

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 6th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2025

The Caddo Parish Appropriation Committee met in legal session on the above date at 1:05 p.m., in the Government Plaza Chambers Conference Room, with Mr. Cothran, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Gage-Watts, Epperson, and Thomas, (6). ABSENT: Commissioner J. Young (1).

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by Mr. Epperson and invocation was given by Mr. Cothran. There being no Citizen's Comments nor Agenda Additions, the Committee moved to New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

- *Discussion regarding NGO Appropriations process*

The committee meet and discussed the appropriations process. They spoke on organizations that had an emergency on the middle of the year and how that affects the processing. The committee hope to come to a consensus.

It was mentioned that VYJ and Hope Connections were some of the organizations that had midyear emergencies and requested additional funding.

It was recommended not to have a second round of funding; organizations should be able to request their needs in the initial application.

Mr. Epperson mentioned with good budgeting, the organizations shouldn't need more funds as an NGO. They should plan accordingly, budget, and be organized.

Mr. Burrell mentioned that unless an emergency comes up mid-year that is not an additional program, the organization should wait until next year's funds unless it's related to the Parish's business.

Mr. Cothran asked, "What is considered an emergency?" The suggestions shouldn't come directly to the Parish. It was also suggested to explain to the organization they are outside of the funding processing time. The goal is to keep the actions in consensus with the Parish rules.

Mr. Epperson mentioned that it is time to wean some of the organizations that are past the cycle. Mrs. Blake asked why couldn't a mid-year process be established. It was advised that there is a one-time application. As a collective, all agree on the definition of an emergency.

It was mentioned that the vote doesn't have limitations. The request can still happen and the Administration will work on the language. This would be on a per-case basis; any applications approved outside of the process have to go through the Appropriations Committee for review.

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to recommend to the full body to strike the no mid year rule from the application.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, and Thomas (6). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner J. Young (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

- *Discussion regarding NGO Education Seminar*

Mr. Thomas would like to set up an educational seminar to educate those past and present applicants. The applicants should know the NGO process, as well as grant writing. The seminar will not only be on how to complete the application process, but grant writing and how to get funding from other entities, and the proper way to get those funds. Mr. Burrell mentioned that the private sector is a safety net, Year to year, organizations are withdrawing. Mr. Burrell also mentioned the language once more and how some places, if it's not written correctly, the organization will not receive any funding. Mrs. Gage-Watts encouraged the idea and hopes it will be a success.

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to recommend to the full body to explore a NGO education seminar.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Gage-Watts, Epperson, and Thomas (6). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: J. Young (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.



Ashlyn King
Office Specialist