

CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
505 TRAVIS STREET, GOVERNMENT PLAZA
PUBLIC NOTICE
WORK SESSION AGENDA
Streaming at www.caddo.org
FEBRUARY 18, 2020
3:30 P.M.

1. ROLL CALL:

Commissioners:

Hopkins	District 1	Gage-Watts	District 7
Johnson	District 2	Taliaferro	District 8
Jackson	District 3	Atkins	District 9
Young	District 4	Chavez	District 10
Burrell	District 5	Lazarus	District 11
Cawthorne	District 6	Epperson	District 12

2. INVOCATION:

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Veterans and active military members saluting during recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance would be appropriate, should you wish to do so.

4. AGENDA ADDITIONS:

5. CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Citizens who wish to address the Commission must fill out a comment card and forward to the President or the Clerk of the Commission

Comments by any citizen will be limited to 3 minutes

6. VISITORS:

6.I. Master Plan Update
Metropolitan Planning Commission

6.II. John Davis, Rural Fire District Representative
(Commissioner Hopkins)

6.III. Compassion For Lives- Executive Director, Carla Buntyn
(Commissioner Cawthorne)

7. REPORTS:

Administrator Report

Documents:

[ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 18, 2020.PDF](#)

8. COMMISSION REMARKS

Communiques, reports and other items related to Work Session Agenda.

9. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

10. OLD BUSINESS:

11. NEW BUSINESS:

11.I. COMMISSION WILL CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session to discuss all issues regarding professional competence/character of Jeff Everson, Commission Clerk appointee

(Parish Attorney's Office)

11.II. Authorize Introduction Of Ordinance No. 5945 Of 2020

TO ESTABLISH THE SALARY OF THE COMMISSION CLERK PURSUANT TO SECTION 3-10 OF THE HOME RULE CHARTER FOR CADDO PARISH, TO ADOPT

A COMPENSATION SCHEDULE FOR THAT POSITION, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

(Commissioner Chavez)

Documents:

[5945 COMMISSION CLERK SALARY SCHEDULE.PDF](#)

11.III. Authorize Resolution No. 12 Of 2020

A RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO MENTAL HEALTH AMONG INCARCERATED PERSONS, TO ENDORSE AND SUPPORT THE STEPPING UP MOVEMENT AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

(Commissioner Gage-Watts)

Documents:

[12 STEPPING UP - MENTAL HEALTH IN LOCAL JAILS.PDF](#)

11.IV. Authorize Resolution No. 13 Of 2020

A RESOLUTION OF THE PARISH OF CADDO URGING THE LOUISIANA STATE LEGISLATURE TO STRENGTHEN THE LOUISIANA GUN LAW BY INCORPORATING MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR OWNING AND CARRYING A FIREARM, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

(Commissioner Johnson)

Documents:

[13 GUN LAW.PDF](#)

11.V. Authorize Resolution No. 14 Of 2020

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTHWEST LOUISIANA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (NLCOG), THE COORDINATION AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (CDC), AND THE LSUS RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE, FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPLYING FOR GRANT FUNDING AND ACTING IN SUPPORT OF WATERSHED REGION MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE STATE OF LOUISIANA WATERSHED INITIATIVE, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

(Administration)

Documents:

[14 WATERSHED INITIATIVE.PDF](#)

11.VI. Authorize Submitting A Formal Response On Behalf Of The Parish To The BOR Shreveport Law School Study

(Commissioner Jackson)

Documents:

[DRAFT PARISH FEEDBACK TO STUDYREV.PDF](#)

11.VII. Authorize Discussion Of Hiring Commission Clerk
(Commissioner Johnson)

11.VIII. Authorize Discussion Of Start Date For Commission Clerk
(Commissioner Chavez)

12. COMMUNIQUE/COMMITTEE REPORTS:

13. CITIZENS COMMENTS (Late Arrivals)

Citizens who wish to address the Commission must fill out a comment card and forward to the President or the Clerk of the Commission

Comments by any citizen will be limited to 3 minutes

14. CONSENT AGENDA

14.I. Ordinance No. 5943 Of 2020

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET OF ESTIMATED REVENUES & EXPENDITURES FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000 TO PROVIDE AN APPROPRIATION TO LEGAL SERVICES OF NORTH LOUISIANA, INC. AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

(Commissioner Jackson)

Documents:

[5943 FACT SHEET NORTH LOUISIANA LEGAL AID.PDF](#)

[5943 LEGAL SERVICES FINAL.PDF](#)

15. ADJOURN:

To all persons desiring to attend and observe a meeting of the Caddo Parish Commission, or who wish to present information to the body: If you have physical limitations that require special accommodations in order for you to attend and participate in a meeting of the Caddo Parish Commission, please contact the office of the Caddo Parish Commission Clerk at (318) 226-6596, at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting so that an effort can be made to provide those accommodations.

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

PARISH OF CADDO

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

DATE: FEBRUARY 18, 2020
TO: CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
FROM: ADMINISTRATION

INFORMATION

- 1.) January 2020 Monthly Financials
- 2.) Reminder

Legislative Luncheon
11:30 a.m., Friday, February 21, 2020
Petroleum Club – (Energy Rooms A & B)

ORDINANCE NO. 5945 OF 2020

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE SALARY OF THE COMMISSION CLERK PURSUANT TO SECTION 3-10 OF THE HOME RULE CHARTER FOR CADDO PARISH, TO ADOPT A COMPENSATION SCHEDULE FOR THAT POSITION, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, Section 3.10(B) of the Home Rule Charter provides that the Commission shall set the salary of the Clerk by ordinance.

WHEREAS, the Commission has appointed a new clerk by vote of the Commission on December 21, 2019;

WHEREAS, the Commission sought applicants for the position of Commission Clerk advertising that the compensation for the position was \$47.94 to \$77.60 per hour:

WHEREAS, there is a compensation schedule (Grade U09) for the position of Commission Clerk attached as Exhibit A;

WHEREAS, the Commission must, under Section 3.10(B) set the salary of the Commission Clerk;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that the salary of the Commission Clerk be set at \$47.94 per hour;

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Caddo Parish Commission that the compensation schedule for the Commission Clerk's position be adopted in the form attached as Exhibit A;

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any provision or item of this ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this ordinance shall take effect upon adoption.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved as to legal form:

Parish Attorney

Date

RESOLUTION NO. ____ of 2020

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO MENTAL HEALTH AMONG INCARCERATED PERSONS, TO ENDORSE AND SUPPORT THE STEPPING UP MOVEMENT AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, local governments routinely provide treatment services to the estimated 2 million people with serious mental illnesses booked into jail each year;

WHEREAS, prevalence rates of serious mental illnesses in jails are three to six times higher than for the general public;

WHEREAS, almost three-quarters of adults with serious mental illnesses in jails have co-occurring substance use disorders;

WHEREAS, adults with mental illnesses tend to stay longer in jail and, upon release, are at a higher risk of recidivism than people without these disorders;

WHEREAS, local government jails spend two to three times more on adults with mental illnesses that require interventions compared to those without these treatment needs;

WHEREAS, without the appropriate treatment and services, people with mental illnesses continue to cycle through the criminal justice system, often resulting in tragic outcomes for these individuals and their families;

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish and all parishes and counties take pride in their responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare, and safety of its residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and

Governments Justice Center, and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation are encouraging public, private, and nonprofit partners to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby do hereby sign on to the Call to Action to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in our local government jail, commit to sharing lessons learned with other parishes and counties in my state and across the country to support a national initiative and encourage all local government officials, employees, and residents to participate in Stepping Up.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved as to legal form:

Parish Attorney

Date

RESOLUTION NO. 13 OF 2020

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION OF THE PARISH OF CADDO URGING THE LOUISIANA STATE LEGISLATURE TO STRENGTHEN THE LOUISIANA GUN LAW BY INCORPORATING MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR OWNING AND CARRYING A FIREARM, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, there have been multiple mass shootings in the United States within the past several years; and

WHEREAS, studies show that states with stricter gun control laws have fewer mass shootings;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that it does hereby:

Support legislation which strengthens the Louisiana Gun Laws by incorporating mandatory requirements for owning and carrying a firearm as well as legislation making it illegal to possess and use assault weapons (full automatic and semi-automatic with magazines/clips over 20 rounds,) except for the active military or law enforcement while on duty.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution will be forwarded to the Caddo Parish delegation, the President of the Louisiana Senate, the Speaker of the Louisiana House and to the Louisiana Governor, and urge their support.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved as to legal form:

Parish Attorney

Date

RESOLUTION NO. ? OF 2020

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTHWEST LOUISIANA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (NLCOG), THE COORDINATION AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (CDC), AND THE LSUS RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE, FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPLYING FOR GRANT FUNDING AND ACTING IN SUPPORT OF WATERSHED REGION MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE STATE OF LOUISIANA WATERSHED INITIATIVE, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Watershed Initiative was formed in order to coordinate statewide floodplain management efforts through a watershed management approach in response to the 2016 Great Floods and in preparation for future storm and flood events. This coordination includes outreach with local communities to build support for watershed region management approaches that can more effectively address mounting water risks statewide; and

WHEREAS, coordination among The Parish of Caddo and its regional partners is critical to reducing flood risk and preserving the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Watershed Initiative has requested applications for participation in a Regional Capacity Building Grant Program, which may enable the provision of technical assistance to [subject parish or organization] and its regional partners if awarded, thereby furthering immediate watershed management and flood risk reduction goals.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the agreement between the Parish of Caddo and The Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments (NLCOG), the Coordination and Development Corporation (CDC), and the LSUS Red River Watershed Management Institute, for the purpose of applying for grant funding and acting in support of watershed region management activities and in conjunction with the State of Louisiana Watershed Initiative is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved as to legal form:

Parish Attorney

Date

Parish Feedback:

Background

There have been proposals to increase legal education capacity in the Shreveport/Bossier region for more than fifteen years. In 2007, encouraged by officials from Caddo Parish and the City of Shreveport, Louisiana College proposed developing a new law school to serve the region. Extensive planning occurred as a result including identifying facilities and recruiting a Dean. But this was an unfortunate time for legal education nationally with law school enrollments falling and the country in recession. For reasons unrelated to the law school proposal, moreover, Louisiana College encountered financial problems and experienced substantial scrutiny from its regional accreditation organization, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). In the face of these pressures, the College's plan for opening a new law school was abandoned.

Since that time, proposals to increase legal education capacity have continued to emerge, fueled by widespread perceptions among observers that there are not enough lawyers and legal professionals in the region. This led directly to the study resolutions that formed the basis of the RFP.

1. The purpose of the study was not because the Caddo Parish Commission and the region felt we lacked lawyers in the area. The purpose and goal of this effort was to increase professional and graduate degree offerings in the urban center of North Louisiana region that is significantly deprived of graduate and professional degrees programs starting with legal education. We also note that NCHEMS limited the geographic reach of the region to just Shreveport and Bossier. However, we know from previous market studies that our region covers significant parts of East Texas, South Arkansas, Central Louisiana, and the Mississippi Delta.
2. Throughout the report NCHEMS mentions standards and the regulations of the American Bar Association (ABA). These mentions in our view are assumptions as the report provides no cited sources. Based on the appendix of interviewees, NCHEMS did not interview anyone from the ABA for this particular study. We believe any mention of ABA standards or regulations should be verified and sourced for accuracy as it related to this particular endeavor.
3. **Recommendation #1 Create a branch of Southern University Law Center (SULC) in Shreveport designed explicitly to serve the Shreveport/Bossier region with a cost of**

\$11,000,000 for capital improvements. Given the fiscal climate of the state budget, we believe this is a non-starter. On April 4, 2019 Parish officials (Dr. Woody Wilson, Erica Bryant, Donna Fraizer, Commission President Stormy Gage-Watts, and Commissioner Steven Jackson), had phone conference with Barry Currier of the ABA along with President Dr. Ray Belton of Southern University System, and Chancellor John Pierre of SULC in September 2019. Mr. Currier noted that SULC can start offering courses immediately without ABA approval up to 18 hours. Students could either start or finish law school here. The consensus was that proposed law schools start out small and scale up over a period of 3-4 years. This would be a satellite site under the leadership of a Dean or campus director. Not an independent school of the system. Additionally, NCHEMS did not give serious consideration to several locations that can be made available, including but not limited to the Shreve Memorial Downtown Library (SML) space as well as existing space in the Downtown SU Metro Campus. Use of either would greatly reduce the suggest \$11,000,000 for acquiring property and construction. Out fitting existing space will not cost \$11,000,000. It is important to note, that the City of Shreveport and Parish of Caddo owns the physical space 50/50 of the downtown SML and is willing to provide this space free to Southern University System for this endeavor. The SML staff and board has also committed to helping with cost of making space available for SULC as well as updating their existing law library currently at SML. NCHEMS did not interview the Shreve Memorial Library Director or board members NCHEM did not tour either facility.

For these reasons, we object to this recommendation. We ask that serious consideration be given to the use of the Downtown Shreve Memorial Library Space or existing SU Metro Space and that \$11 million in capital cost be rejected. Additionally, we ask that Southern University move forward with a part-time and executive law program that is tailored toward working professionals over the course of 3-4 years.

4. **Recommendation #2: Physically relocate SULC from its current location in Baton Rouge to Shreveport.** This recommendation is offensive and an attempt to disrupt progress on this issue. We would NEVER suggest or support moving SULC from its current Baton Rouge location. Such an idea has no regard for the 1947 lawsuit by Charles Hatfield III that established SULC, A. A. Lenior the founding chancellor of SULC, Jessie Stone who was the apart of the founding class and Shreveport native, and thousands of SULC graduates. It would also have a negative effect on the Baton Rouge economy as SULC provides numerous jobs and community clinics for the area. To increase sports activity in our region, would anyone seriously recommend and support moving the Superdome from New Orleans or Tiger Stadium from Baton Rouge? We have always advocated for a satellite, part-time, non-traditional campus to operate in Shreveport.

For these reasons, we strongly object to this recommendation. We ask that Southern University move forward with a part-time and executive law program that is tailored toward working professionals over the course of 3-4 years.

5. NCHEM calculation of tuition at \$25,000 annually is highly inflated compared to SULC's current fee structure for full and part-time students. We have always advocated for Part-time non-traditional law school which brings both the cost to operate and the cost of tuition down.

We object to this finding. We ask that Southern University System and Southern University Law Center be given a fair opportunity to develop a proposed fee schedule based on the model they believe would best serve this region.

DRAFT

ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTION AUTHORIZATION FORM

CADDO PARISH COMMISSION

TITLE

ORDINANCE AMENDING 2020 BUDGET FOR APPROPRIATION TO LEGAL AID OF NORTH LOUISIANA, INC.

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Commissioner Jackson via Finance and Legal

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Funds will:

- Provide funding to Parish entities (Clerk of Court, District Attorney, Sheriff) to offset cost to grant waiver and not individuals
- Limited to one expungement per person
- Individuals must be a current Caddo Parish resident and provide at least to forms of verification
- Individuals must participate in 15 hours of community service from an approved community-based agency
- Individuals must meet low income requirement set by Legal Aid of Louisiana

Funding is needed because:

- Pauper expungement filing is an option but is left to the discretion of the judge. Very few pauper requests have been granted in Caddo Parish.
- Pauper does not relieve individual of paying fees. It only defers upfront payment of expungement fees.
- Having an arrest record prevents individuals from obtaining meaningful employment, financial aid, and other benefits.

KEY STAFF CONTACT: Commissioner Jackson via Finance and Legal

AUTHORIZATION

Department Head _____ Date _____

Legal _____ Date _____

Parish Administrator _____ Date _____

ORDINANCE NO. OF 2020

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000 TO PROVIDE AN APPROPRIATION TO LEGAL SERVICES OF NORTH LOUISIANA, INC. AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, expungement helps relieve citizens of their arrest record in order to help them obtain employment, financial aid and other benefits; and

WHEREAS, Legal Services of North Louisiana provides legal services to indigent individuals who meet expungement criteria; and

WHEREAS, the option of a pauper expungement is available, but it only defers the upfront payment of the fees and is at the discretion of the Judge; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission would like to provide an appropriation to Legal Services of North Louisiana, Inc. to offset the expenses to Parish entities (Clerk of Court \$200, District Attorney \$50, and Sheriff \$50) to grant indigent clients fee waiver for expungement; and

WHEREAS, each individual seeking grant waiver must be a Caddo Parish resident with at least two forms of residency verification; and

WHEREAS, each individual is limited to one expungement per calendar year; and

WHEREAS, the individual must participate in 15 hours of community service from an approved community-based agency; and

WHEREAS, the individual must meet low income requirement set by Legal Services of North Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission hosts an annual Pathways to Prosperity Expungement Summit for Caddo residents; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission's Economic Development committee recommended an appropriation of \$20,000 to Legal Services of North Louisiana, Inc. to aid in expungements for indigent citizens; and

WHEREAS it is necessary to amend the 2020 Economic Development Fund Budget to appropriate \$20,000 to Legal Services of North Louisiana, Inc.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund for the year 2020 is hereby amended as follows:

Budget Increase (Decrease)

Economic Development Fund

Non-Governmental Appropriations	
Legal Services of North LA, Inc.	\$20,000
Fund Balance	(\$20,000)

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any provision or item of this ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this ordinance shall take effect upon adoption.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved as to legal form:

Parish Attorney

Date