

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION  
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 14<sup>th</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2022

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

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

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Ken Krefft came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

I like to come and want to have several things and try to get them all at three minutes, instead of making one trip for every item. Of course, a year ago we had a lot of ice and snow it's so much nicer today. A reminder for Todd's district, and also whoever's got the district at the intersection of I-20 and the state line—as I've mentioned before, going back to 2014 I think, so eight years later? I do it about once a year around my birthday, which was Tuesday a week ago 2/2/22. Let's get 'Welcome to Caddo Parish' on I-20 eastbound coming from Texas. Westbound leaving Bossier, we're welcomed. Let's get a sign, small and inexpensive, 'Welcome to Caddo'. Southbound and I-49, there is none. Welcome to Louisiana—Bienvenu en Louisiana. Northbound and I-49, leaving Desoto, there's a 'Welcome to Caddo' sign. US 80 has one eastbound into Caddo and US 71 has one southbound into Caddo, but let's get an I-49 South and an I-20 East welcoming people to Caddo Parish. They know they're in the great state. But they don't know what Parish they're in when they're not familiar. In the Charter Review Committee, which met not this year, not last year, but before last May—two recommendations. Mrs. Bryant mentioned that the Juvenile Justice meeting on Groundhog Day—they've recently failed. Well, I checked the record, in the 2016 Review Committee made four recommendations voted on in December of 2016. The same year, not two years later. If we wait until 2023 on the two Charter amendments, Fleet Services being one and it almost passed last time—three or four passed last time. Check the record. Check the Secretary of State. Three out of four is majority, and almost all four. We're going to renew, according to Stephanie, some millages that expire at the end of next year. We're going to try this fall, so we're already on the ballot. We're already paying both commissioners and sheriff's deputies. Let's put the two Charter renewal items on the same ballot. They are more likely to pass with tax renewals this year in the fall, than they are next year with a new Juvenile Justice try number five or try number six. We meet tomorrow at Spring Street with Natalie Howell and Casey Jones. Finally, I'm inviting people tomorrow night to the Broadmoor Neighborhood Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Broadmoor Presbyterian Church Gym. The guest speaker is the new Shreveport Chief of Police, Wayne Smith. The anagram for that is, 'This Way, Men'.

**COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mr. Young asked for an update on the welcome signs for I-49. Mr. Kevin Lawrence, Director for Facilities & Maintenance, said that the contract for the signs should have a purchasing ordered this week. He also mentioned that these are for the signs on I-49 North and I-49 South. the contractor has been given his notice to proceed, but now he's waiting on materials.
- Mr. Epperson requested that a press release be done for the welcome signs for I-49. He also asked that someone empty the flag boxes so he can properly dispose of the flags that are in the box.

**ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

- Confederate Monument Relocation Update  
Mrs. Bryant said that they have forwarded the contract to the vendor and are waiting to hear back from them and expect to hear something back by tomorrow.
- U.S. Treasury Rental Assistance Program  
Mrs. Bryant said that they are still waiting on the U.S. Treasury. They are hoping to get the funds this week.
- Juvenile Detention  
There are eighteen juveniles in detention and eleven at CCC.  
Mr. Chavez wanted to know why the detention center was a capacity this weekend. Mrs. Bryant mentioned that the number of juveniles in detention is a fluid number. It could be full one day and not full another day, she said. Mr. Clay Walker, Juvenile Services Director, agreed. He also explained that that there were three children who were a part of a recent murder, and they were transferred to CCC. Mr. Chavez requested a yearly snapshot of the percentage of occupants for the year. Mr. Walker said that they normally run about 85% capacity through the year, with an average of nineteen juveniles as the daily population.

Mr. Epperson suggested that the Commissioners read the Op Ed letter that District Attorney James Stewart sent with regards to CCC.

- COVID-19 Infection Data

There have been three positive cases in February, and five within the Parish's agencies. This brings a total of seventy-six cases since July for the Parish.

- Facebook Update

Mrs. Bryant said that they are working through the issues with Facebook, but may need to purchase additional equipment.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *that Ordinance No. 6194 of 2022, an ordinance to accept the streets in Old Towne Subdivision Unit 1 into the Parish of Caddo System, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Hopkins explained that these streets meet all the standards to be accepted into the Caddo Parish Road System.

Mr. Young wanted to know why Blanchard was not taking the roads into their system. Mr. Hopkins explains that the Parish maintains all streets except for Vivian and Shreveport.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *that Ordinance No. 6195 of 2022, an ordinance to accept the streets in Blanchard Lake Estates Unit 4 into the Parish of Caddo System, 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, Epperson, Hopkins, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (7). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Johnson, and Jones (5). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *that Ordinance No. 6196 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the American Rescue Plan Fund to provide an appropriation for Juvenile Center in Caddo Parish 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, Epperson, Hopkins, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (7). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Johnson, and Jones (5). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Young, *to englobo and move the following ordinances to Thursday's agenda for introduction*

- *Ordinance No. 6197 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund to appropriate funds for the Caddo Parish Grab & Go Feeding Program, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6198 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund for the year 2022 to provide an additional appropriation of \$15,000 for Robinson's Rescue, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

Mr. Hopkins said that both of these recommendations came out of the Appropriations Committee favorably. Mr. Atkins added that both initiatives support the Parish's core underlying mission.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mr. Taliaferro, *that Ordinance No. 6199 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund for the year 2022 to provide an appropriation to provide ballistic vests for Shreveport and Caddo Parish Fire Districts, 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, Epperson, Hopkins, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (7). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Johnson, and Jones (5). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Young, *that Ordinance No. 6200 of 2022,*

*an ordinance to establish a temporary Parish Planning & Zoning Commission, to provide for its membership, to provide for an effective date, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Chavez explained that he and Mr. Johnson met with the Shreveport Chamber of Commerce and other local business people and development professionals within the community. They asked that the Parish do something in the interim to expedite the process of those people who sitting in the queue.

Mr. Hopkins said that this does have a sunset, so he will support this legislation.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Taliaferro, *that Ordinance No. 6201 of 2022, an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 6701 of 2021 to establish a Parish Planning & Zoning Commission, to provide for its membership, to provide for an effective date, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Taliaferro asked for clarification on this legislation. Mr. Epperson explained that this would allow

Mr. Taliaferro suggested that this be delayed until the author of the legislation comes back from NACo.

Mr. Hopkins said that he does not support this legislation. He feels that the members of this board should be in the planning zone. He said that Shreveport, Oil City, Greenwood, etc. have their zoning boards, and this board should be representative of the people who live in the rural areas.

At this time, Mr. Epperson's motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Epperson and Taliaferro (2). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Hopkins, Lazarus, and Young (5). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Johnson, and Jones (5). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Young, *that Ordinance No. 6202 of 2022, an ordinance to authorize the Administrator to execute a predial Servitude of Passage and Right to Use over Parish property located in the southwestern quarter of Section 28, Township 22 North Range 16 West, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Jimmy Whittington, Public Works, explained that this is going to be a servitude over the Old Vivian Landfill. There is a piece of property behind it that is landlocked, and the Parish has to grant access to it.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *that Ordinance No. 6203 of 2022, an ordinance to authorize the Administrator to execute an Easement & Right-Of-Way Agreement with Caddeaux Gathering, LLC regarding a pipeline through and under Parish property located in Section 7, Township 18 North, Range 15 West, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Whittington explained that this is for a natural gas pipeline that will be going across a tract of land the Parish owns in the North part of the Parish.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Taliaferro, *that Resolution No. 19 of 2022, a resolution amending the Rules & By-Laws of the Caddo Parish Commission regarding the re-submission of agenda items by Commissioners, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be amended that items shall not be placed on the agenda within one Work Session be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration.

Mr. Chavez said that this resolution came before the Commission in the recent years. He understands that there are controversial and politically polarized issues, but this legislation allows for a "cool down period" before being brought back up before the full body.

Mr. Hopkins cautioned that this be done carefully. He said that there are some pieces of legislation that need to be acted on quickly because of time sensitivity.

Attorney Frazier wanted to know if this is for the Work Session or the Regular Session. Mr. Chavez said that this would contemplate both situations.

**Substitute motion by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that Resolution No. 19 of 2022* be remanded to the Personnel Policies & Procedures Committee. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Hopkins, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (6). NAYS: Commissioner Epperson (1). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Johnson, and Jones (5). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mr. Taliaferro, *that Resolution No. 20 of 2022, a resolution confirming participation in the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Fiscal Year 2022 Public Facility Improvement Project with Waterworks District No. 7, identifying partners and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration.

Mrs. Hayley Barnett, Finance Director, explained that the Commissioners pick a project every two years for the LCDBG grant process. It is a requirement that the Commission approve a resolution to move forward in the process.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Young, *that Special Resolution of Remembrance for Bobbie Cates Hicks* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration.

**Substitute motion by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *to englobe and move the following items to Thursday's agenda for consideration:*

- *Authorize Special Resolution of Remembrance for Bobbie Cates Hicks*
- *Authorize Special Resolution of Recognition & Appreciation for Chris Thomas*
- *Authorize Hon. James Sims to the Caddo Parish Broadband Committee*

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

#### **COMMUNIQUES AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mr. Chavez announced that the Southern Hills Neighborhood Cleanup was rescheduled to March 5, 2022. He thanked Starbucks and Little Caesars who provide drinks and food for the volunteers.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- *Ordinance No. 6191 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund and Oil and Gas Fund in the amount of \$10,000 to provide an appropriation for the Louisiana Advocates for Immigrants in Detention associated with the Highland Center and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6193 of 2022, an ordinance creating the I-49 North Corridor Economic Development District, State of Louisiana;" defining the boundaries thereof from which area local sales tax, property tax and hotel occupancy tax increments will be determined and used to finance economic development projects in accordance with and as authorized by Part II of Chapter 27 of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended; and providing for other matters in connection with the foregoing.*

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

  
Assistant Commission Clerk