

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE  
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2016

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Work Session, on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., in the Government Chambers, with Mr. Matthew Linn, President, presiding, and the following members in attendance, constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Cawthorne, Chavez, Dominick, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Johnson, Linn, Middleton, and Smith (11). ABSENT: Commissioner Bowman (1).

The invocation was given by Mr. John Atkins, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Stormy Gage-Watts.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Mr. Billy Ray Wayne, 9051 Mansfield Road, Shreveport, Urban Support Agency, Inc., stated that he is in attendance today to thank the Commission for their concern and support to the children of Caddo Parish and their help in supporting Urban Support's tutorial and academic programs. USA also thanks Commissioner Gage-Watts for her leadership in helping secure program funds for 2016.

Mr. John Perkins, 310 Gently Circle, Shreveport, stated that he opposed any inner city connector in regards to the completion of I-49. Mr. Perkins stated that he and others preferred that I-49 be looped around the inner city. Mr. Perkins stated that there has been so much information true or false that has been put out that it is now time for everyone to step back and take a deep breath and carefully look at the real information regarding the inner city connector and its consequences on the Allendale community and the entire City of Shreveport. Mr. Perkins stated that all the groups need to see real non-corrupt data to make fully informed decisions. Mr. Perkins asks that the Commission not support Resolution No. 5 of 2016 until all the information is in.

Mr. Hon Press, 1563 Clay Street, Shreveport, stated that the Allendale area is full of elderly people that own property and he is concerned what it would mean to displace those community members if the inner city connector comes through that area. Mr. Press also pointed out that a prime example of what an elevated highway does to a community is at the corner of Texas Ave. and Linwood; it is a dead area except for Herby K's.

Ms. Dorothy Wiley, 1528 Clay Street, Shreveport, representing the Allendale Neighborhood Organization, stated that she and many Allendale residents oppose the completion of I-49 where it uses an inner city connector through the Allendale community. Ms. Wiley pointed out that this is a historically black community that was once home to whites and blacks, although segregated they did exist in the early years of Shreveport. Ms. Wiley stated that there has been a lot of manipulation from various groups leading the charge to complete the I-49 Project and we have felt since the beginning like the residents of Allendale have been left out of the process. Ms. Wiley stated that if people would pay attention the downtown within Allendale began with I-20 and then added to the problem with I-49. Ms. Wiley pointed out that business thru traffic and local traffic need to be separated to better serve the community.

Mr. Louis Brossett, 1524 Clay Street, Shreveport, representing the Allendale Neighborhood Organization, stated that many of you stated just a few months ago that you worked for the citizens; this is your chance to help protect the Allendale Community from the inner city connector. Mr. Brossett stated that he has been displaced twice during the time I-20 came through and now he could possibly be displaced from his home with the I-49 inner city connector. Mr. Brossett asks that the Commission give great thought before making a final decision related to the I-49 Project.

Mr. Bill Weiner, 333 Texas Street, Suite 2290, Shreveport, stated he is trained in architecture and urban design and hopes Commissioners will obtain all the facts before going on record to support the I-49 inner city connector. First, traffic on interstates should be split, thru traffic (trucks, etc.) go around the city and local traffic goes through the city; it is what happens all over the country. Mr. Weiner also stated that he does not ever believe the inner city connector will ever be built because it violates so many rules and principles that go over wetlands that NLCOG has relabeled as not wet lands, it also goes through a historic area and the cost of the project. Mr. Weiner provided a hand-out for Commissioners to look over at their convenience.

Mr. Benjamin Arnold, 9516 Cinnamon Drive, Shreveport, stated that he has roots in the Allendale community but he has been in the Southern Hills area for years. The one thing he realized with the I-49 Project was that it changed traffic patterns to community that had been there for years and in most cases it was a negative effect on the community. Mr. Arnold pointed out that all these big road projects have been a drain on the existing communities. Mr. Arnold stated that he is not against the completion of I-49 but not in the inner city connector.

Mr. Rob Broussard, 451 Sandefur, Shreveport, stated that just this last week the Broadmoor Neighborhood Association had four Commissioners come and review their tutoring program and would like all Commissioners to come and look over the program. Mr. Broussard stated that his real mission today was to discuss the very disappointing emails that went out over the weekend to remove Mr.

Wilson from the NLCOG Board by Commission President Linn. Mr. Broussard suggested that bridges be rebuilt and not burned relating to Dr. Wilson, Commissioners and NLCOG on this issue. He hopes that this issue can be resolved with integrity and respect.

Mr. John Settle, 33 Tealwood, Shreveport, is concerned about the replacement of Mr. Wilson on the NLCOG Board and especially how this all transpired. Mr. Settle stated that he was advised by Mr. Dunlap was planned be the NLCOG Board appointee but that there is language stating only elected officials can serve in that capacity. Mr. Settle state that Caddo Parish has two fine attorneys on staff and it is his hope that this issue can be resolved in the correct fashion. Secondly, he has attended many NLCOG meetings and he questions Mr. Linn's ability to make meetings since he is a full-time student and it should be left with a member of the Parish staff serving for those meetings. Mr. Settle pointed out that three reasons for a paid staffer, one: continuity, two: accountability and three: maturity; it is a disappointment that Mr. Linn has already tried to use his position as President in two instances that has caused so much uproar.

Mr. Jimmy Couvillion, 3315 Chaumont Circle, Shreveport, has two points on the NLCOG Board appointment, one: that the appointment by Mr. Linn on that board has to be ratified by the whole Commission according to their own By-Laws and two: the I-49 Project, whether it goes straight through or loops, planning for the Allendale area needs to be started to see what would be effective.

Mr. Hilton Nicholson, 415 Texas Street, Shreveport, stated that his business in cyber security was being recruited by Texas but he wanted to be in Shreveport and due to the fact that the EAP was able to provide the needed guidance and monetary help to give his company the final push in becoming sustainable and ready to grow and provide jobs for Caddo Parish and Shreveport. Mr. Nicholson stated that they plan to hire 25 more employees in 2016-2017 and if not for the EAP, they would not be able to be in Shreveport.

Mr. David Smith, 2031 Kings Highway, Shreveport, Executive Director of the EAP, provided the 2015 EAP report to Commissioners. Mr. Smith pointed out a few of the details like that they planned to create 8 jobs in 2015 but were able to create 39 jobs in 2015; they promised 4 educational events, they were able to do 11 events in 2015; They were not only able to raise money in Caddo Parish and Northwest Louisiana but areas in Texas, Baton Rouge New Orleans and Silicon Valley. They were able to screen and help 238 companies in 2015, many are not yet mature enough for funding but were sent to CoHab and Southern Incubator for help. The outlook for 2016 is very good and believe 12 companies will become finished products in Caddo Parish. Mr. Smith stated that are making strides and hopes the Commission will stay the 5 year course and make this program exactly what everyone envisioned in 2013.

Mr. John Beard, 300 Marshall Street, Shreveport, stated that three years ago when he heard about the EAP and the Angel Fund he had completely no confidence in what they were trying to do and thought they had absolutely no chance to raise any significant money for that program knowing his relationship in the community to raise money, but he went ahead and invested and has been surprised at the phenomenal response from the community to help build new thriving businesses in this community. Mr. Beard stated that to date they have invested over \$300,000 and hopes that Caddo Parish will also stay the course on the funding for this program.

Mr. Kenneth Krefft, 157 Archer Street, Shreveport, asked that everyone remember the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster some 13 years ago. Mr. Krefft stated that the Red River is higher on February 1<sup>st</sup> than it's ever been on the Red, so he is asking that our local governments be diligent and look at funding a study on the Red involving sediment problems and its effects on Caddo and Bossier Parishes.

### **VISITORS**

Mr. Charlie E. Williams, District Operations Manager, Center Point Energy, provided maps and answers to questions Mr. Linn proposed at last month's meeting.

Mr. Linn stated that he hopes Commissioners will look over those questions and answers and if more information is need we will seek Mr. Williams' expertise again at a later date. Mr. Linn also stated that he has several members of his district that have had problems with the relocation of natural gas meters without explanations and just a plain heads up on the process. He is most concerned with those members that don't understand how to work within the system to get answers on those types of questions. Mr. Linn thanked Mr. Williams for answering the questions put forth earlier.

Mr. Johnson thanked Mr. Williams for his work during the Red River Flooding disaster.

Mr. Epperson thanked Center Point for their response in various situations throughout the Parish.

Mr. Williams stated that they are working on a website making it easier for citizens to see where their work site and will be in the future.

### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

#### 1.) Shreveport-Bossier Sports Commission Update

Dr. Wilson introduced Mr. Kelly Wells, Vice President, Shreveport-Bossier Sports Commission to provide update on past and future events of the Sports Commission.

Mr. Wells announced that the hotel/motel tax did pass. He stated that in 2015, the Shreveport-Bossier Sports Commission was involved in seventy-six different events, most of which occurred in the City of Shreveport. He also said that there also some event that occurred in the Parish. Major League Fishing was also held in Caddo Parish, with over eighty hours of TV time; it spotlighted Caddo Lake and Cross Lake.

The goal for this year is sixty events; currently, there are thirty-six on the books, he said. Mr. Wells also said that there have been rugby events, archery events, wrestling events, etc. here in Shreveport-Bossier. He also said that he will email a listing of the current events that are booked.

Mr. Wells also explained that the Shreveport-Bossier Sports Committee is looking to create a Community Advisory Committee. He stated that most of their leads have come from the community.

Answering a question from Mr. Johnson regarding big ticket events, Mr. Wells stated that

Mr. Johnson also suggested to put in bids for the high school football games to utilize Independence Stadium. Mr. Wells stated that they have been talking to various colleges about playing football games here, but they have to work out the kinks in their schedules. He also said that they are bidding with ULM for the Sunbelt Conference in 2018-2020, which would include ULM, ULL, Arkansas State, etc.

Answering a question from Mr. Epperson regarding Fairgrounds Field, Mr. Wells stated that people have been looking at the stadium, but nothing has been put into place yet. He also explained that building a new stadium would cost about \$15-20 million, but it would only cost approximately \$3 million to fix up the current venue.

Answering a question from Mr. Atkins regarding ways to obtain the events that would be unique to our area, Mr. Wells stated that the Red River is so unpredictable right now, but there are some events that are being booked for the Red River. He also said that they are looking at the National Horseshoe Convention, State Archery Tournament, and other unique events.

Mr. Chavez thanked Mr. Wells and the Sports Commission for all of their hard work. He also wanted to know the reasons for moving the Wake Board Tournament to Cypress rather than Cross Lake. Mr. Wells explained that Cross Lake had really windy conditions in the area that they were going to host it, so the decision was made to move it to Cypress.

Mr. Epperson suggested to host an event with all the branches of the military competing with each other. He also said that he will invite him to the first Veterans Celebration Committee Meeting.

#### 2.) Caddo-Bossier Port Commission Update

Dr. Wilson provided copies to Commissioners regarding issues related to the Caddo-Bossier Port Commission.

#### 3.) 2016 Legislative Session

Dr. Wilson provided samples of the Legislative Priorities from last year to each Commissioner, as well as forms for this year. He asked that those forms be submitted by February 18<sup>th</sup>, so that they can create a report to turn into the legislators before the session begins. He also stated that there will not be a Legislative Luncheon the year due to time constraints.

#### 4.) Mr. Rob Williams, New President University Health Systems

Dr. Wilson stated that he will be in attendance for Thursday's meeting.

- 5.) Ms. Simone Hennessee – Introduction of New Executive Director of the Providence House, Mrs. Verni Howard

Dr. Wilson stated that they will also be in attendance for Thursday's meeting.

Dr. Wilson also requested that the discussion regarding representation on the NLCOG Board, which is listed under New Business on the agenda, be remanded to the Policies & Procedures Committee.

That concludes the Administration Report, staff will answer any further questions that you may have.'

#### **COMMUNIQUES/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Clerk of the Commission pointed out the resignation of Mr. Ralph Erin from the Sewerage District No. 7 Board effective January 1, 2016.

Mr. Epperson stated that he got a draft of assignments and it appears there are many civilians on certain committees and your proposed vision circumvents the whole reason for the committee process. Mr. Epperson stated that he has a meeting after today's Work Session and will not be able to meet with Mr. Linn for committee discussions, so he believes there needs to be more time to finalize committee assignments.

Mr. Jackson stated that he would like to explore meeting on February 16<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> for an Economic Development Committee meeting.

Mr. Jackson also requested a feasibility study for video recordings for the conference room. Mr. Hopkins stated that it is already in the works, but it will not be streamed live.

Mrs. Gage-Watts stated that she has not received the committee assignments, so she asked that more time be given for assignments to be finalized.

Mr. Dominick requests that Mr. Chuck Wilson, acting Animal Services Director, contact him tomorrow on an animal bite issue.

Mr. Johnson is concerned that in the committee assignments, there are paragraphs that appear to be giving direction to what that committee should do in the coming year, and he has a problem with that. He also has a problem with one of the most important committees being filled with new members of this body and lacking the institutional knowledge needed for an economic development committee.

Mr. Epperson stated that it is a little premature setting a committee meeting when decisions have not been perused by the entire body. Mr. Epperson stated that we need to slow down and relook at these committees and what their direction will be. In the event a committee meeting is held this room can be used at any time.

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Linn stated that the final draft of committee assignments will be sent out tomorrow morning, so anyone with changes can discuss it with him after the meeting. Mr. Linn stated that there are a few committees that need to meet very soon, if possible. He also stated that those paragraphs are ideas and concepts; he encouraged each Commissioner to bring their concepts and ideas to the table as well.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mr. Dominick**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Ordinance No. 5562 of 2016, to amend and reenact the section 2-30 of the Caddo Parish Code of Ordinance to state terms under which commissioners and their dependents may participate in parish group insurance* be moved to Thursday's Regular Session for introduction.

Mr. Dominick said that this ordinance states that a Commissioner can participate in the insurance, but would have to pay 100%, whether it be co-pays, premiums, etc.

Mr. Jackson commended Commissioner Dominick in the spirit of openness and bringing this ordinance forward. He also explained that a Commissioner can still receive health insurance, via the Affordable Healthcare Act, if they are not insured.

Answering a question from Mr. Johnson relative to the Parish providing insurance to Commissioners, as an employee, under the Affordable Healthcare Act, Attorney Frazier stated that she will look into that.

Answering a question from Mr. Epperson regarding if this is part of the ongoing litigation, Attorney Frazier advised that there would have to be an executive session, with counsel, to discuss the litigation any further.

Mr. Epperson cautioned that there is a possibility of an ethics violation regarding this ordinance. He also suggested to let the litigation take its course before a decision is made.

Mr. Linn also commended Commissioner Dominick for bringing this ordinance forward.

Mr. Cawthorne clarified that this ordinance is to allow a Commissioner to participate in a healthcare plan, but that Commissioner would have to pay 100% of the costs.

Mrs. Gage-Watts believes that this ordinance should go to the Policies and Procedures Committee.

Mr. Jackson stated that there are certain situations that an individual can be exempt from the Affordable Healthcare Act deadline, and this is one of those situations.

At this time, Mr. Dominick's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Cawthorne, Chavez, Dominick, Jackson, Linn, Middleton, and Smith (8). NAYS: Commissioners Epperson, Johnson, and Gage-Watts (3) ABSENT: Commissioner Bowman (1).

It was **moved by Mr. Dominick**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *that Ordinance No. 5563 of 2016, declaring certain adjudicated properties to be surplus and to authorize the Parish Administrator, or a designee, to sell the Parish of Caddo's tax interest in certain surplus adjudicated properties* be moved to Thursday's Regular Session for introduction.

Mr. Jackson stated that Willis-Knighton has a project going on that encompasses the area where some of these properties are located. He would like to hold off on those to ensure that those properties would complement the project.

Answering a question from Mr. Johnson regarding the legality of holding off on a few properties since there has been a public notice of these properties already, Mr. Whittington stated that there are no sales scheduled on any property until after the ordinances are passed. Once that is done, there has to be two advertisements to the public; one within thirty days of the sale, and one within seven days of the sale before a property can be sold. Mr. Whittington also stated that any of the properties sold through the Parish, whether the buyer be a corporation or an individual, has to be through a public sale.

Mr. Epperson believes that there is no reason to hold any of the properties back; he stated that this ordinance should stay as-is and take its course. He also said that this gives the appearance that a commissioner is trying to cull something for someone else. He stated that he is not supporting the substitute motion.

Attorney Frazier pointed out that whether Willis-Knighton or an individual wants to buy the properties, it still has to go through the same process and go out for a public bid.

Mr. Jackson stated that he is offended that someone would imply that he is advocating for special treatment. He also stated that there is an ongoing project, and he would like to ensure that the properties within that area will complement the development that is taking place.

**Substitute motion by Mr. Linn**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Ordinance No. 5563 of 2016, declaring certain adjudicated properties to be surplus and to authorize the Parish Administrator, or a designee, to sell the Parish of Caddo's tax interest in certain surplus adjudicated properties* be moved to Thursday's Regular Session for introduction *with the exception of those items designated as properties in District 3.*

At this time, Mr. Linn's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Cawthorne, Chavez, Dominick, Jackson, Linn, Middleton, and Smith (8). NAYS: Commissioners Epperson, Johnson, and Gage-Watts (3) ABSENT: Commissioner Bowman (1).

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *that Ordinance No. 5564 of 2016, amending the budget of estimated revenues and expenditures for the Economic Development Fund for the year 2016 to reduce the appropriation for the biomedical research foundation's Entrepreneurial Acceleration Program by \$200,000* be moved to Thursday's Regular Session for introduction.

Mr. Johnson stated that this ordinance would take funding amount back to the amount in the original ordinance, which matched 2:1 with the City of Shreveport.

Mr. Atkins would like to go on record to abstain from voting on this because of his involvement with the Angel Fund.

Mr. Dominick stated that the Commission made a commitment to the BioMed Entrepreneurship Accelerator Program, and should stick by it. He also said that Mr. David Smith has provided documents and information stating that they have created thirty-nine jobs. He urged that the new Commissioners go out to BioMed and look at the facility. Mr. Dominick will be voting against this ordinance.

Mr. Chavez stated that it is premature to introduce this ordinance. He also said that the Commission should not pull their funding just because the City of Shreveport pulled theirs. Mr. Chavez also said that the BioMed has created jobs, and the Commission should stick behind our words and continue the funding. He also said that he will be meeting with BioMed tomorrow at 9:30 a.m. and invited anyone to join him.

Mr. Cawthorne agreed with Mr. Dominick and Mr. Chavez. He also said that the only way that this Parish and City can move forward is investing in entrepreneurial programs. Mr. Cawthorne likes the fact that the BioMed EAP collaborates with SUSLA, CoHab, and other local program. He will support keeping the funding for BioMed EAP.

Mr. Middleton would like to see the full financial reports for the BioMed. He also said that he will be going with Mr. Chavez tomorrow to the BioMed EAP.

Mr. Johnson stated that he does not have a problem with the program, but he does have a problem with how the funds are being used, i.e. salaries, benefits, and professional services. He stated that the funding should go into the program, not for salaries.

Mr. Johnson also explained that BioMed has money coming in from the private sector as well as from the millage. He stated that the Commission should use their money wisely.

Asking a question from Mr. Epperson regarding the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) for BioMed, Attorney Frazier stated that the Parish enters into a CEA each year for the amount of money that the Commission appropriates in the Budget. She also said that each year, the Commission has appropriated \$500,000. Mr. Epperson also clarified that this ordinance reduces the funding from \$500,000 to \$300,000.

Mr. Epperson pointed out that the millage goes up to the year 2032, which would be approximately \$45 million. He also pointed out that there are some interns from BPCC, but he thought these dollars would go to Caddo Parish residents. Attorney Frazier pointed out that it would depend upon if those interns are paid internships. If so, they would have to review it further at that point.

Answering a question from Mr. Jackson regarding the specifics of the program, Mrs. Bryant stated that this is a \$500,000 per year for five years deal. She also said that they are currently in their third year.

Mr. Chavez asked to give the new Commissioners a chance to look at the BioMed facility. He also suggested an internal audit for BioMed EAP. Mr. Chavez would like this to be delayed for that chance.

Mr. Johnson reiterated that the funding should go to the program and not the salaries. He also explained that the original ordinance was to match the City's funding 2:1. Since the City is only funding \$150,000 this year, Mr. Johnson feels that the Parish should stick with the original ordinance and only fund \$300,000.

Mr. Middleton would also like an opportunity to look at the BioMed EAP Program.

**Substitute motion by Mr. Dominick**, seconded by Mr. Middleton, *to delay Ordinance No. 5564 of 2016, amending the budget of estimated revenues and expenditures for the Economic Development Fund for the year 2016 to reduce the appropriation for the biomedical research foundation's Entrepreneurial Acceleration Program by \$200,000 for one month.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Cawthorne, Chavez, Dominick, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Johnson, Linn, Middleton, and Smith (10). NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: Commissioner Atkins (1). ABSENT: None.

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, that *Resolution No. 5 of 2016, supporting the completion of Interstate 49 through an inner-city connector* be moved to Thursday's Regular Session.

Mr. Jackson stated that they are still in the public comments phase of this project, and he would like to wait until those citizens had a chance to weigh-in on this topic. He would like this resolution to be delayed until NLCOG has presented their information regarding the I-49 Inner City Connector. Mr. Jackson pointed out that the City of Shreveport has postponed their resolution until the beginning of March.

Mr. Johnson stated that the I-49 Inner City Connector is not a new issue. He also pointed out that the completion of I-49 has been on the Legislative priorities for the past few years. Mr. Johnson stated that he has in his possession eight resolutions from different entities that are in support of the I-49 Inner City Connector. He also said that this is just a resolution stating that the Commission is in support of the completion of I-49; it is not specifying a path. Mr. Johnson also stated that the completion of I-49 will allow emergency services to have quicker response times in the norther part of the Parish. He asked that the other Commissioners support this resolution.

Mr. Cawthorne would like to go on record to say that he supports the Inner-City Connector. His only concern is that one of the projected paths through Allendale would displace about twenty-three homeowners and the Fuller Center. He would like some language in the resolution that says those that are displaced due to I-49 will be relocated within Allendale to rebuild.

Mr. Middleton is asking to delay this resolution for one month, so that he can hear all sides of this topic.

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Middleton, *to delay Resolution No. 5 of 2016, supporting the completion of Interstate 49 through an Inner-City Connector for one month.*

Mr. Jackson stated that he would like to delay this resolution for one month so that all of the information and public hearings can be provided. He reiterated that the City of Shreveport has not made an official stance on this subject. Mr. Jackson also stated that he is not advocating for any particular route, he would just like all of the information provided before he makes a decision.

Mr. Johnson stated that it does talk about the Loop-It being infeasible economically compared to the Inner-City Connector in the resolution. He said that the Loop-It would be more expensive than the Inner-City Connector because of the upgrades to 3132 and 220 that would need to be in place for the Loop-It to work. He also pointed out that there would be a possibility of hazardous materials being transported over Cross Lake, which is the City's drinking water supply.

He also stated that if I-49 is not completed, it would be a lost opportunity. He stated that there will be more economic development opportunities once I-49 is completed because Caddo would be a transportation hub. Mr. Johnson also mentioned that there is currently a push for I-69. He believes that if Caddo does not embrace the completion of I-49, those funds could possibly be assessed for I-69, which would result in another missed opportunity that Bossier now has, like the Louisiana Downs, casinos, etc.

Mr. Johnson reiterated that this is just a resolution; there will be no funds allocated. He is against the substitute motion and for the original motion.

Answering a question from Mr. Cawthorne regarding the City's postponement of their resolution, Mr. Jackson stated that they have postponed their resolution until the first meeting in March. Mr. Jackson also explained that certain City Councilmembers wanted more information prior to endorse their support for the resolution.

Mr. Kent Rogers, NLCOG, stated that the City Council postponed their resolution for the first meeting in March because that would allow enough time for NLCOG to gather all of the information from the public feedback.

Answering a question from Mr. Jackson regarding if this resolution would bring them any closer to finding a funding mechanism, Mr. Rogers stated that it would not. He also explained that Federal Highways looks at the Environmental Impact Statement, and from that, they issue a Record of Decision (ROD) on the environmentally preferred route. Federal Highways then makes that determination of which on one of the corridors they issue that ROD on, at which point, the governmental bodies can push for funding. He also explained that there is a funding mechanism that will provide a very small portion of the corridor from the unclaimed properties monies. There are no other funds allocated at this time, he said.

Mr. Jackson reiterated that he would like to wait until he has all of the information before he can make a decision on whether or not to support this resolution.

Mr. Johnson disagreed with Mr. Rogers. He stated that if this resolution is passed, it can be used at the Police Jury Association Convention, which can be used as a lobbyist to help get this done.

He pointed out by delaying this resolution, it will miss the March 3<sup>rd</sup> Police Jury Association Convention. He will not be supporting the substitution.

Mr. Linn stated that he would like to postpone this because they have not received all of the information from NLCOG. He stated that he will support the substitute motion.

At this time, Mr. Jackson's substitute motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Jackson, Linn, Middleton, and Smith (4). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Johnson, and Gage-Watts (6) ABSENT: Commissioners Bowman and Dominick (2).

At this time, Mr. Johnson's original motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Johnson, Gage-Watts, and Smith (7). NAYS: Commissioners Jackson, Linn, and Middleton (3). ABSENT: Commissioners Bowman and Dominick (2).

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, to move action relative to Dawson Road Project Report to Thursday's Regular Session. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Jackson, Johnson, Linn, Middleton, Smith, and Gage-Watts (10). NAYS: None (0) ABSENT: Commissioner Bowman and Dominick (2).

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that appointment of Mr. Danny Bernard to the Caddo Parish Sewerage District No. 7 Board, term to expire November 1, 2016 be moved to Thursday's Regular Session for confirmation.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Jackson, Johnson, Linn, Middleton, Smith, and Gage-Watts (10). NAYS: None (0) ABSENT: Commissioner Bowman and Dominick (2).

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

*Ordinance No. 5558 of 2016 in regards to Zoning Case P-20-15, amending the zoning of property located on the se corner of Wallace Lake Road and Fl.ournoy Lucas road, Caddo Parish, La, from R-A, residence-agriculture district, to B-2, neighborhood business district and R-1H, urban, one family residence district, FORTE & TABLADA APPLICANT*

*Ordinance No. 5559 of 2016, amending and reenacting section 2-52 of the Caddo Parish Code of Ordinances pertaining to unclassified parish employees eligible to participate in the Caddo Parish Employees Retirement System*

*Ordinance No. 5560 of 2016, amending and reenacting section 2-28 of the Caddo Parish Code of Ordinances pertaining to the compensation of commission members*

*Ordinance No. 5561 of 2016, declaring certain adjudicated properties to be surplus and to authorize the parish administrator, or a designee, to sell the Parish of Caddo's tax interest in certain surplus adjudicated properties*

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

/s/ Todd A. Hopkins  
Todd A. Hopkins  
Commission Clerk