

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF  
THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 17<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2022

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Regular 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, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (8). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell, Epperson, Jackson, and Jones (4).

The invocation was given by Mrs. Gage-Watts, and Mr. Chavez led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA ADDITIONS**

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *to expand the agenda and add Special Resolution for Dr. Russell Ledet under Special Resolutions.*

The President opened the floor for anyone to speak in favor or against adding this item to the agenda. There being no one to speak, the President closed the public hearing.

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

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Tim Magner came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

I wanted to speak in regard to Ordinance 6200, which is about the creation of a temporary Metropolitan Planning Board for Caddo Parish. Many of our members who are involved in development in the area have projects that are currently in limbo because of the lack of a proper procedural mechanism to be able to move those forward. I encourage the Commission to do what it can to develop. I know there's a lot of moving parts with this, but if we can have some clear pathway for folks to move existing projects forward while we deliberate on the appropriate mechanisms for long term progress, that would be very, very, very beneficial, and I think critically important to the ongoing development within Caddo Parish. I really encourage that, and if there's anything we, at the Chamber, can do, to help facilitate or support that we'll be happy to do that.

**ADOPT REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Young, *that Regular Session Minutes February 3, 2022 be adopted. Motion carried.*

**SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS**

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Young, *that Special Resolution of Recognition & Appreciation for Christopher Thomas, Jr. be adopted.*

Mr. Chavez congratulated Mr. Thomas on all of his achievements.

Mr. Thomas explained that the American Dream Bowl is a high school showcase where high school seniors can show off their talents to prospective coaches and earn scholarships. He said that he was blessed and honored to play in the Bowl at Arlington AT&T Stadium.

Mrs. Gage-Watts congratulated Mr. Thomas on all of his accomplishments. She wished him well on his future endeavors.

Mr. Taliaferro wanted to know if Mr. Thomas was also playing sports at LSU. Mr. Thomas said that he was. Mr. Taliaferro also congratulated Mr. Thomas and looks forward to seeing his greatness in the future.

Mr. Atkins wished Mr. Thomas well and expressed how proud he was for his leadership and strong work ethic.

At this time, Mr. Chavez's motion carried by acclamation.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION & APPRECIATION  
CHRISTOPHER THOMAS, JR.**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission is always pleased to recognize and honor those sons and daughters of Caddo Parish who have gone forth to gain singular and outstanding personal achievements, and in so doing reflect favorably and positively upon their home community; and

WHEREAS, MR. CHRISTOPHER THOMAS, Jr., a Shreveport native and Senior at Calvary Baptist Academy, has been honored to be an important part of the Calvary Baptist football team that brought Calvary its 3rd state title and first title for Coach Rodney Gum n during the 2020 season, his latest accomplishments include his participation in the Dream All-American Bowl played in January 2022 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, TX; and

WHEREAS, The Dream All-American Bowl is a high school football all-star showcase with players from across the country, sponsored by Recruit Nation and Dream Scouting Network and broadcast to a national audience, the game and related events were held over Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend as a celebration of the excellence, commitment and sacrifice made by the players and their families; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas has served the offensive line with pride as the right tackle, but he has also demonstrated that he is more than the accomplishments that he earns as #53, he is also a humble leader who is as known for his work ethic and compassion as he is for clearing the way for teammates to shine on the field. Thomas leadership recently won him another kind of contest when his design won AFS Logistics Christmas Card contest, resulting in a large donation to his school and a special lunch shared with his classmates; and

WHEREAS, a combination of Thomas' leadership, love of athleticism and dedication to his learning and knowledge have led him to pursue a career in Sports Medicine/Athletics Training at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. Thomas has been honored to have the support of his family, community, teammates and classmates during his high school football career, with the especially meaningful support of his mother, Ms. Kamisha Jackson and older sister Christina Thomas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in legal and regular session this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022, that it does hereby extend its most sincere and heartfelt expressions of congratulation and appreciation to Mr. Christopher Thomas, Jr. for his praiseworthy achievements and for representing Caddo Parish with such admirable strength and dedication to excellence while playing in the Dream All-American Bowl.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission asks all citizens to join in celebrating Mr. Thomas' accomplishment and wishes him continued success in all his future endeavors.

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *to englobe and adopt the following special resolutions:*

- *Special Resolution of Remembrance for Bobbie Cates Hicks*
- *Special Resolution for Dr. Russell Ledet*

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts' motion carried by acclamation.

#### **RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION & REMEMBRANCE MRS. BOBBIE CATES HICKS**

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Caddo Parish Commission to give appropriate acknowledgment and recognition to individuals who have rendered invaluable service on its behalf to the citizens of Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, Bobbie Hicks was born in Cass County, TX on January 10th, 1933 and moved to Shreveport in 1952 where she would meet and marry her beloved husband Sam Bailey Hicks, III. Bobbie and Sam shared a joyous marriage and lived by the saying, "If it's good for Shreveport, it's good for me," with Sam often joking that Bobbie worked undercover for the Chamber of Commerce; following Sam's death in 1994, Bobbie assumed the role of manager of his mineral interest company, SAMMO, LLC; a position that she actively and successfully held until she passed away on January 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Hicks continued to honor her late husband after his passing, not only in her successful management of his business, but through her continued support of the community that they loved and Bobbie would grow to be one of Caddo Parish's most prolific philanthropists through her support of many organizations. Bobbie was a founding board member, officer and lifelong supporter of organizations like the Oakwood Home for Women, the Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, the Biomedical Research Foundation, Robinson's Rescue, The Salvation Army, The LSUS Foundation, the Shreveport Opera, The National Council of the Metropolitan Opera, in addition to the countless organizations that she supported through contributions or supporting various campaigns like Robinson Film Center, The Community Foundation and many others. She was named Philanthropist of the Year by the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Pilot of the Year by LSUS Foundation and recognized by many for her generosity of not just financial support, but also leadership, enthusiasm, humor and heart; and

WHEREAS, Hicks was an ordained deacon and trustee of First Presbyterian Church,

which houses the Volunteers for Youth Justice among its many ministries and she was a loyal and devoted member of First Presbyterian since 1963; and

WHEREAS, Hicks had a passion for life that included being a Reiki Master, a longtime member of the meditation group at All Souls Universalist Unitarian Church, a world traveler, an animal lover who always has a dog by her side, a loyal and beloved sister, aunt, friend and advisor to many; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby convey its deepest and most sincere expressions of gratitude and appreciation to the family of MRS. BOBBIE CATES HICKS for the invaluable contributions she made during many years believing in, enriching, enjoying and investing in Caddo Parish.

#### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION & RECOGNITION DR. RUSSELL LEDET**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission is always pleased to recognize and honor those who seek to engaged and elevate the sons and daughters of Caddo Parish by sharing knowledge and perspectives that help to inspire and encourage them to reach manifest the excellence inside of them; and

WHEREAS, DR. RUSSELL LEDET is such a person whose message of inclusion and resilience has been created through his remarkable life and engaging public speaking style and will be Louisiana State University Shreveport's Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement's featured Black History Month speaker; and

WHEREAS, Ledet is a native of Lake Charles, LA who was reared by a single mother and went on to proudly serve in the US Navy from 2004-2013 as a cryptologic technician First Class Petty Officer serving on both active and reserve duty where his service exposed him to a larger world, one in which he found success and built upon it with experiences like studying chemistry flash cards while working as a security guard at Baton Rouge General; earning a PhD from NYU in 2018, Pursuing a joint MD/MBA at Tulane. His experience returning to the same hospital where he had worked as a security guard a decade earlier, this time as a PhD pursuing a joint MD/MBA and noticing the persistent lack of minority inclusion in healthcare, but also taking pride in those actively working to correct the imbalance inspired him to organize a photograph of 15 Black medical students posing in front of the former slave quarters of a Louisiana plantation. The photo series, The 15 White Coats, went viral and inspired the creation of an organization of the same name, founded by Ledet and dedicated to inspiring minority youth to reach beyond societal expectations to reach higher and believe in themselves and to close the representation gap in healthcare; and

WHEREAS, the 2022 Black History Month theme is Black Health and Wellness, making Ledet's voice and message ideal to feature; his engaging delivery has been featured on national media outlets including CNN MSNBC, People Magazine, NPR, Washington Post, The Steve Harvey Show, Good Morning America, and the Kelly Clarkson show and Louisiana State University Shreveport's Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement is elated to host Dr. Ledet as he brings his message of empowerment and self-determination.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, that it does hereby declare and recognize and proclaim February 23rd, 2022 to be:

#### **'DR. RUSSELL LEDET DAY'**

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, in recognition and admiration of his notable achievements in both his personal pursuit o: knowledge as well as his talent for inspiring excellence in others, providing encouragement, promoting inclusion celebrating diversity, embracing perseverance, and illustrating the importance of setting and reaching goals beyond what societal limitations may expect.

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

- Mr. Young announced that there will be a Personnel Policies & Procedures Committee on February 23 at 10:00 a.m. He also announced that the Animal Services Committee will meet on February 23 at 11:00 a.m.
- Mrs. Gage-Watts announced that the Juvenile Justice Committee will meet on February 24 at 11:00 a.m.

#### **ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

- Confederate Monument Relocation Update  
Dr. Wilson said that the contractor submitted the contract back to Administration with some changes, and hopes to have it signed by the end of this week.
- U.S. Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Dr. Wilson said that they are still waiting on U.S. Treasury to dispense additional funds.

- Juvenile Detention Center

There are 19 children in detention; two of which are OJJ. Eleven children are at CCC.

Mr. Johnson asked for an update on the juvenile watch monitors. Mr. Clay Walker, Juvenile Services Director, said that they have an agreement, but do not have the watch monitors yet. He is not sure if it is a supply chain issue or not. Mr. Johnson would like to revisit this matter to see if there are any other vendors who can supply the monitors.

Mrs. Gage-Watts asked for an update on how the numbers at the detention center fluctuate. Mr. Walker explained that the detention center has twenty-four beds, and on a daily basis, there are an average of nineteen juveniles per day. He also mentioned that court hearings, group homes, etc., constantly change that number, and on average, there are about two to three juveniles who leave the detention center every day.

- COVID-19 Infection Data

Dr. Wilson said that there have not been any reported cases of COVID this past week. He also mentioned that in the last two weeks of January, there were three reported cases within the organization, and eight within the parish agencies.

Dr. Wilson also announced, effective tomorrow morning, there will be no requirement to wear mask inside parish facilities.

- Facebook Update

Dr. Wilson said that they are still working on the issues with Facebook. He also mentioned that they are discussing reactivating the public access channel with the City.

- Requests from Commissioners

Mr. Johnson asked for an update on the I-49 Welcome Signs. Dr. Wilson said that they have requested a pre-construction meeting with the contractor and are awaiting a date.

He then requested an update on ARP funds. Mrs. Bryant said that the CEAs for the ARP funds will take some time. She also explained that the Commission approved several different types of programs for the ARP funds. Mrs. Bryant said that it will take some time to analyze whether they are eligible for ARP funds, if they can meet the ARP guidelines, and a detailed CEA will need to be drafted since the organizations will be considered sub-recipients under federal guidelines. She said that this is not similar to the NGO process, and they are not expecting the second tranche of monies until May. Mr. Johnson wanted to know if this information could be posted on the Caddo Parish website. Mrs. Bryant said that they are discussing these details with the specific organizations with regards to the ARP funding.

Mr. Johnson then asked for an update on the NGO funding. Attorney Frazier said that all of the new organizations have either received the agreements or have been contacted for additional information.

Mr. Johnson also talked about the Citizens Advisory Committee's roles. He explained that those boards can only make recommendations to the respective committees or the Commission body. Mr. Johnson said that the Citizens Advisory Committees are normally biased. He does not want to waste the citizens' time, and wanted to know the reasons for the Citizens Advisory Committees. Mr. Hopkins said that it is the one time the citizens can "voice and feel like they're part of the process". He also mentioned that the citizens have been instrumental in the Charter Review Committee. Mrs. Gage-Watts agreed and added that the citizens were appointed to the committees to give recommendations that the Commissioners may not see. Mr. Young also agreed with Mr. Hopkins and Mrs. Gage-Watts and said that the citizens sometimes provide a different point of view from the Commissioners.

Mr. Young wanted to know about the proposed Charter amendments. Attorney Frazier said that they can be put on the ballot with a two-thirds vote. He requested that an ordinance be prepared to put those amendments on the next ballot. The Commission Clerk mentioned that the proposed Charter amendments are: presidential power when declaring a disaster, meetings during a declared disaster, and the consolidation of the Fleet Services Department.

Mrs. Gage-Watts asked about the Ring Doorbell Program. Mrs. Bryant said that they are getting quotes to purchase doorbells, installation, and one-year monitoring costs. They are hoping to receive those quotes in the next few weeks and hopes to start accepting applications in the next few weeks. Mrs. Bryant also said that it will be on a first come first serve basis.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Atkins thanked Public Works for working with the City in installing the red lights on

Wallace Lake Road.

He also talked about the temporary Rural Planning & Zoning Commission. He said that there is a need for some mechanism to handle the projects that are in the queue.

### **PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES**

The President of the Commission opened the public hearing for the following ordinances:

- *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.*

There being no one to speak in favor or against these ordinances, the President closed the public hearing for ordinances.

### **ORDINANCES (for final passage)**

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mr. Taliaferro, *that 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* be adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (8). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell, Epperson, Jackson, and Jones (4). ABSTAIN: None (0).

### **ORDINANCE NO. 6191 OF 2022**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

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

WHEREAS, the Highland Center works with Louisiana Advocates for Immigrants in Detention (LA-AID); and

WHEREAS, LA-AID is an organization of volunteers who became active in the fall of 2019 in response to the burgeoning population of asylum seekers being held in Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention centers in rural Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, in the past 5 years, Louisiana went from having 1 immigration detention center to having 8 large detention centers ; and

WHEREAS, the Shreveport-based chapter of LA-AID, the only non-profit in Louisiana supporting post-release assistance, has been actively rescuing individuals who need safe transportation assistance from these facilities since February 2021; and

WHEREAS, the work of the LA-AID has been coordinated out of an expanded office affiliated with the Church for the Highlands where immigrants can cook meals, wash clothing, shower, use Internet and mobile phones, print boarding passes, and rest comfortably; and

WHEREAS, LA-AID is led by two unpaid, full-time volunteers and many additional volunteers from church congregations across Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission would like to amend the 2022 Riverboat Fund and Oil and Gas Fund Budgets to provide an appropriation of \$10,000 for LA-AID; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Riverboat

Fund and Oil and Gas Fund for the year 2022 is hereby amended as follows:

	<u>Budget Increase (Decrease)</u>
<u>Riverboat Fund</u>	
NGO Appropriations	
LA-AID	\$10,000
Transfer from Oil and Gas Fund	\$10,000
 <u>Oil and Gas Fund</u>	
Transfer to Riverboat Fund	\$10,000
Fund Balance	(\$10,000)

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 upon adoption.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Young, *that 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 be adopted.

Mr. Hopkins said that this ordinance is for a truck stop at the interchange at I-49 and Hwy 2.

Attorney Frazier wanted to ensure that the resolution was published twice in the Official Journal. The Clerk of the Commission stated that there was a change to the map, so the resolution needs to be published in the Official Journal twice prior to having the public hearing and adoption of this ordinance.

**Substitute motion by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *that Ordinance No. 6193 of 2022 be postponed until the March 3, 2022 Regular Session. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (8). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell, Epperson, Jackson, and Jones (4). ABSTAIN: None (0).

#### **ORDINANCES (for introduction by title)**

- *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*
- *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*
- *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*
- *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*
- *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*

- *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*
- *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*
- *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*

### **WORK SESSION MINUTES**

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Young, *that Work Session Minutes from February 14, 2022 and January 18, 2022 be ratified. Motion carried.*

### **RESOLUTIONS**

It was **moved by Mr. Lazarus**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *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 adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (8). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell, Epperson, Jackson, and Jones (4). ABSTAIN: None (0).*

### **RESOLUTION NO. 20 OF 2022**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION

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

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission is submitting an application for a FY 2022 Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG) for public facility improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission has entered into contracts with The Coordinating & Development Corporation for administrative services and CGS Engineering, Inc. for engineering services, and agree all administrative services/engineering costs will be paid by the Caddo Parish Commission and Waterworks District No. 7; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of Waterworks District No.7 has passed a resolution stating that if grant funds are made available for the public facility improvement project, the Board will contribute 10% of the total project funds up to \$100,000 to construction and design of the project (engineering fees); and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission will pay The Coordinating & Development Corporation an amount of \$36,400 for LCDBG pre-agreement and administrative services. CGS Engineering, Inc. proposed contract amount is \$116,000. The Board of Directors of Waterworks District No. 7 will contribute \$100,000, and the Caddo Commission will pay the remaining \$16,000 for the engineering services; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission will receive 2 bonus points for their monetary contributions for paying engineering costs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Commission President and Parish Commission of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, do hereby agree to pay for the aforementioned engineering and administration fees associated with the implementation of the LCDBG programs out of local funds.

### **CERTIFICATE**

I, Jeff Everson, Commission Clerk, hereby certify that the above constitutes a true and accurate copy of a Resolution, which UPON MOTION of Mr. Ed Lazarus, and seconded by Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson, was adopted by the following Yea and Nay vote:

YEAS: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson,

Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (8)

NAYS: None (0).

ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell, Epperson, Jackson, and Jones

and the same was declared adopted by the Commission President this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022.

/s/Jeff Everson  
Commission Clerk  
Caddo Parish, Louisiana

### **NEW BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Young, *that Mayor James Sims be appointed to the Caddo Parish Broadband Committee.*

Mr. Hopkins said that this is Mayor Sims from Oil City, and this would give a perspective from a small town.

Mr. Johnson feels that the Commissioners should be educated on what can and cannot be done on broadband or what is expected. He suggested that Administration invite a representative from AT&T, T-Mobile, or Verizon to provide an overview of broadband and what other parishes/counties are doing. Mr. Atkins suggested that this discussion be held in the Long Range Planning Committee.

Dr. Wilson also commented that Mr. Burrell, along with other members, has had several discussions with AT&T. He suggested that Mr. Burrell bring that information forward.

Mr. Taliaferro said that he is confused as to what the Commissioners' responsibilities are, the intent, etc. Dr. Wilson suggested that Mr. Burrell bring this information forward.

At this time, Mr. Hopkins' motion carried, as shown by the following roll votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (8). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell, Epperson, Jackson, and Jones (4). ABSTAIN: None (0).

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

Marvin Muhammed came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

I'm kind of disappointed that only a small portion of you are here, although it is a quorum. I come to speak today because I was after listening to the public comments at the meeting two weeks ago. I was in a state of disgust. It was when the Caddo Alliance for Freedom was speaking. The first thing I heard was the name of Dr. E. Edward Jones was questioned as to why his name was being attached to the E. Edward Jones Trust Fund. I was insulted because a man that pastored in this community for 57 years—a man that re-developed Galilee; a man that was an alpha graduate from Grambling State University—he gave so much to this community, and he was being questioned. And people might say, Well, what does it matter? It matters because these are our leaders. I heard, I believe a former state senator, talking about the City of Shreveport as it was a sewage—and I took that as dog whistle to demean and belittle and define and describe black males that seemingly look like they're in a state of peril with so called black on black homicides. And when you destroy a positive black images, like Dr. Edward Jones, this is what this is what you get. You get a youth that doesn't have anything to pull up on. So I was disgusted about that. And to the description of the City of Shreveport being a sewage—you know, I want to remind the state senator—the former state senator and the Caddo Alliance for Freedom that it was the citizens in the Cooper Road area in 1960 acting as the governing authority of Sewer District No. 5 because the then all white Police Jury refused to take out a bond to put a sewer system in an areas that was exploding population. Those citizens by the grace of God was able to establish the very first chemical treatment plant in the Parish of Caddo, including the City of Shreveport. The City of Shreveport and the Parish of Caddo was still contaminating the Red River all the way up into the 90s, I believe. Another point, as I close on Dr. Jones, it was in 1972, along with Hersey D. Wilson, and Dr. C.M. Lester that was voted into this Police Jury. Those men broke 134 year blockage of black representation on this Commission. Commissioner Gage-Watts, it was another six years on this former Police Jury, Shirley Wills broke this horseshoe. We shouldn't despair the names of men like Dr. Jones because it hurts us as a people.

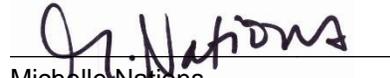
### **COMMUNIQUES AND REPORTS**

- Mr. Chavez said that the Northwest Louisiana Veterans Cemetery hosted a funeral of thirteen veterans who had no family members to lay them to rest. He said that citizens of Shreveport, Bossier, and Texas came out to support this event.
- Attorney Frazier mentioned that they received a second Attorney General's Opinion request from Representative McCormick's office. She also thanked Attorney Bernstein for all of his hard

work during this process.

Mr. Johnson asked for clarification. Attorney Frazier explained that Rep. McCormick requested a second Attorney General's Opinion, and the Parish has an opportunity to respond to the questions.

There was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the meeting was adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

  
Michelle Nations  
Assistant Commission Clerk

  
John E. Atkins  
President