

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 18th DAY OF JANUARY, 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, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). ABSENT: None (0).

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Shirley Pierson came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

I am here representing the School Park Neighborhood Association, which consists of approximately 80 families. The subdivision is located right off Fort Street. So, we travel it daily. We're concerned about the deplorable condition of that street and some sections in particular. It has been disgraceful for a few years now and at the section of the street from Leroy to Dale, the southside lane heading east, is tearing up our vehicles. Some people choose to drive on the other side of the street sometime when, you know, I've seen a few people drive on the other side of the street to avoid the bumps, the potholes, the unevenness of the streets. The humps and bumps in certain sections is really like a roller coaster. So, we have informed City and official Parish officials about the condition of the street and we were told that it is a State Highway. So, it is now our understanding that the State is willing to do improvements after the City of Shreveport does their part; and, I understand that the Parish's involvement is also crucial in getting this done; and, that's why we're before you today. We're asking that you do whatever it takes within your power to fix this problem. Fort street is well travelled. It leads directly to downtown; and, I'm sure you know that the Amazon plant is near that section, so that's going to mean even more traffic. Finally, since I am here today I'd like to thank you, especially Commissioner Jackson, for taking the initiative to name a portion of Ford Street after my husband the late Carl Pierson, who served as a Parish Commissioner for twelve years. So, when we received the notification from the state, my family and I were very elated that Carl would be honored in this manner. So, thank you very much. We hope and pray that you will help in repairing and maintaining Fort Street for the citizens in the Allendale community and for those in other communities who travel it frequently and we thank you again for this opportunity.

Travis Bogan came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

I am here to talk about the Ford Street also. I am a member of the historical Mount Canaan Baptist Church with is located in the Allendale community, and all of our members have to travel Fort Street in order to get to our church services. The condition of the street is really unacceptable. It's really as Mrs. Piercing stated, its not even good for your vehicle to travel. I don't know what the speed limit is it's like one continuous speed bump and I, also, would like to thank Commissioner Jackson for his commitment to doing something; and I encourage all of you to support that effort. Thank you.

Paul Pratt came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

I have rising again in opposition of Resolution 84. That would come before you guys today and on Thursday. You should have a joint letter from LAMOGA, as well as, LOGA in opposition of this resolution also. We see that this resolution is very restrictive and essentially imposes a de facto moratorium on oil and gas drilling. Since, 2014 in Natural gas industry has produced about 5,000 jobs annually in here in Caddo Parish, as well as, \$190M annual payroll. In addition to that, \$100M in severance tax as well as ad valorem taxes to Caddo Parish. Resolution 84 should be-will be restrictive and crippling to our economy, because our oil and gas producers can go across state line to Texas, where they have less restrictive language in their language for rules in their drilling and operating. For example, setbacks. We see that it's proposed 3,000 feet setback. It's not based on any science or any data or current analytics. This is overreaching. As well as, probably the most restrictive setback in the nation. So, we've worked with other communities Desoto Parish, Bossier Parish and come down with common language that makes sense not only for those Parish governments, but also for land owners. There're other things that are also in 84, nighttime completion, which could be problematic for operators; because, it will prolong them drilling as well as fracking. Could increase costs as well as pulling thousands of feet of pipe out of the ground each night. That will be a safety issue for, not only our workers on the forefront, but also our land owners. There are other things that are also mentioned in these twelve provisions of Resolution 84. We see something as significant as a financial surety. That could be very problematic, because of the potential for misuse and all the other provisions and mechanism are already the rules of the state. We ask that you continued to work with the industry as well as department of natural resources to come up with a conservative effort to mitigate noise and dust and all that for the land owners here in Caddo Parish; and I just want you guys to remember one of the reason Caddo Parish is flush with a nice revenue because of the money that you receive from oil and gas exploration about ten years ago. Let's not make these operators go to other areas. Thank you.

Pastor Williams came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good afternoon. I am here also in support of Shirley Pierson. I am the Vice President of the School Park Association; and, our concerns are, again, Ford Street. As a lifelong resident of the Allendale/Lakeside community, the neighborhood that I reside in was built in 1962. Therefore, this neighborhood is 59 to 60 years old this year; and, in my lifetime being a residence there, I've never seen Ford Street in such a condition that it is. It is very unsafe to travel. If you don't wear your seatbelt, you will wear it once you come off of Ford Street. I guarantee you. You will end up in the top of your vehicle. It is a very frequent traveled street and I know that you guys will do what is within your power to help us in this situation. There are various churches that are on that street-major churches. As far as, Saint Rest in that area, Mount Canaan, Trinity Baptist Church, and all of these churches use that as an assessment to their property. As well as, going downtown. In fact, there is on the other end of Ford Street, which is Caddo, there is also construction of nice apartments going up; and, I'm quite sure that the people who have the tendency to move in there would not like to have to travel that roller coaster ride in order to get home or away from home. As well as, Amazon being in that area. So, please if you would do what is right in assisting us in getting that corrected. Thank you for your time and your patience.

VISITORS

- Red River Waterway Commission
Colin S. Brown
P.E., Executive Director of Red River Waterway Commission

Mr. Burrell said that they have postponed their visit with the Commission once again. Mr. Jackson and Mr. Young would like to be a part of the discussions with the Red River Waterway Commission.

The Clerk of the Commission mentioned that the Red River Waterway Commission submitted the following letter, which is also attached to the electronic agenda:

Commissioners,

My name is Colin Brown and I am the Executive Director of the Red River Waterway Commission. Thank you for the opportunity to provide a written update on the Red River Waterway Commission. As you well know, we are all living in very challenging times and having to adjust our activities as we continue to deal with the impacts of COVID. I will give you a brief summary of the Commission and recent Commission activities.

- *The Red River Waterway Commission is the local sponsor of the J. Bennett Johnston Navigation Project, which we all know as, the Red River.*
- *The Red River Navigation Project was authorized by Congress in 1968. The Red River Waterway Commission was created in 1965. Construction began on the Locks and Dams in 1977 with Lock and Dam No. 1 opening in 1984. Locks and Dams 4 and 5 were completed in 1994 making the river fully operational.*
- *The Red River flows for 270 miles in Louisiana. Of that 270 miles, approximately 220 miles are commercially navigable with that portion stretching from the Old River Lock to the Caddo-Bossier Port. It is authorized for a 9' deep by 200' wide navigation channel.*
- *Currently there are 5 locks and dams on the Red River that provide a total lift of 141 feet.*
- *The Red River Waterway District covers a 7-parish area that includes Caddo, Bossier, Red River, Natchitoches, Grant, Rapides, and Avoyelles Parishes.*
- *The Commission is chaired by the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, who appoints someone to act in his stead. It is governed by 11 Commissioners appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. There is one Commissioner from each of the 7 parishes that serve 6-year terms. Additionally, there are 4 At-Large Commissioners that serve terms concurrent with the Governor. As you all know, the Caddo Parish representative on the Commission is Mr. Ronald Lattier and the At-Large Commissioner from Caddo Parish is Mr. Versa Clark.*
- *The Commission, among other things, promotes economic and recreational development along the River.*
- *The Commission, with the Red River as the required nexus, works closely with the 5 public ports on the Red River as part of its economic development role.*
- *The five public ports include the Caddo-Bossier Port, the Red River Parish Port, the Natchitoches Parish Port, the Central Louisiana Regional Port, and the Avoyelles Parish Port.*
- *The Caddo-Bossier Port is the largest of the public ports on the Red River. The Commission currently has three Caddo-Bossier Port projects for which we have budgeted funds including: 1) Heavy Load Multi-Modal Warehouse with RRWC Investment of \$3,435,500, 2) Hardstand/Barge Infrastructure Project with RRWC Investment of \$3,963,650, 3) Slack Water Harbor Dredging Project with RRWC Investment of \$320,000. Recently, the Commission has worked with the Caddo-Bossier Port on completed projects that include: 1) Material Handling Equipment,*

- 2) Warehouse Expansion, 3) Wheel Loader, 4) Dock Fendering System, etc.
- On the recreation side, the Commission owns and operates 19 Recreation Areas. The Commission has 3 Recreation Areas in Caddo Parish - the North Caddo Recreation Area, the Stoner Recreation Area, and the Bishop Point Recreation Area. Combined, these 3 Recreation Areas alone had a 2021 attendance of nearly 240,000 visitors.
- Current Commission projects in Caddo Parish include the Texas Street Bridge Lighting Project with RRWC Investment of \$1,000,000, and the Bishop Point, Red Bayou, and Natchitoches Comfort Station Project with RRWC Investment of approximately \$843,000. Recently completed projects in Caddo Parish include: 1) Stoner/Teague Dock Rehabilitation with RRWC Investment of approximately \$3,000,000, 2) Shreveport Riverview Phase II Project with RRWC Investment of approximately \$1,179,000.
- In a combined economic development/recreation effort, the Commission works with the Shreveport-Bossier Sports Commission to bring fishing events to the Red River. In 2021 the following events occurred in the Caddo Parish area:
 1. The Bass Federations High School State Championship - Economic Impact \$269,622
 2. The Bass Federation National Championship - over 100 anglers from all over the country with an average stay of 7-10 days - Economic Impact \$271,055
 3. Crappie Expo & Mr. Crappie Invitational -The Expo utilized the entire Shreveport Convention Center for 3 days with over 100 vendors. 25,000 visitors attended the Expo over 3 days. Over 200 anglers competed in the event from all over the country. Expo Economic Impact - \$3,739,785, Tournament Economic Impact \$378,162
 4. Kayak Bass Federation National Championship & Expo -The expo was held at the Shreveport Convention Center for 2 days and had over 30 vendors. 350 Anglers competed in the event- Economic Impact \$997,121
- As many of you will recall, the Red River hosted the 2009 and 2012 Bass Master Classics. We continue to seek to have these, and other, tournaments on the Red River.
- In regards to the economic and recreation development on the Red River, a question might be asked as to whether or not the investment in the J. Bennett Johnston Navigation Project is paying off. In that regard, in 2019, the Commission had Dr. Loren Scott complete an update to an Economic Impact Study that was originally prepared in 2006 and updated in 2013. The Economic Impact Study professionally, statistically, and empirically confirms the positive impacts from the Red River. The Red River Waterway Commission, working together with ports and communities along the Red River, has brought over \$10.8 billion dollars to the 7-parish region. As outstanding as that dollar amount is, when adjusted for inflation and put into 2019 dollars, it jumps to almost \$14.4 billion.
- To more easily see the impacts of the Project, for every \$1 of tax collected, over \$36 in new spending, over \$61 in new business sales, and over \$18 in new household earnings has been generated.
- In spite of all of the good news, we face many challenges. One of the major challenges is the reduction in federal funding for channel dredging and backlog maintenance, and for waterways in general. The Commission continues to work closely with the Corps of Engineers regarding these challenges.
- As we move into 2022 and beyond, the Commission will continue to foster economic and recreation development by working with ports and communities on the Red River. New initiatives that the Commission has approved or is considering include the Extension of Navigation into Arkansas and a 12' Navigation Channel on the Red River. These items, if completed, would play a major role in the continued development of the Red River, Caddo Parish, and the entire Red River Waterway District.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide this update on the recent and current activities of the Red River Waterway Commission. Thank you for what you, as Caddo Parish Commissioners, do for Caddo Parish and for our region.

Sincerely,
/s/Colin S. Brown, P.E.
Executive Director

- North LA Criminalistics Laboratory
Teri Pritchard

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, to move Colin S. Brown as a Visitor to Thursday's agenda. Motion carried by acclamation.

- Put A Poem On It
Poetic X and Pam Atchison

Poetic X thanked the Commission for appointing him as Poet Laureate for Caddo Parish. He is proposing placing a poem mural in each one of the Commission districts that speaks to the history, neighborhood experiences, etc. that depicts that district.

Ms. Atchison said that even though Poetic X put together a timeline and budget for one year, this might be a two-year project.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know how Poetic X sees how this fit in with the character of the neighborhoods and how he would get students involved. Poetic X said that these murals and poems would motivate, encourage, and even inspire students to get more involved in literacy programs. It is his goal to get as many people as possible to gravitate towards poetry. Poetic X also said that he teaches workshops, so he can help people get their works recorded or published.

Ms. Atchison said that the poem murals would be Poetic X's work, and the QR codes attached to it would be a recording of that poem by Poetic X.

Mr. Young suggested power washing murals.

- Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Program
Kay West

Ms. West said that she was in the 44th class for the Leadership Program, and they learned about economic development, transportation, and education. For their class project, they put together a public arts project and would like to partner with the Commission to possibly help fund it.

Mr. Cordavian Baylor said that the objective and goal from the Chamber Class is to communicate the deep desire for positive transformation and continued expansion and growth across this community. The project would be to create a landmark at the Marshall Street underpass, which goes right into downtown. It would be wrapped in colors that would represent the welcoming and encompassing feel and identity and culture of Caddo-Bossier citizens. He also said that the symbol of the butterfly would be incorporated in this project because it represents transformation. It is their goal to work with all community leader in order to communicate and serve as pillars of this community and make this happen.

Mr. Jackson requested that they submit an NGO application for this project. He also said that he is supportive of this project and hopes the Commission will support it as well.

Ms. West mentioned that they do have a budget for \$50,000. She said that the first round of funding came from the City of Shreveport, and they were also able to raise about \$13,000. They are asking the Caddo Commission to match those funds.

Mr. Chavez said that he is in support of this project. He mentioned that his office is adjacent to these pillars. He envisions a quarterly community clean-up with murals across every building. It is his hope to revitalize Marshall Street. He appreciates this team from coming today. Mr. Chavez also wanted to know how artists would participate in this endeavor. Mr. Baylor said that he has been doing public art throughout the City. He also said that he is the lead artist on this project and has two assistant artists, Ben Moss and Eric Francis. Boom lifts are also being acquired for this project since the tallest column is about 38 feet tall.

Mr. Young suggested power washing art. He also suggested this same type of art project on Dalzell Street under I-49.

Mr. Burrell asked Dr. Magner to speak on the Umbrella Broadband Committee.

Dr. Magner explained that the City, Caddo Commission, School Board, Shreve Memorial Library, and the Sheriff's Office got together to discuss developing a coherent broadband plan for this Parish. He also said that there is going to be a significant amount of federal dollars coming this way as a consequence of the bipartisan infrastructure bill that was passed. They want to avoid duplication, so they are looking at ways to create connections between the networks and systems that already exist. Currently, there is an informal collaboration to identify areas where there is either under-capacity or over-capacity in both the City and the Parish. They've also been in contact with the State Broadband Direction and are working with to do try and enable the alignment and integration of funding. Currently, the E-Rate Funding is restrictive in terms of how it can be used to access school and library patrons, but many neighborhoods around those institutions could benefit from Wi-Fi access. They've been successful at working with the schools and the law enforcement agencies to provide access to school cameras for first responders in an active shooter situation. They are hoping to meet again beginning in February to figure out the alignment around the federal dollars.

Mr. Burrell said that the Geaux Grant's deadline was December 31, 2021. He mentioned that the providers have to apply for those monies.

- Community Healthcare Solutions
Dr. Yolanda Burnom

Dr. Burnom said that pre-pandemic, Community Healthcare Solutions treated over 3,000 clients with intensive services. She explained that clients come in, and they provide intensive services for 14 days, then they are discharged from their program. Of those 3,000 clients, less than 2% returned for additional services or was admitted to an inpatient psychiatric facility or the legal system. During May of 2019, the Department of Health & Hospitals (DHH) and Medicaid came in and wanted to know why Community Healthcare Solutions were sending their clients through crisis services. Dr. Burnom told them that the old way of keeping clients for long-term is a medical model that does not work. After this site visit, Southern Poverty Law Center sued the State of Louisiana for non-existence intensive community-based services. She said that Community Healthcare Solutions is in the process of opening a 24/7 crisis stabilization center called Alternative Interventions. This will be a duplex that can house 8-12 clients up to 14 days, but their goal is to keep them between 5-7 days. It will be staffed 24/7 with a licensed provider, mental health specialist, peer support, and a nurse. They will also have a computer lab and daily activities. They will also offer a mobile crisis van. It is their goal to offer a different solution aside from Brentwood or the Juvenile Detention Center for non-violent crimes. They hope to partner with law enforcement agencies and probations officers to create a test pilot of this model.

Mr. Burrell said that he visited the facility, and this organization is much needed for this community and Parish.

Mr. Jackson pointed out that three different addresses were mentioned. Dr. Burnom explained that the Youree Drive location is for the admin offices, Quentin Street will be where the duplexes are located, and currently, Community Healthcare Solutions is located at 1519 Creswell. Mr. Jackson understood. He is also interested in talking with Dr. Burnom about the medical costs at CCC. He also mentioned to her the empty building that is across the street from CCC.

Mr. Jackson then wanted to know if this facility will be an in-patient facility. Dr. Burnom said that it is not, but an intensive community-based program. It is not their goal to keep clients in treatment for a long period of time.

Mr. Johnson asked that Administration look in to programs that they already have that would fit into Dr. Burnom's program.

- Waste Water Study Update
Kevin Murnane

Mr. Burrell 36:29

Dr. Murnane

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- U.S. Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Mrs. Barnett said that they are currently writing on their last allocation from the Treasury. They were reallocated funds through the State and through the national pool of \$5.2M, but they have not received those funds. They have already allocated approximately \$4M of those funds to be paid out as soon as they are received. The deadline for submitting applications is Wednesday, January 19, 2022. In the event there is a reallocation from Treasury, they will go through the process of reopening the application portal. The Parish of Caddo has distributed approximately \$40M of ERAP funds.

Dr. Wilson commended the Finance Department for all of their hard work in providing the citizens with this funding.

Mr. Jackson asked about Grace Project. Dr. Wilson said that they are lacking in the proper document based on what the Treasury requires. He also said that they have reached out to them in order to obtain that documentation. Dr. Wilson also mentioned that each of the community partners received \$10,000 for startup costs.

Dr. Wilson also pointed out that no customer, of the 14,000 that were served, said they were displeased with any particular organization.

Mrs. Gage-Watts wanted to know who were the attorneys that were helping with eviction mitigation. Attorney Frazier said Jeremy Baybars, Thomas Mayfield, and Alonzo Jackson were, but their contract ended December 31, 2021. She also mentioned that they were not compensated unless they actually assisted someone. Attorney Frazier also said that Alonzo Jackson is still under contract because

he has assisted people since December 31, 2021. Mrs. Gage-Watts then wanted to know how many people were helped. Attorney Frazier said that three or four people were assisted. Mrs. Gage-Watts then wanted to know how was this advertised. Attorney Frazier said that it was placed on the website and mentioned in the meetings. She also mentioned that persons who are eligible for assistance with eviction mitigation have to be direct participants.

Mr. Johnson suggested having more advertisement for important issues, such as eviction mitigation. He said that most people don't go to the website. Mrs. Bryant said that they also used social media as a form of advertisement. Mr. Johnson suggested advertising these types of issues on TV.

- Juvenile Detention

There are 21 children in the detention center; six of which are 17 year old, five are OJJ. There are also 8 children in CCC.

Mr. Young asked for an update on what is needed to make conditions for juveniles at CCC more humane and appropriate to their age. Dr. Wilson said that he, Attorney Bernstein, and Mrs. Bryant met with Sheriff Prator, along with their Chief Deputy. The Sheriff's concern was that they are short on personnel, and he had to put the kids into areas where the adults were located. Some of the kids had gang affiliations; when they were left by themselves, they would fight with each other. To manage that, the Sheriff had to split them up. Sheriff Prator said that they are 75 deputies short, so there is a tremendous staffing problem that prohibits him from having a separate area.

Mrs. Gage-Watts wanted to know how many commissioned deputies are at the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office. Dr. Wilson said that he will find out.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know how many parishes in Louisiana have a detention center. Mr. Clay Walker, Juvenile Services Director, said that there are fourteen centers statewide. Mr. Johnson then wanted to know where do the juveniles go if that parish does not have a facility. Mr. Walker explained that they either go to a place where the Parish rents a bed or in an adult facility for a short period of time. Dr. Wilson said that it has been problematic meeting the State's facility requirements. Mr. Walker said that they did look into how much it would cost to rent beds, and that number came out to be \$2M, which Juvenile Services does not have. He also said that if there is an empty facility, it would need to be staffed. Mr. Johnson then wanted to know if CCC meets the State's guidelines. Mr. Walker said that they do not for juveniles. Dr. Wilson said that those children are there because of the nature of their crimes.

- December, 2021 Financial Report

Dr. Wilson also mentioned that the 2021 December Financial Reports are each Commissioners' station as well as being electronically attached to the agenda.

- Tim James, Inc. and Ford Street Comparison

Dr. Wilson provided copies of this document to the Commissioners, as well as a copy of the Administrator's recommendation regarding Right-Sizing.

Mr. Jackson said that it seems he received a contrast and not a comparison. Dr. Wilson said that he did his best to do a comparison and added that if more is needed, an engineering firm would need to do it.

- COVID

There have been 29 positive COVID cases with the Caddo Parish Commission organization, with 4 contacts. The Clerk of Court's office had three cases; District Attorney's Office had thirteen; Vivian Health Center had two; and the Coroner's Office had two cases.

- Broadband

Mr. Epperson talked about the Broadband Committee. The Clerk of the Commission explained that a Broadband Committee was formed, but there has only been one nomination for the committee. Mr. Epperson said that this is important and is "something that we should get clicking on".

Mr. Burrell mentioned that the Chamber is not "driving the Commission in terms of broadband". He explained that the committee was set up, but he has not heard from anyone, so he reached out to professionals in those areas.

Dr. Wilson said that they submitted three letters of support to internet service providers with regards to the Gumbo Grant to be able to get money to help underserved areas of Caddo Parish or the rural areas.

- Requests from Commissioners

Mrs. Gage-Watts requested an update for COVID testing kits for the citizens. Dr. Wilson said that they requested the kits last week, but have not heard back.

Mr. Epperson talked about orphan wells and mentioned that they are now under the Infrastructure Act. He asked that Administration research it.

Mr. Jackson said that there is a young lady that would like to open an event center on Wells Island Road. He asked that Administration help her resolve this issue.

COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Epperson mentioned that there will be free COVID kits available to citizens. They need to go to special.usps.com/testkits. They will be able to receive four kits per household at no cost.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Atkins reminded the Commissioners to submit names to the Clerk of the Commission with regards to the Broadband Committee.

OLD BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *that Ordinance No. 6154 of 2022, in regards to Zoning Case 21-35-P, 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 west end of Sandi Acres Loop, Caddo Parish, LA, from RMHS, Residential Manufactured Home Subdivision District, to R-A Rural-Agricultural District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Epperson said that he has not received any complaints or concerns from citizens. He asked that the Commission support this ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS

Substitute motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to move the following ordinances to Thursday's agenda for introduction:*

- *Ordinance No. 6154 of 2022, in regards to Zoning Case 21-35-P, 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 west end of Sandi Acres Loop, Caddo Parish, LA, from RMHS, Residential Manufactured Home Subdivision District, to R-A Rural-Agricultural District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6174 of 2022, an ordinance amending the 2021 Budget to amend the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Head Start Fund and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6175 of 2022, an ordinance amending the 2021 Budget to amend the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Section 8 Fund and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6176 of 2022, an ordinance amending the 2021 Budget to amend the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the General Fund to provide an appropriation for the Wheelchair Ramp and Roof Repair Program and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

Mr. Jackson, Mrs. Gage-Watts, and Mr. Burrell asked to be co-sponsors for Ordinance No. 6176 of 2022.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that Ordinance No. 6177 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Oil & Gas Fund and the Riverboat Fund to provide an appropriation of \$32,000 for a mural program and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction and remanded to the Economic Development Committee for review before final passage. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call

Work Session Minutes
January 18, 2022

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. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *to englobo and move the following items to Thursday's agenda:*

- *Ordinance No. 6178 of 2022, an ordinance to repeal Sections 32-160 through 32-167 of the Caddo Parish Code of Ordinances regarding Noise Violations, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6179 of 2022, an ordinance to repeal Sections 26-38, Section 26-126, and Sections 26-162 through 26-166 of the Caddo Parish Code of Ordinances regarding Weight Limits, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6180 of 2022, an ordinance to repeal Chapter 8 of the Caddo Parish Code of Ordinances regarding Animals & Fowl, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6181 of 2022, an ordinance to repeal Section 12-248 through 12-252 of the Caddo Parish Code of Ordinances regarding Sexually Oriented Businesses, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6182 of 2022, an ordinance to repeal Chapter 4 of the Caddo parish Code of Ordinances regarding Alcoholic Beverages, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6183 of 2022, an ordinance to repeal Sections 12-21 through 12-26 of the Caddo Parish Code of Ordinances regarding Occupancy Taxes, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6184 of 2022, an ordinance to repeal Section 32-115 through 32-118 of the Caddo Parish Code of Ordinances regarding Teen Curfews, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6185 of 2022, an ordinance to repeal Sections 30-19 through 30-31 and Sections 30-51 through 30-55 of the Caddo Parish Code of Ordinances regarding Property Standards, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

Jackson: think some folks have said that I have, you know, tried to slap the fine citizens of the rural areas in the face, which mean I will be slapping my friend Todd Hopkins, and I would dare do that. What I have consistently tried to figure out is what is it that we want, as it relates to zoning regulations, and things of that nature. A lot of us have been some pretty ugly things up here around this issue, and for no reason at all. We've tried to figure out what it is that the rural areas want. I think their Commissioners were on the path to try to figure that out, but we've been bombarded for the last three or four weeks with folks saying they don't want anybody touching their property rights. We've had videos made about us, and they don't want anybody messing with their property rights. At no point did anybody ever tried to make a distinction between property rights and zoning. There has been a mass cadre of folks saying don't mess with my rights. the reality is to say that we're going to live in a society—a lawless society is simply unimaginable and unbelievable. The other thing to me is that we've got a lot of folks who have been quiet on this issue. I got called out by a sector of this community, a business sector of this community for a seconded the motion to move forward the repeal of the UDC. Then I have a developer that is building quarter of million dollar homes in the northern part of the perimeter in my district, call me and chew me out because he said what we're about to do is violate an agreement that he thought he had with local government, which was to build those nice homes with the protection that he would have zoning, which is literally right across the street out in the unincorporated areas of the Parish. I always use Commissioner Gage-Watts for this example. we have a lot of places around here where if we don't have some level of regulation, or rule, we'd have a lawless society but you know, a lot of folks have called me out for introducing this, but I want us to hear what is being said out in the public.

At this time, Mr. Jackson asked that a video be played for the Commission and public to see.

Jackson: Before I put these on the agenda, I questioned whether I should do this. I called the Attorney's Office. I called several folks, and said, 'should I do this?' They were lost on what exactly do we want—or what do the rural residents want. And so you can't say that you want no regulation. You don't want to regulate private property without having any of these as well. So here we are, and I think we need to determine where we want to go.

Johnson: When I first got elected to office, I was getting phone calls, that we had laws on the books

that didn't have any teeth to them. And that things weren't happening. The only reason that is even brought in the attention is because we enforced what was on the books. They sent people out to write citations on things that were happening. The UDC had existed for two years, before we send somebody out. We had six months, and I prolonged it in the in the commission, before it even passed—trying to get public input. But they were like, it doesn't bother me, so I'm not worried about. Until we sent officers out and that is when all this happened. So, whether we go back to what we had, until we start putting people out enforcing those laws, they'll be back down here again complaining. But I'm not going to live in a parish where we have no rules because it will get out of hand. I'm not going to support repealing all of this. We need to have at least that in place because that's better than nothing at all. I tried to explain to people that a covenant is good within a neighborhood, but once you go across the street—I can put a dog pound across the street, or I can put a manufacturing plant across the street, and you can't do anything about it, even with all of the pristine covenants you have in your neighborhood. You still want to know about what's across the street. They don't realize that. Lakeview is one of the worst neighborhoods in the Parish because it has no covenants. So, you have from a single wide trailer to four- or \$5 million-dollar houses all in the same neighborhood. Are you going to turn one way or turn the other way? So that creates a problem. And so, I will not support those, keep those in place until we can come up with something that's better than those, and not as worse as the UDC. When you first saw the UDC, it was ridiculous. You can buy a tract of land, and you cannot cut down all the trees on your own land. I'm not gonna support it, because somebody out their man, they could whatever tree they want down and plant whatever trees they want to play in this place. What I have a problem with one of the groups that came down here that was arguing with us all the time about these laws in place, that property rights, their property rights. Well, they were come to the Commission about property rights, but then going to the City Council and keeping somebody from developing an area right outside of the Cooper Road. You're either for property rights, or you're against property rights. If I own this track land, and you say that you don't want to have no property rights, and do whatever you want to do. But they were being selective. We're going to help support this neighborhood over here, but keep this one from being developed. That's not right. You have to be on one side of the fence or the other. So, with property rights, there are some restrictions that roll with them. They strengthen them some more. And let's move forward instead of doing all of this other stuff.

Young: I just like to point out that the Long-Range Planning Committee appointed a citizens advisory committee to make recommendations about what kind of level of regulation they want in Caddo Parish. All regulations exist within a degree; they're not absolute; none is binary zero or a one. Zoning regulations are the most comprehensive and restrictive form of land use regulations. They are specifically disclaimed as undesirable by the committee and the report that we talked about and was voted on in the Long-Range Planning Committee. That report specifically said that ordinances such as these which are listed for potential repeal, were the level of regulation that they preferred for the place where they live. And so I don't think that claiming to repeal down moves the conversation forward constructively, so I'm gonna vote against it.

Burrell: this kind of thing becomes so political, I guess, just while we in political positions. But at the same time, I'm new to the commission and city ordinances. But as I understood it, even out in the Parish, beyond our city limits, there are regulations. we do have some sort of codes that are out there. I understand that some people did not want the UDC because that was more restrictive than what we already have out there in the rural area. It was my understanding that the MPC said they were modifying those rules that were out in the rural to not make it as astringent as the UDC itself, but a modification of the UDC or the existing rules that are out in the rural. I know he presented a draft to us early on, which almost match what was there originally, they weren't complaining about the rules that were out there before this UDC thing came. I know the MPC director, Alan Clark, did his due diligence to try to modify what was out there by using examples from other rural areas. It appears that they rejected that too. So, I'm back to Commissioner Johnson's statement. Either you want rules or you don't; you can't have it both ways. We need to go back and work with the MPC on getting some sort of modification of what's out there now and to do it so it will be less stringent on the people who are living out there now.

Call for the Question by Mr. Epperson, seconded by Mr. Jackson. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Jones (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Jackson's motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioner Epperson (1). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (10). None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *to englobo and move the*

following ordinances to Thursday's agenda for introduction:

- *Ordinance No. 6186 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund for the year 2022 to appropriate funds received from the U.S. Treasury in the amount of \$5,274,675 for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6187 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund for the year 2021 to appropriate Emergency Rental Assistance Program from the State of Louisiana and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

At this time, Mr. Jackson's 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 Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *that Ordinance No. 6188 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues for the American Rescue Plan Fund to provide an appropriation for Ring Doorbell Pilot Program in Caddo Parish, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mrs. Gage-Watts said that this program is designed to help make the community safer by all by purchasing up to \$100,000 Ring devices for residents in hot-spot areas. The mission is to support residents in these areas that are plagued by gun violence in particular, by providing an additional tool to help fight crime. The participants must be in Caddo parish, as it is stated in the ordinance address is identified in targeted areas. The device will also include one year of paid subscription costs, applicants will receive the devices on a first come first served basis, and they have to be at least 18 years old. They must also agree to register with the Shreveport Crim Center to allow law enforcement to access these devices. They must also own a mobile device and have a Wi-Fi internet connection. There will be a limit to one per household.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know if there would be help to those citizens who do not have internet access. Mrs. Gage-Watts said that there are options such as Internet Essentials with Comcast.

Mr. Chavez also wanted to know how the one-year subscription would be paid. Mrs. Gage-Watts said that the Parish would pay for the one-year subscriptions with Ring.

Mr. Johnson pointed out that this is a pilot program to help gather data to determine if this program should carry on year to year.

Mr. Epperson asked about the cameras that were set up. Mr. Chavez said that those cameras could not be used from the American Rescue Plan Fund. Mr. Johnson said that the purpose would need to be changed.

Mr. Epperson then wanted to know if there are any other communities who are using this program. Mrs. Gage-Watts said that Chicago is using it, and it is a successful program.

Mr. Epperson also wanted to know who would be responsible for damages to the cameras. Mrs. Gage-Watts said that it would be the citizen's device.

Mr. Hopkins wanted to know about the residents in the rural areas of the Parish. Mrs. Gage-Watts said that information would go to the Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Taliaferro wanted to know if we had a deal with Ring. Mrs. Gage-Watts said that the Parish does not.

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Lazarus (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Ordinance No. 6189 of 2022, an ordinance to enact Section 2-5 relative to parish-owned or maintained buildings and offices, to provide that agencies, constitutional officers, or other political subdivisions occupying those buildings and offices shall report data regarding communicable diseases of concern to the public and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Epperson said that this information is helpful for citizens to determine whether or not they want to come in-person to these public facilities to handle their business.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know how this information would be distributed to the citizens. Dr.

Wilson said that they would need to work out the details on how that would be executed. Mr. Chavez then wanted to know if there would be any incurred fees. Dr. Wilson does not feel that a bill would be associated with this information. Attorney Frazier said that this leads to the question, what would be the enforcement mechanism?

Mr. Epperson wanted to know how they received the information Dr. Wilson provided today with regards to COVID cases. Dr. Wilson said that Human Resources contacted the agencies.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know if there were any issues with invasion of privacy. Dr. Wilson said that they do not disseminate names, only data.

At this time, Mr. Epperson's 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. Young**, seconded by Mr. Taliaferro, *that Resolution No. 9 of 2022, a resolution authorizing the Parish Attorney's Office to request an opinion from the Louisiana State Attorney General's Office reading the authority of the Parish Commission functioning as a Planning & Zoning Commission and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration.

Mr. Young said that LA.R.S. 33:103F states that a Home Ruled Charter Parish may function as its own board, if certain provisions exist in its Charter. He said that they are not sure what specificity those provisions have to have, so an AG opinion is needed.

At this time, Mr. Young's 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. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Young, *that Resolution No. 10 of 2022, a resolution requiring all ordinances to originate from or be reviewed by Caddo Parish Committees, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be remanded to the Personnel Policies & Procedures Committee and forward to the January 31, 2022 Work Session.

Substitute motion by Mr. Chavez, seconded by Mr. Young, *that Resolution No. 10 of 2022 be remanded to the Personnel Policies & Procedures Committee.*

Mr. Chavez explained that this will go to committee, but regardless of that discussion, it will be back on the agenda for a Work Session.

Mr. Jackson said that he would like this to be vetted in committee, and would like the committee to be called before the next Work Session.

Mr. Chavez withdrew his substitute motion.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *that Resolution No. 11 of 2022, a resolution urging and requesting the Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development to consider to inclusion of Louisiana Hwy 173, from Pierre Avenue to Hartman Street, in its Right-Sizing Program, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration.

Kevin Blunck
DOTD:

The Department has identified a lot of roads in the State System to be what they call right size and that is if any entity would like to receive a road that a state highway that is identified as a right size eligible roadway then the entity can request the state to start process of right sizing. That right sizing means that we bring the road up to a good or better standard—good or better condition in the roadway. Then we give the entity capital outlay credits for 30 years. Caddo Street—I'm sure most of y'all know Caddo for Hwy 173 or Hilary Huckabee. That is a road that has 7,000 cars a day that that drive on a three lane highway. It's a composite roadway. It's got concrete with an asphalt overlay on it. It hasn't been overlaid in quite some time. However, the state is in a in a situation where next year's Pavement Preservation budget is going to be \$6 million. That this district. That's seven parishes. I'm over Caddo and Red River Parish, and I'm basically able to get one road per year overlaid in the Pavement Preservation Program. That means, this year, we're going to get LA 173 up around Oil City up until I-49. Next year, it will be Mansfield Road. However, Ford Street just has to compete with a lot of roads—a lot of bad roads, I guess you could call them. So anyway, it has been discussed over the years that Caddo and Ford and Hilary Huckabee up to I-220 is eligible to be right sized. that's a different program than pavement preservation. If you were to authorize a right size, and we would expect that, that you would

authorize it from a state road to a state road. so we've got four options, you've got Spring Street, Market Street, Common, Hearne, and I-220. So if you're talking about right-sizing in front of the Head Start, we would really expect you to go from Hearne to Common, which would be 1.53 miles, and then we would do an overlay, repair any kind of catch basins, and things that were identified. Then you would have to pass another resolution to actually accept the right size. Even though that's up the negotiation and gone through analysis, you get \$2.8 million worth of capital outlay credits.

Tim Weaver

Public Works: You know, one of the things on the right size, and there's a big pot of money. Caddo Commission has never wanted to right size.

Dr. Wilson

Mr. Jackson

Mr. Chavez

Mr. Hopkins

Dr. Wilson

Mr. Taliaferro

Mr. Young

Mr. Jones

Mr. Jackson

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

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *to advance Grace Project as a Visitor for January 20, 2022 Regular Session. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell and Epperson (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

COMMUNIQES AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Johnson wanted to know if the equipment was bought for the wintry mix that this area is supposed to receive. Dr. Ward said that the funds were approved for the budget, and the order has been submitted for the materials.

CONSENT AGENDA

- *Ordinance No. 6155 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund in the amount of \$5,000 to provide an additional appropriation for the Delta Upsilon Lambda Foundation, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6156 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund in the amount of \$5,000 to provide an additional appropriation for the Dress for Success Shreveport-Bossier, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6157 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Public Works Fund and the Capital Outlay Fund in the amount of \$107,500 to provide an appropriation to install welcome signs on I-49, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6158 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund in the amount of \$5,000 to provide an appropriation for Friends in Unity, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6159 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund in the amount of*

\$10,000 to reduce the appropriation for the Playaz & Playettes, Inc., and to otherwise provide with respect thereto

- *Ordinance No. 6160 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Oil & Gas Fund for the year 2022 to provide an appropriation of \$109,000 to provide Caddo Fire District No. 7 with a part-time employee, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6161 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues for the American Rescue Plan Fund to provide an appropriation of up to \$30,000 for Red G Enterprises, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6162 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues for the American Rescue Plan Fund to provide an appropriation for counseling in public high schools in Caddo Parish and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6163 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues for the American Rescue Plan Fund to provide an appropriation for Volunteers for Youth Justice for truancy, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6164 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues for the American Rescue Plan Fund to provide an appropriation for Caddo Parish Juvenile Court, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6165 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund to provide an appropriation for ERAP Housing Quality Inspections and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6166 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund to roll over an existing 2021 appropriation for eviction mitigation into the 2022 Budget, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6169 of 2022, an ordinance approving a cooperative endeavor agreement with Tim James, Inc. relative to construction of a privately-owned tollway over the Red River pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statute 48:2037, and to otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6170 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Oil & Gas Fund for the year 2022 to provide an appropriation for relocation assistance, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6171 of 2022, an ordinance amending the 2022 Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the American Rescue Plan Fund to provide an additional appropriation for Fit For Life Ministries, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6172 of 2022, an ordinance amending the 2022 Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund to provide appropriations for housing projects, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 84 of 2021, urge and request the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources to consider negative impacts of oil and gas drilling in or near urban areas, implement rules to combat those negative impacts, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Appoint members to the Caddo Parish Planning Commission. Commission to appoint 5. Kay Proby-Waller to fill one spot.*

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 6:43 p.m.


Assistant Commission Clerk