

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF  
THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 23<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2022

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Regular 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, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (10). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson and Jones (2).

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

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Brenda Brock came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Thank you so much. Thank you for allowing me to talk, because I know this is not on the agenda today but I just feel compelled. And, you know, the Bible says where there is strife there is every evil work. And my prayer for you people is for the strife to be gone and my speech is going to be about that strife. The handout to you is a chapter out of the Holy Bible and I want you to look over and I want you to read especially the parts that are highlighted. It appears some of our Caddo Commission members are suffering with many hurts, habits, and hang-ups; and it's time to let them go. When you fail to see the purpose of your pain, your many wounds fester into chronic conditions that hold us back as a city. This is where we are. My handout is a copy of the portion of 28 chapter of Deuteronomy from our Bible. You can live under a curse all your life if you want to, but I choose to live under blessings. You can continue to be the tail and come in last if you choose, but I choose to be first and blessed. I'm here today because you, as a whole, are holding our city back. Some of you suffer from chronic deficiency of rehabilitation and you seem to not want help to heal. I pray you change your mind unless you want to continue being last and everything you put your hands to. Our city deserves people to represent us as a whole body, lifting us up, moving us forward. Not tearing us down and discrediting cultures, history and people. Let me read Psalms 147:3. He heals. We're talking about Jesus. Jesus heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Philippians 4:8 focus your thoughts on what is true noble, righteous, pure, lovable or admirable. If there be any virtue, if there be any praise think on these things. If you would work instead of pout. If you would work instead of pout. Where did Stormy Gage-Watts go? If you would work instead of pout about past grievances. We would be a great city. And there's one more thing that I want to add. If you people have blocked me and you're not getting my emails, and some of you are and you don't communicate with me and I can't ask you questions today, then how am I supposed to have a relationship with you?

Bonnie Farr came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Hello. I'd like to pray first before I start, Father in the name of Jesus, I just come into Your presence with thanksgiving in my heart and I give you praise. Father, I asked you to come into this place and feel this place with your presence. Sit on the heads of each one of these commissioners, like you did the upper room 120. Let them know that you're in the room. Guide them and protect them in the decisions that they have to make, and be with us as we help to guide them and in your word. And we thank you in Jesus name. Proverbs 29:2 says where the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rue, the people mourn. Where do you fit? This commission paid over \$800,000 of our tax money for a privately-owned monument, and privately-owned property, on which it set for almost 120 years. The history of the people. We do not pay our taxes for this purpose and I call this money to be repaid to us taxpayers. You employees of the people, by the fruit of what you bear, or don't bear, we know you. And what we see is that you are dividing the people and you're dividing the community and I charge you stop it. You're discussing where the reparations of the past actions be repaid to some people. My ancestors are American, Cherokee Indians. My grandma, great grandmother was a full-blooded Cherokee. She went through the Trail of Tears from Georgia to Oklahoma. Have they ever asked for anything? Anything? No, they haven't and we don't owe these other people one red dime. silver dime. These Indians suffered unmercifully if you have never read the story, I suggest that you do. And some of you will be ashamed of what you're demanding. I command that you stop this nonsense. You're not hired for this kind of carryings on with our tax dollars, and they're not collected to pay for it. We refuse to pay for this division and this nonsense that you have created. I quote Patrick Henry in his 1799 speech, and listen closely. If you've tuned me out, tune this in. He said, let us trust God and our better judgment to sit us right hereafter. United we stand. Divided we fall. Let us not split into factions, which must destroy that union upon which our existence hangs. Men and women of this commission. I call you to seek God's guidance of what he wants and if your decision does not line up with his word, and you are divided, do like the 120 in the upper room did. They prayed until they were all in one accord for God has authority over you. Thank you.

Caleb White came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Glad to be here. Members of the Caddo Commission. My grandparents bought land many years ago outside the city limits of Shreveport, because they wanted to enjoy many aspects of country living. In recent years, legislation has removed many of the reasons they purchased this land. I am speaking to you today to ask you to remove section 32-48, because it prevents me from hunting and shooting on our family land. Right now, my dad, my sister and I have lifetime hunting licenses for Louisiana. My dad and I have taken hunters education class and we also have a family rule that says we,

before we discharge any firearms, we must clear the line of sight and beyond so we know where the bullet could land. We also use safety measures, like keeping our finger off the trigger until ready to shoot and keeping the gun unloaded until we're ready to use it. Although we are completely legal and have all required licenses section 32-48 prevents us from shooting and hunting on our own land. This has devalued the licenses we have and has limited our land use. You may say we could go to a range and shoot, but have y'all seen the price of gas? We would also have to pay a membership fee. Why should we have to do that when my family has owned over 200 acres for almost four decades? Section 32-48 has taken away my family's freedom to use our land for recreational shooting and hunting purposes. Normally I go hunting with my dad, but I have also hunted with my mom when my dad was having eye surgery, and also and also my pappy. And these are some of my favorite memories. I was really upset when my when my dad told said we could not have any longer on our property. I respectfully asked the Caddo Commission to remove section 32-48 to restore our ability to hunt and shoot on our own land. With regard to the 20-round magazine limit you are considering, please know you are punishing innocent individuals, like myself, because it because my hunting rifle has a 30-round magazine. We would like to have our freedom and the use of our country land back as if it if it hits us, a Roman slave turned Greek philosopher said is freedom anything else than the right to live as we wish? Nothing else. Thank you for allowing me to speak to you today.

Brian White came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

What I took away the other night, Commissioners, was that my representative, during his comment noted some items that makes me believe that his time hunting has either been only in a Steel Hunt, or he has not hunted. He doesn't. Some of the concerns with regards to a fan of fire and things like that when you come into a stalking type scenario is not something that was familiar during that process. I also took away from it that the one that that there is a desire for people that he represents to be present in the audience. Other than when he other than when this Commission has an ordinance in front of it that that tries to restrict weapons, or to discuss kittens and puppies, as it was said. I will try but with that said please don't be surprised if the people have opinions. Some will say I represent myself alone. But since I'm here, I'd say I represent the interested parties and the interested constituents. I also heard another note that concerned me with regard to the old documents, such as the Constitution must be rewritten for current time. It was and has been changed to fit current times, in many regards. And the Supreme Court is under multiple of those considerations right now, in addition to those amendments that were given to us by Congress. They are called amendments, and that many in this room, all of them, in fact, have benefited from those amendments. I would ask and highlight that representatives please consider giving back the hunting and weapon rights on property outside the city limits. Even in the area inside the five-mile boundary outside of Shreveport. I understand the conditioning that goes with that, but it is restricting rights and privileges of law-abiding citizens. And it is making us into something that we are not. I would like those privileges back and many others that don't know they've been taken would as well. We don't live in the City of Shreveport for a reason and we live outside the city limits. I would ask for your consideration on that and a sponsor from one of you going to in acquiring that change to the section 32-48. I would like to tack on to a former speaker's notes and note that a removal of an entity or a statue or an apology publication to only one entity is probably not the right path to unify something. It highlights an existing issue, true. And it apologizes for it, true. But it does not create that unified stance. In reading the draft that was published last in the working group, if those are facts that are true, we don't owe an apology to only one entity. We owe it to the constituents at large in my children for an inherited history. I understand what you're trying to get to, but I don't know that the path is correct. If that history is the reason for the apology, we don't need to be the divider. We need a highlighter. We need to be the unifying factor across all the citizens in the parish.

Ms. Lewis came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good afternoon, everyone. Some of you might know me, some of you might not. I'll take this off. I'm a retired police officer Captain from Shreveport Police Department. I live in the Caddo parish jurisdiction. Mr. Johnson, you are my Commissioner. What I stand before you today is that some years ago, I petitioned the commission about a sewerage ditch that runs sides my house in my neighborhood in One North Place subdivision. They paved the ditch entirety in the neighborhood and they stopped directly behind my house before you get to Highway 1. I have photos of them stopping the construction, and telling me, at the time, that they couldn't go any farther, because the Dairy Queen that used to be there, that's a business is hertz, chicken buffet now saying that they would not give them access to the ditch, so they couldn't fix it. That's what they told me years ago. Now, they're telling me that I own that ditch. So, if I own that ditch, I have to fix the remainder of that ditch. So, I posed a question to him. If I own that ditch, the water that flows under Highway 1 into that ditch, if I stop it, since I own the property, what could be done to me? He said, No, you can't do it because. Because I don't own a ditch, right? So, we figured out. They haven't told me, yet, if I didn't own a ditch, but I know I do not own the ditch. It belongs to Caddo Parish. All I'm asking today is that someone get photos. Do you want them? I've attempted to repair whatever I could repair at my on my side. Although the land doesn't belong to me. Now, they temporarily fixed the part that they could get to from my land. And as time go on, the flood, the water and all of that. It has damaged the bags of concrete that they put up to temporarily hold it. It has fallen into the ditch. There's two lines that goes from the backside of my property to the ditch that goes across the ditch. The concrete bags are on side on top of those lines. I was instructed that one of the lines is a SWEPCO line and a gas line. If that gas line bust, what am I to do? What is-what are my neighbors to do? I've-when I first brought this to his attention when the business, the Chicken Buffet Place, started remodeling I went to him. And I said hey, do you have a problem with Caddo Parish Sewerage coming in and finishing the construction behind the house? Because that was the only hold up years ago. Got them in contact with Caddo Parish Sewerage. They talked to him and they said no problem. But, when my backdoor neighbor,

who owns the building where the Cattle Sheriff's Department is now used to be-she purchased the building-they told her that she owns the ditch also. Adjacent to my property. So.

At this time, Mr. Atkins advised that Ms. Lewis speak with Mr. Whittington from Public Works.

### **VISITORS**

- Dr. Martha Whyte

Dr. Whyte gave an update on COVID. She said that there is a spike in positive COVID cases, but it is not causing hospitalizations. She further explained that people are feeling flu-like, sore throats, and severe headaches. Dr. Whyte also said that there are about 2,000-2,800 cases per day in Louisiana, but that only represents about 40% of the cases due to home tests. She also said that there will more than likely be another spike in the fall.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know if there was a possibility of someone being hospitalized after they've received the vaccine. Dr. Whyte said that there were eight people who were hospitalized after they received the vaccination, but they did not have any true adverse effects.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if Dr. Whyte recommends a third booster. Dr. Whyte said that they are recommending the shot and the booster. She said that if someone is over 50 or immunocompromised, they are recommending they received the fourth booster. She said that the antibodies look like they're staying good for at least six months.

Mr. Burrell then wanted to know the difference between a dose and booster. Dr. Whyte said that it is the same amount that goes into the body.

Mrs. Gage-Watts wanted to know if there are any patients who are fully vaccinated testing positive for COVID, but negative for all symptoms. Dr. Whyte said that if a person has COVID, then they should test positive for COVID. She is recommending testing on Day 3.

Dr. Whyte mentioned that the Office of Public Health has some home tests available. People can call (318) 676-7489 for more information.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if the Strike Teams are still available. Dr. Whyte said that they are still available for vaccines, but they are no longer available for testing, except for K-12 testing. Dr. Whyte said that they can contact Dr. Vanchiere or Dr. Whyte for Strike Team information.

Dr. Whyte gave an update on Monkey Pox. She explained that it is a zoonotic disease and has been endemic in parts of Africa for decades. She said that they have not really seen it outside of those areas, except for the people who traveled to those areas. She said that this is the first time it's ever really truly moved outside of Africa. She said that it is concerning because the United States is up to about 1,800 cases in twenty-two states. Dr. Whyte also pointed out that there have not been any positive cases in Louisiana. She said that it starts with a flu-like illness, then you get sores that fill up with fluid and pus. She said that these sores are showing up on people's genitalia. Dr. Whyte said that it is not just by sex, but also by close contact of that area. She said that it is not just a sexually transmitted disease, and is not easy to spread.

Dr. Whyte said that her concern is that there are diseases that are endemic, such as polio and measles, but there is an extreme level of anti-vax sentiments. She said that there might be children getting polio in the near future.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know the earliest age that a person can receive a COVID vaccine. Dr. Whyte said that it has been approved for children who are six months and older.

Mr. Jackson asked about students getting vaccinated. Dr. Whyte said that vaccination rates by four is successful, but they are not always up to date. Those children who are not up to date are at risk for croup, pertussis, whooping cough, etc.

Mr. Jackson then wanted to know if there has been an effort with the Community Action Agency. Dr. Whyte said that there most definitely could be some synergy.

### **ADOPT REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that Regular Session Minutes June 9, 2022* be adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, and Young (9). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson, Jones, and Taliaferro (3). ABSTAIN: None (0).

### **SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS**

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Young, *to englobo and adopt the following special resolutions:*

- *Special Resolution of Recognition & Appreciation for the Philadelphia Center*
- *Special Resolution Honoring Dr. Ray Belton for his service with Southern University*
- *Special Resolution Proclaiming World Sickle Cell Awareness Day*
- *Special Resolution Proclaiming National Safety Month*
- *Special Resolution Proclaiming African American Music Appreciation Month*

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

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION & APPRECIATION  
THE PHILADELPHIA CENTER**

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION  
HONORING DR. RAY BELTON**

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish native, Dr. Ray L. Belton, President-Chancellor of the Southern University System since 2015, the nation's only Historically Black College and University System, and previous Chancellor of Southern University Shreveport (SUSLA) since 2000 has been a visionary leader in higher education for more than 27 years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ray L. Belton, during his 14-year tenure as Chancellor of the Shreveport campus, led the university's unprecedented growth resulting in an enrollment increase of over 156 percent, and acquired more than \$34 million to support capital improvements including academic structures, student centers, and the first-time development of student apartments at the institution; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ray L. Belton is known throughout the region and nation as an exemplary leader in higher education, having held several national leadership positions including serving on the Board of Trustees of the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (COC-SACS), as a Commissioner on Diversity and Inclusion for the American Association of Community Colleges, and the National Advisory Board of Community Renewal International; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ray L. Belton's service to higher education has made a visible statewide impact including serving in senior leadership roles with the Consortium for Education, Research and Technology (CERT), Biomedical Research Foundation, Alliance for Education, and Coordinating & Development Corporation of Northwest Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ray L. Belton has been recognized for his commitment and service to education having received numerous awards including the "Leader of the New Century" from the Shreveport Times, the "Distinguished Achievement Award" from Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., the "Thurgood Marshall Community Service Award" sponsored by the Black Lawyers Association, and the "2001 Distinguished Graduate" from the University of Texas at Austin, Community College Leadership Program; and

WHEREAS, with steadfast dedication and vision, Dr. Ray L. Belton has worked diligently for nearly three decades to ensure that the higher education interests and opportunities for constituents throughout the region are representative of the rich and diverse citizenry of our parish and state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission that it does hereby express its deep and sincere appreciation to Dr. Ray Belton for the invaluable contributions rendered on behalf of his service and declare, June 24, 2022 as:

**'DR. RAY BELTON DAY'**

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana and the Caddo Commission joins Parish Administrator Dr. Woodrow Wilson in celebrating Dr. Ray Belton and invites all Caddo Citizens to participate in the celebration by encouraging others to better themselves through education and the practice of setting and reaching new goals. We pray Dr. Belton's days ahead provide bountiful opportunities for him to enjoy a life well lived.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION  
WORLD SICKLE CELL AWARENESS DAY**

WHEREAS, June 19th has been designated as World Sickle Cell Awareness Day, an

international awareness day observed annually with the goal to increase public knowledge and an understanding of sickle cell disease, and the challenges experienced by patients, their families and caregivers; and

WHEREAS, Sickle cell anemia is an inherited blood disorder that mostly affects people of African ancestry, but also occurs in other ethnic groups, including people who are of Mediterranean and Middle Eastern descent; and

WHEREAS, sickle cell disease is a complex genetic disorder characterized by chronic anemia, episodes of debilitating pain and damage to vital organs; and

WHEREAS, early identification of a child with sickle cell disease coupled with antibiotic prophylaxis by 3 months of age and early intervention services, helps those with sickle cell disease while researchers continue to search for a cure; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana remains dedicated to the provision of sickle cell screening, education, and medical care for individuals and families living with sickle cell disease through its support of the Louisiana Department of Community Health's Newborn Screening Program and the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America; and

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish remains dedicated to public health and awareness of conditions like Sickle Cell Disease which impact citizens across parish, state, nation and global communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal and regular session this 23rd day of June, 2022 that it does hereby proclaim June 19th, 2022 as:

**'WORLD SICKLE CELL AWARENESS DAY'**

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and urges all citizens to join with the Parish in recognition of this important day by staying aware of sickle cell disease and, where possible, sharing that awareness others.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION  
NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH**

WHEREAS, each year, more than 29 million Americans visit an emergency department for unintentional injuries; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the National Safety Council is to raise public awareness and seek opportunities to educate Americans about these alarming and preventable mishaps through education; and

WHEREAS, through the support and observance of National Safety Month, employers help to reverse the increase in accidental injuries and deaths; and

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish supports national safety efforts and has taken a pro-active stance in providing a safe and healthy work environment for its employees; and

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish's Human Resources Department is tasked with reviewing work-related injuries and accidents to improve work safety; and

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish works to assure the safety of all Parish employees by setting and enforcing standards, providing training, and encouraging continual improvement in workplace safety and health.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal and regular session this 23rd day of June, 2022 that it does hereby proclaim June, 2022 as:

**'NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH'**

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and encourage all Parish employees and citizens to participate in raising their awareness and practicing safe and healthy behaviors in all aspects of their lives.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION  
AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSIC APPRECIATION MONTH**

WHEREAS, 1979's celebration of Black musicians hosted by President Jimmy Carter set the tone for the annual recognition of June as African American & Black Music Month, and this was formally recognized as a national observance in the year 2000; and

WHEREAS, music industry leaders, record labels, clubs, concert promoters, venues and festivals across the country will celebrate African American Music month, often in conjunction with Juneteenth celebrations, throughout the month of June; and

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish has a rich tradition of locally born and reared artists who are and were vital to the development of American music traditions from Blues legend Huddie "Lead Belly" Ledbetter, famed guitarist Mighty Joe Young or 'Losin' Boy' singer Eddie Giles, to contemporary artists like the Grammy winning drummer Brian Blade, the effervescent favorite of local stages Tipsey, the Band, or the genre defying modern sounds of artists like Willie Jones or AJ Haynes of the Seratones; and

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish has also played an important role in African American music by inspiring and lifting up artists, be it through the heartbreaking motivation of Sam Cooke's 'A Change is Gonna Come,' or the historical performance of Jimi Hendrix at the Municipal Auditorium that inspired the 'Shreveport' guitar strap; and

WHEREAS, whether it is during festivals, like the Let The Good Times Roll, or on local stages at casinos, lounges and event spaces, or in the halls and houses of worship across our parish - African American and Black Music is part and parcel of the culture and sound of Caddo Parish and has left a favorable and positive impact on the world at large; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal and regular session this 23rd day of June, 2022 that it does hereby proclaim June, 2022 as:

#### **'AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSIC MONTH'**

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and encourage all Parish employees and citizens to participate by appreciating the contributions of Black and African American musicians.

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that Special Resolution of Appreciation for Ernest Lloyd Aaron Williams (E-LAW)*. Motion carried by acclamation.

Mrs. Gage-Watts applauded Mr. Williams for all of his hard work in this community. She appreciates everything that he does, and said that he is an invaluable asset.

Mr. Burrell also commended Mr. Williams for his selfless works he does for this community. He said that Mr. Williams volunteers, does fundraisers, and promotes different organizations in Shreveport/Caddo Parish.

#### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION ERNEST LLOYD AARON WILLIAMS (ELAW)**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission notes with interest and satisfaction the significant contributions of citizens who have made significant and lasting positive impacts on Caddo Parish, the State of Louisiana and the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, such an individual is Mr. Ernest Lloyd Aaron Williams, also known professionally as E-Law, an innovative contemporary broadcast radio personality and a lasting influencer and entrepreneur who has played a significant role in the shaping of Caddo Parish's urban music scene; and

WHEREAS, E-LAW has shaped the sound of Northwest Louisiana through many entrepreneurial initiatives from local music store Music City, to radio stations like KHAM, DJing for local parties, running venues like E&S Metro Hall, video production ventures like Phat Traxx, or advertising promoting through MCS Ad Agency; and

WHEREAS, Williams is known for more than his ability to keep up with the ever evolving tastes of his audiences and his successful entrepreneurial endeavors, but also for graciously sharing his knowledge and using his skills and relationships to lift other up in the community- a remarkable service for which he humbly accepts little recognition; and

WHEREAS, Williams was educated at Caddo Magnet High School and continued his studies at Louisiana Tech where he earned a degree in Finance and combined these skills with his self-taught musical expertise to open Music City one year after graduating, meaning that he has been professionally influencing the local music scene for over 30 years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, this 23rd day of June, 2022, that it does hereby commend Mr. Ernest Lloyd Aaron Williams, E-LAW, for his influence on the sound of Caddo Parish, an influence that is particularly meaningful as we celebrate African American Music Month, and as part of this year's celebration, we proclaim June 25th, 2022 to be:

#### **'MR. ERNEST LLOYD AARON WILLIAMS, E-LAW DAY'**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Commission does pray that Mr. Ernest Lloyd Aaron Williams, E-LAW, may continue to enjoy the love of his fans, the respect of his peers, and the grace of his Lord through many more years to come.

## **COMMUNIQUES AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mr. Jackson wanted to know if Administration has the information regarding the medical expenses for the patients at CCC. Dr. Wilson said that they are still working on it.

- Mr. Chavez wanted to know more about Section 32-48. Attorney Bernstein said that the Parish ordinance prohibits the intentional discharge of a firearm within one mile from a dedicated residential subdivision that is within that five-mile buffer zone. Attorney Bernstein said that this has been on the books since 1976. Mr. Chavez asked that this be sent to all of the Commissioners.

Mr. Chavez suggested being more proactive and sending zoning notifications to surrounding blocks.

- Mr. Young asked about Airbnb legislation. Mr. Stephen Jean, MPC, said that there is a short-term rental ordinance on the books. He further explained that if the property is within 500 feet of another short-term rental, then it would require a Special Use Permit. Mr. Young wanted to know how many Special Use Permits have been issued. Mr. Jean said that there has only been one Special Use Permit issued so far, but they issue licenses quite frequently. He said that the reason for the Special Use Permit is to avoid clustering of short-term rentals in the community.

Mr. Young then wanted to know if Section 32-48 is a zoning issue. Attorney Bernstein said that it isn't.

- Mr. Johnson wanted to know how the public would know that they need to get a permit for the Airbnb. Mr. Jean explained that they've contracted with a software company that deals with advertising for Airbnb's. He said that they send out a courtesy notice that the property owner would need to get registered.

Mr. Johnson said that the American Rescue Plan Committee met today to go over the Federal Guidelines and State Guidelines. He further explained that the Finance Department will be creating a Parish Policy. One of the items is a mandatory meeting with each of the organizations who are requesting funding.

Mr. Johnson also addressed some of the citizens comments that were said earlier. Today I heard some code words that I picked up on earlier; I don't know if everybody else did, but my ears did. One of the was 'you people'; the other one was 'these people', he said. Mr. Johnson said that he knows what those code words mean, and it is not about living in the past, but living in the present. Mr. Johnson said that he considers himself blessed and highly favored, and he is easy to talk to.

He also talked about the young man who spoke about the magazine capacity in a gun. Mr. Johnson pointed out that the young man is not old enough to drive, so the ordinance would not affect him. He explained that the ordinance is for Parish roads. Nobody lives in a bullet-proof bubble, he said. Mr. Johnson is looking for ways to protect all people.

- Mr. Burrell wanted to know if Airbnb's are commercial or residential. Mr. Adam Bailey, MPC, said that they can operate in residential areas, but you do need an occupational license. He said that they are defined in the code.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Atkins apologized for not attending the African-American Chamber of Commerce. He stated that he did not have the event on his calendar and did not know he was supposed to be there.

## **PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES**

The President of the Commission opened the floor for anyone to speak in favor or against the following ordinance:

- Ordinance No. 6237 of 2022, an ordinance regarding an exchange of roadways with the Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development in connection with extending LA. 3276 to LA. 1, to authorize the exchange of certain portions of Parish roads in return for certain portions of State highways, to authorize the Parish Administration to execute agreements as necessary to accomplish that exchange, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto
- Ordinance No. 6239 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund an appropriation for Charles Johnson Ministries, Inc., and to otherwise provide with respect thereto

There being no one to speak in favor or against the ordinances, the President closed the public hearing on ordinances.

**ORDINANCES (for final passage)**

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Ordinance No. 6237 of 2022, an ordinance regarding an exchange of roadways with the Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development in connection with extending LA. 3276 to LA. 1, to authorize the exchange of certain portions of Parish roads in return for certain portions of State highways, to authorize the Parish Administration to execute agreements as necessary to accomplish that exchange, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted.

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to englobe and adopt the following ordinances:*

- *Ordinance No. 6237 of 2022, an ordinance regarding an exchange of roadways with the Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development in connection with extending LA. 3276 to LA. 1, to authorize the exchange of certain portions of Parish roads in return for certain portions of State highways, to authorize the Parish Administration to execute agreements as necessary to accomplish that exchange, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6239 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund an appropriation for Charles Johnson Ministries, Inc., and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 6237 OF 2022**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE REGARDING AN EXCHANGE OF ROADWAYS WITH THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN CONNECTION WITH EXTENDING LA. 3276 TO LA. 1, TO AUTHORIZE THE EXCHANGE OF CERTAIN PORTIONS OF PARISH ROADS IN RETURN FOR CERTAIN PORTIONS OF STATE HIGHWAYS; TO AUTHORIZE THE PARISH ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE AGREEMENTS AS NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH THAT EXCHANGE, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana, through the Department of Transportation and Development, wishes to extend La. 3276 to La. 1;

WHEREAS, that project will aid and assist economic development in the Parish;

WHEREAS, that project will require the exchange of certain highways and roads between the Parish and the Department of Transportation and Development; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Home Rule Charter requires the conveyance or of any lands or property of the parish government to be done by ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that it does hereby authorize the exchange of roads with the State of Louisiana, through the Department of Transportation and Development.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the following segments of highways are to be transferred from the State to the Parish:

Segment I: The portion of LA 530, beginning at the junction with US 71 and proceeding east approximately 0.73 miles to its junction with LA 3049.

Segment II: The portion of Box Rd, beginning at the junction with Mount Zion Rd and proceeding south approximately 0.39 miles to the end of DOTD maintenance at Brookwood Church Way.

Segment III: The portion of Barron Road Cutoff, beginning at the junction with US 171 and proceeding southeasterly approximately 0.20 miles to the junction with Barron Rd.

Segment IV: The portion of former LA 169, beginning at the Dead End Installation at LA 1 and proceeding east approximately 0.34 miles to its junction with relocated LA 169.

Segment V: The portion of LA 173, beginning at the junction with US 71 and proceeding northeasterly approximately 0.70 miles to its junction with LA 3049.

Segment VI: The portion of LA 530, beginning at the junction with LA 1 and proceeding east approximately 0.40 miles to its junction with LA 538.

Segment VII: The portion of LA 3049, beginning at the junction with US 71 and proceeding east and then southerly approximately 0.89 miles to its junction with Douglas Rd.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the following segments of highways are to be transferred from the Parish to the State:

Segment VIII: Any portion(s) of existing Parish routes chosen under the selected alternative route for S.P. No. H.014054, beginning at or near Ellerbe Rd and proceeding east to its junction with LA 1 and further shown in Exhibit "A".

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the transfers stated herein shall only occur if and only when the following conditions are met:

CONDITION I: Provide necessary repairs, including a thin asphaltic concrete application, to the portion of Segment I, LA 530, to be transferred to the Parish of Caddo.

CONDITION II: Provide necessary repairs, including a medium asphaltic concrete application, to the portion of Segment V, LA 173, to be transferred to the Parish of Caddo.

CONDITION III: Provide necessary repairs, including a medium asphaltic concrete application, to the portion of Segment VII, LA 530, to be transferred to the Parish of Caddo.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the transfers authorized herein shall only be of whatever rights owned by the respective transferors and that the transferees accept all duties, obligations, and responsibilities for the operation, maintenance, and future liability associated therewith as of the date of recordation in the conveyance records of Caddo Parish of the respective Acts of Transfer and Acceptance for each segment identified above.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the Caddo Parish Commission authorizes the Parish Administrator to execute such documents as are necessary to accomplish the provisions of this ordinance including, without limitation, the attached Intergovernmental Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (Exhibit A) and any and all Acts of Transfer and Acceptance.

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.

**ORDINANCE NO. 6239 OF 2022**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE RIVERBOAT FUND TO PROVIDE AN APPROPRIATION FOR CHARLES JOHNSON MINISTRIES, INC. AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission would like to amend the 2022 Riverboat Fund Budget to provide an appropriation of \$5,000 for Charles Johnson (CeJay) Ministries, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, CeJay Ministries is a nonprofit organization that uplifts the community

through empowerment, employment, and community engagement while providing necessary resources to those in need; and

WHEREAS, CeJay Ministries intends to use this appropriation to fund educational and social programs that address the needs of women and children within the Parish; and

WHEREAS, CeJay Ministries also intends to use these funds to bring economic development within the Parish by providing educational and financial assistance to women who wish to open their own business within the Parish; and

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 Riverboat Fund for the year 2022 is hereby amended as follows:

	<b><u>Budget Increase (Decrease)</u></b>
<b><u>Riverboat Fund</u></b>	
NGO Appropriations	
Charles Johnson Ministries, Inc.	\$5,000
Fund Balance	(\$5,000)

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the program and funding shall be administered by Caddo Juvenile Services in conjunction with Juvenile Court.

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.

#### **ZONING ORDINANCES (for introduction by title)**

- *Zoning Case 21-39-P, Ordinance No. 6242 of 2022, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, by amending the zoning of property located on the north side of Wells Island Road, approximately eight hundred feet northwest of Reverse Drive Caddo Parish, LA, from R-1-7, Single Family Residential District and NA, Natural Areas District to OS, Open Space District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Zoning Case 22-7-P, Ordinance No. 6243 of 2022, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, by amending the zoning of property located on the north side of Old Mooringsport Road, approximately two thousand three hundred and fifty feet east of North Market Street, Caddo Parish, LA, from Tract A R-A, Rural Agricultural Zoning District to R-1-7, Single Family Residential District and Tract B from R-A, Rural Agricultural District to R-1-5, Single Family Residential District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

#### **ORDINANCES (for introduction by title)**

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

#### **WORK SESSION MINUTES**

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Work Session Minutes June 20, 2022 be ratified. Motion carried.*

#### **RESOLUTIONS**

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Resolution No. 35 of 2022, a resolution authorizing the Parish Attorney's Office to request an opinion from the Louisiana State Attorney General's Office regarding the authority of the Parish Commission to pass an ordinance requiring that certain types of ammunition be carried separately from the gun, and otherwise providing*

*with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if the Louisiana State Attorney General will be rendering this opinion. Mr. Atkins pointed out that the resolution says that the Louisiana Attorney General will be working on this resolution.

Mr. Jackson then wanted to know if Section 32-48 will be added to this resolution. Attorney Bernstein said that ordinance is already on the books. Mr. Jackson then wanted to know why the sponsor is the Caddo Parish Commission.

The Clerk of the Commission explained that the Commission adopted an action item requesting an Attorney General's opinion. Attorney Bernstein explained that the Attorney General requires that this be done by resolution.

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

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 35 OF 2022**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TO REQUEST AN OPINION FROM THE LOUISIANA STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE REGARDING THE AUTHORITY OF THE PARISH COMMISSION TO PASS AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING THAT CERTAIN TYPES OF AMMUNITION BE CARRIED SEPARATELY FROM THE GUN, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, there is an increase in deaths from firearms and gun violence generally in this jurisdiction;

WHEREAS, citizens are calling on the various governments, agencies and elected officials to address the increase in gun violence;

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission is considering an ordinance that would require ammunition for certain types of guns to be carried separately from the gun; and

WHEREAS, the question has arisen regarding whether the Caddo Parish Commission would be prohibited by state law from passing said ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby authorize the Parish Attorney to request, on behalf of Caddo Parish, an opinion from the Attorney General of the State of Louisiana as to whether or the Parish Commission may pass an ordinance requiring certain types of guns and ammunition to be carried separately.

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.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *to direct Administration to make proposed changes to the NGO Application Process.*

Mr. Burrell wanted to know how in-kind contributions are treated. Mr. Johnson said that this is already on the application, so that part has not been amended.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know how an economic impact study would be created if it is an organization's first time. Mr. Atkins said that it is a projection of economics. Mr. Jackson wanted to know if this change would require an impact study. Mr. Atkins agreed.

At this time, Mr. Johnson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes:

AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Epperson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

### **NEW BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *to Reappoint Mrs. Mary Irvin to the North Caddo Hospital Service District Board of Directors (Term to expire July 1, 2028)* be confirmed. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Epperson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to direct Administration fly Caddo Parish flags at half-staff until City Marshall Charlie Caldwell is laid to rest* be confirmed.

Mr. Johnson requested that all of the buildings inside the Parish lower their flags to half-staff. Dr. Wilson said that they received the letter from the Governor today.

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

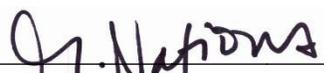
### **COMMUNIQUES AND REPORTS**

- Mr. Burrell wanted to know if Mr. John Settle was encouraging him to run for the City of Shreveport Mayor. He said that he was not in the audience today.
- Mr. Jackson would like to set up community events for redistricting maps in August. He would like to have the consultant and Parish Attorney's Office to be present at the community meetings. He would also like the District 3 map to be enlarged and available at his meeting.
- Mr. Jones would also like to set up community events concerning redistricting for District 6, along with the maps for District 6.

He also talked about the Bible verse that speaks to handling disagreements. He said that forgiveness comes from the confession of our sins.

### **CITIZEN COMMENTS (Late Arrivals)**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

  
Michelle Nations  
Assistant Commission Clerk

  
John E. Atkins  
President