

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 5th DAY OF MARCH, 2020

The Caddo Parish Commission met in legal and regular session, on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., in the Government Chambers, with President Chavez, presiding, and the following members in attendance, constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (9). ABSENT: Commissioners Cawthorne, Epperson, and Gage-Watts (3).

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

AGENDA ADDITIONS

- It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to expand the agenda and add confirmation of Commissioner Burrell's travel to the High Speed Rail Conference in Birmingham, AL on March 18, 2020 to March 20, 2020 under New Business.*

At this time, Mr. Chavez asked if there was anyone in favor, or against, adding this item to the agenda. There was no one to speak in favor or against the agenda addition.

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

- It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to expand the agenda and add Special Resolution of Welcome & Recognition for Alpha Phi Alpha under Special Resolutions.*

At this time, Mr. Chavez asked if there was anyone in favor, or against, adding this item to the agenda. There was no one to speak in favor or against the agenda addition.

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mr. Ken Krefft asked that the Commission look into storm and tornado sirens for Caddo Parish. He said that it would be beneficial and protect the citizens of Caddo Parish.

Mr. Jack Martin stated that he recently found out about the Unified Development Code. He said that the Caddo Alliance for Freedom has "sounded the alarm because the Socialists are coming". Mr. Martin asked that the Commission reject everything about the UDC. He also said that there are more pressing issues, such as roads, the empty stadium, etc.

Ms. Sharon Flournoy came before the Commission once again to speak on behalf of Ms. Laura Neubert for the Metropolitan Planning Commission. She believes that she will be a voice for all citizens of this Parish. She asked that the Commission consider her for the position.

Mr. Jacques Brooks also came before the Commission once again to speak on behalf of Ms. Neubert for the MPC appointment. He said that she has all the traits to serve well on the board. He asked that the Commission consider her for the appointment.

Ms. Laura Neubert came to speak on behalf of herself for the MPC appointment. She said that she will be committed and dedicated to the board and will be a voice for the citizens outside the city limits regarding the UDC.

Mr. Tarodgany Lockett said that he operates Operation Green Recycling, LLC. He said that the Strategic Action Council helped him connect and network his business with other companies, making it a success. He said that the Strategic Action Council is much needed for this community and the minority owned businesses.

ADOPT REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *that the Regular Session Minutes from February 20, 2020 be adopted. Motion carried.*

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *that Special Resolution of Recognition to Ms. Susan Moffitt for 2020 Time Dealer of the Year Award be adopted. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Hopkins, Jackson,

Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (9). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Cawthorne, Epperson, and Gage-Watts (3). ABSTAIN: None (0).

**RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION
MS. SUSAN MOFFITT**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission desires to give appropriate recognition to those men and women of Caddo Parish who serve the community, and who, in so doing, reflect favorably and positively upon themselves, their families and all the citizens of this Parish; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Susan Moffitt of Porsche Shreveport was named Time Dealer of the Year recipient for 2020 at the 103rd National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) Show in Las Vegas; and

WHEREAS, these recipients are honored for their outstanding performance as automobile dealers and as valued citizens working tirelessly to make their communities a better place. Moffitt's Porsche dealership in Caddo Parish earned the award based on their strong commitment to the local community; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Moffitt serves as the general manager, vice president, and secretary for Porsche Shreveport. She also co-owns the dealership along with her two brothers and sister. Together they are responsible for managing several dealerships, such as Audi, Mazda, Porsche, and Volkswagen; and

WHEREAS, the Moffitt family has a history of giving back to the community; and

WHEREAS, Moffitt's dealerships have donated vehicles to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital for the past four years through a partnership with the hospital and its St. Jude Dream Home Giveaway; and

WHEREAS, Moffitt is also a sponsor of Louisiana State University Health Foundation and LSU Health Shreveport. They also provided support for numerous organizations, such as Catholic Charities, Shriners Hospital, Betty & Leonard Phillips Deaf Action Center, Shreveport-Bossier Military Affairs Council, Barksdale AFB, Volunteers of America North Louisiana, Shreveport Symphony Guild, Boy Scouts of America, Holy Angels, and countless others; and

WHEREAS, the award allows a \$10,000 donation to a charity of Moffitt's choice, but she is discussing options with her siblings prior to making a final decision on her charity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in legal and regular session convened this 5th day of March, 2020, that it does hereby extend its heartiest and most sincere congratulations to Ms. Susan Moffitt and does hereby call upon all citizens of the Parish to share in the sense of pride, distinction, and honor that this attainment deserves.

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Special Resolution of Welcome & Recognition to Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.* be adopted.

Mr. Burrell is a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. He said that it was founded in 1906 and is the oldest black Greek collegiate organization in the Nation. He also pointed out that several community leaders, such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, and Jess Owens, are members of the organization.

The Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity thanked the Commission for recognizing their fraternity today. He also said that they have been providing service to this community. This morning, they partnered with the Caddo Parish School Board and invited several hundred young men to the Convention Center where they learned how to tie a tie, the importance of academics, and many other things. They thanked the Commission once again and invited all to attend the events that will be held this weekend.

At this time, Mr. Burrell's motion carried by acclamation.

**RESOLUTION OF WELCOME & RECOGNITION
ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC.**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission is pleased to acknowledge events of significance that occur in the community, and to recognize the organizations and individuals who are now and for a long time have been in the forefront of positive and worthy activities and deeds that accrue to the benefit of all; and

WHEREAS, such an organization is the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., who will be hosting their 74th Southwestern Regional Convention in Caddo Parish at the Shreveport Convention Center; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. was founded on December 4, 1906 at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York; and

WHEREAS, the fraternity initially served as a study and support group for minority students; and

WHEREAS, as the fraternity grew, it has continued to strive and stress academic excellence among its members, as well as recognizing the need of effective advocacy and social change that results in equality for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha has long stood at the forefront of the African-American community's fight for civil rights through leaders such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Thurgood Marshall, and many others; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity's objectives are to stimulate the ambition of its members; to prepare them for the greatest usefulness in the causes of humanity, freedom, and dignity of the individual; to encourage the highest and noblest form of manhood; and to aid downtrodden humanity in its efforts to achieve high social, economic, and intellectual status.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in legal session convened, that it does hereby welcome and recognize March 5-8, 2020 as:

"Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Weekend"

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, entreating all citizens of the Parish to join in applauding this observance and in welcoming and honoring Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and its members.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- Corona Virus Update

Mrs. Bryant updated the Commission on the Corona Virus.

- Dr. Martha Whyte

Mrs. Bryant said that Dr. Whyte will provide an update on the Corona Virus at the Commission's next Work Session.

COMMUNIQUES/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- The Deputy Clerk read aloud the following notice:

Notice is hereby given that at its meeting to be held on Thursday, April 9, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. at Government Plaza Building, 505 Travis Street, Shreveport, Louisiana, the Caddo Parish Commission plans to consider adopting a resolution ordering and calling an election to be held in Caddo Parish to authorize the renewal of ad valorem taxes.

- Mr. Jackson made a comment in reference to a Citizens Comment. He wanted to ensure the citizens that the Minority Supplier Institute is not going anywhere.

He also asked Administration to review the NGO and Economic Development funding that the Commission approves and provide a listing of organizations and the dollar amounts that the Commission is spending on items, such as hangar rent, security at the Convention Center, etc.

Mr. Jackson also requested that Administration follow up with Re-Invest Caddo and forward him the information regarding it.

He also talked about House Bill 697. He encouraged everyone to read and review the bill. He also said that if it were up to him, he would approve it today.

- Mr. Atkins stated that the Economic Development Committee has been rescheduled once again. He will forward the details when the meeting is scheduled.

- Mr. Johnson said that the Appropriations Committee met today to discuss childcare assistance program. He said that the conversation will be continued once more information is available.

- Mr. Hopkins said that the townhall meeting regarding the UDC for District 1 was well attended. He thanked the MPC staff and the citizens who attended that meeting.

He agreed with Mr. Jackson regarding HB 697. Mr. Hopkins explained that the bill takes the Caddo Parish Commission out of the MPC.

- Mr. Jackson said that he went to the NACo Legislative Conference and was appointed to two sub-committees: Human Services & Education Committee and the Health Care Steering Committee. He first talked about the Human Services & Education Committee. He said that they will be focusing on mental health as it relates to early childhood education. He also said that there was discussion with the Health Care Steering Committee regarding indigent prison population being denied Medicaid. Mr. Jackson explained that the Parish has to pick up the costs of those persons. They are asking Congress not to exclude individuals who are pretrial detainees from being able to access those Medicaid dollars.
- Mr. Burrell asked for additional clarification on House Bill 697. Mr. Hopkins explained that the bill strikes Caddo Parish Commission out of the current law and leaves the MPC for just the City of Shreveport. The planning area would be removed from the MPC, along with the funding that the Caddo Parish Commission gives to the MPC.
- Mr. Jackson asked that Legal look into seeking reimbursement for the funds the Caddo Parish Commission provided to the MPC if this bill should pass. He also asked them to review whether or not the Commission can remove equipment that they have provided to the MPC.
- Mr. Johnson pointed out that in the past, the MPC could not enforce the codes on the books because they did not have the resources to do so.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Chavez reminded the Commission of the UDC Informational Meeting that is scheduled for Tuesday, March 10 at 6:00 p.m. It will be held at 288 Flournoy Lucas Road, Shreveport. He invited all to attend. He also explained to the citizens in attendance that the Commission does here their concerns. The Commission is working hard to address those concerns.

ORDINANCES (for introduction by title)

- *Ordinance No. 5946 of 2020, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund to provide an appropriation for the Southern Hills Homeowners Association (SHHA) and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 5947 of 2020, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund to provide an appropriation to Strategic Action Council of Northwest Louisiana and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 5948 of 2020, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund in the amount of \$7,000 to provide an appropriation to Ivy Crown Community Services, Inc., and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 5949 of 2020, an ordinance to deem property surplus and authorize the sale of surplus property owned by the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *that the Work Session Minutes from February 18, 2020 and March 2, 2020 be adopted.* Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *that Resolution No. 15 of 2020, a resolution relative to the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Local Road Safety Program; to authorize the Parish to participate in the program and to enter into any necessary agreements with Louisiana Department of Transportation, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto be adopted.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (9). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Cawthorne, Epperson, and Gage-Watts (3). ABSTAIN: None (0).

RESOLUTION NO. 15 OF 2020

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION

A RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND LOCAL ROAD SAFETY PROGRAM; TO AUTHORIZE THE PARISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM AND TO ENTER INTO ANY NECESSARY AGREEMENTS WITH LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo, has applied to the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development's Local Road Safety Program for the Local Road Signs and Striping (Caddo) Project;

WHEREAS, that the Parish has been conditionally accepted into the Local Road Safety Program for 2020-2021 as Project H.013766; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission finds that it is in the best interest of Caddo Parish residents for the Parish to participate in the Local Road Safety Program for 2020-2021 as Project H.013766.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Parish enter into an agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development for the Parish's participation in the Local Road Safety Program;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Caddo Parish Administrator or his designee shall be and is hereby authorized to do any and all things and to sign any and all documents in a form acceptable to the Parish Attorney to effectuate the Parish's participation in the Local Road Safety Program.

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 application, and to the 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 therewith are hereby repealed.

OLD BUSINESS

The Commission then moved onto the next Old Business, *authorize appointment to fill the expired term of Mr. Ronnie Remedies on the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC), term to expire January 1, 2026. Commission to pick one:*

1. Ms. Lasonya Moore (Gage-Watts)
2. Ms. Laura Neubert (Chavez)

At this time, Mr. Chavez explained that the candidates will be voted on in alphabetical order, the candidate with the most aye votes will be appointed to the MPC.

Lasonya Moore received one AYE vote: Commissioner Burrell (1).

Laura Neubert received seven AYE votes: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (7).

No vote was recorded for Mr. Jackson.

At this time, Ms. Laura Neubert was appointed to the Metropolitan Planning Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to confirm Commissioner Burrell's travel to the High Speed Rail Conference in Birmingham, AL on March 18, 2020 to March 20, 2020.*

Mr. Burrell said that this conference is regarding the High Speed Rail. He explained that when he was in the Legislature, he sponsored funding to study a passenger rail from Texas to Mississippi. It has been established as a rail route. He said that the study is finished and showed that there should be a rail in place connecting Texas to Mississippi. Mr. Burrell explained that this rail would be an economic tool to bring more opportunities for the citizens of this state to travel along with another means of public transportation.

Mr. Atkins supports Mr. Burrell's travel to Birmingham for this conference. He believes that the high speed rail is important to economic development for Caddo Parish. Mr. Chavez will also support Mr. Burrell's travel to Birmingham.

Mr. Jackson thanked Mr. Burrell for staying on top of this issue. He hopes that this would come into fruition with a hub in Caddo Parish. He looks forward to Mr. Burrell's report when he comes back.

Mr. Johnson is also in support of Mr. Burrell's travel. He said that this is a very important hub to be in Caddo Parish. Mr. Johnson also pointed out that the rail is already there, but understands that there is still some work to be done.

Mr. Burrell explained that it would cost approximately \$80M to upgrade our rails for this project.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that the Executive Session to discuss litigation regarding Case No. 620773 in First Judicial District Court* be moved to the next Regular Session. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (9). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Cawthorne, Epperson, and Gage-Watts (3). ABSTAIN: None (0).

COMMUNIQUES AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Jackson requested that Administration contact LADOTD to discuss repaving and resurfacing Ford Street. He also asked for a status of the Disparity Study.
- Mr. Chavez thanked and congratulated Ms. Neubert on her appointment for the MPC.

There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.


Mario Chavez
President

Michelle Nations
Deputy Commission Clerk