

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION  
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 4TH DAY OF APRIL, 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, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (10). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts and Jones (2).

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

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Mr. Balar and Ms. West came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Thank you President Atkins, Dr. Wilson, Members of the Commission. Thank you all for entertaining us today in the Marshall Street Underpass Project. Today, we're just coming to check update status on the NGO application and answer any questions that may be present. Got you. We'd just like to thank you for your consideration of the project and let you know that things are going well. We're planning to kick off here in just a couple of weeks. So, any support that we can get from the Commission will be most appreciated. Good Deal. Thank you, all.

Ms. Nadewell came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Thank you. I had spoke with you all before concerning a road closure that we had. I'd like to say just thank you for letting me come back in and say this. We, I own EVD Motorsports and we film a television production that we sell to network's Discovery channel. That being said, we were issued those road closures and I think there was some complaints about noise and we addressed those issues. We actually had the Greenwood Mayor, the Fire Department, and those neighbors and some of the other local governing bodies agree that they would sign off if we would address that issue, move our timeline, and they would not have a problem with that if the Parish would go ahead and approve that road closure. And we've done that. We have received a road closure and permits in other parishes. So, our production is still happening. We are just, I guess, my point is GM is a very good place for us to be. We like the location and how it's laid out and the way that it looks on film. And, we would like to pursue that. If that is something that is not an option, we do have another option. In fact, we filmed this weekend in another parish and we have another parish that has also issued us the permits and the road. The State of Louisiana is looking at a permit now to shut down a state road for us to film on right outside of Caddo Parish. So, if it's not an option, I understand to some degree. But I did want everyone to know that we'd addressed any issues that might have came up on a noise ordinance situation. And, we were willing to change any of the guidelines that needed to met in order to make sure that that would happen. If not, I understand. It is what it is. But, at the same time, we're willing and have always been willing to do what it took to make that happen. And we are going to film here in this location. Maybe not this street or this parish or whatever, but whatever it is that we needed to do if we done anything, on behalf of my company and the companies that I work for, we wanted to make sure and make those issues right. And I feel like after the fact of knowing that there may have been some noise complaints, I wanted to address all of you all and let you know I personally got involved in that. And I have addressed those issues and those complaints. And made sure that we made it right whether we ever use this location or not again. It is not in our best interest to burn a bridge that gets to a road that we may need to get to again. I can't swim anyways so. So, I wanted to make sure not burn that bridge if there were complaints so we went and fixed that. And I wanted to make sure that you all knew that. If there were any issues that we wanted to make sure an rectify that, and I feel like as a company we have done that. So, I hope that sets well with you all. If there was ever an issue with any of the commissioners where they received complaints and was unhappy with that, I feel like that I've gone out and tried to fix that situation and make it right. So, if we caused an issue or a nuisance, apologies on our behalf that I feel like that I had fixed that as a company. So, that's all I really needed to say. Thank you. I understand that, but I wanted you all to understand that from my point of view as a business owner and a company that I deal with, that we did not come in to cause an issue. In fact, we usually help solve one of the issues at hand and it's usually illegal street racing. We had 76 cars that did not illegal street race on any street this Saturday night in this area, because they were with me and they were safe. We had fire trucks, EMTs, police officers, all the safety guidelines, and there were no police officers getting called out to address those people because they weren't doing it. Because we took them off the street to do that. And any nuisance that we may have caused due to noise or anything like that I wanted to make sure that if there were people that were upset being in the community we were in, that I personally took care of that and fixed that and made it right. Thank you.

Donna Curtis came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

I'm here this afternoon to speak with you about the Cherokee Park Bayou and the things that we have done to attempt to remedy the situation of trash and litter in that Bayou. In the fall, we held two big clean ups. Both paid professionals to do it. The first time we collected 1.8 tons of trash and that was from the Bayou. Not even the entire Bayou. From where the park and where the school all the way

around to Grimmert Drive, were the places that we is the areas that we cleaned. I've attached to the information you may have some of the pictures that were done. We've discovered after looking at it closely and really looking, examining the sewerage tracking it from the neighborhood. And actually a lot of the litter, a lot of the small litter that is so difficult to pick up, is coming off of the streets of the neighborhood. There are 27 drains that lead from the streets, street drains and empty into the bayou. That's water born litter that's coming from like people throwing trash down, people, you know, as they walk down the street, maybe a candy bar, maybe an ICEE cup. From where the garbage trucks come by- There are 27 drains that lead there. It comes, if a garbage truck comes in a little bit falls out of the back of it, you know, the tray of the garbage truck, it's really bad. So, that's where a lot of it's coming from. Washes right down into the bayou with no nothing to stop it. And that bayou will eventually, a lot of it will work its way into the river. The first time we got 1.8 tons, the second time we got 480 and that was like two months later. Two and half months later. I've decided most of the heavy litter like the tires, the building supplies, all the big trash, construction materials, bicycles, buggies, is all being thrown over probably from the two bridges that go over it. Or it's coming out of the park with people sneaking into the park at night and disposing of it that way. Or even some people maybe throwing it from their back yards in to the river. But its, as you can see, we collected here, I have on here how many tires we did. We collected, which was just oh, 37 tires in first clean up. So, that's ridiculous. We've collected as much as 74 in years past. But anyway, this is it remains a problem. But cleanups are expensive if we have professionals do it. The professionals it's \$4,000, \$3,500 to \$4,000 a clean up. Some thought has been given and I have consulted with some storm drain people who can, and know in Baton Rouge they've done it, they've installed large they call them bandits but they're litter catch men. And they can run from \$16,000-28,000 per piece. For that small of an area of a width I'm thinking maybe \$16,000-\$20,000 would probably be in our range in Cherokee park. They have to be maintained, but they do control the litter. It doesn't sweep all the down. It doesn't congregate in one particular place. I just include pictures for you to show we did it. And it was done and the depth of the problem. It's a huge problem. And since there are no questions. Okay.

### **VISITORS**

- Cedric Floyd, President of Data Center, LLC  
Redistricting Update

Mr. Floyd said that the redistricting process should be completed by August 2022. He also mentioned that the model plan will be submitted before the full body within the next thirty days.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know if there was going to be a progress report set up prior to the formal presentation. Mr. Floyd said that can be done. Mr. Chavez would like to see that happen.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if the model plan would be a draft of the redistricting presentation. Mr. Floyd said that it would, and if a Commissioner would like to review it, they can.

### **ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

- Donna Curtis, Shreveport Green  
Cherokee Park Cleanup

Dr. Wilson commended Shreveport Green for all of their hard work within the community.

Ms. Curtis said that they have been working hard to clean up all the litter in streets. Shreveport Green also provide door hangars and informational packets for citizens regarding the proper way to dispose of litter.

Mr. Jackson thanked Shreveport Green for all of their work in the community. He said that the Cherokee Park Bayou is beautiful once it is cleaned out. He did not realize how many drains went into this bayou. Ms. Curtis said that the most littered area is right off Grimmert Drive. She also said that catch nets would be beneficial to this area. Mr. Jackson suggested that Ms. Curtis come to a neighborhood association meeting and provide this information to the residents.

Mr. Chavez also commended Shreveport Green for all of their hard work with cleaning up the areas and providing gardens and green spaces in the community. He wanted to know if they have cameras for the areas that are "dumping grounds". Ms. Curtis said that the City of Shreveport came to Shreveport Green to install real time cameras at the office.

Mr. Chavez suggested that this information be disseminated to the School Board. Ms. Curtis said that they did, but then COVID happened, but is looking to get back in the schools to educate the students on litter.

Mr. Burrell said that Cross Lake Canal runs behind his house and is full of garbage and litter. He asked that Shreveport Green help out with that area.

Mr. Young said that nobody does as much as Shreveport Green does to beautify

Shreveport.

- Patrick Wesley, Parks & Recreation Director  
Commission for Accreditation of Parks & Recreations Agencies (CAPRA)

Ms. Stacy Gray, Parks & Recreation, gave a presentation regarding CAPRA.

The mission of CAPRA is to provide standards and procedures for the evaluation of public park and recreation agencies through a program of self-evaluation and outside peer review for the purpose of national accreditation; confer judgement about whether agencies have met the national accreditation standards; enhance the performance of park and recreation agencies and improve the quality of their programs, services, and facilities; and promote agencies that demonstrate overall excellence in programming, operations, and management.

Benefits of the CAPRA Accreditation for citizens: demonstrates that the agency meetings the national standards of best practice; recognizes the community as a great place to live; helps secure external financial support and reduce costs for the community; holds an agency accountable to the public and ensures responsiveness to meet their needs; and ensures that all staff are providing quality customer services.

The benefits of the CAPRA Accreditation for the Parks & Recreation Department: provides positive public and political recognition; proves to decision makers, stakeholders, and the public that the agency is operating with the best practices of the profession; increases credibility and can improve internal and external funding; improves overall operations and increases efficiency; enhances staff teamwork and pride by engaging all staff in the process; and creates an environment for regular review of operations, policies and procedures, and promotes continual improvement.

Parks & Recreation has already submitted the prelim application and fee as well as attending CAPRA Accreditation Training. The next steps are to prepare self-assessment, host onsite or virtual evaluation by trained CAPRA volunteers, and attend official CAPRA Hearing in person or virtually at NRPA Annual Conference. Currently, the Parks & Recreation Department is working to address 151 national standards. The tentative date for CAPRA standards submission is March 2023. During Spring of 2023, the CAPRA team will visit the Parks & Recreation Department, with the CAPRA Accreditation determination in the Fall of 2023.

Ms. Gray said that if Caddo Parish is accredited, it will be apart of an elite group of publicly funded Parks & Recreation Departments through the nation. She also added that there are only two other parishes in Louisiana who are accredited.

Mr. Young wanted to know if the Parks & Recreation Department has looked at other cities, parishes, or counties to see what they are doing in their Parks & Recreation departments. Ms. Gray said that they are visiting other places and getting ideas with the Parks & Recreation programming and tailoring it to Caddo Parish.

Mr. Young then wanted to know if they have looked into planting fruit bearing trees in the parks. Mr. Wesley said that they could look into planting those types of trees within the parks. Mr. Young said that 40% of the children in Caddo Parish live in chronic malnutrition, which is a pressing community need. He urged the Parks & Recreation Department to seriously consider planting fruit trees in parks and green spaces for public use.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if the Parks & Recreation Department will be undergoing a master plan. Mr. Wesley said that they are currently in the process of drafting a 15-year plan, in conjunction with the City of Shreveport's SPAR program.

Mr. Hopkins cautioned that Caddo Parish "does not do things like they do elsewhere".

Mr. Atkins commended the Parks & Recreation Department for all of their hard work in providing the best parks for the citizens.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know the difference in being accredited versus not being accredited. Mr. Wesley said that they would be operating on national best practices.

Mr. Wesley will provide a link regarding the CAPRA links to the Commissioners and staff.

Dr. Wilson mentioned that Parks & Recreation has received several NACo Achievement Awards through the years, and will be receiving two this year.

- Confederate Monument Relocation Update

Dr. Wilson provided the Commissioners a statement regarding the relocation of the monument. He said that the process is ongoing.

- U.S. Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Mrs. Barnett said that they distributed over \$37M for 14,000 families. They also received an additional reallocation of \$1.2M from the U.S. Treasury. Once the additional funding is spent, Caddo Parish will have surpassed \$40M of rental assistance.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if this was a reallocation from ERAP1 or ERAP2. Mrs. Barnett said that it was a reallocation from ERAP1.

- Juvenile Detention

There are 24 juveniles in detention; three of which are in OJJ custody. There are also eleven juveniles at CCC and nine 17 year olds. Dr. Wilson said that they are working to decrease those numbers.

Mr. Young wanted to know if the detention center was full. Mr. Walker said that it is. Mr. Walker wanted to know if they had to “let any juveniles go that would not otherwise be let go”. Mr. Walker said that would have to be deferred to the judges. He did explain that they do provide a list of two or three names to the judges that they recommended could be let out if another juvenile came into the center.

Mr. Young wanted to know if any of the juveniles who were involved in the issues at Byrd High School already on probation. Mr. Walker said that he cannot answer that question at this time. He did explain that any threats of that nature are taken very seriously. They assess their homes, their access to firearms, and “essentially perform a sweep to ensure they do not have bomb making materials at home”. He also said that they track those juveniles.

- Rabies & Microchip Clinic

Dr. Wilson announced that there will be a free rabies and microchip this Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if this will be done in other areas of the Parish. Dr. Wilson said that they will.

- Summer Work Program

Dr. Wilson also said that students can apply for the Student Work program.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know how students could apply. Dr. Wilson said that the students could apply online, but if they do not have access to the internet, they could call HR.

Mr. Jackson suggested that the juveniles at the detention center be given the opportunity to apply for Student Work program to help deter those at-risk youth from the “fast money” life.

- COVID Update

Dr. Wilson announced that there were zero COVID cases.

- NACo Parish/County Government Month

Dr Wilson also announced that April is National Parish/County Government Month.

- Requests to Administration from Commissioners

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if there was an update on the Crime Lab. Dr. Wilson said that he provided an email back with his recommended requested. He also recommended that it be sent to the American Rescue Plan Committee due to lost revenue aspect. Dr. Wilson said that the Crime Lab services twenty-nine parishes, and Caddo Parish should not bore the expense of all those parishes.

Mr. Burrell also mentioned that he is still receiving calls regarding coyotes. Mr. Kelvin Samuel, Assistant Director of Animal Services, said that there is a camera installed, but there have been no sightings of coyotes on the camera.

### **COMMISSION REMARKS**

- NOTICE OF INTENT: Notice is hereby given that at its meeting to be held on Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 3:30 p.m. at its regular meeting place, the Government Plaza Chambers, 505 Travis Street, Shreveport, Louisiana, the Caddo Parish Commission plans to consider adopting a resolution ordering and calling an election to be held in Caddo Parish to authorize the renewal of ad valorem taxes therein and to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Young, *that Ordinance No. 6213 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund for Juneteenth events, 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, Burrell, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (9). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Chavez, Gage-Watts, and Jones (3). ABSTAIN: None (0).

## **NEW BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that Ordinance No. 6220 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund for the year 2022 to appropriate funds received from the U.S. Treasury in the amount of \$1,260,238 for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Jackson said that there is a continued need for rental assistance. Mrs. Barnett said that the need has dwindled, but they are helping as many citizens as the funds allow. Mr. Jackson mentioned that there was an announcement of possible ERAP2 dollars coming to the Parish.

**Substitute motion by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to englobo and move the following items to Thursday's agenda:*

- *Ordinance No. 6220 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund for the year 2022 to appropriate funds received from the U.S. Treasury in the amount of \$1,260,238 for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program*
- *Ordinance No. 6221 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the American Rescue Plan Fund to provide an appropriation for a Roof Repair Program, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6222 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues for the American Rescue Plan Fund to provide an appropriation for Ring Doorbell Pilot Program in Caddo Parish, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6223 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Section 8 Fund, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6224 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund in the amount of \$6,000 to provide an appropriation for the Greater Shreveport Chamber Foundation, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6225 of 2022, an ordinance amending and re-enacting 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*
- *Special Resolution Recognizing AmeriCorps' Foster Grandparents Program On National Service Award Recognition Day*
- *Special Resolution Recognizing Dr. Eddie Giles Memorial Highway*
- *Special Resolution Honoring Ted Cox on his Retirement*
- *Special Resolution Recognizing Latronia Durham*
- *Special Resolution Recognizing Second Chance Month*
- *Proclamation Declaring April, 2022 as "Parish/County Government Month" in Caddo Parish*
- *Special Resolution Recognizing Public Servants and declaring the first week of May as Public Service Recognition Week*
- *Appointment of Billy Woods to fill the unexpired term of Kerry Lyles (term to expire 12-4-2022)*

- Authorize Visitor from Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries.
- Authorize Col. (Ret) Eric Sweeney, U.S. Army, Director of Army Instruction, Caddo Parish JROTC, as a Visitor for Thursday's Regular Session.
- Authorize Huntington High School students "Commissioners For A Day" as Visitors for Thursday's Regular Session.

At this time, Mr. Johnson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts and Jones (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

### **COMMUNIQES AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mr. Young read aloud the following statement from his constituent, Jake Snyder:

*I'm Jake Snyder. I live in Highland, and I'm a small scale contractor...and I'd guess you'd say a humble carpenter. It's a noble vocation, if you believe in the gospel. I love Shreveport, and Highland especially because of its historic homes. They're the oldest houses we have left in this City. A lot of them are more than 100 years old—and a whole lot of them need people like me to fix them up so they can be lived in again and last another hundred years. We can't build houses like these anymore. The materials don't exist now. About a year ago, I bought a house in Highland that's on a weird combination of lots. Its got a house, but it also has a small parking lot that was zoned commercial in 1960—fourteen years before the MPC was created. This lot was perfect for me because like a lot of small contractors, I need a place to park my equipment when I'm not on a job site. My mailman parks there too. Highland is full of weird parcels and lots and buildings. That's what makes it a good place for all kinds of different people. Its only really diverse neighborhood in Shreveport or Bossier. I know all of my neighbors, and I like them. We all get along. I'm a disabled veteran, and I have a degree in construction engineering, but that's about as fancy as I get. I'm not rich. I don't have any political power or influence like y'all do. Even though I could have a fancier job in a big city because of my degree, I choose to work every day to make Highland a little more livable—and Highland really needs it. I hear military style weapons firing gunshots every night in my neighborhood as soon as the sun starts going down. The streets have got more holes than swiss cheese. Every gorgeous historic district in America, like New Orleans, Charleston, Savannah, and Greenwich Village, has gone through a phase of decay that looks like Highland does now. Anyways, even though the neighborhood really needs people like me to help fix it up, the MPC is picking on me—at least, it feels like picking. It feels like bullying, to tell the truth. It makes me wonder who I ticked off in City Hall to get this kind of harassment. I got a letter saying I can't park in my own parking lot, like the UPS truck does, because they got "an anonymous phone call complaint" about my commercial zoned parking lot being used for parking. They say their computer system says its actually zoned a residential front yard. Of course, its not. The MPC Zoning Administrator actually sent me a copy of the Tax Assessor's description of my lot saying its got a commercial subplot, just like my deed said when I bought it. The Zoning Administrator says that's my problem, and its my responsibility to go and talk to the Tax Assessor to figure out who's right and who's wrong about zoning. I have a question for y'all: what does a zoning administrator do? Is he supposed to administrate zoning himself? Or does he get paid to tell the little guy, like me, to run around town researching zoning details like this one? By the way, how much does he get paid to give me the runaround like this? Does he get any customer service training? I keep pretty busy trying to earn a living, and nobody is offering to pay me to do zoning research, let alone a company car to drive around while I do it. I heard you guys on this Commission are paying the MPC \$350,000 per year to do this kind of work. I did the math. That's \$1,350 per business day. Its enough to put new roofs on about 45 houses in Highland, if you get a good price. We have a lot of houses that need roofs to survive. I'm glad y'all are talking today about fixing roofs around town because a house without a roof really isn't a shelter. My last question for y'all is: isn't there anything else in our City that you can think of to spend \$350,000 on that's actually good? Instead of cushy MPC jobs for guys like the Zoning Administrator who tells me to go and do their work for them. Thanks.*

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- Ordinance No. 6210 of 2022, an ordinance amending the 2022 Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the American Rescue Plan Fund to provide an additional appropriation for Fire District 4 and to otherwise provide with respect thereto
- Ordinance No. 6211 of 2022, an ordinance amending the 2022 Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the American Rescue Plan Fund to provide an appropriation for Sewer District 7 and to otherwise provide with respect thereto
- Ordinance No. 6212 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues for the American Rescue Plan Fund to provide an appropriation for

*Community Healthcare Solutions and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

- *Ordinance No. 6214 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund in the amount of \$7,500 to provide an appropriation for Basic Necessities and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6215 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund in the amount of \$3,000 for Lady Bass Anglers Association and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6216 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund in the amount of \$6,500 to provide an appropriation for Wildlife Education & Rehabilitation of Louisiana and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6217 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund in the amount of \$10,000 to provide an appropriation For Shreveport Green and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6218 of 2022, an ordinance to amend and reenact Section 50-26 of the Caddo Parish Code of Ordinances relative to Exemptions & Exclusions from Sales & Use Taxes in order to exempt diapers and feminine hygiene products for individual and personal use and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6219 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund for the year 2022 to provide an appropriation of \$25,000 for the Shreveport Bossier African American Chamber of Commerce and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

  
Assistant Commission Clerk