

CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
505 TRAVIS STREET, GOVERNMENT PLAZA PUBLIC NOTICE  
ANIMAL SERVICES COMMITTEE AGENDA  
February 23, 2022  
11:00 am

The Caddo Parish Animal Services Committee met in legal session on the above date, at 11:00 a.m., in the Government Plaza Chambers, with Mr. Young, Chairman, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Atkins, Taliaferro, and Young (3). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell and Jones (2).

Mr. Young gave the invocation, and Mr. Taliaferro led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- *Discuss and make recommendations regarding WERLA funding*

Dr. Gia Morgan, WERLA, came before the Committee and gave a brief overview of her organization. WERLA (Wildlife, Education, & Rehabilitation of Louisiana) was established in 2013, and they rescue, rehabilitate, and release Louisiana's wildlife. They are locally licensed by the Department of Wildlife & Fisheries, and federally licensed to be able to take in species, such as the bald eagles. Since 2013, their numbers have escalated and are continuing to grow every year. Their biggest concern is to keep citizens and pets safe when they encounter wildlife.

Part of their growing numbers is their relationship with Caddo Parish Animal Services (CPAS). To date, WERLA has transported, evaluated, and provided appropriate care for an average of 137 wildlife cases. This makes up about 13% of WERLA's caseload.

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Young, *to forward to the Appropriations Committee a recommendation of \$6,500 for WERLA.*

Mr. Atkins thanked Dr. Morgan for all of her hard work in the community and helping the animals. He also appreciates the partnership that WELRA has with Caddo Animal Services. Mr. Atkins also appreciated the structure in which this request was made.

Mr. Taliaferro also thanked Dr. Morgan for everything she does for the animals in the community. He wanted to know if WERLA receives any state funding. Dr. Morgan said that they mainly receive donations from the public. Mr. Taliaferro then wanted to know if there were any other organizations like WERLA. Dr. Morgan said that that WERLA is the only fully licensed organization north of Baton Rouge, and the organizations is mainly comprised of volunteers.

Mr. Young also thanked Dr. Morgan for her work. He also mentioned that the requested amount comes to less than \$50 per case.

At this time, Mr. Atkins' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Taliaferro, and Young (3). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell and Jones (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

- *Discuss and make recommendations regarding an advertising campaign for spay-neuter ordinance*

Mr. Travis Clark, Director of Animal Services, provided the Committee with a copy of SNIPP brochure from Robinson's Rescue. He also said that this information is given to the citizens when the ACOs make contact. Mr. Clark also mentioned that he's been contact with Ms. Beauchamp with regards to this, but they both feel that they are not at a place where more advertising should be had because the City has not adopted this yet.

Mr. Young suggested that this information be put on the radio, as well as social media. Ms. Krystle Beauchamp, Communications Manager, explained that this type of campaign will be a mix of digital marketing, billboards, television, radio, and handouts. She further explained that the issue with this particular campaign is that a large group of people are inside the city limits of Shreveport. She said that they would need to adopt this legislation first, so the public are not confused.

Mr. Young wanted to know if they were able to target particular neighborhoods with their campaign. Ms. Beauchamp said that they can. Mr. Young then wanted to know if they could use the radio in those particular hot spots. Ms. Beauchamp said that would be part of the metrics.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know the issue with the City. Attorney Frazier explained that the Commission's ordinances are only for the unincorporated areas of the Parish. The City would have to pass a mirror ordinance for Animal Services to be able to enforce it.

Mr. Young wanted to know the process for the City to pass Parish ordinances. Attorney Frazier said there is not a process, but sometimes Legal reaches out to the City Attorney's Office to get the legislation to pass. Mr. Young said that he contacted a City Councilperson to see if they would bring this forward. Mr. Young then wanted to know what would happen if the City does not pass this ordinance. Attorney Frazier said that Animal Services would only be able to enforce this ordinance in the unincorporated areas of the Parish. Mr. Young then wanted to know if CPAS would be able to not enforce laws that they choose. Attorney Frazier explained that the tax is passed parish-wide. If a municipality has the laws on the books, the Parish is obligated to enforce what they have on the books.

Mr. Clark explained that the City has an enforcement code of 14, but in the Parish, it is 8. He said that CPAS cannot write a violation for Code 8 inside the city, since their code is 14. He further explained that the City would need a mirror ordinance of Code 8 to enforce it in the City.

Mr. Taliaferro suggested that the application be available in electronic form.

Mr. Young would like to follow up with Communications with regards to the advertising campaign.

There being no more business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

  
Assistant Commission Clerk