

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 19th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 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, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (10). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts and Jones (2).

The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were done in the previous meeting.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Robert Wyndon came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

VISITORS

- Donette Dunbar
Louisiana-Connected.Com
Principal at Dash Media

Brian Schneider, founder of LIT Communities, said that their partnership is focused on community broadband across entire municipalities, which is usually formatted with unique p3 structures. They start with a consulting process where they evaluate the community how much the full network would cost. We survey residents to get an idea and feedback on what they like about their current speeds, what they like about what prices don't like what other prices don't like about their current speeds, and what they'd like to see done, he said. He further explained that the consulting process is a part of the feasibility study that is required to apply for certain grants and future federal funds.

Once a business plan is delivered, we give you multiple options on what you feel like might be the best pace forward from there, our company continues after the process, we're not just consultants from that stuck stage, he said. They will continue to work with the Parish no matter what the Commission decides. They will also be implementing a low-income program, where eligible families could get internet for free. Mr. Schneider said that they will also be working with low to moderate income people to teach them workforce development skills in technology.

Mr. Burrell thanked the company for coming before the Commission and providing an update on options that are available to Caddo Parish and its citizens.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know the relationship between the three representatives. Ms. Dunbar said that they are a consortium and partnership focusing on Louisiana broadband.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- *Juvenile Detention*

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

He also said that there will be a capital project at the detention center in the next few weeks due a fire marshal requirement. One pod will be shut down for at least eight weeks.

- *COVID*

Dr. Wilson also mentioned that there were four positive cases within the Caddo Parish agencies. He also said that there have been seven positive cases within the Caddo Parish Administration. He also reported zero monkey pox cases.

- *2022 August Financial Reports*

Dr. Wilson provided copies of the 2022 August Financial Reports for the Commissioners, as well as attaching it to the agenda.

COMMISSION REMARKS

- Mr. Jackson requested that Administration invite the National Development Council to the next meeting and provide the Commissioners with a detailed expenditure of their expenses.

Mr. Jackson also asked that Dr. Wilson provide a summary of the Public Safety Meetings. He said that these meetings went dormant due to COVID, but the Sheriff would like to re-engage those meetings due to the amount of inmates at CCC waiting to be adjudicated. Mr. Jackson requested a breakdown of the reasons the inmates are in the facility.

Dr. Wilson also said that crime is expensive and is one of the largest operating costs there is in the Parish. Mr. Burrell interjected and said that the Parish provides the funding, but has no control over the operations of the facility.

- Mr. Johnson said that the ARP Committee met today. Only five organizations are eligible for funding through the process. Three of the organizations have to go through the RFP process.

Mr. Johnson asked about property on North Market that backs up to One North Place. Mr. Tim Weaver said that they will reach out to the State regarding his concern.

- Mr. Epperson announced that the Veterans Affairs Committee will meet on Thursday at 2:00 p.m. to discuss Operation Green Light, Veterans Service Office, and the Veterans Celebration's Parade & Honor Ceremony.

He also announced that the Grassroots Forum will be discussing the constitutional amendments on the ballot as well as the tax and millage renewals.

- Dr. Wilson announced that the early voting site will be open for the Fall Election.
- Mr. Burrell said that he met with the Southern Rail Commission, and it is getting a lot of support.
- Mr. Chavez said that he received several calls over the weekend about ballots going to the Parish and the wrong districts. The Clerk of the Commission said that he will share the letter to the Commissioners.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Atkins talked about the framework of the "Welcome to Caddo" signs on I-49. Mr. Weaver said that they are waiting on the materials in order to finish the sign.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *that Ordinance No. 6259 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund and the Oil & Gas Fund to provide an additional appropriation for the Safe Summer program 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: Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts and Jones (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Resolution No. 42 of 2022, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to consent to the annexation by the Town of Blanchard of a certain right-of-way within the Parish of Caddo, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts and Jones (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Taliaferro, *that Resolution No. 44 of 2022, a resolution to urge and request the Caddo Parish Planning Board to review and make recommendations regarding the placement of mobile homes as a use-by-right in R-A zoning districts, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (9). NAYS: Commissioner Hopkins (1). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts and Jones (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *that Resolution No. 45 of 2022, a resolution authorizing the Parish Administrator to execute on behalf and in the name of Caddo Parish a contract for Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Administrative Services* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts and Jones (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *that Constance Green be considered as an appointment to the Parish Planning Board during Thursday's Regular Session.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts and Jones (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *that Jake Brown be considered as an appointment to the Parish Planning Board during Thursday's Regular Session.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson,

Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts and Jones (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that Consideration of Ternium USA to participate in the ITEP Program At 2500 Ron Bean Blvd., Shreveport* be moved to Thursday's agenda. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts and Jones (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson** *that the Commission go in to Executive Session with regards to La. Gaming Control Board (and La. Racing Commission) vs. Lafourche Parish (and Caddo Parish), No. 722,256, 19th Judicial District Court, East Baton Rouge Parish and allow the Parish Administrator, Assistant Parish Administrator, Commission Clerk, Assistant Commission Clerk, Parish Attorney, and Assistant Parish Attorney to be present in the room.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (9). NAYS: Commissioner Jackson (1). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts and Jones (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

The Commission then went into Executive Session.

When the Commission came back into the Work Session, it was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *that consideration of a moratorium on enforcement of Ord. No. 6240 of 2022 relative to Occupational License Requirements Of Off Track Betting Establishments* be moved to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Jackson said that he will not be voting in favor of this. He said that the Commission has the constitutional authority to enact ordinances relative to occupational license, zoning, planning, etc. He believes that this is the State encroaching upon local government.

Mr. Young wanted to know if the other parishes in this lawsuit are Home Rule Charter parishes. Attorney Bernstein said that Lafourche Parish is a Home Rule Charter.

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

COMMUNIQES AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Jones wished his son, Seth, a happy tenth birthday.

CONSENT AGENDA

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at **5:07 p.m.**


Assistant Commission Clerk