Mrs. Bryant explained that Shreveport Green was presented to the full body for monies the Commission already appropriated and that the project was not brought to the American Rescue Plan Committee. Mrs. Bryant said that Mr. Young has requested Administration present Shreveport Green to the Commission. Mrs. Bryant explained that an organization is not presented to the full body until it has been vetted first, because the Commission's first question is whether an organization is eligible. Mr. Johnson commented that another Commission could have a project that has a higher priority than another project and that projects should be presented to the Committee for discussion. Mrs. Barnett commented that she had to research and define green infrastructure in order to determine whether a commissioner's idea is going to work. She explained that she did not want to go all the way down a road towards a dead end.

Mr. Johnson pointed out that Shreveport Green has two projects totaling \$250,000. Mrs. Bryant commented that Finance and Administration is not validating that Shreveport Green is going to receive the \$120,000. Mrs. Barnett said that Mrs. Donna Curtis was informed that the Parish cannot piecemeal and break a barrier of \$250,000. Mrs. Bryant explained that Administration and Finance clarified that Shreveport Green could not have similar projects and requested another \$130,000 to get around the process. Mrs. Barnett said that if the objectives are different and the same organization is implementing them, then it is okay. Mrs. Barnett also said that if the objectives are the same and the total cost is over \$250,000, then the organization would not be able to do it. Mr. Johnson wanted to know if Shreveport Green laid out how they are going to implement the project. Mrs. Barnett said that the information is the only way to be reviewed by engineering and that she could send that information to the Committee. Mr. Atkins wanted to know more about the project. Mrs. Barnett explained that Shreveport Green plans to reuse storm water. Mrs. Bryant explained that recapturing stormwater is like communities in the Caribbean that collect storm water for reuse.

Mrs. Barnett said that subrecipients must be monitored monthly or quarterly depending on their risk assessment. She explained that next week Finance will have meetings with eligible identified organizations and subrecipients to explain requirements, such as audits. Mrs. Barnett said that as more subrecipients are approved Finance will meet with them before a CEA is signed. Mr. Johnson wanted to know if any organizations became ineligible. Mrs. Barnett responded only Red G and Fire District No. 7, but Finance is working on Fire District No. 7. Mr. Atkins wanted to know if Walter B. Jacobs is ineligible. Mrs. Bryant responded that Walter B. Jacobs is a stretch to meet economic recovery criteria and that Administration is trying to use bond money for the project. Mrs. Bryant said that even if the Parish had \$6 million federal dollars, the project's cost is about \$15 million. Mrs. Bryant said that the Parish was informed by the Legislative Auditor to either issue more bonds or reduce the millages. Mr. Hopkins commented that there is an amendment on the December ballot about millages and assessments. Mrs. Bryant said that Amendment 5 on the November ballot allows the Parish Commission to retain its opportunity to assess property tax millage. Mrs. Bryant explained that if the amendment is authorized by voters, then the Parish Commission can assess millages at the rate the voters authorized the Parish Commission to assess. She further explained that the Commission could not take a vote and increase the millage, and that the Parish

must place ads in the newspaper. Mrs. Bryant mentioned that government bodies have found that if millages are not rolled forward, then the government bodies absorb high costs during inflation when they could have taken advantage of higher assessments. Mrs. Bryant said that the Parish of Caddo is not there as a whole, although this is the case on juvenile justice.

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Committee, so the meeting adjourned at 2:39 p.m.



Administrative Specialist I