

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION  
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 5th DAY OF JULY, 2022

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Work Session, on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., in the Government Chambers, with Mr. Atkins, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (10). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts and Young (2).

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

**AGENDA ADDITIONS**

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *to expand the agenda and add Special Resolution of Remembrance & Respect to City Marshal Charlie Caldwell* under Special Resolutions.

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

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

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Attorney John Haiter came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good afternoon. I'm John Hader. I'm the attorney for Testament Real Estate. My address is 611 Absinthe Court, Suite C, Shreveport, Louisiana. I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you on regards a resolution. It is pending before you for decision on Thursday, regarding whether or not to contest an annexation of my client's property into the City of Greenwood. Simply a matter of explanation. It's a five-letter word it's called water. We're trying to develop 49 acres of property on I-20 and we have no water source. We need a water source. Two options are available to us. One is to go to the City water, which is nine-tenths of a mile down the road. Phenomenal expense to run the water line all the way to my client's property and on top of that we would be annexed into the City of Shreveport. The other option is to go across Highway 80, about 100 feet, and tap into the Greenwood water system that is there. And so, that made a whole lot easier decision to go to Greenwood rather than to the City of Shreveport. But either way, my client was going to be annexed into some municipality in order to get water. And just so you will understand that pumping station across my client's property is part of the Town of Greenwood. It is. So, we are contiguous to that piece of property and it made sense to make that move. That's all.

Marvel Yoshi Brown came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Hello. All right. Marvel Yoshi Brown. Local radio personality. I'm hosting my first community event. UT's a Job Resource Fair in the neighborhood Cooper Road, MLK area. So, I'm just asking for you guys' support. You guys come out. You know, see what's going on. I got a couple employers going to come out. I got the Black Lawyers Association is going to come out help guys file paperwork for expungement. Just trying to get people back to work. Not taking any checks, any money, anything like that. Just donations. Not donations, but refreshments only. This is the first job fair that I know of that's taking place on a Saturday that you can bring your kids to. I'm just doing anything that I can to give back and to help in the community. So, I just wanted to come here and bring it to you guys' attention. All right and Mr. Johnson I, also, emailed everything to you.

Jennifer McCay came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Thank you. Good afternoon. I'm Jennifer McKay. I'm General Counsel for Town of Greenwood for the same matter Mr. Hader spoke on, the annexation. My comments will be very brief. I would. What I'm here to affirmatively state is that all notice requirements under the law have been complied with and all requirements concerning the annexation have been satisfied; and I would like you to give that great consideration; and I don't believe that your ordinance suggests otherwise. But that is incorrect.

**ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

- Juvenile Detention

Dr. Wilson said that there are eighteen children in the Detention Center; nine of which are OJJ. There are ten 17-year olds, and nine children at CCC.

- I-49 Welcome Signs

Dr. Wilson said that the signs should be completed in August.

- Wheelchair Ramp & Roof Repair Program

Applications for the Wheelchair Ramp Program will be dispersed on August 1. The Caddo Council On Aging will be administering this project.

Mr. Epperson asked that the Caddo Community Action Agency be included in this project. Dr. Wilson said that Administration initially contacted them with regards to these programs, but does not believe they have an interest in the program. He said that he will reach back out to them.

Dr. Wilson said that they are currently working through a process for the Roof Repair Program.

- Spay & Neutering

Dr. Wilson mentioned that mandatory spay/neutering of animals started July 1 in the unincorporated areas of the Parish.

- COVID

Dr. Wilson said that there were four positive COVID cases from July 1 to July 5. All of the employees who contracted it are doing well.

Mr. Epperson asked for an update on the uptick of COVID cases in Northwest Louisiana. Dr. Wilson also mentioned that there were two positive cases within the thirteen agencies in Caddo Parish.

- June 2022 Financial Reports

Dr. Wilson said that the June Financial Reports are attached to the agenda.

- Commissioners Request to Administration

Mr. Johnson wanted to know how long will the temporary fence be up at the Courthouse. Dr. Wilson said that they are waiting for the concrete to dry before removing it.

Mr. Johnson asked for an update on Harper Road. Dr. Ward said that they just completed a traffic and speed study on the road. He also mentioned that Public Works does not enforce speed, but will review the study to determine what's needed for the road. Mr. Johnson asked that rumble strips be installed on the road.

Mr. Epperson said that there is a property standard issue with a man on Wood Pine and Bethany. He will forward that information to Public Works.

Mr. Burrell asked for an update on the litter within the urban areas. Dr. Wilson said that he will forward this information to Attorney Bernstein.

#### **COMMISSION REMARKS**

- Mr. Hopkins announced that the Long-Range Planning Committee will meet this Thursday at 2:00 p.m. in the Chambers to discuss items related to the Unified Development Code and the Temporary Planning & Zoning Commission.

- Mr. Jones congratulated the Dixie League 7 & Under Baseball Team for making to the Shreveport Nationals. Coach thanked the Commission for recognizing the team for all of their hard work. Mr. Jones also said that the Dixie League will be leaving on Thursday to compete in their tournament.

Mr. Hopkins also pointed out that the Blanchard Athletic Club, Dixie League 8 & Under, 9 & Under, 11 & Under, and 12 & Under are all advancing to State. He said that there are a wide variety of children going to State and representing Shreveport and Caddo Parish.

- Mr. Jackson recognized Judge Erin Leigh Waddell for being attendance today.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Zoning Case 22-1-CTAP, in regards to Ordinance No. 6244 of 2022, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, to extend the notification*

area for mailed notices, to establish the provisions for the Neighborhood Participation Plan, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (9). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts, Jones, and Young (3). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *that Zoning Case No. 22-11-P, in regards to Ordinance No. 6245 of 2022, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, by amending the zoning of property located on the north side of North Lakeshore Drive at the intersection of Fairlane Circle, Caddo Parish, LA, from R-1-7, Single-Family Residential Zoning District to R-A, Rural-Agricultural Zoning District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know what type of farm animals will be placed on the property. Mr. Clark said that he is not sure which type of animals are going to be on the land. He also explained that this has always been an R-A, Rural Agriculture, use. The Unified Development Code rezoned it to R-1-7, so the applicant is requesting that it be reverted back to R-A.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Taliaferro, *that Ordinance No. 6246 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund for the year 2022 to provide an additional appropriation for Robinson's Rescue, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know who the sponsor is for this ordinance. Ms. Stephanie Rico, Assistant Finance Director, explained that Mr. Young requested an extra \$10,000 in response to the new spay/neuter ordinance.

Mr. Johnson pointed out that the Commission just voted to stop putting budget amendments on the agenda outside of a time period. He said that he will be voting no because the Commission set a policy in place against it.

Mr. Hopkins said that there was some money put in place, but it was not budgeted. He further explained that the spay/neuter ordinance has been implemented, so extra resources may be needed. Mr. Johnson said that if it is a budget issue, it should have been discovered sooner.

**Amendment by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *that this funding be up to \$10,000 and on a reimbursement basis.*

Mr. Jackson said that there may be an increased cost, so this will help cover those costs. He also wanted to know how the billing is done. Dr. Wilson said that the organization sends the Parish an invoice for the total amount, but it covers a whole year of service.

Dr. Wilson said that this was discussed in Committee, and an increase in costs was anticipated.

**Friendly Amendment by Mr. Johnson** *that it is based upon the increase from the prior year.* Mr. Jackson agreed.

Mr. Johnson said that if the numbers do not increase based upon last year's numbers, the organization does not receive the funding.

Mr. Atkins clarified that the amended motion is the funding be up to \$10,000 on a reimbursement basis using the benchmark from last year and this year's number as the incremental amount.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *that Resolution No. 37 of 2022, a resolution authorizing the Parish Attorney to file suit on behalf of the Parish challenging the annexation by the Town of Greenwood of lands in Section 22, Township 17 North, Range 15 West, and related matters and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration.

Mr. Epperson said that he submitted a public records request with regards to this

annexation. He received it back today, but didn't have a chance to peruse it. He asked that this be forwarded to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Hopkins said that there are no residents in this tract of land, and there is no fiscal impact to the Parish of Caddo or the Fire District. He also pointed out that all of the ordinances and public hearings are in compliance with State Law. Mr. Hopkins is not sure why the Parish of Caddo is "in the middle of this fight".

Mr. Chavez said that the Parish Attorney's recommendation is to not adopt this resolution and allow the annexation to take effect. He wanted to Dr. Wilson's opinion on this matter. Dr. Wilson said that he will yield to Attorney Bernstein for the legal perspective of it, but he does not have an issue with it.

Mr. Chavez also said that it was contested that the Parish's ordinance was false in that it was not properly advertised. Mr. Hopkins said that it was properly advertised on May 6, 2022 in the Inquisitor. Mr. Chavez does not understand the opposition.

Mr. Jackson said that the recommendation on the fact sheet is in the event if this resolution is not adopted. He suggested that the fact sheet be re-worded to reflect alternatives rather than recommendations.

Mr. Epperson said that this is not an ordinance, only a resolution. He asked the Commissioners to give Attorney Bernstein the professional courtesy to answer any questions by moving this to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Johnson recalled when the snow storm hit, the Greenwood water line was one of the last ones to come back into service. He said that they had to contact the City of Shreveport to supply water to the citizens. Mr. Johnson pointed out that this would put more demand on that line.

Mr. Johnson also talked about the annexations in Blanchard. He said that those annexations have been favorable to the citizens. Mr. Johnson wanted to know how the citizens, adjacent to the tract, feel about this annexation.

At this time, Mr. Epperson's motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Epperson, Jackson, Johnson, and Jones (5). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Hopkins, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (5). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts and Young (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *that Resolution No. 38 of 2022, urging and requesting the Registrar of Voters to re-designate the second Caddo Early Voting Site from the Hamilton Branch of the Library to the Louisiana State Exhibit Museum* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration.

Mr. Johnson said that the Louisiana State Museum is a plug and play. He understands that an MOU has been signed, but there are still several things that need to happen prior to the Fall Election. He said that a second location is needed, and he feels that the LA State Museum would be easy to accommodate that.

Mr. Chavez said that he will be voting no because his citizens are anticipating the Hamilton Library as the second location. He pointed out that it is easily accessible, and it has already been pre-designated.

Mr. Jackson pointed out that the Registrar of Voters did not declare that he intends to designate Hamilton South as the second location; the Caddo Parish Commission did. Mr. Jackson also reached out to the Secretary of State, who is confident that this location will be ready in time for the Fall Election. He also mentioned that any delays at this point would almost guarantee that there would not be a second location. Mr. Jackson also pointed out that the Caddo Commission can only declare where they would like a second location to be, but it is ultimately up to the Secretary of State to make the final decision.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if there is a guarantee that this location will be ready in time. Dr. Wilson said that he spoke with the Registrar who is pressing forward to get the Hamilton Library established in time for the election.

Mr. Atkins reiterated that the Registrar did convey to him that his team is working as quickly as possible to get the Hamilton Branch up and running by the election. He also mentioned that if the Commission changes its course at this time, it would almost be impossible to have a second location open for the fall election.

At this time, Mr. Johnson's motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Epperson, Jackson, Johnson, and Jones (5). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Hopkins, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (5). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts and Young (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *to englobo and move the following items to Thursday's agenda for consideration:*

- *Special Resolution proclaiming July as Parks & Recreation Month*
- *Special Resolution recognizing the Shreveport Nationals 7 & Under Baseball Team*
- *Special Resolution recognizing the Northwest Louisiana Sickle Cell Softball Tournament*
- *Special Resolution of Remembrance & Respect for City Marshal Charlie Caldwell*

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

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *that Gary Joiner be a Visitor for the Regular Session agenda.*

Mr. Chavez said that Mr. Joiner has been working with Lt. Billy Nungesser on the Civil Rights Trail, and he would like to come to Thursday's meeting to talk about it.

Mr. Jackson said that there is a group with Little Union that is also working on the Civil Rights Trail, and suggested that Mr. Joiner work with that group as well. Mr. Epperson agreed.

At this time, Mr. Chavez's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Hopkins, Jackson, Jones, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (8). NAYS: Commissioners Epperson and Johnson (2). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts and Young (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

#### **COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mr. Burrell announced that the North Louisiana Sickle Cell Softball Tournament is coming up on July 8-10. He encouraged everyone to attend.

Mr. Burrell talked about the Stewart Bell Stadium. He said that they do have a program for the inner-city youth. He would like to partner with the YMCA to utilize that stadium as a feeder. Mr. Jackson said that he would like the Parish to take over that facility.

- Mr. Jackson commended the Parks & Recreation Department for all of the hard work they've been doing in the community. He asked if they could update the Commission on all of the events after the summer activities are over. Mr. Jackson suggested that it be done in a video format.

He also asked Administration for an update on the CCC medical information.

Mr. Jackson suggested that Legal Aid and the citizen who spoke earlier regarding expungements partner together. Dr. Wilson pointed out that the Parish will be hosting an Expungement Summit in August. Mr. Jackson said that the funding was for whenever there was an opportunity, not necessarily for the Parish's Expungement Summit. He said that all Caddo Parish residents should have the opportunity "to get their jacket clean".

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- *Zoning Case 21-9-P, Ordinance No. 6242 of 2022, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, by amending the zoning of property located on the north side of Wells Island Road, approximately eight hundred feet northwest of Reverse Drive Caddo Parish, LA, from R-1-7, Single Family Residential District and N-A, Natural Areas District to O-S, Open Space District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Zoning Case 22-7-P, Ordinance No. 6243 of 2022, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, by amending the zoning of property located on the north side of Old Mooringsport Road, approximately two thousand three hundred and fifty feet east of North Market Street, Caddo Parish, LA, from Tract A, R-A, Rural Agricultural Zoning District, to R-1-7, Single Family Residential and Tract B, from R-A, Rural Agricultural District to R-1-5, Single Family Residential District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

- *Ordinance No. 6240 of 2022, an ordinance to adopt Section 12-27 relative to Occupational Licenses, enacting provisions regarding video poker truck stops, pari-mutual facilities and off-track wagering facilities, to prohibit with a certain distance from particular facilities or properties, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

  
Assistant Commission Clerk