

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**GENERAL DISCUSSION**  
**May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**2:00 P.M.**

Present: Glenn Hutto, Ben Bridges and Russell Wade. Absent: Jeremy Hobbs. Also present were Mike Holley, Nathan Pilgreen, A.J. Ford, Brenda Abercrombie, Alan Ates, Danielle Harkins, Chris Strickland, Julio Haulcy via phone and Fred Carr.

**Mr. Hutto called the meeting to order. Mr. Hutto led the group in prayer.**

Public Comment on agenda items.

Fred Carr addressed the Committee regarding the Betty Street Community Center. Mr. Carr stated that he is a law-abiding citizen and he loves his community. The venues at Betty Street are being confused with another business located down the street. Mr. Carr stated that it is widely known that there is an issue with parking on Betty Street. Mr. Carr wondered why is there not an ordinance saying that there is no parking on Betty Street. Mr. Carr has a petition from 2021 with signatures from residents who are in favor of keeping the center open. Mr. Carr further stated that he played little league ball at the center. He said there are a lot of daytime events being held there. It is less expensive than utilizing the rec center. The use of the facility is very import to the black community.

Julio Haulcy *via phone* – Mr. Haulcy stated that he knows there are concerns with Betty Street and everyone knows what they are. Mr. Haulcy stated that he is in compliance with the Town of Farmerville ordinance. He stated that there are improvements that need to be done on Betty Street, but the city won't take any action. Mr. Haulcy stated that in 2021 Mayor John Crow reported false allegations to the police jury. Mr. Haulcy further stated that the Union Parish Sheriff Office and the Farmerville Police Department have no issues with the center. Mr. Haulcy stated that if parking is an issue that can be resolved. Mr. Haulcy further stated that the Betty Street Community Center means a lot to the black community. Mr. Haulcy admits that there is an issue with the other club, but not the Betty Street Community Center.

Mr. Hutto addressed Mr. Haulcy and Mr. Carr. He said the reason for the meeting is because everyone is asking for help from the Police Jury. It is a parish-wide issue. The issue is not just Betty Street, but also Park Street. Both the Union Parish Sheriff's Department and the Farmerville Police Department have been dispatched to the Betty Street community numerous times. Both agencies have numerous reports in their systems. Mr. Hutto stated that people have come to him and said that they don't feel safe in their homes. There are been many issues with first responders who can't navigate through the parking on Betty Street.

**Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Wade and declared adopted by unanimous vote to approve the agenda as written.**

**Motion Mr. Wade, seconded by Mr. Holley to approve the minutes of the February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

A lengthy discussion was held regarding the Betty Street Community Center lease. The lease is for a twenty-five (25) year period. The lease began on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 and goes through March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2045. The lease may be terminated at any time by either party, without cause, by giving notice in writing to the other party thirty (30) days prior to termination. The consideration for the lease was that the tenant agreed to operate a recreational club for the benefit and use of the youth and community. The facility has not been utilized for the youth.

Mr. Wade stated that if the center is to remain open then the parish should be responsible for managing. The parish should set the hours and the type of events that can be held. The building belongs to the parish.

Mr. Bridges stated that he is disappointed that the officials who requested help did not show up to the Executive meeting. Mr. Bridges further stated that he has been called by other elected officials for help on the situation. Mr. Bridges suggested that the jury specify what type of activities can be held. Mr. Bridges does not want to see the children suffer because of the actions of the adults. **Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Wade to recommend to the full jury to terminate the Betty Street Community Center dba Union Parish Little League District 5 lease agreement after the necessary thirty-day notice. Motion carried unanimously.**

**There being no further business to come before the committee, Mr. Hutto declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Bridges and duly seconded by Mr. Wade on this the 7<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2024.**

**Glenn Hutto, Chairman  
Paula Strickland, Secretary-Treasurer**