

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF  
THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 7<sup>th</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 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, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). ABSENT: None (0).

The invocation was given by Pastor Charles Johnson, and Mrs. Gage-Watts led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA ADDITIONS**

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to expand the agenda and add Special Resolution of Remembrance and Appreciation for Mrs. Allene Fields* under Special Resolutions.

At this time, Mr. Atkins opened the floor for anyone to speak in favor or against adding this Special Resolution to the agenda. There being no one to speak, the President closed the public hearing.

Alice Adams Williams and Victoria Denim came before the Commission in support of this agenda addition and gave the following comment:

Good evening. My name is Alice Adams Williams, A Girl for Daddy's Produce. Along with me is Victoria Gilliam CEO for our Greenwood support agencies and Greenwood vendor. With the absence of Veronica Brown Greenwood town clerk, we are here asking for a proclamation for a lifetime Parish resident, Allene Durden Fields. She was the CEO of Greenwood Community Center for over 30 years. She was the first head start in the Greenwood, La. She was a mentor for many young people. She was a spoken word for the misfortune. She had no color bearings. We are given a community Easter Egg Hunt on April the 16th in the town of Greenwood in Greenwood Park in her memories. I want to thank you all for a great job that your Commissioners are doing, especially for my district 12 Ken Epperson. And also, I would like to thank Mr. Wesley and Mrs. Katino Williams for their great works also, and thank you all for keeping the we in Caddo. Thank you and may God bless you and have a wonderful day.

At this time, Mr. Epperson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Pastor Charles Johnson came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Thank you. Charles Johnson, 202 North Thomas Drive, Shreveport, LA 71107. We brought packets for each Commissioner and I believe that they're going to share those packets with you all. Normally when I rise, I usually rise to represent the 35000 plus listeners of KOKA Radio Station, but in this moment, I rise on a issue outside of KOKA Radio Station, which is a non-profit that bears my name and not only does it bear my name but the work that we do within the community. Before I start this presentation within the time that you all have given, I want to share with you that even though this organization bear the name of myself I want you to know that the work is done by individuals who serve in our office, individuals who serve on our non-profit board and also even our programs coordinator who goes every weekend to do extraordinary work. And, those individuals, some of them, have come today. And I would ask that they would please stand. If you would just stand and I just want to thank them for being here today. Thank you. Let me say in this presentation that you have you would see that our mission is to uplift the community thorough empowerment, employment and community engagement, while providing necessary resources to those in need. Years ago in 2015, as you can see pictured here, we were awarded a proclamation by both Mayor Tyler and Mayor Walker in Bossier City for the work that we have done in the community. On the back page, that you will see we have housed hundreds of women within our community that we have done work for. You can see pictures here through our women's empowerment program. Also, our family health program and even our girls empowerment program. And to Bettina Bolden who's here today, I want to thank her for the work that she does through that program and even our women's empowerment program as well. On the next page, you will see our program for African-American youth males. We work very hard in our community to ensure that African-American youth morals are uplifted and empowered. And, we provide lifetime mentorship to those African-American youth males. Also, you would see as well in this presentation programs on race relations. One of the things I'm most proud of is the work that we do to bring people together. I believe in our Parish and even in our City. We do have challenges as it relates to different races. And so, we have worked very hard to bring local congregations together, to bring people together, and I'm excited that we have every month over 18 different congregations that we bring together throughout the City of Shreveport and the Parish of Caddo. On the last page. Could I get some more time? Thank you. On the last page, you will see that we have an overwhelming support from the community and this is not just people who are listed here, but people beyond the paper. Pastor Danny Duron, overwhelmingly support

the work that we do. Pastor David Rice of Brookwood Baptist Church. Pastor Theron Jackson of Morningstar. Pastor Timothy Jones of Peaceful Rest. Also, Southern University at Shreveport support the work that we do. Louisiana State University of Shreveport support the work that we do. But one comment I want to read that is listed here, that means so much to me. Even though we have an overwhelming amount of support throughout the community, that is the comment of Miss Merlin Jackson, who was the very first board member we had in 2007 would you stand Ms. Jackson. The very first board member we had in 2007. She says, I've been a board member from the very beginning in 2007. The day we named this organization after him because of his popularity within the community as a radio personality, I've watched him help countless of people through this organization and even personally. That's why I work hard to fundraise for this non-profit and give personally to see things happen. I want to say to all of you in your packet as well, because we have support on a state level. We have support with the City of Shreveport. You will see a letter from the Director of the Community Development Ms. Bonnie Moore, who overwhelmingly support us and not only support the work that we do, but fund our programs even on the state level. Want to thank even him now, State Representative Sam Jenkins, for the work that he does to make sure we're supported on a state level. I am asking you the Parish Commissioners. I know that our application went through committee and it wasn't successful, but I asked that you would please reconsider that and place that on the Committee agenda and please support us. Because we would like to do more and we can do more with the help of this Parish.

Adrian Burton came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Thank you. Good afternoon, please excuse me I am battling a sinus infection. So, if I sound a little raspy, please I do apologize. I'm just here on behalf of the Huntington High School Alumni Association. I am the current President Adrian Burton. 3530 Galaxy Lane, Shreveport, LA 71119. I am here with my second vice president Marilyn Robertson and our member Jada Sims. And we're just here on behalf of Mr. Epperson. He brought several of our students. I would like to ask you all to stand up if you could. Several of our senior students, he took them out for a day. We appreciate everything Mr. Epperson is doing for our community and for our district. We want to thank him as well as Representative Dottie, School Board Representative Dottie Bell. They put so much work into our district and our community for our children. And, it's very important through the alumni association that we have that support. And so, I'm just here to say thank you and we appreciate everything that you all have done for us. Thank you so much.

Schoolboard Member Dottie Bell came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good afternoon. Address Dottie Bell, 7881 Jefferson Paige Road, Shreveport, LA. And Huntington, Walnut Hill and Turner's in my district and I'm so proud of them. But you all know what I'm proud of today? These sweet babies. Look at them. I just talked to this young man. I said, now what you want to be? School Board Member? Parish Commission? City Council? Or he can be the President. This what you're doing Ken, Commissioner, and the rest of you. Thank you. This is what they need to see. Just saying, I want to run for office. I wish everybody, adults and all, understand. And the young man told me here, it's more than what you think. I said, yes. So, I'm just like I am so glad that you all decided to do this. So, they can understand that just because I want to run for School Board there's a lot to it. But, I am so happy. Thank you again Commissioner. And then I noticed the other young man. He all on TV and on this baby here. This baby here. So, I'm just saying thank you all or doing this. And I guess I need to go back to the School Board. Tell them we need to do the same thing. So, they understand what we're doing. We make them rules that their children don't like. Okay, thank you.

RJ Johnson came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good afternoon Commissioners. RJ Johnson, 333 Texas street. I'm here as the Chief Volunteer Office for the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club. Wanted to invite you to our Wheels and Wishes Car and Bike Show on Saturday from 12 pm to 4 pm at the State Fairgrounds. It is going to be a very, very, very fun and exciting event. So, would like all of our Commissioners to come out. We appreciate our home Commissioner, Commissioner Burrell and all of our visitors So, we want to invite you to that event. Saturday April 9th from 12 pm to 4 pm. Thank you.

### **VISITORS**

- Huntington High School Students "Commissioners For A Day"

Lamarion Love, Nevaeh Savannah, Jaclynn Hust, and Johnathan Tulley are all graduating seniors from Huntington High School. They thanked the Administration and Commission for allowing them to be a Student Commissioners for a day.

Mr. Epperson read aloud the following letter to the students:

It has been my pleasure having you as 2022's Student Commissioner for A Day for District 12. I hope that you are more informed about local government and how important public servants and elected officials are to keeping Caddo Parish running smoothly. I appreciate you and your desire to learn about Caddo Parish's different departments, such as Administration, Animal Services, Commission Clerk's Office, Facilities & Maintenance,

Juvenile Services, Human Resources, Public Works, and Parks & Recreation, during National Parish Government Month.

I wish you nothing but success on your future endeavors. Please update the Commission annually on your well-being and current activities. You can send a letter to:

**Caddo Parish Commission Clerk's Office**

505 Travis Street, Suite 110  
Shreveport, LA 71101

Please note you can reach me anytime at (318) 773-2654 or via email [kepperson@caddo.org](mailto:kepperson@caddo.org). Once again, I'm proud of you and wish you continued success! You are our future! /s/Kenneth Epperson, Sr.

Mr. Epperson also introduced Mr. Tony Williams, Huntington High School Graduate Class of 2001, who was a Student Commissioner for A Day in 2000. Since graduating, he has had a successful career in the U.S. Army.

Mr. Jackson applauded Mr. Epperson for working with his school board member and the schools introducing students at an early age to what the Commissioners and elected officials do.

Mr. Atkins also thanked Mr. Epperson for his leadership on this matter and appreciates the investment he makes in the youth.

- Jeff Johnson  
Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries

Mr. Young asked for more clarification regarding WERLA. Mr. Jeff Johnson said that they are the only wildlife rehabber in this region, and they do excellent work. Even though the Department of Wildlife & Fisheries is a wildlife agency, they have a limited scope on what they can do. Most of their work is to advise and assist private landowners to work on wildlife on the public lands. He also said that they do very limited work on nuisance wildlife and injured animals. They do handle deer, bald eagles, and black bears. Mr. Jeff Johnson said that they receive several calls about baby possums, etc., so Wildlife & Fisheries tells the citizens to contact WERLA.

Mr. Young wanted to know if Wildlife & Fisheries would be able to fund WERLA. Mr. Jeff Johnson said that they do not fund rehabilitators; they only permit them.

Mr. Young said that WERLA is run by volunteers and are cost-effective because of the high quality of service they provide. He said that they deserve funding from this body because they help the Parish with a need that cannot be otherwise met. Mr. Jeff Johnson said that's the Commission's decision, but agreed, in his personal opinion, that they are deserving of funding.

Mr. Burrell talked about nuisance coyotes near the Shreveport Country Club. Mr. Jeff Johnson said that there are ways for citizens to hunt outlaw quadrupeds, but does not believe it is allowed in the city limits. He also said that coyotes are predators, so they do go after cats who aren't put up at night. Mr. Burrell was surprised that foxes were not included in this category. Mr. Jeff Johnson explained that foxes are not that dangerous and small.

Mr. Burrell asked that Mr. Jeff Johnson work with Animal Services with regards to the coyotes at the Shreveport Country Club. Mr. Jeff Johnson said that Wildlife & Fisheries does not remove nuisance wildlife; they refer the citizens who can.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know if there was any funding for a rehabilitation service with Wildlife & Fisheries. Mr. Jeff Johnson said that Wildlife & Fisheries has not funded a rehabilitation service before. He further explained that rehabilitators operate on a voluntary basis. Wildlife & Fisheries permits them and inspect their facilities if they want to pursue that route. Mr. Johnson said that somebody has to do this if it is not the State nor the Parish. Mr. Jeff Johnson also explained in the terms of nuisance animals, there are nuisance control operator who are permitted through Wildlife & Fisheries. Mr. Johnson then wanted to know if the wildlife control operators get paid. Mr. Jeff Johnson said that they do.

Mr. Johnson then asked about WERLA. Mr. Jeff Johnson said that they do not get paid and work solely off of private donations.

Mr. Taliaferro wanted to know if Wildlife & Fisheries refers citizens to WERLA. Mr. Jeff Johnson said that they do.

Mr. Jackson understands that Wildlife & Fisheries does not provide funding for WERLA. He then wanted to know if there was anything in place preventing them from charging a fee. Mr. Jeff Johnson is not sure. Mr. Jackson asked that he research this further and provide that information to the Commissioners.

- Col. (Ret) Eric Sweeney  
U.S. Army, Director of Army Instruction  
Caddo Parish JROTC

Mr. Epperson said that the Veterans Celebration Committee would like to present \$1,500 to Col. (ret) Eric Sweeney and his JROTC program.

Mr. Vernon Williams thanked the Commission for allowing them to honor Col. Sweeney today.

Col. Sweeney also thanked the Commission and the Veterans Celebration Committee for all of their work in getting the children involved in the Parade & Honor Ceremony.

Mr. Epperson recognized all of the Veterans Celebration Committee members. He also said that there will be a Parade and Honor Ceremony this year. He encouraged all to attend and participate.

### **ADOPT REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that Regular Session Minutes from March 17, 2022* be adopted. 11 Y 1A-hopkins

### **SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS**

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *to englobo and adopt the following special resolutions:*

- *Special Resolution Recognizing Second Chance Month*
- *Special Resolution Recognizing Latronia Durham*

Mr. Jones recognized Ms. Durham for all of her accomplishments as a local business in Caddo Parish, District 6. Durham Trucking provides safe and secure parking for truck drivers, has an academy to teach people how to drive trucks, and sells parts for rigs. Mr. Jones commended Ms. Durham for all of her hard work in creating opportunities for people to go to work.

Ms. Durham has been in business since 2013. She recently received an award for Women Who Moved the Nation Forward. Durham Trucking is based out of Cedar Grove in Shreveport. In her driving academy, over fifteen students have already graduated. She also said that she tried to get on the Industrial Development Board agenda, but has been unsuccessful. Ms. Durham is requesting help from Caddo Parish or Shreveport to help expand her company and put 200 students through the academy per year. She said that this will provide job opportunities for at-risk people.

Mr. Jackson thanked Ms. Durham for everything that she is doing in the Cedar Grove and Hollywood area. He appreciates the example she sets for people to "stick to it". Mr. Jackson suggested that she talk to her Commissioner to get on the agenda for the Industrial Development Board.

Mr. Burrell congratulated Ms. Durham for all of her accomplishments and hard work in the community. He also mentioned that Trucker Appreciation Convention will be coming to Greenwood. He suggested that she look into it.

Mrs. Gage-Watts also congratulated and commended Ms. Durham on everything she has been able to accomplish with all of her hard work in establishing her trucking business.

Mr. Jones also recognized Ms. Ronquisha for all of her hard working in helping make Durham Trucking successful.

- *Special Resolution Honoring Ted Cox On His Retirement*
- *Special Resolution Recognizing Americorps' Foster Grandparents Program On National Service Award Recognition Day*
- *Special Resolution Proclaiming April, 2022 As "Parish/County Government Month" In Caddo Parish*

Mr. Epperson said that this is an important proclamation to educate young people on the importance of local government and how it works in running the Parish.

Mrs. Gage-Watts thanked the Student Commissioners for attending today's meeting. She asked that the Commissioners bring a student to the April 18 Work Session to help highlight Parish Government Month.

- *Special Resolution Recognizing Public Servants And Declaring The First Week Of May As Public Service Recognition Week*
- *Special Resolution Recognizing Dr. Eddie Giles Memorial Highway*
- *Special Resolution of Remembrance for Allene Fields*

At this time, Mr. Jackson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING  
SECOND CHANCE MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, Second Chance Month has been observed in the United States during April since 2017, as a nationwide effort to raise awareness of the collateral consequences of a criminal conviction and unlock second-chance opportunities for people who have completed their sentences; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout April, Goodwill Industries of North Louisiana joins the National Reentry Resource Center and the Louisiana Department of Corrections among other organizations to help raise awareness on the barriers and opportunities for people with justice involvement as part of Second Chance Month; and

**WHEREAS**, one in three Americans adults (over 70 million Americans) has a criminal record, which limits their access to education, jobs, housing and poses other impediments towards living a healthy, self-sufficient, and dignified life; and

**WHEREAS**, though the current labor market may have a high number of jobs that need to be filled, these positions don't offer the same opportunity or stability to the formerly incarcerated population who remain vulnerable to discriminatory practices and Second Chance Month highlights the importance of fair and equitable policies and practices to ensure all Americans who want to work can work, and that they have access to services that will enable them to do so; and

**WHEREAS**, Louisiana has traditionally led the world in incarceration rates, and Caddo Parish has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest incarcerations rates in Louisiana, a rate of 816 incarcerated people per 100,000 residents is twice the national average and comes at a tremendous public expense; and

**WHEREAS**, Goodwill Industries of North Louisiana, has partnered with Easter Seals, The United Way, and Department of Corrections to reduce recidivism and served 224 persons, 95% of whom did not recidivate, 89% found employment during the program with 75% of those employed meeting a 90 day retention and salary goal, and contributing towards future earnings estimated to be \$106,241,795 while saving the State of Louisiana taxpayers the cost of future incarcerations, and Goodwill has a month long series of events to support a Second Chance in Caddo Parish, culminating with an Expungement Clinic and Reentry Resource Fair on April 30<sup>th</sup>;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby proclaim the month of April, 2022, as

**'SECOND CHANCE MONTH'**

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, in an effort to focus public attention on the importance of unlocking these second chance opportunities in Caddo Parish.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING  
LATRONIA DURHAM**

**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, MS. Latronia Durham**, a Shreveport native and President of Durham Transport, has not only invested in the developing and expanding a local business in the heart of Shreveport's Cedar Grove neighborhood in Caddo Parish, but has set records as the 1<sup>st</sup> woman to open a multi-faceted trucking company succeeding in a male dominated industry; and

**WHEREAS**, Durham founded her company in 2016 after years of working in the oil field services and with the support of her mother, who was her first investor, and her trusted sister, Rokisha, who oversees compliance for the business- Durham has expanded from an Owner/Operator truck driver to the President and CEO of a multi-faceted trucking company with a 6 acres campus which houses the 1<sup>st</sup> family owned all African American Trucking School, Durham Transportation Academy; a commercial parking operation, Durham Transport Parking; a freight dispatcher with Durham Logistics, and even Durham Transport Tires selling new commercial tires; and

**WHEREAS**, Durham has become a partner of the Shreveport's Fair Share Program and

the African American Chamber of Commerce; she's earned the Minority Owned Women accreditation, and has been selected to help collaborate with the 2022 Harvard Business School Field Immersion Course.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Caddo Parish Commission in legal and regular session this 7th day of April, 2022, that it does hereby extend its most sincere and heartfelt expressions of congratulation and appreciation to **LATRONIA DURHAM**, for her praiseworthy achievements and for representing Caddo Parish so elegantly and admirably to the state and nation.

#### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION HONORING TED COX ON HIS RETIREMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the Caddo Parish Commission acknowledges that the passage of time brings forth regrettable inevitabilities, among those being the necessity of saying goodbye to cherished friends who have chosen to walk the paths and live the dreams of retirement; and

**WHEREAS**, Ted Cox, the beloved and respected Judicial Administrator for Caddo Parish Juvenile Court, has now made that choice, ending a career of public service that has spanned 38 years, including 25 years as the Judicial Administrator for Caddo Parish Juvenile Court. Cox's legal service career has featured many highlights in addition to his service at Caddo Juvenile Court, he served as an Assistant District Attorney for Orleans and Caddo Parishes, a Criminal Defense Attorney for the Caddo Indigent Defender's Office, a Legal Advisor to the Shreveport Police Department, and Administrator of the Caddo/Bossier Narcotics Taskforce; and

**WHEREAS**, Cox's accomplishments in the legal field, impressive as they may be, are a continued reflection of the selfless leadership & honorable character that he has displayed throughout his life's endeavors including his military service, volunteerism and his commitment to his family. He prepared himself for this life with an education that includes a Bachelor's Degree from LSU, a Master of Criminal Justice from University of Southern Mississippi, and a Juris Doctorate from Loyola Law School; and

**WHEREAS**, Cox is a retired Colonel with 37 years of Active Duty service with the National Guard and Reserve Service which included serving in the Vietnam War in positions ranging from Infantry Paratrooper to Brigade Commander of the 95<sup>th</sup> Training Division, and many leadership roles in between. He would go on to serve during Operation Iraqi Freedom as a Senior Policy Advisor on Juvenile Justice for the provisional government in Baghdad, Iraq. His military career has been recognized with the Legion of Merit, Purple Heart, Bronze Star and Combat Infantry Badge; and

**WHEREAS**, Volunteerism comes naturally to Cox who somehow found time to serve as a Board Member and Past President of the La. Court Administrators Association, The Downtown YMCA, & the Rutherford House; a member of the Board of Directors of Volunteers for Youth Justice, the Red River Marine Alternative School for Juveniles, La. Association of Drug Court Professionals; and as a member of the Governor's Juvenile Justice Board for the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement, the Shreveport Bar Association as the Chair of the Veterans Committee, La. Child Support Enforcement Association, Boy Scouts, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, & the Military Order of the Purple Heart; and

**WHEREAS**, Cox has been a dependable and steady anchor in justice and defense, but also to his family, a role which he embraces with pride and derives great joy as husband of Barbara Cox, father to their 4 children and 6 grandchildren and has been known to express his dreams for the future to include highlights such as his now 7-year-old granddaughter playing soccer at the United States Military Academy.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Caddo Parish Commission, that it does hereby express its deep and sincere appreciation to Mr. Ted Cox for his invaluable contributions rendered on behalf of his service and declare, April 21, 2022 as:

#### **TED COX DAY**

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, calling upon all citizens to note this occasion with a sense of appreciation and gratitude. We pray his days are plentifully filled with the fulfillment of dreams and we acknowledge the amazing legacy of his work at Juvenile Court and beyond.

#### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION AMERICORPS FOSTER GRANDPARENTS PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, it is appropriate to commend AmeriCorps Seniors Caddo/Bossier Foster Grandparent Volunteer Program for its (42) forty-two years of exceptional service in Caddo and neighboring Parishes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Foster Grandparent Volunteer Program is under a new sponsorship, Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA), and it is federally funded program by the Corporation for National and Community Service, now known as the AmeriCorps Seniors (new brand) a federal agency, that brings people together to tackle the country's most pressing challenges, through national service and volunteering. AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors FGP volunteers serve with organizations

dedicated to the improvement of communities; and

**WHEREAS**, this nationwide program offers seniors, who are (55) fifty-five years of age or older, the opportunity to serve as mentors, tutors, and caregivers to economically disadvantaged youth one-on-one, helps to improve behavioral and educational outcomes for students with special and exceptional needs, helping children who suffer from abuse or neglect, and provide support to children of veterans or who have a deployed family members; and serving over 280,000 special needs children through a network of various organizations; and helping to guide students to higher academic achievement; and

**WHEREAS**, the AmeriCorps Seniors SUSLA Foster Grandparent Volunteer Program matches the willingness and capacity of Caddo, Bossier & Desoto FGP volunteers to devote their time, experience, and compassion towards the needs of children to help them learn and prepare for the life ahead of them while continuing to fulfill FGP's mission to provide guidance and support to disadvantaged children, enriching participants lives while enriching the lives of others. AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers who serve with in the Foster Grandparent program provide the kind of comfort and love that sets a child on a path to a successful future. AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers themselves report better health and longevity having served their community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal and regular session this 7th day of April, 2022, that it does hereby proclaim May 5, 2022 as:

**“AMERICORPS SENIORS FOSTER GRANDPARENTS PROGRAM  
NATIONAL SERVICE AWARD RECOGNITION DAY”**

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and urges all citizens to join with the Parish to celebrate, commend and congratulate the AmeriCorps Seniors SUSLA Caddo/Bossier Foster Grandparent Volunteer Program for its (42) forty-two years of exceptional service to children and hereby extend best wishes for continued success in the future.

**PROCLAMATION  
PARISH COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, each spring the National Association of Counties calls attention to the role that the nation's 3,069 county and parish governments play in the lives of the citizens of this nation, declaring a April as “National County/Parish Government Month” and staging activities and events that focus on county-level programs and services; and

**WHEREAS**, Louisiana, with its historic and singular ‘parish’ governmental structure serving as a unique yet functionally equivalent partner to the nation's counties, enthusiastically participates in the aims and objectives of the observance; and

**WHEREAS**, similarly, Caddo Parish also recognizes its role and responsibilities in addressing and meeting the needs of the community, and even the region, and to protect and enhance the health, well-being and safety of the citizens in efficient and cost-effective ways; and

**WHEREAS**, through National Association of Counties (NACo) President Larry Johnson's “THRIVE” initiative, NACo is encouraging counties/parishes to focus on six areas (Technology, Health, Readiness, Infrastructure, Vulnerable Communities, and Economic Opportunities) that fortify what counties and parishes do to best serve their citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to remain healthy, vibrant, safe and economically competitive, American counties/parishes provide public health, justice, emergency management and economic services that play a key role in everything from residents' daily health to disaster response; and

**WHEREAS**, each year since 1991 the National Association of Counties has encouraged counties/parishes across the country to actively promote programs and services to the public we serve.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby proclaim the month of April, 2022, as

**‘PARISH GOVERNMENT MONTH’**

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, in an effort to focus public attention on the role and scope of Caddo Parish Government, in all its aspects, and urging all citizens to recognize and reflect upon the invaluable role that Parish government plays in their lives.

**PROCLAMATION  
PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK**

In honor of the millions of public employees at the federal, state, county/parish, and city levels:

**WHEREAS**, Americans are served every single day by public servants at the federal,

state, county and city levels. These unsung heroes do the work that keeps our nation working. Their tireless efforts are especially critical today during the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, public employees take not only jobs, but oaths;

WHEREAS, many public servants, including military personnel, police officers, firefighters, border patrol officers, embassy employees, health care professionals and others, risk their lives each day in service to the people of the United States and around the world;

WHEREAS, public servants include teachers, doctors and scientists . . . train conductors and astronauts . . . nurses and safety inspectors . . . laborers, computer technicians and social workers. and countless other occupations. Day in and day out they provide the diverse services demanded by the American people of their government with efficiency and integrity; and,

WHEREAS, without these public servants at every level, continuity would be impossible in a democracy that regularly changes its leaders and elected officials;

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo currently employees 356 public servants who dedicate their lives to the noble calling of public service and have made the commitment to serve the citizens and communities of Caddo Parish each and every day by providing services in the departments of Administration, Animal Services and Mosquito Control, Commission Clerk's Office, Facilities and Maintenance, Finance, Human Resources, Juvenile Services, Parks and Recreation, Public Works, and a host of ancillary agencies across the Parish;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal and regular session this 7th day of April 2022, that it does hereby heartily commend those who have chosen a career in public service and declare the first week of May of each year as Public Service Recognition week.

#### **PROCLAMATION DR. EDDIE GILES MEMORIAL HIGHWAY**

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

WHEREAS, such an individual, Reverend Dr. Elbert W. "Eddie" Giles was born in Frierson, Louisiana, and was a staple to the Northwest Louisiana community as KOKA's radio personality for more than 45 years. Dr. Giles, also known as the 'Radio Pastor', retired from Alpha Media in August of 2018, holding the longest tenure as a gospel radio broadcaster; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Giles had a servant's heart and dedicated his life to his community. He was a founding member of Pastors on Patrol with the Shreveport Police Department as well as being a member of the International Conference of Police Chaplains; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Giles and his wife, Reverend Brenda Giles, also co-founded The Shepherd's Farm CDLC, a nonprofit organization who assists children in Shreveport and surrounding areas with outreach programs designed to level the academic playing field for underserved youth; and

WHEREAS, on June, 2021, Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards signed a bill authored by State Representative Sam Jenkins, Jr. to designate the 300 and 400 block of Hearne Avenue (Louisiana Hwy 3094) in Shreveport, Louisiana, as the "Rev. Dr. Elbert W. "Eddie" Giles Memorial Highway" to the late great Dr. Giles who went to meet his heavenly father on February 5, 2019; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, that it does hereby welcome local and state officials, longtime colleagues, co-workers, pastors, friends, and family who are slated to attend a street dedication ceremony for the Rev. Dr. Elbert W. "Eddie" Giles Memorial Highway in honor of Dr. Giles' life and legacy to this community, city, parish, and state.

#### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF REMEMBRANCE ALLENE FIELDS**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission pauses with sadness and appreciation to reflect upon the passing of Mrs. Allene Durden Fields who is now at rest with her heavenly Father; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Fields made a tremendous impact on the lives of so many with her genuine love for the Town of Greenwood, strong faith in God and passion for helping her fellow man, particularly children and the needy ; and

WHEREAS, Faith in God was the source of Allene's humble confidence and satisfaction in helping others. She honored her family and her God with service throughout her life; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Fields was a compassionate spirit with the strength and conviction of a warrior who was ever loyal and protective of her fellow man. She was a person that puts the needs of others above her own, making her the epitome of a community leader should be; and

**WHEREAS**, Whether directly or indirectly, citizens of Caddo Parish and particularly those in Greenwood, LA had their lives improved by Fields' efforts and will do well to emulate her service to God, family, community, and their fellow man; and

**WHEREAS**, In recognition of her lasting impact, The Town of Greenwood, Greenwood Support Agency and Daddy D's Produce have joined forces to honor Mrs. Fields with an event that combines her love of Greenwood, children, and God by celebrating her memory with an Easter Egg Hunt at Greenwood Town Park which is free to all children, and also features a plate lunch sale to raise money for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby express its deepest sense of gratitude and celebrates the memory and impact of Mrs. Allene Fields, even as we grieve her loss, we celebrate the indelible impact that she had on our community and in the knowledge of the eternal rewards that is hers.

#### **ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

- Capital Area Finance Authority Presentation

Ms. Kristen Delahoussaye, CAFA, came before the Commission and presented a check for \$130,000. CAFA has helped 425 families buy a home with paying closing costs or assisting with down payments. She gave accolades to Ms. Lakeisha Russell who has been on the forefront to helping these families.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know where this money goes. Mrs. Barnett said that it goes into the General Fund, and some of this money has been set aside for the Wheelchair Ramp & Roof Repair Program.

#### **COMMUNIQES AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mrs. Gage-Watts announced that there will be a Health Fair on Saturday, April 9 at Logos In Light Christian Church on Jewella Avenue. The event is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

She also asked that Animal Services provide an update on the two complaints in her district. Mr. Samuel said that he will email the update to her.

- Mr. Young announced the Plant Swap will be held this weekend from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

- Mr. Jones thanked everyone who came out to the symposium that was held in his district.

He also commended Mr. Michael Walters for all that he does within the community. Currently, he is looking for ways to prevent crime in the community.

Mr. Jones said that illegal drag racing is continuing all over the Parish. He also mentioned that there is illegal gambling involved as well.

- Mr. Johnson announced that Cooper Road will be hosting their 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a parade beginning at 12:00 noon. Following the parade, there will be a party in the park.

He then talked about the NGO process. He said that each year, there is normally over \$1M in requests from NGOs. Prior to starting the allocation process, the Appropriations Committee asks Finance for the forecasts for the upcoming year. Once they have that forecast, they then look at the organizations and determine who gets funded at what amount and stay below the projected revenues. The reason for transferring from Oil & Gas to the Riverboat Fund is because Commissioners, who were not a part of that process, put ordinances on the agenda to fund different organizations. Mr. Johnson suggested if there is no emergency funding, then those requests should be pushed to the next. The Appropriations Committee works hard to stay within budget, he said.

Mr. Johnson also mentioned that all of the districts are in Caddo Parish, not just one district. He said that the NGOs provide functions in all areas of the parish, not just one district. Let's get out of this my, my, my and start doing we, we, we, he said.

- Mr. Burrell said that sometimes a Commissioner is not knowledgeable of the NGO process, which is why there are requests after the Budget has been adopted.

- Mr. Hopkins agreed that the NGO process should be reviewed. He suggested applying a scoring system to the NGOs. He also mentioned that some organizations, such as the Food Bank, should

be funded every year.

- Mr. Jackson said that serious conversations need to be had regarding resources and resource allocations. He further stated that the Parish has a resource problem, and even though the funding is replenished, it is currently diminishing. Mr. Jackson also suggested having conversations about rolling off some of the organizations who have been receiving funding for some time now. He said that it is his commitment to “get people started up and rolled out”. Mr. Jackson also pointed out that each ordinance that he has placed on the agenda this year has been budget neutral.

Mr. Jackson also wanted to be clear and, on the record, that he is not criticizing the decisions of the Appropriations Committee. He also said that during the budget adoption, there was not an opportunity to make amendments.

- 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.

### **PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES**

The President of the Commission opened the floor for anyone to speak in favor or against the following ordinances:

- *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 additional appropriation for Sewer District No. 7 and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6212 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 Community Healthcare Solutions and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6214 of 2022, an ordinance amending the 2022 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 2022 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 2022 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 2022 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 & 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*

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

the public hearings.

**ORDINANCES (for final passage)**

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *to englobo and adopt the following ordinances:*

- *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 additional appropriation for Sewer District No. 7 and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6212 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 Community Healthcare Solutions and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

Mr. Johnson said that these three ordinances did go through the American Rescue Plan Committee and were favorable.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if these are one-time asks. Mr. Atkins explained that Ordinance No. 6210 and Ordinance No. 6211 are one-time requests. He also said that the Ordinance No. 6212 regarding Community Healthcare Solutions is a one-year pilot program.

Mr. Jackson said that the language and description regarding Community Healthcare Solutions needs to be cleaned up to ensure compliance. He also suggested putting this organization in touch with Shreveport Police Department.

At this time, Mr. Johnson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

**ORDINANCE NO. 6210 OF 2022**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2022 BUDGET OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE AMERICAN RESUCE PLAN FUND TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR FIRE DISTRICT 4 AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) became law on March 11, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission appropriated \$12,721 in its 2022 budget for Fire District 4; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission would like to amend the 2022 American Rescue Plan Fund budget to provide an additional appropriation of \$60,000 for Fire District 4; 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 Economic Development Fund for the year 2022 is hereby amended as follows:

	Budget Increase (Decrease)
<b><u>American Rescue Plan Fund</u></b>	
Grant Programs – Other	
Fire District 4	\$60,000
Fund Balance	(\$60,000)

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.

**ORDINANCE NO. 6211 OF 2022**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

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

WHEREAS, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) became law on March 11, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Sewer District 7 has several upgrades needed in the District's infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission would like to amend the 2022 American Rescue Plan Fund budget to provide an appropriation of \$250,000 for Sewer District 7; 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 Economic Development Fund for the year 2022 is hereby amended as follows:

	Budget Increase (Decrease)
<b><u>American Rescue Plan Fund</u></b>	
Grant Programs – Other	
Sewer District 7	\$250,000
Fund Balance	(\$250,000)

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.

**ORDINANCE NO. 6212 OF 2022**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

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

WHEREAS, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) became law on March 11, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish Commission would like to appropriate \$150,000 for Community Healthcare Solutions; and

WHEREAS, Community Healthcare Solutions will use funds to develop a 24/7 crisis stabilization program; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend the 2022 budget for the American Rescue Plan Fund; 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 American Rescue Plan Fund for the year 2022 be amended as follows:

	<u>Budget Increase (Decrease)</u>
<b><u>American Rescue Plan Fund:</u></b>	
Expenditures:	
Federal Grant Expenditures	\$150,000

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. Young**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Ordinance No. 6214 of 2022, an ordinance amending the 2022 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* be adopted.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if this was a recurring request. Mr. Atkins said that the need is recurring, but whether the Commission funds it or not is at the Commission's discretion.

At this time, Mr. Young's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

### ORDINANCE NO. 6214 OF 2022

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

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

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission would like to appropriate \$7,500 in its 2022 budget for Basic Necessities; and

WHEREAS, Basic Necessities is the only designated diaper, period product and incontinence supply bank in North Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Basic Necessities provide these specific items at no cost to low-income clients; and

WHEREAS, over half of the clients live in Caddo Parish; 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 for the year 2022 is hereby amended as follows:

	<u>Budget Increase (Decrease)</u>
<b><u>Riverboat Fund</u></b>	
NGO Appropriations	
Basic Necessities	\$7,500
Fund Balance	(\$7,500)

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. Lazarus, *that Ordinance No. 6215 of 2022, an ordinance amending the 2022 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* be adopted.

Mr. Hopkins said that the Lady Bass Anglers will be coming back to Caddo Lake. An economic impact study was provided. The funds will be used for advertising.

Mr. Johnson suggested that these types of requests be sent to the Shreveport Bossier Sports Commission. Mr. Hopkins said that he did talk to Mr. Kelly Wells regarding this endeavor, and they are supposed to be supporting this event in some form, but he is not sure what type of support.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know who were the Commission members for the Sports Commission. Mr. Johnson said that he is along with Mr. Patrick Wesley.

Mr. Atkins mentioned that the NGO Committee has a strong look in the beginning to try and reduce the number of requests to a more manageable number. He also explained that the economic development process should have to have an economic impact study attached to the project. Mr. Jackson said that he is on the Economic Development Committee and is familiar with this process, but he would like to have a discussion regarding long-term funding.

At this time, Mr. Hopkins' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

**ORDINANCE NO. 6215 OF 2022**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

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

WHEREAS, the Lady Bass Anglers Association (LBAA) are a group of women who wish to band together to reach the shared dream of having a professional tournament trail; and

WHEREAS, the LBAA provides women with an opportunity to fish professionally and grow the sport of bass fishing for future generations of young ladies; and

WHEREAS, LBAA tour begins March 10 in Garland, Texas and with the second stop at Caddo Lake, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, LBAA is associated with Pond Hopper Nation which helps sponsor a kid fish that is open to the entire community; and

WHEREAS, each tournament averages 20-25 boats and 40-50 entries; and

WHEREAS it is necessary to amend the 2022 Economic Development Fund Budget to appropriate \$3,000 for LBAA; 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 Economic Development Fund for the year 2022 is hereby amended as follows:

	<u>Budget Increase (Decrease)</u>
<b><u>Economic Development Fund</u></b>	
NGO Appropriations	
LBAA	\$3,000

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. Young**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Ordinance No. 6216 of 2022, an ordinance amending the 2022 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* be postponed until the April 21, 2022 Regular Session.

Mr. Young feels that it will be appropriate for this ordinance be delayed due to lengthy discussion and questions that the Commissioners may still have with regards to WERLA. He also encouraged anyone who feels sympathetic to this cause to make a private donation.

Mr. Chavez said that this was not favorable out of committee. The Clerk of the Commission explained that it was recommended favorably from the Animal Services Committee, then it was not favorable in the Appropriations Committee. He also mentioned that it was advanced forward on the Work Session agenda.

**Substitute motion by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Young, *to do the following*:

- *Ordinance No. 6216 of 2022, an ordinance amending the 2022 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 be postponed until the April 21, 2022 Regular Session*
- *Ordinance No. 6217 of 2022, an ordinance amending the 2022 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 be adopted*
- *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 be adopted*
- *Ordinance No. 6219 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & 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 be postponed until the April 21, 2022 Regular Session*

Mr. Jackson said that there was a recommendation made through the Economic Development Committee regarding the Shreveport Bossier African American Chamber of Commerce. He said that delaying this ordinance would allow for questions and discussions with the full Commission body and the African American Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Johnson pointed out that the dollar amount is mentioned in the title of Ordinance No. 6219 of 2022, and if it is amended, the process funding this organization will need to start over.

**Friendly Amendment by Mrs. Gage-Watts** *to remove Ordinance No. 6218 of 2022 from the englobo.* Mr. Jackson accepted.

At this time, Mr. Jackson's substitute motion carried as amended, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that 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 be amended to become effective in 45 days and adopted as amended.*

Mrs. Gage-Watts explained that Sales & Use Tax needs 45 days to process this ordinance. She also said that women pay more for toys, clothes, body washes, sanitary items, etc., and men pay less.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know if this is practical to implement. Mrs. Erica Bryant explained that they've communicated with the Sales & Use Tax office, who indicated that they need 45 days to notify the vendors.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if this will be permanent. Mrs. Gage-Watts said that there isn't an expiration date attached to this ordinance. Mr. Jackson supports this ordinance and agreed that there is a real need in this community.

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

**ORDINANCE NO. 6218 OF 2022**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REENACT SECTION 50-26 OF THE CADDO PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATIVE TO EXEMPTIONS AND EXCLUSIONS FROM SALES AND USE TAXES IN ORDER TO EXEMPT DIAPERS AND FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS FOR INDIVIDUAL AND PERSONAL USE AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo is committed to protecting the ability of local governments to make decisions about local level taxation on products, especially those that should be considered necessities; and

WHEREAS, diapers and feminine hygiene products are essential and affect the health and well-being of certain segments of the population; and

WHEREAS, access to diapers and menstrual products is a matter of dignity and equity and further is a natural biological process that affects humans during their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, women end up spending an estimated \$150 million plus a year on the sales tax associated with feminine hygiene products; and

WHEREAS, those who are unable to afford feminine products are at risk of stigmatization, infection and even missed days of school and work; and

WHEREAS, it is desired to make diapers and feminine hygiene products more affordable and available to families in need; and

WHEREAS, for households struggling to pay for these essentials added sales tax can be a hardship; and

WHEREAS, individuals experiencing housing instability can be further at risk due to issues surrounding access to diapers and menstrual products due to affordability or availability at all shelters; and

WHEREAS, taxing feminine products is an economic burden which results in many citizens being forced to make the choice between buying food or feminine products or diapers; and WHEREAS, Louisiana Revised Statute 47:337.10.2 became effective on August 1, 2020 and provides in pertinent part that any political subdivision may by ordinance or resolution exempt purchases for feminine hygiene products, diapers or both for individual personal use from all or part of the sales and use tax levied by the political subdivision; and

WHEREAS the State of Louisiana will exempt these items from the 4.45% state sales tax starting July 1, 2022.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Caddo Parish Commission, in due, regular and legal session convened, that Section 50-26 of the Caddo Parish Code of Ordinances, relative to exemptions and exclusions from sales and use taxes, is hereby amended and reenacted as follows:

**Sec. 50-26. - Exclusions and exemptions.**

The sales and use tax shall not apply to purchases of feminine hygiene products, diapers or both for individual personal use from all or part of the sales and use tax levied by this section.

For the purposes of this Section, the words used herein shall have the meanings set forth in La. R.S. 47:337.10.2. This exception shall remain effective so long as authorized by La. R.S. 47:337.10.2 or by any other applicable provisions of state law.

The governing authority adopts none of the other optional exclusions or exemptions allowed by state sales and use tax law, nor does the governing authority adopt any exclusions or exemptions authorized by legislation enacted under article VI, section 29(D)(1), of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974. Included within the base of the tax is every transaction, whether sales, use, lease or rental, consumption, storage or service, with no exclusions or exemptions except for those enumerated in this section or mandated upon political subdivisions by the constitution or statutes of the state, including the Act. Notwithstanding the foregoing, charges for the furnishing of repairs to tangible personal property may be excluded from the sales of services when the repaired property is delivered to the customer in another state either by common carrier or the repair dealer's own vehicle; however, as to aircraft, delivery may be by the

best available means.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this Ordinance shall become effective forty-five (45) days from the date of its adoption.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Commission Clerk shall provide a certified copy of this ordinance to the Caddo-Shreveport Sales and Use Tax Commission immediately after its final passage by the Caddo Parish Commission.

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 of this ordinance 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 all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

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 all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

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

- *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*
- *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*
- *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*

#### **WORK SESSION MINUTES**

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that the Work Session Minutes from April 4, 2022 be ratified. Motion carried.*

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *that the appointment of Billy Woods to the Sewerage District No. 7 Board to fill the unexpired term of Kerry Lyles (term to expire December 4, 2022) be adopted. Motion carried,* as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones,

Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

### COMMUNIQUES AND REPORTS

- Mr. Epperson read the following letter into the record:

Dear sirs and madams, my family lives at 2950 Jolly Napier Road, Shreveport, LA, 71119. For the past two years, we have had to contend with Pine Wave Drilling in completing a well just over our fence. During the drilling, Pine Wave refused to install a sound barrier during the drill operation. And only after I contacted our Parish Maintenance did they install a sound wall for the frack operation. Now, there are new drill pads stacked at the edge of Jolly Napier and the present drilling pads. We have many residents adjacent to this area, meaning within 300 feet. Someone has to do something to help us in this matter. During this operation in 2019 and 2020, Pine Wave has had muddy water drained into both of my ponds and still running into the ponds. All trees and vegetation removed. There was supposed to be a ten foot buffer, bright light shining into our windows, loud truck noises 24/7, and now water trucks shining lights toward our houses and speeding in and out of the location. It does absolutely no good to contact any local people without problems. They simply say to contact whoever, which means nothing will be done. If they start cleaning the proposed new pad, something will have to be done before operations even start. Thank you for your consideration. Roy Maulin, 318-453-8644. And he copied this to [kevin.broussard@la.gov](mailto:kevin.broussard@la.gov), who is the Representative from the LA Office of Conservation under Richard leyoub. Thank you.

- Mr. Jackson requested that Administration provide a list of projects for the American Rescue Plan funds.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

  
Michelle Nations  
Assistant Commission Clerk

  
John E. Atkins  
President