

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 18TH 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, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). ABSENT: Commissioner Burrell (1).

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS

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

Thank you, Mr. President, Commissioners. Again, it is a pleasure to be before you today. I am not going to be in town on Thursday. So, I wanted to come talk to you today. But I want to thank Commissioner Jones for nominating me for serving on the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee. I know the committee has already begun its work, but I'm excited to join them if you so choose in that work. For those of you who may not know, I am a Certified Juvenile Treatment Specialist. So, there are a number of things through your resolution that you've asked a committee to do. One of them is to look at therapeutic solutions. So, as a Juvenile Treatment Specialist certified by the National Association of Forensic Counselors, I am perfectly aware of what needs to happen in those areas. For those of you who may not know, April of last year Mayor Perkins adopted and accepted the My Brother's Keeper Initiative, and I have the opportunity to lead that effort along with the Community Foundation and making sure that our folks, our young people, have access to different opportunities. And so, I'll actually be in San Antonio on Thursday visiting their My Brother's Keeper program to hopefully bring back some of those ideas to Shreveport. And as you know Mayor Perkins has chosen three initiatives: one, making sure our youth are ready for school, that they have access to second chances and that we reduce youth violence there, and also preparing our kids for kindergarten. And so, I'm excited to do that as well. It is a great opportunity in any time you've called me, I've enjoyed serving, and would appreciate your support to serve on that committee.

James Robinson on behalf of Edward W. Robinson came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Edward W. Robinson, 6401 Bane Boulevard. He's a 93-year-old veteran. This is a story I'm going to tell you. Try to get it in three minutes. He decided to do some house cleaning around his house. So, his family members, which was myself and my brothers, decided to go by and help him. So, we've been doing this for about the last month. We loaded up a trailer with trash, a few dressers, and a couple mattresses and proceeded to go to the compactor site. We went to the compactor site at Spring Ridge first and the dumpster was full. The compactor attendant said 'hey, do you all mind to go to the co-op in Keithville? They got two dumpsters down there and they're probably empty.' So, we said, 'No, we'll drive down there.' So, we drove down there. Before we ever got in the gate good the attendant came to the truck and said, 'I don't think you all can dump that trailer here.' I said, 'why?' She said, well, how big is the trailer? I said, well is there a limit? She said, yeah, 12 foot. I said, well there's about 12 foot on the trailer. She said, that's too much. I said, well what is too much? She said, well that's too much on the trailer to dump here. I said, well the attendant at Spring Ridge said that we can come here and dump. She said, well he doesn't run this site. I said, okay. So, we left there and we went to the Woolworth Road land fill site on the Woolworth Road, and there's a big sign right when you come in the scale that says, Caddo Parish residents no charge with driver's license. So, we produced a driver's license and were told that you can't dump the trailer there, because there's too much on it. I said, well what is your limit at the landfill? I mean it's a dump. She said, well if you had one tv or one or two bags of trash or whatever we might could let you dump, but we have to charge you. I said, ma'am it says right there on the sign Caddo Parish residents with driver's license no charge. She said, well yeah, but you got too much; and my dad said, well how much is too much to pay? And I said, dad it's not the deal. I said, read the sign. He read the sign and he said, yeah, you're right. We shouldn't be paying anything to dump. So, I said, okay. We talked to the superintendent on site. She said, well that's the regulations. You can't dump unless you pay. So, we left. Okay? Come to find out I have a brother that works for the City of Shreveport, called the Solid Waste Superintendent and the next week we took that same trailer in the landfill and dumped it for free. That's the end of that. Now for my deal.

James Robinson came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

My name is James Robinson, 10398 Leech Lane, Shreveport, LA. I have a Shreveport address, but it's in Keithville. Thank you. For you all, I know a few of you all, for you all that don't know me I've been in the waste business for 40 years. I worked up here at the Caddo Parish Commission as a consultant, liaison whatever you want to call it, for many of those years. In the beginning, the compactor sights that we're talking about, that I'm talking about, okay? Were virtually non-existent, because of funding issues or whatever. Years ago, Parish went out to the community along with myself, solicited sales tax for funding for these sites. These sites were set up for the Parish residents to have somewhere

to take their waste from their house. That's what they were set up to do. They grew overtime to what I think there's 17 sites now. My understanding there's an ordinance that regulates what goes on in the land, goes in the compactor sites. I haven't seen that. I don't know what that says. There's an ordinance. There's also something, a signage, on the facility that says no trailer over 12 foot. Well, if you bring a 16-foot trailer in there and it's half full. Is that a 16 foot trailer or an 8-foot trailer? You know, my deal is there's so many uncertainties to the operators that are left on site to decide whose, what, when and where, and I think it would be nice if the Parish came back to a committee, out in the Parish, to get input to see what we can do better for the compactor sites. Thank you, sir.

VISITORS

- Lynn Stevens, Goodwill Industries
Second Chance Month Presentation

Ms. Stevens came before the Commission and talked about the re-entry program called Exit 318, which helps to reduce recidivism within Caddo Parish. She explained that the Department of Corrections recently renewed its contract. Ms. Stevens also said that Caddo Parish is one of the worst parishes in the State for recidivism. Exit 318 has already served 224 ex-offenders in Caddo Parish since its inception. She also explained that only 5% recidivated after completing their program. Case management, employment, and housing are the three areas that they've focused on when combatting recidivism.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- Curtis Joseph—Insulin Litigation

Attorney Joseph came before the Commission and introduced the other members of the firm, Estin Hood, William Bradford, and Chris Hollins. They would like the opportunity to represent the Parish and possibly recoup some monetary damages stemming from an ongoing insulin price fixing scheme.

Attorney Hollins explained that diabetes is an epidemic in the United States, and hundreds of billions of dollars are spent each year on treating people with diabetes. Insulin helps manage diabetes and saves lives. Manufacturers of insulin and pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) have been price fixing and extorting those who need these lifesaving drugs. He said that people are essentially dying because they cannot afford the costs of insulin or other diabetic related medications. PBMs have been engaged in an active conspiracy to raise the price of insulin and pass those costs along in order to pad their own pockets. Attorney Hollins said that there is no market reason for price increases. There has not been an increase in creating the drug.

Attorney Hollins said that it is their hope to research this further and seek potential claims on the Parish's behalf. They believe that the claims will be between \$10M-\$20M.

Attorney Bradford mentioned that this is based on contingency, and there are no upfront costs to the Parish.

Attorney Hood said that this is not speculative, and it has gone before the United States Senate. He also mentioned that there might be a subcommittee to answer additional questions.

Mr. Hopkins said that this is parallel to the opioid suit that is happening right now in Louisiana. Attorney Bradford agreed and said that it is the same premise.

Dr. Wilson pointed out that the Parish has not been approached by anyone else.

Mr. Young wanted to know the contingency fee for this endeavor. Attorney Joseph said that it will be 40%.

Mr. Jackson asked if there is a total on how much the Parish spends on insulin each year at CCC. Attorney Frazier said that they would need to research it further.

- U.S. Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Mrs. Barnett said that they have expended over \$42M in ERAP funding. They are currently in conversations with the State and U.S. Treasury to release ERAP2 allocations. She said that there is potentially more funding coming, but is not sure just yet.

Mr. Jackson asked that Administration provide the total number of people served; how many have applied, but have not been able to receive support; how many people were capped out; etc.

Mrs. Barnett also explained that the majority of the applications being paid out now are new applicants. She said that they had to stop the application process in January.

- Juvenile Detention

Dr. Wilson said that there are twenty-six children in the detention center; six of which belong to OJJ and two runaways from the Rutherford House. There are also nine children in CCC. Dr. Wilson hopes these numbers will change either today or tomorrow.

Mr. Andrew Randall, Assistant Director for Juvenile Services, explained that the two runaways are from Natchitoches and Alexandria; those children will be moved back to their respective parishes. He also said that OJJ is making arrangements for those children who are in their custody. Mr. Randall also mentioned that court will be held tomorrow, so some of the incarcerated children may be leaving the detention center.

Mrs. Gage-Watts wanted to know if there was a compliance issue with having twenty-six children in the detention center. Mr. Randall said that the center is currently at capacity. He also explained that there are an additional two pods for mental health conditions to allow for two additional children. Technically, we can have up to twenty-six, Mr. Randall said.

Dr. Wilson wanted to know when the numbers will be back down to normal levels. Mr. Randall said that they should be there by this afternoon.

- March 2022 Financial Report

Dr. Wilson provided copies of the March 2022 Financial Reports at everyone's stations.

- Commissioners' requests

Mr. Epperson asked that the monitors in the Chambers be replaced. Mr. Jackson also requested that the presentations be available at the Commissioners' stations, as well as the projector screens.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *that Ordinance No. 6226 of 2022, an ordinance to authorize the Administrator to execute a pipeline servitude and right-of-way agreement with Magnolia Midstream Gas Services, LLC, regarding a pipeline through and under Parish property located in Sections 31 and 32, Township 17 North, Range 15 West, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Substitute motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Young, *to englobe and move the following items to Thursday's agenda for introduction:*

- *Ordinance No. 6226 of 2022, an ordinance to authorize the Administrator to execute a pipeline servitude and right-of-way agreement with Magnolia Midstream Gas Services, LLC, regarding a pipeline through and under Parish property located in Sections 31 and 32, Township 17 North, Range 15 West, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6227 of 2022, an ordinance to deem property surplus and authorize the sale of surplus property owned by the Parish of Caddo and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6228 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues for the American Rescue Plan Fund to provide an appropriation for North Louisiana Crime Lab in Caddo Parish and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

Mr. Jackson said that he will make a motion to reduce \$40,000 for the Vaccination Coordination program and transfer it to the Crime Lab.

Mrs. Gage-Watts asked that she be a sponsor for Ordinance No. 6228 of 2022.

Mr. Hopkins wanted to what is included in green initiatives. Dr. Wilson said that it was discussed in the American Rescue Plan Committee.

At this time, Mr. Jackson's substitute motion carried, Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Burrell (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *that Resolution No. 26 of 2022, a resolution urging and requesting the Louisiana Legislature to allow local planning and zoning issues to be resolved by local governing entities and opposing legislation to the contrary and otherwise providing*

with respect thereto be moved to the May 5, 2022 Regular Session for consideration.

Mr. Johnson said that some of the Commissioners will be out on Thursday, so postponing it would allow more dialogue and vetting on this legislation.

Mr. Chavez asked for clarification on this legislation. Attorney Frazier explained that this bill would put the Commission in a situation where they would have to call an election and get the majority vote of the citizens prior to any zoning changes in the unincorporated areas of the Parish. She said that this bill circumvents what's in the Constitution. Currently, what it is now, is that the Commission receives its recommendations from the planning and zoning board; from there, it chooses whether or not to enact an ordinance with public hearings.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know how the Constitution is read in the other sixty parishes. Attorney Frazier explained that this is the State Constitution. If any parish wants to zone, they are allowed to zone subject to a comprehensive scheme. The local government is the zoning authority, unless somebody challenges the local government via lawsuit.

Mr. Hopkins pointed out that there is no fiscal note attached to this bill. He also suggested hearing from the realtors and developers. Mr. Hopkins said that he is not ready to vote on this resolution.

Mr. Epperson said that he is against this bill.

Mr. Taliaferro wanted to know how this will affect the parishes who do not have a home rule charter. Attorney Frazier said that there are no exceptions, so this bill would affect them the same. She also said that if the Parish decides to fight this bill via a lawsuit, it would claim that this bill would impair its legislative ability to enforce its Home Rule Charter. She said that it would be better to stop it here, than if it were to pass.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if this is a local bill or a constitutional amendment. Attorney Frazier said that it is not a constitutional amendment, but it is an amendment to the zoning statutes that are in the state statutes. She also said that it is not a local bill.

Mr. Jackson then wanted to know if this bill applies to cities. Attorney Frazier said that cities are incorporated as a matter of definition, and this bill deals with new zoning in unincorporated areas of the Parish. Mr. Jackson asked if there was zoning in North Caddo Parish. Attorney Frazier explained that there is no zoning, but they are waiting to be resolved and implement a planning structure. She said that there could be some level of zoning in those unincorporated areas. She further explained that this bill would put the Parish in a position to call an election anytime zoning was established or changed in the unincorporated areas of the Parish. She also said that this would be a parish-wide election. Mr. Jackson pointed out that would allow for citizens inside the city limits to vote on those zoning changes.

Mr. Johnson believes that this house bill is "garbage". He said that this handcuffs the parishes and requires an election before changing the zoning. Mr. Johnson also mentioned that this would hamper economic development, because economic development opportunities are fast paced, and elections are not. He also said that elections cost about \$200,000.

Dr. Wilson said that this bill is overreaching from the State, and "tells Commissioners how to do their jobs". He said that this bill will not timely, will deter economic development, and is not practical.

At this time, Mr. Johnson's motion carried, Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (10). NAYS: Commissioner Hopkins (1). ABSENT: Commissioner Burrell (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez *that the following items be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration:*

- *Special Resolution of Recognition & Appreciation for Robert J. Wright*
- *Resolution of Recognition & Appreciation for Pastor Calvin Austin III*
- *Special Resolution of Appreciation & Recognition for Louisiana 4A Coach of the Year, Huntington's Mack Jones*
- *the reappointments of Rickey Hall and Herbert Rogers, Jr. to the North Shreveport Industrial Park Board (terms to expire April 30, 2027)*
- *Appointment of RJ Johnson to the Caddo Parish Juvenile Justice Citizens' Advisory Committee be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration.*

Mr. Johnson asked to be added to the Special Resolution for Pastor Calvin Austin, Special Resolution for Mack Jones, and Special Resolution for Zeta Phi Beta.

Mr. Chavez asked that Mr. Taliaferro be added to Special Resolution for Robert J. Wright.

Mrs. Gage-Watts asked to be added as a co-sponsor to Special Resolution for Pastor Calvin Austin and Special Resolution for Mack Jones.

Mr. Taliaferro asked to be added as a co-sponsor to Special Resolution for Pastor Calvin Austin.

Mr. Epperson wanted to know if there was signature space for all twelve Commissioners for the special resolutions.

At this time, Mr. Jackson's motion carried, Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (10). NAYS: Commissioner Hopkins (1). ABSENT: Commissioner Burrell (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Young, *that Special Resolution of Recognition & Appreciation for Zeta Phi Beta on the Occasion of 60th Anniversary* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration.

Zeta Phi Beta thanked the Commission for honoring them today. She said that since its inception 102 years ago, the sorority has been standing on the principles of scholarship, service, sisterhood, and womanhood.

Mr. Jackson thanked the sorority sisters for their hard work within in the community and moving the community forward.

Mrs. Gage-Watts congratulated and commended the sorority for everything they have done for the citizens of this community.

Mr. Johnson also commended the sorority for their thankless work that they have done to improve Caddo Parish. He thanked them one again.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *that the recommendations of the Alcohol Beverage Committee for selling to underage persons during its April 7, 2022 meeting* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration:

Express Mart Valero	7965 Old Mooringsport	District 1	1 st Citation	\$250.00
Stonewall Bev. Co.	12800 Mansfield Road	District 11	2 nd Citation	\$500.00
Triple J Travel Plaza	8311 Springridge	District 11	1 st Citation	\$250.00
Triple J Travel Plaza	8311 Springridge	District 11	2 nd Citation	\$500.00

At this time, Mr. Johnson's motion carried, Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Burrell (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *to authorize the Parish Administrator to review the current NGO application process with local professional grant making organizations and make recommendations to the Commission in 30 days* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration.

Mr. Jackson said that this action item does not predict any outcome; it only directs the Administrator to reach out to professionals to review the current NGO process.

Mr. Hopkins requested that this information, along with the Auditor's information, be provided to the Appropriations Committee for further discussion.

Mr. Johnson said that he will be voting no on this action item. He explained that the Riverboat Fund provides dollars for NGOs. He does not agree with "dropping organizations because they've been on too long". Mr. Johnson also mentioned that this follows the same process as the economic development, but it is a different pot of money. He also pointed out that there was an audit conducted on the NGO process, but those recommendations were not adopted.

Mr. Taliaferro wanted to know if this would be done in-house. Dr. Wilson said that it will, and they will review notes from the past, as well as the recommendations from the auditors.

Mr. Atkins will be supporting this proposal to ensure the Parish is operating on best practices.

Mr. Chavez suggested a CPA review the grant writing process.

Mr. Jackson said that the grant process organizations he was contemplating were the Community Foundation, United Way, etc. Those organizations would be reviewing the process and make recommendations. He also does not believe that this will cost the Parish anything. Mr. Jackson said that this review of the process may not produce any findings.

At this time, Mr. Jackson's motion carried, Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Hopkins, Jackson, Jones, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (8). NAYS: Commissioners Epperson, Gage-Watts, and Johnson (3). ABSENT: Commissioner Burrell (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to authorize the Commission to select two representatives to participate in the Sequential Intercept Mapping Workshop* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration.

The Clerk of the Commission explained that May 16th and 17th, The LSU Health Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine is hosting a Sequential Intercept Mapping workshop to determine an action plan to improve crisis response system and address childhood trauma, chronic physical and mental health conditions, demand for emergency response, increased demand for mental health services, increased demand for law enforcement services and the overall public health. Organizers recognize the enormous role that local governments have in addressing this and would like to invite the Caddo Parish Commission to select two representatives to participate in this two-day workshop.

Mr. Jackson said that he is currently participating in this process. He suggested appointing Mr. Clay Walker if there are not enough Commissioners to fill the seats.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *to authorize the Administration to enter in a contract with the African American Chamber of Commerce to administer the Small Business Economic Recovery Program* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration.

Mr. Jackson said that this would designate the African American Chamber of Commerce to administer the Small Business Economic Recovery Program. He also said that this did pass favorably through the Economic Development Committee.

At this time, Mr. Jackson's motion carried, Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (8). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Burrell (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

COMMUNIQES AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Jackson talked about the funding for the Crime Lab. He said that the Commission noticed the deficits over the years, and then there was a request needing funding to fill that gap. Mr. Jackson wanted to know if they anticipate this being an annual request. Mr. Joseph Jones, Assistant Director of the NWLA Crime Lab, said that there has been a decline in their primary source of revenue since 2017. Court costs have been decreasing. He further explained that if they continued to decline, they might have to come back again and ask for additional funds to operate. Mr. Atkins said that this was discussed in detail during a committee meeting.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know if the decline of court costs is directly related to COVID. Mr. Jones explained that COVID did have a tremendous impact on their revenue stream, but it has been declining since 2017. The Clerk of the Commission said that this was discussed at length during a committee meeting, and those minutes will be shared.

CONSENT AGENDA

- *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. 6216 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & 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. 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*

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 5:22 p.m.


Assistant Commission Clerk