

ORDINANCE NO. 6225 OF 2022

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND REENACTING SECTION 30-20 RELATIVE TO NUISANCES, TO ESTABLISH A PROPERTY STANDARDS COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER PROPERTY STANDARDS CASES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO DILAPIDATED AND DANGEROUS BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES, AND OTHERWISE PERTAINING THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission finds that changes in the handling of hearings for violation of parish ordinances regarding property standards, including but not limited to dilapidated and dangerous buildings and structures would be in the best interest of the public, property owners, and the Parish Commission;

WHEREAS, creation of a Property Standards Committee to conduct hearings and make recommendations for penalties would improve and streamline the process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened that Section 30-20 of the Caddo Parish Code of Ordinances be amended and re-enacted to read as follows:

“Sec. 30-20. - Property standards board; committee; attorney.

(a) The property standards board for the parish shall consist of the members of the parish commission, who, when sitting in that capacity, shall be specifically so convened.

(b) The attorney for the property standards board shall be the parish district attorney, provided that the board may retain private counsel where deemed appropriate.

(c) The Property Standards Committee of the Board is hereby created. The committee shall consist of five members of the Parish Commission appointed by the President of the Commission. The purpose of the Property Standards Committee shall be to conduct hearings and recommend actions under this Article to the full commission sitting as the property standards board. The committee shall have authority to conduct hearings regarding violations of this Chapter and to make recommendations to the full Commission sitting as the Board for matters under this Chapter.

(d) The hearings before the Property Standards Committee shall be conducted as follows:

(1) Before the committee considers a matter under this Chapter, the record owner of the property shall be entitled to a hearing before the committee. No order of condemnation and demolition, removal, or sealing shall issue unless a hearing has been held, a recommendation has been made to the full commission, and, after considering the findings and recommendation of the committee, a majority of the parish commission approves such order and action.

(2) Any notice of a hearing before the committee shall be given to the record owner in the same manner required by the provisions of this Article for notice of a hearing before the full Board. Additionally, notice shall be given to the record owner of the consideration by the full commission of the recommendation of the committee. Such notices shall be given according to Section 30-24.

(3) The owner of the property shall have the right, personally or through counsel or agent, to appear and present evidence relevant and material to the issues the same as a judicial proceeding.

(4) The committee shall consider the evidence and argument of the director of public works or his designee and the owner of the property. Should the committee find, by a majority vote of those committee members present, that an order of condemnation is justified, the committee shall make a recommendation to the full commission of the appropriate action under this Chapter.

(d) The recommendation shall be promptly placed on the agenda of the full commission which may accept, reject or modify the recommendation. The record owner shall be allowed to address the commission on both the finding of a violation and the recommended order

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any provision or item of this ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved as to legal form:

Parish Attorney

Date