

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION  
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 6th DAY OF JUNE, 2022

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Work Session, on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., in the Government Chambers, with Mr. Atkins, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Taliaferro, and Young (11). ABSENT: Commissioner Lazarus (1).

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

**AGENDA ADDITIONS**

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that the agenda be expanded and Ordinance No. 6237 of 2022, an ordinance regarding an exchanging of roadways with the Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development in connection with extending LA 3276 to LA 1, to authorize the exchange of certain portions of Parish roads in return for certain portions of State highways; to authorize the Parish Administrator to execute agreements as necessary to accomplish that exchange, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* added under New Business.

The President of the Commission opened the floor for anyone to speak in favor or against the agenda addition. There being no one to speak for or against the agenda addition, the President closed the public hearing.

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).

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that the agenda be expanded and Special Resolution recognizing C.A.R.E. Inc for their Juneteenth Celebration* be added under New Business.

The President of the Commission opened the floor for anyone to speak in favor or against the agenda addition. There being no one to speak for or against the agenda addition, the President closed the public hearing.

At this time, Mr. Jones' 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**

Jon Glover came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good evening. I'm back and grateful. Jon Glover 9100 Walker road apartment 121 Shreveport 71120. Excuse me, 18. Now, I know that there's going to be probably more than likely discussion with regards to item 11.3. But because I don't know what that conversation will be, I will pose my questions now, as it relates to that particular item. If that is okay. Okay. My first question, is based on what this resolution says, I need to know what there's data to support asking such an ask from the DA? Two, is there a revised statute that gives the Commission authority to ask such a question of the DA? And three, what is it that the that the Commission thinks, if they have the authority to ask such a question of the DA, they're going to profit and not so much in money, but in the instance of why we would want plea bargains and whatever else that may be related to gun-let's say weapon possession and when a person is arrested? I just need to understand the fullness of why are we asking this without having heard what you all may develop as you began to talk about this item? Thank you.

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

Thank you, Mr. President. Charles Johnson, 202 North Thomas, Suite 9 , Shreveport, Louisiana 71107. Greetings to all of you, the Commissioners. I rise today to speak to you about an item that I believe passed out of committee today. The last time I was here I presented to you information about our nonprofit, here in the City of Shreveport and the Parish of Caddo and it is Ceejay Cares and also Ceejay Ministries. And I want to say to all of you, I think I counted about nine of you that I actually know here that many of you know me and know the work that I do with the community. And I pray that once this agenda item reaches the full body, that you would pass it and support the work that we do, and I appreciate your time. And thank you Commissioner Johnson, for helping me with this. Thank you all.

Rudolph Glass came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good afternoon, Rudolph Glass 1735 Arlington, 71103. I have a question. I was wondering, are you all going to have any meetings with the citizens to discuss the redistricting proposal that you all have? What I was wondering, was you have other citizens in different areas of town. And I was just wondering if you were going to have anything, like in different areas to let the citizens know exactly what

was going on.

Billy Anderson came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

My name is Billy Anderson. My address is 1753 Irving Place, and I'm here with the Juneteenth Celebration Coalition. So, this year we decided to collectively all work together to produce a Juneteenth celebrates in the City of Shreveport. I am on the chair for the parade. Sorry, I'm the chair for the parade and I was going to tell you guys a little bit about that today. So on Friday, June 17th, the parade will start at four o'clock, and we'll go into 530 and we'll end in a kickoff Dream Team Celebration with let the Good Times Roll. We have about 250 participants in the parade and we hope it'll be a great weekend for Shreveport and really put us on the map as a Juneteenth Celebration.

Pam Atchison came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Hi, good afternoon, Mr. President and Commissioners. Great to see you again. Pam Atchinson 801 Crockett Street, Shreveport Regional Arts Council 71101. And there are several of us today to talk to you about what Billy just said. We are hoping to come together as a coalition of the City of Shreveport, the Shreveport Regional Arts Council, hopefully The Parish Of Caddo to present this year, the largest educational, entertaining and economically impactful Juneteenth Celebration weekend, which will run June 17th through June 19th. And the elements of it you're going to hear each person speak in a moment, but generally, we open up with the Great North Louisiana Juneteenth coalition parade on Friday afternoon at 4pm. It's hot. It'll be hot, but there'll be plenty of water and fun and entertainment and beads and candy and fun things to collect and catch from Juneteenth. Then we'll move right into the Festival Plaza with Let The Good Times Roll Festival which of course, I think we all know historically has been the largest Juneteenth Celebration in our nation, the largest festival and now we're combining with several other things to make the largest Juneteenth weekend in the nation. After we get into Festival Plaza and have an opening celebration, we'll hear Zydeco music that night. And the next morning we'll start off very early, with a health fair, with a farmer's market, with The Let The Good Times Roll Run and then we move into The Lot where Artish will take place. The incredible arts market that features African American artists there is more than 20 of them and just a minute Dray and Dunn will tell you all about that. And then we're gonna go forward to create our City's first Juneteenth mural and feature Poetic X again, in bringing forward his project of his first poem for Caddo Parish. Associated with that mural that Kedavion Baylor is creating for us, and that takes us through Saturday afternoon when we go straight back into the festival at four o'clock for great music and entertainment until midnight. And there's no time for you to take a nap. So, you've got to do it all. And then on Sunday after church around four in the afternoon, we will wake up to the great sounds of the rhythms of the Let The Good Times Roll Festival that will take us out until midnight. We are already putting banners up throughout downtown that the City of Shreveport is created to let everyone know that Juneteenth is a celebration for all of us, and that we all have benefited from what took place in Galveston in 1865. We want all people of Shreveport, Bossier and the world to know that here, in Shreveport-Caddo Parish, It's an important date. We're thankful the nation has finally made it a national holiday and we helped to make it one of the summer's biggest, best events ever. So, we're asking the Parish to join us in the festive weekend of commemoration, celebration and contemplation. Thank you very much.

Fred Moss IV came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Greeting. Fred Moss 3308 Sandra Drive Shreveport, La. Vencil Holmes, 7999 Kimberly Road Greenwood, La. Drayden Dunn 2053 Francis drive Shreveport, Louisiana. Well, as you as you all know, Juneteenth weekend we're making friends have been celebrating for like 35 years now. It's very historic for the City of Shreveport that Juneteenth is a national holiday now. So, I stand here before you, my forefathers not calling my forefathers, Willie JC Creighton, Joseph Odom, and Roy Lester, these guys had a vision 35 years ago, along with Hilry Huckabee, that we be a part of this celebration. Started out just the Black Arts Festival at first, and then it came to us as the Let The Good Times Roll Festival. We took it over. And I know these guys are now, they're deceased, but I know they're turning over their graves right now, because this is a national holiday. And we've been stressing this for 35 years. We've been doing it for 35 years and this is one of the biggest Juneteenth activities in the United States of America. So, along with the help of the City of Shreveport and the Parish. We're going to bring you something that's going to be totally different. There's going to be experience. The festival, what we strive on each year, is to bring entertainment into Shreveport that you never, that you don't get everywhere else. You know, we have your blues acts, every other weekend in Shreveport. You have these different things, but we try to bring in artists that the folks want to see and that don't normally come to Shreveport. So, on Saturday night, we have SWV that's going to be headlining. That's our headline act you all, and they're going to bring it. On Saturday, we have Slick Rick, and what's the young lady's name? Avery Sunshine. And on Friday, we have Chris Ardoin and J One. So, the weekend is going to be awesome and with the help of you guys, thank you. And the help of Shreveport, and everybody, Pam and everybody, all of us getting together to do this thing. It's kind of almost want to cry a little bit, but it's an awesome time in Shreveport and I just want to thank you commissioners for helping us with this. Vencil, this is the chairman of Let The Good Times Roll Festival.

Vencil Holmes came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Thank you. I just again, I just want to reiterate Fred said, I'm just opportunities to have this moment. We just want to thank the City and the Parish for what you're doing to continue to support us and continue to support the festival and every endeavor that we do. Not just the festival, but other activities we do with our young program, our Lamplighter program. So we just want to again, say thank you, and we honored to be able to host this event. And I can't wait to see each and every one of you guys down there this weekend. Not this weekend, but the weekend of the 15th, 17th, and 18th. So again, thank you, and we

look forward to seeing you guys.

Drayden Dunn came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good deal. Good afternoon. Thank you for having us. Thank you, President, the Commission. Really honored to be here. It really thankful for the partnership that you guys are contemplating. I'm pretty sure you guys are gonna join in with the City, with the coalition. My name is Drayden Dunn, founder and Vision Media Marketing, founder of artists at Black Art Show, which is a black art show that I started last year. It was the inaugural one at The Lot downtown on Crockett Street. And the reason we started it because I wanted to create a space for visual artists, Black visual artists. And of course, we were still dealing with the pandemic. And it was really hard for artists full time to make money and monetize. You know, they was inside. You know, everyone else was inside. It was hard to touch people, to do things, and a lot of artists actually took that opportunity to create a lot of work. And they needed the opportunity to really sell and showcase their art. And that's kind of how it was born. Falling on Juneteenth was just the best time to do it. We was very successful last year and we're looking to do our second annual installation this year. I want to thank Commissioner Jackson just for helping and partnering. We're going to have the fireworks show. We're going to have about 20 Black visual artists, about 20 Black performing artists, eight food vendors. We're going to be installing the mural with KaDavien Baylor and some other black artists around the city. It's really going to be something special. And I just appreciate Pam, Billy, Michael Lafitte, Fred behind me. What we have right now is what you see with the power of collaboration. And that's what's missing in our city and our Parish and our state and our nation, at times. So, when you get a lot of people at a table, it's kind of hard to get some stuff going. But it's been a pleasant experience, and we appreciate you. What about some for you today. There's some art from a black artist named Jessica Johnson. This is a custom so y'all can have it. I know you'd like to Commission Epperson. I know you like it Commissioner Watts, because it got Pines Road on it. It also has some other businesses Louisiana Daiquiri, which is a black owned business, Envision My Business, and then some stuff. This is for the culture, like some Southern Maid Donuts and some Southern Classic Chicken. Come out and check out some cool art you all. We'll love to have you. Thank you.

### **VISITORS**

- Cedric Floyd to provide update on redistricting

Mr. Floyd thanked the Commission for allowing Datacenter LLC the opportunity to redistrict the Caddo Parish Commission districts based on the 2020 Census. He said that the first step to redistricting is to show the impact of the 2020 Census on the current districts. Mr. Floyd provided a handout to the Commissioners regarding the differences in population from the 2010 Census to the 2020 Census. He explained to calculate the deviation is to subtract the smallest district from the largest district, then you divide that number into the ideal district size. He further explained that the ideal district size is the total population divided by the number of seats.

Mr. Floyd also provided the criteria for redistricting:

1. Population equality in each district—10% deviation in the plan.
2. Compliance with the Voting Rights Act.
3. Each district shall be compact as possible.
4. Each district shall be contiguous.
5. Incumbency shall be considered.
6. Consideration shall be given to natural, geographical, and political boundaries.
7. Consideration shall be given to keep intact communities with established tiers of common interests and association, whether historical, racial, economic, ethnic, religious, or other.
8. A new apportionment plan must contain whole precincts. As the governing authority, the Commission can create precincts.
9. Consistent with the Home Rule Charter, the Redistricting Plan must be adopted by December 31, 2022.

Mr. Floyd provided Plan A regarding proposed district lines. He went over the proposed changes in each district. District 1, no changes. District 2, add Precinct 45 and remove Precinct 39. District 3, add part of Precinct 32 and Precinct 39. District 4, add Precinct 10 and part of Precinct 22, then remove part of Precinct 24. District 5, add Precincts 2, 3, 43, and 55, then remove part of Precinct 32 and Precinct 45. District 6, add part of Precinct 24, Precinct 50, and part of Precinct 68. District 7, add Precincts 63, 88, and 89, then remove Precincts 2, 3, 43, and 55. District 8, add Precincts 72, 76, and 112, then remove Precincts 10, 50, 102, and parts of Precincts 22 and 68. District 9, add Precinct 102, then remove Precincts 72, 76, 112, and 126. District 10, remove Precinct 92. District 11, add Precincts 92 and 126, and part of Precinct 163, then remove Precincts 63, 88, and 89. District 12, remove part of Precinct 163.

Mr. Floyd said that the plan is proposed, and he would like the public to view it for the next month or so. He is scheduling a community engagement meeting on Wednesday, July 27 and Thursday, July 28 in the Chambers. He thanked Administration for providing the information on the Caddo Parish website.

Mr. Atkins requested some type of label be added to the proposed plan to implicate that this is only a draft copy of the plan. Dr. Wilson said that this is the beginning of the process, and Mr. Floyd put forth the "best model plan". He also suggested that any Commissioner who wants to change the plan to meet with Mr. Floyd regarding those changes.

Mr. Burrell agreed that this is a work in progress, and this proposed plan is based on the criteria set by the Justice Department. Mr. Hopkins agreed with Mr. Burrell and Mr. Atkins. Mr. Hopkins also said that the Commissioners could come up with alternate plans, if they choose to do so.

Mr. Jackson would like to have a conversation with Mr. Floyd regarding the proposed plan that he presented. Mr. Floyd said that he has been redistricting since 1980, and he is open to revisions to the proposed plan.

Mr. Johnson thanked Mr. Floyd for all of his hard work in providing his proposed plan. He also pointed out that this plan meets the guidelines.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know if Mr. Floyd saw a shift in the demographics for Caddo Parish. Mr. Floyd said that he did, and he pointed out the dynamic shift in District 10 in the last ten years. He said that in 2010, it was a majority white district, but now it is a majority African-American district.

Mr. Johnson then wanted to know if there was a way to "dilute" a district's race. Mr. Floyd said that the Commission could do that if it chose to do so.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know why Hispanics, Asians, and other races weren't listed on the handouts. Mr. Floyd said that Hispanic is ethnic; and a person can be a white Hispanic or a black Hispanic. He also said that the other races are represented in the Census. Mr. Chavez disagreed and feels that it needs to be redone. I'm glad this is Plan A, so I can see Plan B, Mr. Chavez said.

Mr. Jackson asked for a copy of the Census form. Mr. Epperson provided the Commissioners with a copy. Mr. Floyd also said that there is not another race, aside from Caucasian or African-American, in Caddo Parish that could be counted as the majority. Mr. Jackson understood and said that the races are categorized by the definition of the Census, not the demographer.

Mr. Jackson then wanted to know if there was any correlation with the Caddo Parish School Board. Mr. Floyd said that Plan A matches the School Board's District Nos. 1, 10, and 12.

Mr. Jackson then wanted to know if Mr. Floyd worked with the same population numbers when redistricting the School Board and the Commission. Mr. Floyd said that he did. He also pointed out that the School Board and the Commission have the same number of seats.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if he was directed from any Commissioner to come up with his proposed plan. Mr. Floyd said that he held workshops and took the raw data to draft the plan to fit the demographics of Caddo Parish with the least change as possible.

- Latronia Durham with Durham Transport

Ms. Durham said that her company has received recognitions from Shreveport to Washington, D.C., but she has not received any financial assistance. She said that she is a native of Shreveport and she's joined every program that she was told to join, such as Fair Share Program, Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce, African American Chamber, etc.

Durham Transport Academy is projected to equip over 110 individuals annually with a commercial licensing, with 50% of those individuals becoming employed and remain in Shreveport. Currently, they are at a 90% graduation rate. Mrs. Durham funded this academy over \$455,000 in order to create jobs in Shreveport.

She further stated that she is still awaiting to be put on the IDB agenda seeking \$114,000 in economic development requests. Ms. Durham is asking Caddo Parish or the Shreveport City Council for assistance in the form of grants to create a safer working environment for her team.

Ms. Durham also said that she is targeting a certain demographic to attend her post-secondary school and become gainfully employed within a 90 day time period. She is boosting the economy by allowing dollars to be made and spent in this community.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know if the academy takes students directly out of high school. He also wanted to know how would people find out about the school. Ms. Durham said that there is "boots on the ground" and word of mouth, but they are in the process of creating a website. Her team does go to public high schools and their main target is the underserved community. Mr. Chavez suggested exhibiting one of the 18 wheelers at the detention center. He said that the juveniles could be inspired to obtain a CDL and gain employment. He suggested calling an Economic Development Committee meeting to vet this

further.

Mr. Jones also mentioned that Harvard Business School students put Ms. Durham's PowerPoint together because they liked her business model. He said that the Commission should do whatever they can to assist local business owners and post-secondary education institutions who are boosting the economy by providing jobs and opportunities for people in the area.

Mr. Young said that she is inspiring and salutes her for keeping her business here in Caddo Parish. He will assist Ms. Durham in any way he can.

Mr. Taliaferro wanted to know the cost of tuition for the academy. Ms. Durham said that tuition is \$5,500 and it pays for a 160 hour course. He then wanted to know about any financial assistance for students who were interested in her program. Ms. Durham explained that currently, she is reliant upon the Louisiana Workforce to help with tuition costs, but there are obstacles with that as well.

Mr. Taliaferro then wanted to know if there was a company who hired her graduates. Ms. Durham said that DART hires her students at \$22/hour on the day of graduation.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if the IDB has completed their grant process. Dr. Wilson explained that they have a committee chaired by Attorney Bradford which sets aside a pot of money for small grants. Mr. Jackson said that she needs to get on their agenda.

Mr. Jackson said that Ms. Durham needs to get on the IDB agenda, the Caddo Parish Commission's Economic Development agenda, as well as going before NLEP. Dr. Wilson said that he will forward her request to be on the IDB agenda to Mr. Kyle McInnis.

Mr. Burrell suggested that Ms. Durham contact her State Rep and Senator for any type of assistance. Mr. Epperson suggested that she contact the Greater Chamber of Commerce with regards to their leadership program. He also asked Mr. Fred Moss IV if she could display her truck at the Let the Good Times Roll Festival.

Mr. Atkins thanked Ms. Durham for coming to today's meeting. He appreciates her entrepreneurial spirit, but advised that the Parish is not in the business of giving out taxpayer dollars for for-profit businesses. In order for a business to earn Parish support, there would need to be an illustration of economic impact on the Parish and the positive economic impact of the business on the Parish. This could be in the form of local employees, local education, etc.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

- Juvenile Detention

There are currently twenty-five children in the detention center; seven of which are OJJ. Of those children, twelve are 17-year olds. Dr. Wilson also said that there are ten children currently being held at CCC. He said that they've been at capacity for the past month, but that is due to OJJ being delayed in picking up their children.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know if OJJ is filled. Dr. Wilson said that it is a timing issue. Mr. Young wanted to know the nature of the timing issue. Mr. Walker said that all of the OJJ facilities are full, and he doesn't see it ending any time soon. He also pointed out that June and July are the two lowest intakes of the year, so they may have some relief in the next month or so.

Mr. Young wanted to know the capacity for OJJ. Mr. Walker said that it is approximately 250-300 in secure care, but he isn't sure about non-secure group homes. He also explained that there were budget several years ago in an effort to save money and not over-incarcerated. Mr. Walker said that OJJ needs more funding and beds for the kids they have.

- Disparity Study Update

Dr. Wilson said that he will defer this to Thursday's agenda.

- Requests from Commissioners

Mr. Burrell

Mr. Johnson asked for an update on removing the Confederate Monument. Dr. Wilson said that the removal of the monument is ahead of schedule. Mr. Johnson then wanted to know if the Parish would be receiving funds back. Dr. Wilson said that he is not sure because the contractor agreed to remove the monument at a fixed cost.

Mr. Johnson then wanted to know about any positive COVID cases. Dr. Wilson said that there has not been any self-report internal infections at this time.

He then asked about the I-49 Welcome Signs. Mr. Kevin Lawrence, Facilities & Maintenance, said that everything is moving forward, but the contractor is having slight supply chain issues

with the stone manufacturer. The contract end date is July.

Mr. Epperson requested a detailed report from the Parish & Zoning Commission's meeting that took place on June 2, 2022 with regards to Testament, LLC. He said that the Caddo Parish Commission voted to overturn the MPC's decision, but the company is still operational. He understands that there is a lawsuit regarding the appeal of that decision.

Mr. Jackson requested from Administration the costs spent on inmate care, as well as what services are being rendered. He said that there needs to be a way to push inmate care back to insurance companies, and not taxpayers footing the bill. Dr. Wilson agreed and said that it is a national problem. He further explained that when inmates go to CCC, their Medicaid and Veterans Care is suspended. Mr. Jackson wanted to know if they ask for co-pays. Dr. Wilson stated that they do not because most of the people who come into the facility are indigent. Mr. Jackson then wanted to know if the Parish ever pursues payments from those insurance companies on their behalf. Dr. Wilson said that he wishes they could.

Mrs. Gage-Watts then asked for an update on the tornado sirens. Dr. Wilson said that he reached out to Mr. Keith Hanson, City IT, regarding this issue. His response was that "he hasn't forgotten about it". Dr. Wilson said that he spoke with Mr. Hanson twice in the past two weeks about this. Mrs. Gage-Watts said that she will propose something for the next meeting.

Mrs. Gage-Watts also requested that the courthouse be red for World Sickle Cell Awareness Day on June 19.

Mr. Burrell said that he sent several emails regarding orphaned wells, but is not pleased with the response he received. He said that the answer he received was that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) cannot determine the amount of money Caddo Parish will receive.

Mr. Taliaferro asked for an update on the misting systems at Animal Services. Mr. Travis Clark, Animal Services Director, said that they've been doing plumbing upgrades and everything should be up and running by next week. He also said that the animals are being iced every day to help offset the heat. Mr. Taliaferro wanted to know the end date. Mr. Lawrence said that the contractors are experiencing major supply chain issues. He said that there is a yearlong waitlist on chillers.

Mr. Johnson requested that the courthouse be lit up in purple and gold on June 17-June 19.

#### **COMMISSION REMARKS**

- Discuss status of additional early voting site

Mr. Johnson said that he and Mrs. Gage-Watts spoke with the Secretary of State regarding an additional early voting site in Caddo Parish. From that discussion, the Secretary of State said that it will not be available for the Fall due to infrastructure. Mr. Johnson said that the LA State Museum is a ready site, so he will be putting it on the next agenda as an early voting location.

Mr. Jackson pointed out that the MOU for the early voting site was signed. Dr. Wilson agreed and said that the Registrar reached out to him today for a meeting later this week. Mrs. Gage-Watts asked for an update at the next meeting. Dr. Wilson agreed.

Mrs. Gage-Watts agreed with Mr. Johnson in that they were advised that the site would not be ready for the fall election. She also said that she did communicate with Mrs. Bryant to add this to the next agenda.

Mr. Atkins said that he is not comfortable with the LA Fairgrounds being the second early voting site because it is not a fair and balanced location.

Mr. Johnson said that there is not a location anywhere in the Parish that has a 50/50 split. Mr. Johnson explained that the LA Fairgrounds is "plug and play", and the infrastructure is already in place. He wanted to know if this is a public safety concern. Mr. Johnson pointed out that LA Fairgrounds is an easy access and is well-known.

Mr. Jackson asked that the Registrar attend a Commission meeting and provide an update on the early voting site.

Mrs. Gage-Watts said that it has always been her goal to establish an additional centralized early voting location site outside of the downtown area. She requested the minutes where the Commission was told that the LA Fairgrounds was the optimal choice for the location. She said that Caddo Parish has one of the largest municipalities, but only has one early voting location.

Mr. Hopkins pointed out that the LA Oil & Gas Museum in Oil City is also plug and play. He said that there is a huge percentage of voters in District 1.

Mr. Jackson noted that the conversation around redistricting and creating new minority seats were centered around Southern Hills.

Mr. Atkins said that he would like the additional early voting location to be in a fair and balanced location.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Ordinance No. 6239 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund to provide an appropriation for Charles Johnson Ministries Inc. and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's Regular Session for introduction.

Mr. Johnson said that this passed favorable through NGO Appropriations Committee. He further stated that CJ is doing great things in the community, such as helping women, mentoring children, etc.

**Amendment by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *that the programs be administered by the Juvenile Services Department.*

Mr. Jackson is mindful that there are duplicate services in this body. He also feels that this project should be done in conjunction with the Seedlinks project. Mr. Jackson would also like to see this work in conjunction with Juvenile Services.

Mr. Atkins understands the needs for this project. His issue is with the process. He would like the Commission to move towards an annual process. He will be voting no for this reason.

Mr. Chavez asked for clarification on the motion. Mr. Jackson said that Juvenile Services would be administering the program.

At this time, Mr. Jackson's amendment carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Chavez, Gage-watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Jones, Taliaferro, and Young (7). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins and Johnson (2). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell, Epperson, and Lazarus (3). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Johnson's motion carried as amended, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Chavez, Gage-watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Jones, Taliaferro, and Young (7). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins and Johnson (2). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell, Epperson, and Lazarus (3). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Ordinance No. 6237 of 2022, an ordinance regarding an exchanging of roadways with the Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development in connection with extending LA 3276 to LA 1, to authorize the exchange of certain portions of Parish roads in return for certain portions of State highways; to authorize the Parish Administrator to execute agreements as necessary to accomplish that exchange, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Taliaferro, and Young (9). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell, Epperson, and Lazarus (3). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that Resolution No. 33 of 2022, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to consent to the assignment of State Agency Leases 22029 and 22030, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration.

Mr. Jimmy Whittington, Public Works, said that the Parish has to consent when one company assigns and interest to another company.

At this time, Mr. Johnson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Taliaferro, and Young (9). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell, Epperson, and Lazarus (3). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Resolution No. 34 of 2022, a resolution to urge and request the District Attorney to cease dismissing gun related charges as plea bargains and to urge and request the Legislature to prohibit dismissal of gun related charges as part of plea bargains, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be removed from the agenda. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Taliaferro, and Young (9). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell, Epperson, and Lazarus (3). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Taliaferro, *that Special Resolution of Recognition of Appreciation for Rho Omega & Friends for celebrating the Juneteenth Holiday for 35 years* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration.

Mr. Johnson said that the Juneteenth Festival started on the 500 block of Milam Street, then it moved to Festival Plaza. He said that the festival is now a three-day festival and is recognized through the state as one of the largest African-American festivals north of 1-10. He also pointed out that Juneteenth is now a national holiday.

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

- *Special Resolution of Recognition of Appreciation for Rho Omega & Friends for celebrating the Juneteenth Holiday for 35 years*
- *Special Resolution for proclaiming and celebrating the Juneteenth Holiday*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition for reigning Mrs. Shreveport, Jessica Latin*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition for Valencia High School*
- *Special Resolution proclaiming Pride Month*
- *Special Resolution recognizing C.A.R.E. Inc for their Juneteenth Celebration*

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

- *Special Resolution of Recognition of Appreciation for Rho Omega & Friends for celebrating the Juneteenth Holiday for 35 years*
- *Special Resolution for proclaiming and celebrating the Juneteenth Holiday*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition for reigning Mrs. Shreveport, Jessica Latin*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition for Valencia High School*
- *Special Resolution proclaiming Pride Month*
- *Special Resolution recognizing C.A.R.E. Inc for their Juneteenth Celebration*
- *Reappointment of Robert Fowler to the Lakeview Waterworks District. Term to expire March 17, 2027*
- *Appointment of Susannah Poljak as the District 10 representative on the Juvenile Services Citizens' Advisory Committee*
- *Review proposals submitted for selection of the 2022-2023 Caddo Parish Official Journal. Caddo Citizen/Shreveport Sun*
- *Juneteenth Coalition as Visitors for the June 9 Regular Session*
- *Mayquie Jackson, Humanity 2020, as a Visitor for the June 9 Regular Session to speak regarding mental health*

Mr. Johnson wanted to know the status of the bill regarding the Official Journal. Mr. Hopkins said that it is in committee right now.

At this time, Mr. Jackson's substitute motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Taliaferro, and Young (7). NAYS: Commissioner Hopkins (1). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell, Epperson, Gage-Watts, and Lazarus (4). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that appointment of Jennifer Fant to the North Caddo Hospital Services District Board to fill the unexpired term left by Helen Godfrey-Smith (term to expire July 18, 2024) be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Taliaferro, and Young (7). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, and Lazarus (5). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to authorize the Administration to fund the community Juneteenth Celebration with ARPA funds.*

Mr. Jackson said that the Let the Good Times Roll Festival already has \$50,000 set aside. He further said that the Commission set aside a total of \$150,000 for festivals. Mr. Jackson said that this is not drawing any additional dollars down on the budget. He also applauded all of the groups who came together to put on one big festival for the Juneteenth Weekend.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know if an application was completed. Mr. Jackson said that they would need to go through the process of receiving ARP funds. Mrs. Bryant said that the dollars have already been appropriated, so now this is authorizing a certain organization to receive funding. Mr. Johnson wanted to know what the funding would be used for. Mr. Atkins requested that the breakdown be sent to the

Commissioners by Thursday's agenda.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Taliaferro, *that action item to direct Administration to make proposed changes to the NGO application process be delayed to the next Work Session.*

Mr. Johnson said that the Economic Development Committee, ARP Committee, and the NGO Committer are still vetting the policies and processes.

Mr. Jackson requested that staff come and present the logic behind the proposed changes. He reminded the Commissioners that the NGO funding is not limited to one specific committee. Mr. Jackson said that any Committee can make a recommendation to expend funds. He also applauded Administration for reaching out to organizations such as the Beard Foundation, Community Foundation, etc. to get professional input on the changes.

Mr. Johnson pointed out that the organizations that were mentioned by Mr. Jackson are private organizations, not private-public. He said that there are different ways to spend funds. He also suggested getting input from another public entity.

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

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

- Mr. Young wanted to know the status of the funding increase for Robinson's Rescue. Dr. Wilson said that he will check and get back with Mr. Young.

Mr. Young also mentioned that his constituents in District 4 don't have access to the Official Journal, but they would like to be more aware of Caddo Parish's business.

- Mr. Chavez wanted to know who owned the time capsule found at the Confederate Monument. Attorney Frazier said that the Daughters of the Confederacy own it.

- Mr. Jackson wanted to put on the record a By-Law that would require everything to go through a committee, but that was voted down.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- *Ordinance No. 6230 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund and the Oil & Gas 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. 6231 of 2022, an ordinance setting the Parish millage for the purpose of paying principal and interest, due in 2022 on outstanding Parish bond issues and to instruct the Assessor to include said millage on the tax roll of the Parish of Caddo for the year 2022, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6232 of 2022, an ordinance setting the General Purpose and Special Purpose Millages providing for millage rate adjustments, as allowed by Article VII, Section 23 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 and LA R.S. 47:1705 (B), levying and imposing taxes and assessments for 2022 on all the property subject to taxation in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6233 of 2022, an ordinance to adopt the values fixed, or to be fixed, by the Louisiana Tax Commission on all assessments for railways and other public service corporations, and to instruct the Assessor to extend such assessments and values on the tax roll of the Parish of Caddo for the year 2022, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6234 of 2022, an ordinance setting the assessment of property classified as timberlands and to instruct the Assessor to include said assessment on the tax roll of the Parish of Caddo for the year 2022, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

- *Ordinance No. 6235 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. 6236 of 2022, an ordinance requiring that all Parish employees hired, appointed, or promoted to Parish Attorney, Assistant Parish Administrator, Parish Administrator/CEO, Department Director, or Commission Clerk, must be residents of Caddo Parish, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6237 of 2022, an ordinance regarding an exchanging of roadways with the Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development in connection with extending LA 3276 to LA 1, to authorize the exchange of certain portions of Parish roads in return for certain portions of State highways; to authorize the Parish Administrator to execute agreements as necessary to accomplish that exchange, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6238 of 2022, an ordinance adopting Section 32-62 of the Code of Ordinances prohibiting possession or carriage in a motor vehicle on public roads of firearms with a magazine capable of holding more than twenty rounds of ammunition, to provide for penalties for violation of the ordinance, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto.*

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

  
Assistant Commission Clerk