

COURTHOUSE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
April 6th, 2021
3:15 P.M.

Present: John Watley, L.W. Nolan and Brenda Abercrombie. Absent: Curtis Moses. Also present, Johnny Buckley, Nathan Pilgreen, Ben Bridges, Charles Boyd, Fred Carr, Bernie Nolan, Moses Williams and Julio Haulcy.

Mr. Watley called the meeting to order. Mr. Watley led the group in prayer.

Motion Mr. Nolan, seconded by Mrs. Abercrombie and declared adopted by unanimous roll call vote of the Committee to approve the agenda as written.

Motion Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Nolan and declared adopted by unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the March 3rd, 2020 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

A lengthy discussion was held concerning the lease agreement, alcohol on premises and the types of events being held at the Betty Street Community Center. The Secretary/Treasurer addressed the committee regarding the event that was scheduled for Friday, April 2nd at the Betty Street Community Center. Mayor Crow spoke with Police Jury President Johnny Buckley on Wednesday, March 30th regarding the possibility of an adult event being held at the center. A flyer was produced to the jury which stated there would be an event for the “Grown and Sexy.”

Julio Haulcy addressed the committee members regarding the event which was eventually cancelled. Mr. Haulcy said the event that was cancelled would have been an indoor event. Mr. Haulcy said this all started because Mayor Crow was trying to shut down his event and had been working for a week to get it shut down. Mr. Haulcy stated that Mayor Crow asked the residents of the community to come in and start a petition to shut down the event. Mr. Haulcy said alcohol has been consumed at the facility for fifty plus years and it has never been an issue. People bring in alcohol, but alcohol has never been sold. Mr. Haulcy said he can't control if alcohol is brought into the facility. Mr. Haulcy asked the committee why is this an issue now if these types of events have been going on for several years.

Mr. Haulcy stated that all of the issues now are with the city and it has nothing to do with the parish. Mr. Haulcy provided the committee with a letter from Chief Coulberston dated September 13, 2020 stating that the Farmerville Police Department will not be responding to vehicle unlocks, vehicle incidents, accidents or ANY type of disturbances when the Farmerville Day event is held. Mr. Haulcy said he can't get any support from his local law enforcement. Mr. Haulcy has a petition from the residents on White Street, Betty Street and Bayou Street stating that they have no issue with kickball, softball or community events. Mr. Haulcy further stated that the only problem he is having is the chief of police not doing his job.

Mr. Haulcy stated that last week he ordered 80 plus uniforms for the children of the community who signed up to play ball. The event that was cancelled was to pay for the uniforms for the children. Mr. Haulcy said that the lease agreement specifies that the community center is for the

youth and the community. Mr. Haulcy said he has done nothing wrong. Mr. Haulcy said he is not responsible for what happens down the road or in other people's yards. He is only responsible for the specific event on his premises. Mr. Haulcy stated that these types of events are necessary because they generate money that can be put back into the center to be used for the children. **No action was taken on the lease agreement.**

Motion Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Nolan to recommend to the full jury to allow the Betty Street Community Center to remove a tree on the premises and add a full-size basketball court to be used for the youth of the community. The expense associated with this project will be paid for by the Betty Street Community Center. Motion carried unanimously.

A brief discussion was held regarding the possibility of selling the ball field/old rodeo arena near the old state park. **No action taken.**

There being no further business to come before the committee, Mr. Watley declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Mrs. Abercrombie and duly seconded by Mr. Nolan on this the 6th day of April, 2021.

**John Watley, Chairman
Paula Strickland, Secretary-Treasurer**