

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL SESSION OF  
THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 4th DAY OF JANUARY, 2022

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Special Session, on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., in the Government Plaza Chambers, 505 Travis Street, Shreveport, with Mr. Atkins, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (7). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Jones (5).

The invocation was given by Mr. Taliaferro, and Mr. Jackson led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Atkins pointed out that if one Commissioner leaves, they will lose a quorum.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Jayne Tappe came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

I know this kind of happened quickly for my stance and being prepared today. And I'm speaking off the cuff which is unusual for me. I want to speak to of course I'm speaking about the Caddo parish zoning going all the way to the Caddo parish lines now and no longer including just the five mile UDC zone. So I want to appeal to those of you that don't live rurally you live strictly in a district that is not rural. You are you know, in the city, and I want to appeal to you. And I can imagine you've gotten texts and phone calls and emails and all manner of stuff from those of us out in the parish that say, please listen to us, please. You know, we don't want to lose our rights. We want to have our property rights, but have you and I know you can't answer me. But have you honestly received just one phone call, text or email that says I'd like to lose my rights please. I'd like for you to take my rights please. I don't think you can. I mean, I don't I can't imagine any of you receiving that text, phone or email. So for those of you that are in the parish, excuse me, I'm sorry in the city, and you're going to be voting on something concerning those of us in the parish, that I would hope and pray that you would listen to us in the parish and respond from the city and say, golly, listen to that all the people. Listen to all those people, saying please don't take my rights. Please don't vote. Please don't make a rule of law or committee. Don't pay somebody don't start a different department don't do anything that would be detrimental to us in the parish. If you live in the city, think about us in the parish. That's who you need to be thinking of if you don't even live there. Okay, so that was all I had today, because it was certainly in a hurry. Thank you.

John Harrell came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

I, like so many others, are very, very worried about my property rights. We fought y'all; we fought the good fight. We got it passed. We thought this was done. And y'all are acting like kids that got a piece of candy, found out that y'all stole it out of the bag, and now you're wanting to take the whole bag. We're not allowing that to happen. And the I-49 Corridor, we called every person that was listed on it, and no one knew y'all were fixing to take that thing. Fellas y'all can't do that. Y'all work for us. We didn't ask y'all to stick a gun to us and hold us up. This is getting ridiculous. Where an old man has to come up here and talk to y'all. Didn't y'all take Civics? We're going to have to come together. Todd, that was wrong. So, we're going to fight y'all every way we can. This is not gonna be a one and done. Its probably going to go on, but I have faith that if any of y'all want to vote for it, we will organize and y'all can take a picture of your desk and your chair because that's the last time you're going to have it. Thank you.

**NEW BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that Zoning Case 21-35-P, in regards to Ordinance No. 6154 of 2022, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, by amending the zoning of property located on the west end of Sandi Acres Loop, Caddo Parish, LA, from RMHS, Residential Manufactured Home Subdivision District to R-A, Rural Agricultural District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be delayed to the next Work Session.

Mr. Young said that this zoning case is in District 12, and Mr. Epperson is not here today.

At this time, Mr. Young's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (7). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Jones (5). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Ordinance No. 6167 of 2022, an ordinance repealing Section 38-4 of the Code of Ordinances regarding the Shreveport-Caddo 2030 Master Plan and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Hopkins said that this will repeal the 2030 Master Plan that is on our books. He also said that there may or may not have to be a master plan, but this will remove the 2030 Master Plan for the unincorporated areas of the Parish.

The Clerk of the Commission mentioned that this ordinance, as well as the other

ordinances on this agenda, will not be able to go for final vote until February 8<sup>th</sup> Regular Session due to the publication requirements without that being recommended to the Commission by a board of planners. Attorney Bernstein agreed.

Mr. Young requested that Legal provide a brief regarding the legality of repealing the 2030 Master Plan.

At this time, Mr. Young's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (7). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Jones (5). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Taliaferro, *that Ordinance No. 6168 of 2022, an ordinance repealing Ordinance No. 6071 of 2021 relative to establishment of a Parish Planning Commission and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Hopkins said that there has been an outcry from the citizens that they do not want a Parish Planning Board or Commission. He also pointed out that the 5-mile radius is still in place; there's nothing for the other areas of the Parish.

Mr. Jackson requested that Legal provide a legal brief of whether or not the Caddo Parish Commission can be the planning body. Attorney Bernstein agreed.

At this time, Mr. Hopkins' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (7). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Jones (5). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that Ordinance No. 6173 of 2022, an ordinance amending the 2022 Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund and the Oil & Gas Fund to provide an additional appropriation for Urban Support and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (7). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Jones (5). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *that Resolution No. 2 of 2022, a resolution approving the amended 2021 Budget and the Proposed 2022 Budget of the North Louisiana Criminalistics Lab Commission and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration.

**Substitute motion by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Young, *to englobo and move the following items to Thursday's agenda for consideration:*

- *Resolution No. 2 of 2022, a resolution approving the amended 2021 Budget and the Proposed 2022 Budget of the North Louisiana Criminalistics Lab Commission and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 3 of 2022, a resolution requesting Congress to take such actions as are necessary to eliminate provisions of federal law which require veterans to pay taxes on their social security benefits and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 4 of 2022, a resolution supporting and requesting a U.S. postage stamp be named in honor of the late Col Steven dePyssler, and otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 5 of 2022, a resolution expressing support for the Lofts at 114 Texas Project, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 8 of 2022, a resolution repealing Resolution No. 116 of 2011 relative to adoption of a Master Plan for Caddo Parish and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition & Appreciation proclaiming Monday, January 31, 2022 as Louisiana National Guard Day in Caddo Parish*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition of Appreciation & Recognition for Mr. Sunrose "Gay Poppa" Rutledge*

Mr. Jackson talked about Resolution No. 5 of 2022. He said that this is an opportunity where we will be able to bring state dollars for Caddo Parish. He further explained that this is not committing the Parish to do anything. This does not guarantee us from doing anything, but it doesn't limit us from doing anything, he said.

At this time, Mr. Jackson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (7). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Jones (5). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Resolution No. 6 of 2022, a resolution regarding planning and zoning in Caddo Parish, to request the Parish Administrator to submit a proposed budget for planning and zoning administration and to request the Parish Administrator to submit a plan to establish such in accordance with the Parish Charter and otherwise providing with respect thereto be removed from the agenda.*

Mr. Young does not feel that this has to be a resolution, perhaps. He asked that Administration provide a detailed itemized budget for a proposed small staff for planning and zoning.

At this time, Mr. Young's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (7). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Jones (5). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mr. Taliaferro, *to englobo and move the following items to Thursday's agenda for consideration:*

- *Appoint Sgt. Gary Bailey to the Caddo Parish Animal Services Board (law enforcement representative) to fill the unexpired term of Dep. Jessica Anderson. Term to expire January 1, 2026*
- *Discuss Camera Doorbell Crime Reduction Program for Caddo Parish*

At this time, Mr. Young's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (7). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Jones (5). ABSTAIN: None (0).

#### **CITIZENS COMMENTS (late arrivals)**

Nick Jordan submitted the following comment:

It is the first principle of American Government that ONLY elected officials make laws and ordinances that citizens are compelled to follow. Act 294 rightly protected parish property rights from one appointed board and now the Commission seeks to create another one! An appointed Parish board would not be elected. They would not be accountable to the people. I urge you to reverse course on this dangerous and unnecessary expansion of government and bureaucracy. Throw out Resolution 6 and repeal Resolution 6071.

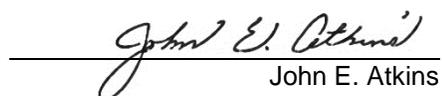
Lyndon B. Johnson submitted a comment to the Clerk of the Commission saying that he did not support the UDC from the beginning, and he will support repealing Ordinance No. 6071 of 2021.

#### **COMMUNIQUES**

- Mr. Atkins said that the Commission is working to find a solution to the concerns of the people of Caddo Parish, in particular, the people of rural Caddo Parish. He further explained that the Citizens Advisory Committee's report came back to the Commission in December. Prior to that, Mr. Hopkins was trying to be proactive, so he set up the Parish Planning & Zoning Board with the expectation that would provide planning services to the people in the rural portion of the parish moving forward. The Citizens Advisory Committee's report preferred a body made up of elected officials that were directly elected by the people in rural Caddo Parish. There are some indications from Legal that a planning body is required by law to be made up of non-elected officials. He said that they are working through those issues to try and find a solution that will be suitable or acceptable to the people of rural Caddo Parish.
- Mr. Hopkins pointed out that the House Bill 697 Act 294 removed the Metropolitan Planning Commission from any decisions for rural Caddo Parish. It did not remove the zoning ordinances or zoning map. As of January 1, 2022, there still is a five-mile area that is controlled by the UDC. State Law said that there has to be a planning commission. Those recommendations from the planning commission are brought to the full body for a final decision. Mr. Hopkins also mentioned that the Commission cannot do any zoning north of Hwy 173 because they do not have that authority at this time; the only authority it has is within that five-mile area. He also said that the whole Parish is not under the UDC.
- Mr. Chavez announced that there will be a Long Range Planning Committee scheduled for Friday, January 7 at 11:00 a.m. He encouraged all to attend.

There being no more business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

  
Michelle Nations

  
John E. Atkins

Assistant Commission Clerk

Vice-President