

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF  
THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 18th DAY OF AUGUST, 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, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, and Young (10). ABSENT: Commissioners Jones and Taliaferro (2).

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

**AGENDA ADDITIONS**

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *that the agenda be expanded and Authorize use of already approved ARPA funding for Grambling State University v. Northwestern State University for Shreveport Football Game* be added under New Business.

Mr. Jackson said that this will be a great revenue generator, and this request would come from the American Rescue Plan dollars that have already been set aside. He also mentioned that the Commission will not meet again in time for the game.

Mr. Johnson pointed out that the funds would not go straight to the university, but instead to the promoter of the event. Mrs. Barnett said that they will need to get with the consultant to work out the details.

Mrs. Gage-Watts, Mr. Epperson, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Johnson, and Mr. Burrell would like to be co-sponsors on this action item.

At this time, the President of the Commission opened the floor for anyone to speak in favor or against the agenda addition.

Trayvean Scott came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good Morning, everyone. We've been rolling since about eight o'clock this morning and came down to the press conference for the game. Grambling State University versus Northwestern State on September 10. I want to thank of course Commissioner Steven Jackson, Commissioner Lyndon Johnson, for the opportunity to come here and just speak about the importance of the game. Of course, with these two great institutions who are both within a 90-minute earshot of this great city. We look forward to the game. Of course, we appreciate you all support. We think that the game will be a pretty hot ticket, specifically in the I-20 Corridor the states. We're really excited about it. Of course, that leaves opportunity for certain needs to be able to ensure that the game goes off without a hitch. Most notably, of course, security—and that is police and the emergency response personnel. We are appreciative of all of your efforts. We appreciate you all consideration. And before I go to my seat, I also would be remiss if I didn't extend a hearty thank you from our President Richard Gallos. So, thank you all again. We appreciate again, your leadership Commissioner Jackson, your leadership, Commissioner Johnson, and your consideration of full body of commissioners. So, thank you so much.

There being no one else to speak in favor or against the agenda addition, the President closed the public hearing on agenda additions.

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

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Lois Mayberry came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good afternoon. Thank you for allowing me to address the commission. I'm Lois Mayberry, Acting Executive Director and board chair of Settled Inn Village—a nonprofit that owns property in West Caddo Parish and is working to build tiny houses as affordable quality residences. I've been a volunteer with Hope House for the past 12 years. Hope House is a day shelter serving those who experienced homelessness—many of who are my friends. I've also volunteered and served on the board of St. Luke's Episcopal Mobile Medical Ministry, which provides free medical care to those uninsured and underinsured. The friends I've made with my work with Hope House and St. Luke's have made me aware that the need for quality affordable housing for those with limited incomes. When researching options utilized in other areas, I discovered Community First Village in Austin, Texas. They developed a community setting of tiny homes to provide quality housing, and the support needed for those struggling to exist on a limited income. After attending the training provided by Community First, along with others interested in their concept, we began meeting in 2019 to form a nonprofit that would build a tiny house village incorporated as Settled Inn Village. We have been researching land that would support our vision, and in June 2022, we purchased

Country Living Properties on Cook Road in Bethany. This forty-eight-acre property is a mobile home park that has been there for over twenty years and was operated as a personal business by the previous owner. There are forty-one mobile homes on the property with twenty vacant lots. It has an independent water and sewer system maintained by our organization. We also pay for waste removal. Mail is delivered there. The property meets our needs by having the necessary infrastructure to support building multiple tiny homes and is outside the authority of the Metropolitan Planning Commission and is zoned for multi-residential housing. Settled Inn Village will provide permanent independent and individual houses for our clients. Each resident will have a tiny home that will house individuals or couples. They will rent on a monthly basis governed by a standard rental agreement. A vetting process will occur that will include a criminal background check, credit check, and extensive interview. Residents will be responsible for providing their own basic needs of food and clothing. They will be supported by living in a community setting where they can share the strengths of their neighbors and provide strength to their neighbors. The model of providing tiny house community settings is a concept accepted in other parts of the country. This would be Louisiana's first tiny house village, offering permanent supportive long-term housing in a community setting. In the village setting, the necessary services of case management, medical care and psychological support will be offered on site needed affordable recreation activities will be accessible. Our vision is to provide 60 tiny homes. Each home will have a bed, mini kitchen, small refrigerator, microwave, sink, cabinet space, small desk area, bathroom consisting of a shower and toilet, and a closet. Homes will be grouped together with each home having a front course for socialization. There will be a common gathering space designated for socialization, group meals, and interactions. Plans are to build a group kitchen and laundry facility when the need arises. We have plans to renovate a vacant mobile home currently on the property to serve as a central gathering space with two individual private offices, storage, and bathrooms. Support services such as medical, psychological, substance abuse treatment and prevention, and life skills training will be able to use this space. There's acreage for an organic garden and chickens. Others would benefit from the produce and eggs produced. Each client must actively participate in a program of personal growth. Case managers will formulate individual needs coordination plans with the client. Based on the needs, coordinated care would be arranged for each client as well as utilize to provide structured classes to support the clients and their lifestyle choices. The areas that will be addressed are personal development, vocational development, substance abuse prevention, interpersonal skills development personal and spiritual development and computing community involvement. I hope this description with the plans for Settled Inn Village clarify the improvement we plan to make to the current property of 1050 Cook Road.

Mayor Jim Galambos came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good Afternoon, Gentlemen and Ladies. I'm here representing the Town of Blanchard in that we hope that we have no votes from the Commission for this resolution. Over the past seven years that I've been mayor, we have done over 25 annexations the majority being commercial nature. Every one of these has benefited not only the Town of Blanchard and its citizens but also benefited the tax dollars of Caddo Parish. So, with that being said we also follow in our meetings 100%--we follow the state statute for open meetings for introduction of the annexation and a public hearing in the following month to hear any public comments. In my seven years as mayor, we've only had one opposition to an annexation. We followed the procedure, and we have no issues. I don't believe the Commission has had or heard of any issues or has our Commissioner dockets. So, with that, we would like for this Commission to have a no vote for this resolution. Thank you very much.

Bart Little came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Thank you. I also encouraged to no vote for this. I was an employee of the City of Shreveport for 25 years, and I have the pleasure of working all over northwest Louisiana. The towns that we work in here in Caddo Parish function well. I don't see an advantage to adding bureaucracy to their level. You know, they're easy to work with. They're good to work with. You can go into these towns and find out what you need and we're able to conduct business efficiently and work together to solve problems. I don't think that we need to add another layer of bureaucracy to these entities and municipalities we have in Caddo Parish.

Mayor Kenneth Shaw came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Hello, I'm the mayor of the Village of Ida, and I too would ask for a no vote on this Resolution 40. We've had two annexations in the 10 years I've been mayor. Both of them were commercial and big on I-49. If we're not allowed to annex these businesses coming in at the exits, provide them water and sewer. Why as the town would you want to do that if we're not allowed to get some of the revenue from it. This bill opposes any economic development on I-49. It would be detrimental to it. So, I ask for y'all's no vote.

Attorney Jennifer McKay came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good Afternoon. I'm Jennifer McKay, Counsel for the Town of Greenwood. I'm here today to express Greenwood's opposition to Resolution Nos. 40 and 41—and also to try to clarify the record on some misstatements that were made earlier this week concerning some of the issues. First, I'm to going to speak to 40 of 2022, which is the annexation resolution. Greenwood followed all the requirements of the law and beyond concerning the most recent annexation, which I think is the impetus for this resolution. For example, Greenwood published the notice in its legal Official Journal three times, when the law only requires a single publication. It it appears that this resolution recognizes Greenwood did everything that

was required to do under the law to try to help its town grow and the businesses that seek to locate there. In recognition of this, is an attempt to rewrite a law that always already has a significant amount of responsibility and burdens on the town to make sure everyone has notice and can provide inputs. The law already provides that there is a system in place to challenge any decision that is deemed unreasonable through the court system. Should the courts decide that Greenwood or any other town located in Caddo Parish are subject to this law, which is statewide, would make any unreasonable decisions. Therefore, Greenwood opposes the Commission's attempt to dictate to all municipalities within its boundaries as to how to grow themselves and the attempt to seek to fundamentally alter a system that has been emplaced and approved by Louisiana legislature for decades. On to Resolution No. 41 of 2022, Greenwood's Work Session Meeting was held on August 11<sup>th</sup>. It was well attended by many citizens that were there. we had an experienced consultant David Yates, who aids Greenwood and other water systems to answer any questions that they had or concerns they had about recent water issues. Greenwood allowed the citizens to ask as many questions as they wanted about recent water issues and expresses concerns. The meeting lasted well over two hours with the most significant amount of his time dedicated to the water consultants' presentations, the citizens' questions and concerns, and Greenwood responding to the questions and concerns and suggestions. Greenwood allowed its citizens to express any concerns concerning the water issue without the imposition of any time limitation. In other words, Greenwood was completely transparent and allowed any citizen who chose to attend the meeting of August 11 as much time as they wanted to make any binary suggestions and expresses and concerns. I tell you all this because there was some allegation of the lack of transparency, but it's just not true. It is not true that they did not listen to feedback because they allow people to talk as long as they wanted in a meeting that lasted two and a half hours. So, to suggest that we are—to [inaudible] there is a lack of transparency simply is not true. Further, on the transparency issue, Greenwood timely mailed out all notices required by the State. In addition to that, they have an information line that citizens can call and get information about water issues. Based on a recent request, the system has been recently modified so that as soon as the Town receives an LDH notice, that information is going to be put on this line. Also, the recent challenges that Greenwood had was primarily due to the excessive heat and some design issues in its system. But simply put, again, transparency was not an issue. The state notices were mailed out; there's a call line. In addition, any citizen that wants to, can be put on Greenwood's automated phone system that's provided through Homeland Security, and they receive information almost immediately upon receipt by Greenwood of a water issue. So, if they have a phone number, they want to provide it they also get an automated call. Again, transparency is not an issue. There were some questions about something that happened 19 months ago in the ice storm, and we believe that statements there were inaccurate. At the end of the day, the most important thing for you to know is Greenwood has been transparent, and they have been responsive—and citizens have been allowed to have their input. I think I'm going to run out of time again, but in terms of donations to Greenwood—we've appreciated everything that you did, but there have been no donations to Greenwood for water issues of any significance anytime recently. There was a vote to approve \$750,000 water line extension that was sought by Commissioner Epperson, but that money has never been given to use. The CEA has never been provided to us. There simply has been no water system investment by Caddo in the Greenwood system. Now, if you're interested in doing that, we will be happy to evaluate our needs and submit funding requests, but the resolutions that are being presented are basically burdens that do not seek to address a real problem. Transparency has existed. Greenwood is addressing its water issues. Every system that has a water system, has issues. In terms of the annexation, again, it's just going to make the town's burdens—it's every town in Caddo more onerous. As you add unnecessary burdens, it takes away from Greenwood's ability to provide for its citizens; it does not enhance it. Therefore, we ask that you reject both measures. If I can have just one more second—the Clerk asked me to let you know in the audience, that we have a card, and if you have water questions in the future, if you get a card from me and call her, and we can have that addressed.

Sharon Moore came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

My name is Sharon Bailor Moore, and I live in the Timberline Subdivision. I've been a nurse for 35+ years, and I have lived in that subdivision since 1996. I've had an ongoing issue with the Town of Greenwood's Water Department services. Once I moved there, I was talking to my neighbors, and I realized that they had problems that was occurring the same as I was having. So, they too had called the department to resolve some issues. Much to dismay, a representative was asked to come to our National Night Out Celebration to address some of the community issues that was continuously going on that we were experiencing. The first thing was brown sediment that was in the water. The response of the Town of Greenwood was that they were working on that issue and that they were aware of the problem. The reason for the problem that existed was that they were working on pipes, and as a result, some of the sediment accidentally fell into the pipes. Another reason was, they had broken pipes, and they had to replace and repair them. At the meeting, the neighborhood was asked to be patient and that the problems would eventually be eliminated. After a while, we started seeing some improvements, and then also the improvements going down. What I wind up doing—long story short, I ended up purchasing a Rain Soft Filtration System because I never knew when I would have this brown sediment in my household. And as far as health reasons are concerned, I wanted to make sure I wasn't sick, because I want to make sure that I can take care of my kids and be able to go to work. The second thing that we had was an odor that came from my sink. I was instructed to just run some water and then would eliminate the odor. For a little extra security, what I wound up doing was putting a teaspoon of bleach in the sink to help kill the smell. So, the last issue that I had was low water pressure when I moved to Timberland Subdivision, I had great water pressure. I noticed my water pressure suddenly started reducing. The response for the Town of Greenwood was that they are in the process of exchanging smaller pipes for larger ones. They asked us to be patient

and this would help the water supply. After the problem persisted, they decided to check my pipes. They concluded to a couple of things. They told me that a number of houses served between the Town of Greenwood and to my house was increasing. Every time a new house was built between Greenwood in my house, they had to tap into the line. That caused a decrease in pressure in my residence. So, to increase my water pressure, they asked me to get another water meter that will resolve my issue. So, the things I've done to decrease my water frustration. I've gotten a rain filtration system. I keep bottles of water to drink when the brown sediment shows up. If there's a boil advisory, I have water there as a backup. If the Town of Greenwood is in violation of the treatment techniques—they don't meet those recommendations. So, in conclusion, I'm a healthcare worker and you know, I see viruses—COVID, monkey pox, bacterial infections, and many other diseases that requires extra health interventions that help people to help them. I feel that clean water and a continuation of cleaning keeping water clean should not be a difficult task. As far as Resolution No. 40, the Town of Greenwood to annex additional property to be responsible for that, I think that should not have occurred because the focus of ongoing issues that have continued for years, so they should take care of the community they are servicing now.

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

Well, sir, good to see you again. Regarding Resolution 40 of 2022 I do agree with those who have spoken—particularly the representatives of the cities themselves—that a city should govern, and that the processes shouldn't be more hindered with additional bureaucracy. But given that this Commission has ordinances that extend well beyond the city limits, five miles in fact, I do believe that the expansion of the notification areas is well within a good idea. If it wasn't for the fact that there were ordinances that were five miles distant—and, as these ordinances and as these limits expand, newly people are added to this list of ordinances that they're now in violation of—I will say that I think that it's a good idea. Matter of fact, I'd say that it doesn't go far enough. I would say that it ought to go to either five miles or the ordinances to change to the 1500 feet, or the limits of the city. Take your pick. But one of the two should be the case. I do not debate the cities should govern themselves. I fully believe that to be the case. But it's that reason that I do not decide the city of any of the boundary of any city limits. I believe ordinances should be the same. With regards to 6251, I understand that you believe the Metropolitan Planning Commission needs to be represented by the Caddo Commission. I believe that it is continued removal of freedoms and property use. I would also prefer that in currently you're asking for six members, not five. That concerns me that that would be a tie in the fact that they their appeals process. I would be concerned with that. I would ask you to be an odd number and not an even. I would also ask that there be a different body that is the appeals. Previously, this did come up. It continues to be an issue for people that live outside the city limits just for ordinance 40. The UDC did come up, and it was ended in a tie—as you may remember. I would ask that also be taken into consideration for 40 and for 6251. The Caddo Alliance for Freedom noted this before—and its being established again. So, I would like to not that is not welcome for the Caddo Alliance for Freedom or for others that live outside the city limits. I would also like to note that the five-mile barrier for the MPC was removed, which is why this set was put into place. A different set of standards were supposed to be part of what was provided to the Parish residents that has yet to be provided—and instead, just an extension of what presently exists. Its not exactly promises made, promises kept here. So, I do want to not that this is the Caddo Alliance for Freedom's perspective as well. Taking rights and overreach is not welcome. If I was going to be part of the City, I would want to be that—I would voice that opinion, but the overreach or distance from Shreveport would be a concern. The overreach of those ordinances—those requirements that you have—I had no clue that those applied to me when the City of Shreveport expanded its limits. It needs to be fully extended to the five-mile limit or the ordinances need to go to 1,500 feet, in my opinion.

Gisele Bryant came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good afternoon to all of you. Those who lead the Parish and to guests who have spoken, I am Gisele Bryant, as you have said. I'm speaking because Caddo Parish is my home, and Caddo Parish covers Caddo Parish—that's every municipality whether they are governed or unincorporated. So when we think of consequences—and I look at that long-term, and I ask, especially with the mayors present from Blanchard, from the Town of Ida—the Mayor Greenwood, unfortunately has not been able to be present—and I ask those mayors, would they have moved expeditiously with accepting those annexation if there had not been a lead at the top? I think in any governmental body, you have to have a leader—even though they have elected aldermen's who support them. I heard the counsel speak very clearly. My concern is when we allow things to happen, they will expand to other areas. As a Parish, we're going to suffer the consequences either positively or negatively. I just asked that they reevaluate that. Look at if they have allowed annexations without the seat of the mayor being there to represent and I think that is what these particular resolutions are trying to bring to our attention. We are citizens who elect governmental bodies to lead our cities. But when there is a link that is missing, often times, things are circumvented. I am a resident, and I own a home near the Greenwood area, in Greenwood Acres, which is often left out. There's a tremendous amount of congested traffic. With that area, if you have not driven out there, drive. There are a number of accidents that have been listed. Fatalities—that is the only right of way. If something happens on I-20, all the traffic has to leave. I know the people in Timberline should have a very, very particular interest in trying to maintain getting in and out. There are a number of citizens who live there. So, I stand in asking you to really consider looking thoroughly at the resolutions that have been proposed. Think and ask yourself, would you want the city to move forward? The Parish move forward without the governmental bodies that we have elected here? You all cannot conduct business if you don't have a quorum. I think we certainly need the mayor representation of Greenwood. So I'm standing in support because consequences

have major, major, major impacts and they will impact us either negatively but generations to come that children will be inheriting the burdens that we pass on because of not having good government.

Verna Murray came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

I've been a resident for 32 years, and I'm here to just express—I hope they'll be able to do something with the Greenwood water. Throughout the years I've been there, we have had water problems for a long time, off and on. I've been thinking they have it fixed—the next thing you know, sometimes you see brown water; you see low pressure water; and different types of problems. I'm standing for Resolution No. 41, and that's what I'm here to stand for. Thank you.

Karen Bell came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good evening. First of all, I am Karen Bell. I am a resident property owner in Deer Creek Estates. I've been there for about 12 years. But one of my favorite movies--and you all will know the name of the movie after I describe how I am feeling right now--once this young lady wakes up from a dream that she perceived was a dream and she looks around and she sees all of her family members. The first thing she says to her auntie, 'Auntie Em, there's no place like home'. That's exactly how I feel today seeing all of my former commissioners, some of the director, and other support staff--it's just good to see you. I do want to say--thank you for recognizing me, Commissioner Atkins. I do want to say a lot that has already been spoken about the water situation. I do agree. When I first moved in my home about 12 years ago, the one thing that was quite disappointing was when I was getting ready to bathe my grandbaby the water was brown. Subsequent to that, I've had plenty of boil advisories. Sometimes it seems as if that the lines of communication are a little blurred. Most recently when we had I think it was correspondence that was disseminated on July the 14th regarding the problems with the water situation, and then most recently. So, I called and got a very nice young lady on the phone, and I was asking her, 'do we need to boil the water?' When she found out where I lived, she said, 'well ma'am, that really doesn't apply to your subdivision because the problem is coming from a different distribution point'. So that was confusing to me because I had gotten the robo call, and then two forms of communication saying that there was a problem with the water. So, I just needed to know if we needed to boil. So, I think that it would be prudent for the Town of Greenwood to be welcoming an advisory council because advisory councils can be advantageous to any type of organization. It gives an opportunity for the Town of Greenwood to hear from end users. We are the end users. A lot of what has been said I do agree with, but I do want to say that I would think that the Town of Greenwood would be amenable to that because during my time here with the Parish, the Parish appropriated several thousands of dollars to the Town of Greenwood for various infrastructure projects. But either way, I just wanted to voice my concern about that now as far as the annexation is concerned. Thank you as far as the annexation resolution is concerned-- have you ever heard the term bamboozled? Well, I feel like that's what happened to us. And I say that from the aspect of the public hearing that supposedly that was held. It was posted on a piece of paper may be smaller than this. And it was ground level from the pictures that I saw. It was ground level and had I gone over to stand by it, it probably would have just come up to my ankle. And I think that was unfair. I think that was totally unfair, and I think that that was intentional. Now, there is some acreage right across the street from where my subdivision is. We have one way in and one way out. Now what has happened with the recent annexation that a lot of the residents disapproved of-- it has set a precedent. And now any other company/business that decides that they would like to relocate to that property--and if they're not happy with the current zoning, well they can do the same thing. Just go to the Town of Greenwood and get annexed and get the zoning they prefer. So, Commissioners, we look to you. We look to you, Commissioner Atkins, you may not be my Commissioner, but if we have a problem, and if my Commissioner is not available, incapacitated or whatever, we can call either one of you. We should feel as if we can call either one of you. So, I would hope that you would take a close look at that and go ahead and pass that resolution. And just think about the subdivisions that would be impacted negatively as a result of this resolution, not passing. So, thank you for your time and it's good to see all of you.

Kay Waller came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Thank you. 4250 Calderwood Drive. Good afternoon, Commissioners and all that is assembled in this Chamber today. Upon request, I stand as the voice of Linda Smith from Greenwood. My name is Linda Smith and I live in Greenwood. I'm not able to be present and speak to you face to face, so I asked Mrs. Kay Waller to be my voice and read my letter. I'm sure many of you have had the opportunity to watch the story that was recently aired on Channel 3 News about the Town of Greenwood water issues. The issues are real; the customers are real problems; and the water problems in the Town of Greenwood is not fake news. The customers of the Town of Greenwood--myself have been there for more than 20 years. The constant ongoing water problems include low water pressure, discolored brown water, chlorine levels not meeting the required guidelines--discolored waters as well as E. Coli has been detected in water supply; and constant boil advisories being issued, usually seems like monthly. This past Monday, I was shocked as I listened to Mr. Chavez state that his parents never had any problems with the Town of Greenwood water supply. Mr. Chavez, I had no water--not a drop for more than a week after the Big Freeze in 2021. With respect to Commissioner Chavez, I urge you to Google the Town of Greenwood issues, and familiarize yourself with the history. You will find that history just does not lie. The citizens of District 12 elected Commissioner Ken Epperson to be our voice, not Commissioners Chavez, Hopkins, or others. Each of you were elected by the citizens in your district to be their voice. So, I prayerfully asked that each of you would lay aside any personal or political distractions that you may have with your fellow Commissioner that

might hinder you from making the people a priority. Mr. Chavez, I watched the interview you did on April 6. Ensure that you switched from a registered Republican because you want to represent everyone, especially those who feel left out. I would like to believe that because I feel left out as well as many others that our customers of the Town of Greenwood water. Citizens are only asking for community representation to sit with, talk with, and listen to collectively work with the Town of Greenwood, to find solutions that will flush out the issues that are plaguing our community for far too long. If you believe together we are stronger, support Resolution 40 and 41. Thank you, my God bless you.

Kisha Newsom came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Kisha Newsom. I'm the town clerk for the Town of Oil City. I come before you today on behalf of the mayor and the town council for the Town of Oil City. We emphatically and resolutely oppose Resolution No. 40 of 2022. And we just ask that you consider the lifeblood and the vitality of the small municipalities who depend upon the tax dollars that may come from businesses who have interest in moving into our municipalities Thank you.

Ken Epperson, Sr. came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good afternoon. It's good to speak as a citizen. Oftentimes, people take elected officials as being someone quite different. We are property owners, husbands, brothers, mothers, all of those things. I stand before you today representing one of my constituents that has an appointment with eye surgery today. She's in support of Resolution No. 41 of 2022. It has been reported that persons in District 12 on the Greenwood water system are experiencing water issues. At some point, many of us know of situations when water has been off. Perhaps on a boil advisory or not up to the standards for human or animal consumption, or any sanitary use. For some persons, it has been more frequent with water reportedly being dirty in appearance and not suitable for drinking, cooking, washing of clothes, etc. Now, it may not be us at this time, but understandably so, I do. We should understand why constituents are concerned when they seemingly to have no recourse. For that reason, we are requesting a citizen advisory board to give voice to all communities and all households. It is unconscionable to hear opposition and denial for a God given natural resources of water for every citizen. Commissioners, this should not be. Can anyone live without water? And what cost can one purchase enough water regularly to perform simple everyday survival tasks just to cook, wash, bathe, maintain a house and family personal hygiene. We are all intelligent enough to know that not just water, but warm water is required for constant hand washing and sanitizing with the advent of COVID-19 and monkeypox. Is it not overreaching when persons who need to reside, work or serve a necessary person within that district would conduct a personal survey and report back to the governing body that some citizens have water. How selfish! The focal point is not who has water, but who doesn't have water? Why shouldn't the Parish be concerned? Greenwood, Louisiana is located in District 12 of Caddo Parish. The constituents vote and have duly elected their Caddo Parish Commissioner, who has sworn to represent everyone in District 12. It is ludicrous to think that just another neighbor has water and all others should be content when they themselves don't. It is for that reason, I'm asking our Commissioners to support Resolution No. 41 of 2022 for the betterment of all of District 12, as well as Caddo Parish. Water is not a luxury, it is a necessity. Thank you. Minister Josh Rogers, Minister Rogers was raised up in the Greenwood, and she owns several acres of property within the Greenwood community today.

### **ADOPT REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Young, *that Regular Session Minutes from August 4, 2022* be adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, and Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Jones and Taliaferro (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

### **SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS**

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that Special Resolution of Recognition for Blanchard 8UAA Allstars* be adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, and Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Jones and Taliaferro (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION BLANCHARD 8UAA ALLSTARS**

**WHEREAS**, the Caddo Parish Commission desires to give appropriate recognition to those young people of Caddo Parish and northwest Louisiana who by their extraordinary achievements have distinguished themselves in ways that reflect favorably and positively upon this Parish; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 14-15th in West Monroe, the Blanchard 8UAA Allstars took their skills on the road and competed in the Louisiana Dixie State Championship. On the road to the Dixie State Championship Blanchard's season consisted of a 15-0 regular season, 5-0 Treyson Naron Classic, 3-2 Dixie District 4 and 1-2 Dixie State, compiling a tremendous 24-4 season; and

**WHEREAS**, under the management of Chris Kracman, coaches Wesley Volentine, Austin Huff, and Chase McCormick, these young men have enjoyed much athletic success on the diamond but this program is more than athletics, it has given many of these young men an opportunity to seek a higher level of performance skills and instill community involvement. 2022's roster includes: Rhet Davidson, Austin Ramirez, Rowdy Tullis, Jameson Murdock, Judson Volentine, Bentley Arnold, Huck McCormick, Jeremiah Helton, Samuel Maggio, Landon Moore, Landyn Brocato, Casen Lewis and alternates Liam Kimmer and Brede Buckley. This program has worked to build young men into skilled athletes and into future leaders who understand the importance of determination, hard work, loyalty, service and team work.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal and regular session this 18th day of August, 2022, that it does hereby heartily commend and congratulate the coaches and team members of the **BLANCHARD 8UAA ALLSTARS** for their success and for the pride and honor they have brought to their families, their Town and their Parish.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Commission does wish for the Blanchard Allstars much continued success, and that they will continue to dream, to aspire, to strive, to achieve and to excel as they face the challenges and opportunities their lives will present.

### **COMMUNIQES AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mrs. Gage-Watts announced that the Remington Skylar Watts & Betty Cooper Phelps Act requires the LDH to establish and maintain a Sickle Cell Disease Registry to function as a record for the treatment and cure for Sickle Cell Disease.

She also asked Administration for an update on the tornado sirens. Dr. Wilson said that he will provide that information at a later date.

Mrs. Gage-Watts thanked Administration for the installation of the Ring Doorbells.

- Mr. Burrell said that the Broadband Committee met, but did not have a voting quorum. He said that it was an informational meeting, and he is excited to start working on the broadband expansion in this area. There were two different providers for the Gumbo Grant, which were CSC Holdings and Comcast.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

#### **PUBLIC HEARING ON ZONING ORDINANCES & CASES**

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

- Zoning Case Appeal 22-3-BAP, Property Located 5247 Norfolk Road in Caddo Parish, Mr. Dana Wheeler, Applicant/Appellant. Request is for approval of a yard variance for a detached garage. The PZC voted to deny application as submitted and the homeowner has appealed.

Dan Wheeler came before the Commission to speak in favor of the appeal:

I'm seeking to build a detached garage detached building on a piece of lakefront property. The property is triangular shaped and because the Unified Development Code lists from the street to the house as my front yard and denies built detached buildings in the front yard—I need a yard variance. I'm asking that you approve the short variance because according to the Unified Development Code, it does not pose a risk to public health, public safety or public welfare. It does not alter the essential flavor of the neighborhood. There are multiple detached buildings in people's front yards. It is largely obscure both from the street and from my western neighbor by vegetation. This was confirmed by Ms. Emily Trant, Administrative Assistant to the MPC, who went out and viewed the site. It is the best site for me to build it there in what is considered my front yard—which would be between my house and the lake. The side yards—it would be in a flood zone. Granted, I could pile I could pile a mountain of dirt there until I built it up above the flood zone. But if I did that, that would still affect the runoff. Rainwater has to go someplace and runoff would affect my existing building there my house. Also on the eastern side, it would affect my ability to use our boat launch. You have to get kind of a running start to get on to the boat launch. With that building there wouldn't be able to do that. Also, I mean, it'd be an eyesore to my easterly neighbor, there's no vegetation obscuring the building or whatever built there. It's not a dwelling. There's just going to be electricity, no water, no sewerage, not bathroom, no shower, or kitchen. Are there any questions?

Yin Wheeler came before the Commission to speak in favor of the appeal:

This my first time, so I'm a little bit afraid and nervous. I'm here to support my husband. We bought the property about 25 years ago or longer since 1995 to raise the three boys there so they can learn how to fish and swim. Our west neighbor, Dr. McDonald. He is a good friend of my husband's and they work together for 15 years. Most of the properties there are built in 1950, older than I am. So the house is old and it is small and is built by old cypress cedar trees that are extinct now. You couldn't even cut the

tree now. The two buildings were built by that kind of wood, and we love the building, but they don't have an enclosed garage. We're both retired now, and my husband would like to build a detached garage where he can have a little shop for him—a place to park. The property has been flooded in 2016. Mr. McDonald, my previous neighbor, torn down his 1950 house and built a Hilton—as he called it. He come over and said, 'Yin, I'm going to build a Hilton next door to you'. I say, 'merry to you' because he is a single man and he don't have anybody. I'm happy to see him to do anything good for himself, but he raised his house like fifteen foot above flood level, so our house is a little bit lower than his house. The rainwater will wash down and our house will be flooded every time it rains. We have a French drain around the house to take the water away. Later on, in 2015 or 2016, Mr. Pitman, new owner, come in and built his front yard up to build a pool to his house. It makes more water flow on into our house. Besides, he has the pump to his pool right next to our bedroom. At nighttime, if you sleep, you can hear the vibration in the wall of his pump running 24/7. We didn't say any word. In 2016, the house was flooded. Last time, Mr. Pitman was here, he would ask himself, 'is he a good neighbor'. He came over in 2016. We are flooded. We totaled our house out. [inaudible] he come over and tell me this. He look me in the eye and said, 'you should tear down this house and trade this property for me so my son can come live there'. So, he wants to trade his lot across the street [inaudible]. We have open lake, and we have two buildings, and we have a dock and a boat house for his empty lot across the street so his son can live next door to him. And he asked me twice and then once again, he asked his son to call my husband and say we would trade it for him. At that time, I feel like that is harassment. And I feel like he didn't like us to be his neighbor, but we didn't choose to be his neighbor. We were there before he come here and live there. So, I'm not surprised that he is here today to oppose the building that we are building. We have considered all the locations for that lot because it is like a triangle. If we build it on the eastern side, we don't have that much land to build the building, so we have nowhere except the western side. And there will be vegetation between his house and our house. The tree line was there before we bought it, so we didn't plan on that tree line. So, I'm not surprised he is here. The minute we had the letter out, his wife got on the phone and call everybody in the neighborhood to support him. So, I'm here to support my husband and his detached garage, so we can retire in the place that we bought. Thank you very much. One more thing, we left out of the city. There are not covenants, no HOAs to give us guidelines for what we can do and what we cannot do. So I hope you can see.

Mark Pittman came before the Commission to speak in opposition of the appeal:

Mark Pittman, west side of the property in question. I don't deny trying to swap properties...I mean who doesn't want their son living next to them. I sent a packet...I assume that y'all got the packet, so I'm not going to rehash everything that's in the packet. That's not necessary. I will say it's imperative that the real estate agent we had come out and said it would de-value all of the properties—my property is the worst. When you're on a cul-de-sac, all of the driveways are right there. That means everybody's front yard is together. There's already a building, starting at the front of my house, and not a very good looking building, and it goes about thirty feet. The flood zone stuff—I'm going to tell you I'm a general contractor. I've been a general contractor for 30 years. I've been doing commercial residential work for fifty years. I shoot lots of elevations. I've got an eye for elevation. It's very misleading. This house is set on a hole. It sits down close to the water. That house was there before mine. It would flood every time it rains. This house the picture that he submitted to you was in 2016 when they didn't open the gates from the powers that be, and it flooded a lot of properties around Cross Lake. But, 75% of this property is the same elevation of my property, and I'm not even require to have flood insurance. In fact, he is the only one in that area that I required to have flood insurance, if he has flood insurance. I don't know that he does. I'm a good neighbor. Whenever they get sick, I carry them through. The only couple—there's 11 people that's tied close to the cul-de-sac; ten of them signed opposition. The only one that didn't is the Wiggans, who is on the east side. Wonderful little couple, we carry them food all the time. They are not in good health. They don't want to get into a community—I've been a good neighbor to the Wheelers. Right now that property—it is not unusual for somebody to come to my house and ask if that lot is for sale. You know what? Why don't they get them to clean it up? It's that bad. There're piles of brush. It's misleading on the garage. If you go back and look on his application for the garage—it has an eight-foot seven foot roll up door. And Mr. Wheeler has also said to me—before he knew I would be opposing this, that he intended to make furniture. If you make furniture, you can only make so much furniture before you gotta get rid of it or sell it. Then it would become a commercial business. That building would be north and south, but more north easterly. His property is on the sides, so its going to be right in front of my house. Right now, you can sit in my dining room and see a catamaran, a couple of vehicles, numerous pile—a big pile he won't clean up—I can't clean it up because its on his side of the fence. I love my home. This is my forever home. Mr. Wheeler doesn't live out there. He lives in Southern Trace. If he wants to go to Southern Trace and build a 50 by 45 or 55 by 45 buildin Southern Trace—good luck! I wouldn't trade my house for any two houses in Southern Trace. You don't devalue somebody else's property. It's either lack of common sense of common or lack of common decency. I told Mr. Wheeler to call me after he was denied. Why didn't you call me after it was denied? I didn't know you could put two airplanes in that building. So I'm asking you to deny it and think of your home and somebody was trying to put up a big metal building. I want to remain friends with the Wheelers. I'm not a bad neighbor. I'm a good neighbor. I'll go put up a mailbox for when one gets run over. [inaudible] 75% of his lot never saw water in 2016.

Ms. Pittman came before the Commission to speak in opposition of the appeal:

I just want to say that if they put this huge 55 x 40 metal building, I would be sitting in my dining room having guests over and that's what we would be looking at. I would be sitting in my den looking through my Double glass doors looking at this metal building. They do not live out there. They live in

Southern Trace. This is more of a camp house for them. This is our primary residence. And yes, our driveways do sit on top of each other. The big part of our lots and these are only one acre lots. So that is a gigantic building to be putting on a one acre lot—especially when they already have a detached garage that sits in front of their house. So you know if they do have room on the back of their lot on the easterly side that he could put a building. Of course I would think that size of a building on a lot wouldn't be allowed—maybe quite smaller storage room area. but, it just really it would ruin our neighborhood. It would ruin all of our area and I in the garages that they're saying are down the street. Well there are some down the street but these are on two and three acre lots. And they're spread out they're not in a cul-de-sac where all of the neighbors are so close knit together. They have much bigger lots, and they're down the street. Thank you.

Candy Peavy came before the Commission to speak in opposition of the appeal:

I actually live in town but I have a small lake house at 5241 Norfolk, so its two doors down from the property in question. And this will be really short. My only complaint is that it really is truly not a detached garage. It does have a garage door, but the building is huge. It's much bigger than my house out there on that on my piece of property. I'm very close. I just think it's the wrong size for the property and the location is unfortunate because of the way that cul-de-sac—I'm not in the cul-de-sac, I'm just slightly before the cul-de-sac so doesn't affect my driveway. It doesn't affect much at all, except that I would hate to see my property devalued because of a very unsightly extremely large building. I think detached garage is a misnomer for what this building would really be. And I hope that you will uphold the denial of the variance request. Thank you very much.

John Beckett, Jr. came before the Commission to speak in opposition of the appeal:

I've worked for the City of Shreveport as a plumbing inspector for the last nine years. I'm definitely against this building. It's too tall for one thing it'd be an eyesore and it would devalue everybody's property. I agree with Mr. Pittman, that it really wouldn't be good for the neighborhood. Like maybe we should come up with a smaller building something that maybe a storm drain system around the building to get rid of the groundwater.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know what the UDC states with regards to this type of variance. Mr. Stephen Jean, MPC, explained that the UDC does not allow detached garages in the front yard. The Planning & Zoning Commission believed that it would not be compatible with the neighborhood.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know the height of the building. Mr. Wheeler said it would be ten feet. Mr. Jean said that the height of the building is 13'6", but the wall ceiling height is 10 feet.

Mr. Jackson said that this would be "telling people what to do with their property". He then wanted to know the vote on this. Mr. Jean believes it was unanimous.

Mr. Epperson said that the Parish Zoning Commission is the committee that the Commission put in place due to the change in state legislation.

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

### ***PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES***

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

- Ordinance No. 6247 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budgets of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Building Maintenance Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, General Fund, Oil & Gas Fund, Public Works Fund, Detention Facilities Fund, Criminal Justice Facilities Fund, Health Tax Fund, and Riverboat Fund, for the 2022 to terminate completed or lapsed capital projects, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto
- Ordinance No. 6248 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. 6249 of 2022, an ordinance amending the 2022 Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Capital Outlay Fund and the Oil & Gas Fund and to otherwise provide with respect thereto

Janelle Mason came before the Commission to speak in favor of Ordinance No. 6249 of 2022 and gave the following comment:

Thank you so much for having me today. Mr. Roy Griggs, community leader and

philanthropist here was unable to attend, so I'm going to read a brief statement from him about the Ronald McDonald House. He said bringing a Ronald McDonald House to this area has been a goal for my family. For many, many years. Our dream has been to provide the services to Louisiana families so they can be with their child in the hospital. My hope is that our community will come together to donate the funds needed to build this home away from home that provides families with so much more than a free place to stay. There are 380 Ronald McDonald Houses in the world and it's time that our community has one too. Janelle Mason. I'm the CEO of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Arkansas and Shreveport and Northwest Louisiana as part of the territory we serve. I'm excited to be here today to share an update about the Ronald McDonald House project that we have in the works here for the Shreveport community in Northwest Louisiana. Ronald McDonald House provides a free place for families to stay when their critically ill child is hospitalized. They can stay together in a private room have meals, amenities, community support from other families in the house, and play areas for their children and activities. All services are provided free to these families. This will be an estimated \$8 million project built on Susan Drive, adjacent to Willis Knighton South. The property has been donated by Willis Knighton South, but this is not by Ronald McDonald House that will only serve Willis Knighton families. It will serve family with a child in the hospital here in Shreveport. Willis Knighton has donated a seven-figure gift to help a leadership gift to help get this project started. We plan to build a 20,000 square foot 20 room house for Louisiana families, staffed by Louisiana, and built by companies in the community. We will provide transportation to the other hospitals. I have spoken with Deniro Washington, and we just received a fabulous grant for transportation. He's assured me that we will be a stop on that route dedicated to medical transportation. We anticipate serving 21,000 people in a year that could be a family of three or a family of one—and an additional 5,400 day use guests who would come to the house to take a shower or step away from the hospital to eat a meal. We anticipate serving 71,000 meals in a year to these families. What we found in our research was when a family has a child in the hospital. There are four major needs housing, transportation, food and personal items while they're far from their home. I'm here today to ask for your support and answer any questions you have. We are receiving letters of support from the area hospitals. And I'll have those keep you all updated on those as we receive them but we are getting support from local hospitals.

- Ordinance No. 6250 of 2022, an ordinance to close and abandon a portion of the dedication for an unnamed road in the Parish of Caddo, and otherwise providing with respect thereto

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

#### **ZONING ORDINANCES, CASES AND APPEALS (for final passage)**

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *to uphold the decision of the PZC's decision with regards to Zoning Case Appeal 22-3-BAP, property located at 5247 Norfolk Road in Caddo Parish.*

Mr. Johnson said that the neighbors are in opposition with putting this oversized garage on the Wheeler's property. He believes that the PZC made the right decision.

Mr. Hopkins believes that everybody's property is their property to do whatever they want with it as long as they don't hurt the welfare or the health or safety of other people.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if this is a use-by-right. Mr. Jean said that it is not a use-by-right in the front yard. He also mentioned that it would be allowed if it were in the back yard. He said that he will respect the will of the Commissioner for that area. Mr. Jackson also said that this is a function that the Shreveport/Caddo MPC was already doing, and he is for "not duplicating the government". He feels that the bill that Representative McCormick pushed through legislation duplicates government.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know if there was a limitation of the size of the garage if it were built behind his house. Mr. Jean said that there is a limitation that it cannot exceed the dwelling. He also explained that the front of a house is defined by the front of the building line out to the street.

At this time, Mr. Johnson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, and Young (9). NAYS: Commissioner Hopkins (1). ABSENT: Commissioners Jones and Taliaferro (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

#### **ORDINANCES (For Final Passage)**

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Young, *that Ordinance No. 6247 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budgets of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Building Maintenance Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, General Fund, Oil & Gas Fund, Public Works Fund, Detention Facilities Fund, Criminal Justice Facilities Fund, Health Tax Fund, and Riverboat Fund, for the 2022 to terminate completed or lapsed capital projects, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, and Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT:

Commissioners Jones and Taliaferro (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

**ORDINANCE NO. 6247 OF 2022**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGETS OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND, GENERAL FUND, OIL AND GAS FUND, PUBLIC WORKS FUND, DETENTION FACILITIES FUND, CRIMINAL JUSTICE FACILITIES FUND, HEALTH TAX FUND AND THE RIVERBOAT FUND, FOR THE YEAR 2022 TO TERMINATE COMPLETED OR LAPSED CAPITAL PROJECTS, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission maintains an on-going capital improvement program; and

WHEREAS, this program is funded from a variety of sources; and

WHEREAS, Section 6.07 of the Home Rule Charter provides for the termination of capital appropriations; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend the budgets of several funds in order to reflect the termination of these capital appropriations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, hereby terminates capital appropriations identified in Attachment #1 to this ordinance and that the Budgets of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Building Maintenance Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, General Fund, Criminal Justice Facilities Fund, Oil and Gas Fund, Public Works Fund ,Detention Facilities Fund, Riverboat Fund and the Health Tax Fund for the year 2022 are hereby amended as follows:

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Budget Increase (Decrease)</u>
Capital Outlay Fund	
Capital Expenditures	\$(1,271,978)
Transfer to Building Maintenance	2,724
Transfer to Capital Improvement Fund	7,808
Transfer to General Fund	3,465
Transfer to Criminal Justice Facilities Fund	27,433
Transfer to Oil and Gas Fund	641
Transfer to Public Works Fund	1,228,938
Transfer to Health Tax Fund	153
Transfer to Detention Facilities Fund	360
Transfer to Riverboat Fund	456
Building Maintenance:	
Transfer from Capital Outlay Fund	2,724
Capital Improvement Fund:	
Transfer from Capital Outlay Fund	7,808
General Fund:	
Transfer from Capital Outlay Fund	3,465
Criminal Justice Facilities Fund:	
Transfer from Capital Outlay Fund	27,433
Oil and Gas Fund:	
Transfer from Capital Outlay Fund	641
Public Works Fund:	
Transfer from Capital Outlay Fund	1,228,938
Health Tax Fund:	
Transfer from Capital Outlay Fund	153
Detention Facilities Fund	
Transfer from Capital Outlay Fund	360
Riverboat Fund	
Transfer from Capital Outlay Fund	456

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.

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that Ordinance No. 6248 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* be adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, and Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Jones and Taliaferro (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

**ORDINANCE NO. 6248 OF 2022**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE OIL AND GAS FUND FOR THE YEAR 2022 TO PROVIDE AN APPROPRIATION FOR RELOCATION ASSISTANCE AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, many citizens in Caddo Parish require relocation assistance due to substandard housing conditions, homelessness, or to escape a domestic violence situation; and

WHEREAS, many citizens are unable to pay the costs associated with relocating to a new home causing them to remain in unsustainable living conditions; and

WHEREAS, citizens requiring relocation assistance, need help with security deposits, first month rent, and/or moving expenses; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission would like to appropriate up to \$36,000 to help citizens relocate to a new living arrangement due to unsafe and/or unsanitary living conditions, homelessness, to leave a domestic violence situation, or other verifiable reason for needing relocation assistance; and

WHEREAS, the relocation assistance would be limited to a maximum of \$1,200 per family; and

WHEREAS, households receiving assistance must have a current monthly gross income or 2021 annual gross income of no more than 80% of the area median income; and

WHEREAS, the relocation funds cannot duplicate funding already received from another funding source; and

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish would contract with the Providence House to assist with the relocation assistance, given these agencies are experienced in assisting persons with relocation needs; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Oil and Gas Fund for the year 2022 is hereby amended as follows:

	<u>Budget Increase (Decrease)</u>
<u>Oil and Gas Fund</u>	
Relocation Assistance	
Providence House	\$ 36,000
Fund Balance	(\$ 36,000)

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

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

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

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that Ordinance No. 6249 of 2022, an ordinance amending the 2022 Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Capital Outlay Fund and the Oil & Gas Fund and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. Burrell said this will be an asset to the community.

Mr. Johnson agreed that this is a good idea, but does not feel that this is “good for public dollars”. He would like to see the other hospitals put skin in the game because it is benefitting the families that have children in their hospitals. Mr. Johnson also has an issue with the location. He said that the Ronald McDonald House should be in the Hospital Corridor. He understands that Willis Knighton donated land, but feels that it should be closer to the other hospitals.

Mr. Johnson also has an issue with expending money into another term. This puts the financial burden on the new Commission body.

Mr. Chavez said that this ordinance came out of the Economic Development Committee favorably. He would like the sponsor of the legislation to be changed to that.

Mr. Chavez also spoke to the location of the House. He said that Willis Knighton donated the land, and there is also ready infrastructure in place which will save the House some funds on the initial build out. He also said that Willis Knighton has offered to take care of linens, lawn maintenance, etc.

Mr. Chavez said that every Ronald McDonald House has their own pet. He encouraged Ms. Mason to check with Caddo Parish Animal Services to adopt one.

**Amendment by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to encourage MOUs between local hospitals, local minority contractors at least equal to the Parish’s contributions, and to participate in the Coordinated Care Network.*

Mr. Jackson is also concerned about the location. He hopes for further conversations regarding the location. He understands that there have been conversations with SporTran regarding transportation.

**Friendly Amendment by Mr. Burrell** to strongly consider a land swap to the InterTech Transportation Corridor. He said that area is a medical corridor with various vacant properties and is centrally located.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know if there were any other recommendations that came out of Committee. The Clerk of the Commission said that the language that Mr. Jackson stated were the only ones that passed out of Committee.

Attorney Frazier suggested that this be postponed until the ordinance reflects the language that was passed out of Committee.

**Substitute motion by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Ordinance No. 6249 of 2022 be postponed to the September 8, 2022 Regular Session.*

Mr. Chavez pointed out that this came out of Committee favorably. He does not see the need to postpone it. He said that he will be voting no on the postponement.

Mr. Johnson said that this is not going to stop the Ronald McDonald House to get funds to match the Commission’s funding.

Mr. Burrell said that this is not a time sensitive project. He said that there is time to make sure it is right. Mr. Atkins agreed.

Attorney Frazier wanted to know if this ordinance was considered by the Committee as is. Mr. Jackson explained that this ordinance came before the full body, then was remanded to Committee. During Committee, there were some amendments made, but those amendments are not reflected in this ordinance. Attorney Frazier said that the amended language will be reflected in the ordinance when it comes back to the full body.

Mr. Johnson said that he would like to set up a meeting with the area hospitals.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Lazarus**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *that Ordinance No. 6250 of 2022, an ordinance to close and abandon a portion of the dedication for an unnamed road in the Parish of Caddo, and otherwise providing with respect thereto be adopted. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, and Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Jones and Taliaferro (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

**ORDINANCE NO. 6250 OF 2022**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE TO CLOSE AND ABANDON A PORTION OF THE DEDICATION FOR AN UNNAMED ROAD IN THE PARISH OF CADDO, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, a request for the closure and abandonment of a portion of the dedication for an unnamed road has been received by the Parish of Caddo; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has reviewed the request for the closure and abandonment of a portion of the dedication for an unnamed road and finds that portion of the unnamed road is no longer needed for Parish of Caddo public purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has reviewed the request for the closure and abandonment of a portion of the dedication for an unnamed road and finds that the closure and abandonment of a portion of the dedication for an unnamed road is in the best interest of the Parish of Caddo.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that the closure and abandonment of a portion of the dedication for an unnamed road located in the Parish of Caddo be, and the same is hereby, closed and abandoned, and only to the extent, that said road was used as a public road; said portion of an unnamed road more specifically described as follows:

All of that portion of the dedication of an unnamed road located in the Parish of Caddo as shown in red hash marks on the attached plat marked Exhibit "A".

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a copy of this ordinance and plat marked Exhibit "A", displaying that portion of the dedication for an unnamed road to be closed and abandoned, shall be filed in the conveyance records of the Parish of Caddo.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the property described hereinabove shall revert to the adjoining property owners or their successors, heirs or assigns subject to the reservation of an easement for utilities.

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 become effective immediately 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 22-15-P, Ordinance No. 6253 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 south side of Mt. Zion Road, approximately six hundred feet east of Linwood Avenue, Caddo Parish, LA, from R-A, Rural-Agricultural Zoning District to I-1, Light Industrial Zoning District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

**ORDINANCES (for introduction by title)**

- *Ordinance No. 6251 of 2022, an ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 6200 of 2022, relative to a Parish Planning & Zoning Commission, to provide for its permanent status and membership, to provide for its authority, to remove the termination date; and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6252 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 \$1,207,096 for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6254 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated*

*Revenues & Expenditures for the Oil & Gas Fund to appropriate funds for a Remembrance Garden at the Caddo Parish Courthouse and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

- *Ordinance No. 6255 of 2022, an ordinance to close and abandon a portion of the dedication for an unnamed road in the Parish of Caddo, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*

#### **WORK SESSION MINUTES**

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *that the Work Session Minutes from August 15, 2022 be ratified. Motion carried.*

#### **RESOLUTIONS**

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Resolution No. 39 of 2022, a resolution adopting a Citizen Participation Plan for the CDBG Program be adopted.*

Mr. Jackson said that the Caddo Parish Commission can apply for this grant on the Town of Greenwood's behalf due to the size requirements. He further explained that the Caddo Parish Commission and the Town of Greenwood can do a joint application. He said that water projects are always funded through the LCDBG grants. Dr. Wilson said that the parameters changed.

Dr. Wilson said that storm damage repair is not the focus of the LCDBG program. He further explained that for the 2023 LCDBG process, only street improvement applications are being accepted.

Mr. Epperson said that if a municipality applies for a grant, the Caddo Parish Commission normally does a resolution of support for that grant. Dr. Wilson agreed.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know about the citizen participation program. He asked what was done prior to this year, and who will make up this board. Mrs. Bryant explained that it is not a board, but an opportunity for the citizens to participate. Dr. Wilson explained that it is a process, and no individual can apply for it; only municipalities can.

Mr. Hopkins explained that the municipalities apply for the grants on their own; the Caddo Parish Commission applies on behalf of fire districts, water districts, and sewer districts.

Mr. Jackson said that the LCDBG grants' priority are streets, but water and sewer projects are still being considered. He requested that Administration look at helping the Town of Greenwood with their water issues.

At this time, Mr. Johnson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, and Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Jones and Taliaferro (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 39 OF 2022**

##### **A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN FOR THE CDBG PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, The Caddo Parish Commission desires to obtain Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to benefit Low- and Moderate-Income persons; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Division of Administration requires that certain citizen participation requirements be met;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following Citizen Participation Plan is adopted for use by the Caddo Parish Commission with respect to planning, implementation, and assessment of its CDBG program:

This plan describes how the Caddo Parish Commission intends to involve citizens in the planning, implementation, and assessment of the local Community Development Block Grant Program. Federal and State regulations give ultimate responsibility for the design and implementation of the program to local elected officials and also require that citizens be given an opportunity to serve in a key advisory role to the elected officials. All aspects of citizen participation will be conducted in an open manner with freedom of access to information for all interested persons.

#### **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN**

The Caddo Parish Commission has adopted the following Citizen Participation Plan to meet the citizen participation requirements of Section 508 of the Housing and Community Development Act

of 1974, as amended. The Caddo Parish Commission is committed through adoption of this plan to full and total involvement of all residents of the community in the composition, implementation and assessment of its Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG) Program. Attempts will be made to reach all citizens, with particular emphasis on participation by persons of low and moderate income, residents of slum and blighted areas and of areas in which funds are proposed to be used. A copy of this plan will be made available to the public upon request.

As part of the citizen participation requirements and to maximize citizen interaction, the Caddo Parish Commission shall:

- 1) Provide citizens with reasonable and timely access to local meetings, information and records relating to the state's proposed method of distribution, as required by the Secretary, and relating to the actual use of funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended;
- 2) Provide for public hearings to obtain views and respond to proposals and questions at all stages of the community development program. These hearings will consist of the development of needs and proposed activities and review of program performance. These hearings will be held after adequate notice, a minimum of five calendar days, at times and locations convenient to potential or actual beneficiaries with accommodations for persons with disabilities;
- 3) Provide for and encourage citizen participation with particular emphasis on participation by persons of low and moderate income who are residents of slum and blighted areas and of areas in which funds are proposed to be used;
- 4) Provide for technical assistance to groups representative of persons of low and moderate income that request such assistance in developing proposals;
- 5) Where applicable, identify how the needs of non-English speaking residents will be met in the case of public hearings; and
- 6) Provide for a formal written procedure which will accommodate a timely written response, within fifteen days where practicable, to written complaints and grievances.

Written minutes of the hearings and an attendance roster will be maintained by the Caddo Parish Commission.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Notices informing citizens of any public hearings will appear in the official journal of the Caddo Parish Commission a minimum of five calendar days prior to the hearing. In addition, notices will also be posted in parish office buildings/town hall and the hearing will be publicized through local community organizations, i.e., churches, clubs, etc., and/or dissemination of leaflets in the target area. Hearings will be held at times and locations convenient to potential or actual beneficiaries with accommodations for individuals with disabilities and non-English speaking persons. Whenever possible these hearings will be held within or near the target areas, at times affording participation by the most affected residents.

### **I. APPLICATION**

#### **First Notice/Public Hearing**

The public hearing to address LCDBG application submittal will be held approximately calendar days prior to the deadline for submission of the application for the current funding cycle. The Citizen Participation Plan will be available at the hearing. The public notice for this hearing will state that the following will be discussed:

- a) The amount of funds available for proposed community development;
- b) The range of activities that may be undertaken, including the estimated amount proposed to be used for activities that will benefit persons of low and moderate income;
- c) The plans of the Caddo Parish Commission for minimizing displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with such funds and the benefits to be provided by the Caddo Parish Commission to persons actually displaced as a result of such activities; and
- d) The Caddo Parish Commission prior performance of LCDBG programs funded by the State of Louisiana. In addition, the notice shall state that all citizens, particularly low- and moderate-income residents of slum and blighted areas, are encouraged

to submit their views and proposals regarding community development and housing needs. Those citizens unable to attend this hearing may submit their views and proposals to:

Caddo Parish Administration  
Attention: Jalisa Thomas  
Post Office Box 1127  
Shreveport, LA 71163

The notice will also state that accommodations will be made for disabled and non-English speaking individuals provided a 3-day notice is received by the Caddo Parish Commission.

### **Second Notice**

Seven calendar days, at a minimum, prior to the deadline for submittal of the application, a second notice shall appear in the official journal informing the citizens of the following:

- a) Proposed submittal date of the application;
- b) Proposed objectives;
- c) Proposed activities;
- d) Location of proposed activities;
- e) Dollar amount of proposed activities; and
- f) Location and hours available for application review.

In addition, the notice shall state "all citizens, particularly those affected by the proposed project, are encouraged to review the proposed application and submit any written comments on the application to:"

Caddo Parish Administration  
Attention: Jalisa Thomas  
Post Office Box 1127  
Shreveport, LA 71163

Negative comments received will be forwarded to the state's Office of Community Development, Division of Administration or the application will be withdrawn if necessary.

## **II. AMENDMENTS**

Program amendments, which substantially alter the LCDBG project from that approved in the original application, shall not be submitted to the state without holding one public hearing in accordance with the procedures outlined within this Citizen Participation Plan. Minutes of the hearing will be submitted with the request for the amendment. All interested citizens, particularly the low and moderate income, elderly, handicapped, and residents of the project area, shall be made aware and have the opportunity to comment on proposed amendments and/or submit alternative measures.

## **III. GRANTEE PERFORMANCE**

The Caddo Parish Commission will hold one performance hearing to solicit the public's opinion of the effectiveness of the LCDBG Program. The manner of notification will be the same as previously described for all public hearings. Notification will be made in the official journal approximately five to fifteen calendar days prior to the anticipated submittal of close-out documents to the state, and will indicate the date, time, and place of the performance hearing, and invite comments and opinions on the LCDBG activities implemented under the Caddo Parish Commission LCDBG Program being closed out. The notice will also state that accommodations will be made for disabled and non-English speaking persons provided a day notice is received by the Caddo Parish Commission.

This notice shall invite all interested parties, particularly those low to moderate income residents in the target area to attend.

The hearing will be held no sooner than five calendar days from the publication date of said notice.

## **CONSIDERATION OF OBJECTION TO APPLICATION**

Persons wishing to object to approval of an application by the state may make such objection known to:

Office of Community Development  
Division of Administration  
Post Office Box 94095  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-90958

The state will consider objections made only on the following grounds:

- i. The application description of needs and objectives is plainly inconsistent with available facts and data;
- ii. The activities to be undertaken are plainly inappropriate to meeting the needs and objectives identified by the applicant; and
- iii. The application does not comply with the requirements set forth in the state's Annual Action Plan or other applicable laws.

Such objections should include both an identification of the requirements not met and, in the case of objections relative to (1) above, the complainant must supply the data upon which he/she relied upon to support his/her objection.

## **BILINGUAL**

Whenever a significant number of persons and/or residents of blighted neighborhoods communicate with a primary language other than English attend public hearings, the Caddo Parish Commission will provide an interpreter for dissemination of information to them providing the Caddo Parish Commission is given sufficient notification of three day(s).

## **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

Technical assistance may be provided directly by the Caddo Parish Commission to any citizen, particularly to low- and moderate-income persons, residents of blighted neighborhoods and minorities, who request assistance in the development of proposals and statement of views concerning the LCDBG Program. The local officials, administrator and engineer will conduct informational meetings with the residents of the low to moderate income areas if a written request is received by the Caddo Parish Commission with at least a one-week notification. The person who conducts the technical assistance meetings will disseminate information on the program and answer all pertinent questions.

## **TIMELY ACCESS AND ADEQUATE INFORMATION**

The Caddo Parish Commission shall provide timely disclosure of records, information and documents related to the LCDBG program activities. Documents will be made available for copying upon request at the Caddo Parish Commission, Monday thru Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Such documents may include the following:

- 1) All meetings and promotional materials.
- 2) Records of hearings and meetings.
- 3) All key documents, including prior applications, letters, grant agreements, citizen participation plans, and proposed applications.
- 4) Copies of the regulations (final statements) concerning the program.
- 5) Documents regarding other important requirements, such as Procurement Procedures, Fair Housing, Equal Employment Opportunity, Uniform Act, Labor Provisions and Environmental Procedures.

## **CITIZEN COMPLAINT PROCEDURE**

### **SECTION 1**

It is the policy of the Caddo Parish Commission to review all complaints received by the Caddo Parish Commission.

### **SECTION 2**

The following procedures will be followed on all complaints received by the Caddo Parish Commission:

- 1) The complainant shall notify the Grant and Program Coordinator of the complaint. The initial complaint may be expressed orally or by written correspondence.
- 2) The Grant and Program Coordinator will notify the Parish Administrator or designated representative of the complaint within two working days.
- 3) The Parish Administrator or designated representative will investigate the complaint and will report the findings to the Grant and Program Coordinator within five working days.
- 4) The Grant and Program Coordinator will notify the complainant of the findings of the Parish Administrator or designated representative in writing or by telephone within two working days.
- 5) If the complainant is aggrieved by the decision, he must forward the complaint in writing (if previously submitted orally) to the Grant and Program Coordinator who will forward the complaint and all actions taken by the Parish Administrator or designated representative to the appropriate council committee for their review. This will be accomplished within two working days of receipt of the written complaint.
- 6) The reviewing council committee will have five working days to review the complaint and forward their decision to the complainant in writing.
- 7) If the complainant is aggrieved with the decision of the Committee, he must notify the Grant and Program Coordinator in writing that he desires to be afforded a hearing by the Caddo Parish Commission Council. The complainant will be placed on the next regularly scheduled council meeting agenda. The Grant and Program Coordinator will notify the complainant in writing of the date of the hearing.
- 8) The complainant must bring all relevant data, witnesses, etc., to the hearing. The Caddo Parish Commission Council, at the hearing, will review the complaint and forward within five days a certified copy of the minutes of the meeting at which the hearing was conducted and a decision was rendered to the complainant. If a decision is not reached at the hearing, the Caddo Parish Commission Council will inform complainant of an appropriate date to expect a response. Within two working days of reaching a decision, the complainant will be notified in writing of the decision.

Complaints concerning the general administration of the LCDBG Program may be submitted in writing directly to the:

Division of Administration  
Office of Community Development  
Post Office Box 94095  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9095

### **SECTION 3**

All citizen complaints relative to Fair Housing/Equal Opportunity violations alleging discrimination shall be forwarded for disposition to the:

Louisiana Department of Justice  
Public Protection Division  
Post Office Box 94005  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

The complainant will be notified in writing within 10 days that, due to the nature of the complaint, it has been forwarded to the Louisiana Department of Justice.  
or

Complainant may contact the Louisiana Department of Justice Public Protection Division directly at the Toll-Free Telephone number 1-800-273-5718 or 225-342-5521.

### **SECTION 4**

The Grant and Program Coordinator will maintain a file for the purpose of keeping reports of complaints.

**SECTION 5**

This policy does not invalidate nor supersede the personnel or other policies of the Caddo Parish Commission which are currently adopted but is intended to serve as a guide for complaints.

**SECTION 6**

This policy may be amended by a majority vote at any of the Caddo Parish Commission regularly scheduled meetings.

**ADOPTION**

The Citizen Participation Plan is hereby adopted by Caddo Parish Commission in regular session on this 18th day of August, 2022.

**CERTIFICATE**

I, Jeff Everson, Parish Clerk of the Caddo Parish Commission, hereby certify that the attached constitutes a true and accurate copy of a Resolution, which UPON MOTION of Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Stormy Gage-Watts, was adopted by the following Yea and Nay vote:

- YEAS: John E. Atkins, Roy Burrell, Mario Chavez, Ken Epperson, Sr., Stormy Gage-Watts, Todd Hopkins, Steven Jackson, Lyndon B. Johnson, Ed Lazarus, and John-Paul Young (10).
- NAYS: None (0).
- ABSENT: Steffon D. Jones and Jim Taliaferro (2).

and the same was declared adopted by the President on this 18th day of August, 2022.

/s/ Jeff Everson  
Jeff Everson, Parish Clerk  
Caddo Parish, Louisiana

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *that Resolution No. 40 of 2022, a resolution to urge and request the Louisiana Legislature to amend LA R.S. 33:172 to include special provisions applicable to Caddo Parish, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. Epperson said that they are asking that notification letters be sent in a larger radius and notification signs are large enough for the citizens to read. Mr. Epperson wanted to know if this stops annexations along I-49. Attorney Frazier said that it would depend on the municipalities, but this resolution could be obstacles.

Mr. Hopkins said that this resolution could send the wrong message to land developers.

At this time, Mr. Epperson's motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, and Johnson (5). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Hopkins, Lazarus, and Young (5). ABSENT: Commissioners Jones and Taliaferro (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *that Resolution No. 41 of 2022, a resolution to urge and request the Town of Greenwood to form a Citizens Advisory Board to review and make recommendations regarding water issues with the Town's water system, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. Epperson said that the Bible mentions water 722 times and is God's gift. He further stated that the Town of Greenwood has had a number of issues with water since he's been there. He would like there to be a citizens advisory group to give some insight on the town's water issues as well as different ways to remedy the problems.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know if the Town of Greenwood could apply for the LCDBG grants to help out their water problems. He further said that his parents, who live in Greenwood, said that their water is fine. Mr. Chavez wanted to know who's responsible for the quality of water in Greenwood. Dr. Wilson said that the Louisiana Department of Health and DEQ monitors the water quality.

Mr. Chavez also pointed out that the Town of Greenwood does not have to set up a citizens advisory committee even if this resolution passes.

The attorney for the Town of Greenwood gave the following statement:

Yes, I guess one of the things we have heard about it's the most important in my mind if I

was in your seat would be this idea that there's some type of danger to citizens. That just is not accurate. There's been no violations for bacteria or microbes in the last few weeks the last 13 years in that water system. So, some suggestion that this is a dangerous product that you cannot use that those are not the violations that they just came up the violations that came up here in the last couple of months concerned. LDH testing of the end of the line of some water systems, and so anybody that's had a pool or hot tub, or read about drinking water understands that you have chlorine evaporation issues. These are dead end lines that aren't used. The violation for one month was at the end of one of these dead ends. The violation for another month was at the end of another dead end. They test thirteen different sites. We're at the end of one of these dead ends so they pull water from the end of the pipe without letting it run. So it was old water, so there was not chlorine in it at the end of the dead end line. And so when they tested it, the chlorine levels weren't at the level they should have been. Their procedures have been amended now to run the water so you have a current water system test. We just got the last water system test today, and there were no violations. Anybody that came from a number of these subdivisions that were complaining about anything that's happened recently didn't understand that they weren't even on our water system. We've been low, and we had to switch to a supplemental water supply which is Shreveport. Timberline and some of these other subdivisions haven't even been on our water in three months because we're a surface water system and there's evaporation and heat and we're just running low. that's what happened with the magnesium—the brown water. It's not a danger issue. It may be concerning if you don't understand water. But it is not a health issue. It's not a safety issue. if you are not someone who had a great understanding of water systems, how that could be concerning of you—we got no violations of LDH, which is the government body tasked with controlling clean, healthy drinking water. There was no violation for that. It's just a buildup of minerals that happens at the bottom of a tank system. And when you have a change and pressures, which we had because of the heat, it causes sediment to get dislodged. That has built up in pipes or tanks. And so that's not an unusual occurrence. We didn't get any violation for that. Because it's not a health or safety issue. It would be an optics issue. It would be concerning and I could understand if you're not trained in water systems or educated and how you could be concerned, but that it was not a violation and from LDH's point of view—it's not.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know why the citizens believe they are on Greenwood's water system. Attorney McKay explained that those citizens are on Greenwood's water system, but sometimes Greenwood has to supplement water from a different source if they are running low.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if Attorney McKay would drink the brown water. Attorney McKay said that it does not pose a health risk, and understands the optics of it. She further stated that the Town of Greenwood had a meeting for all of the citizens to attend and discuss the brown water or any other concerns.

Mr. Burrell asked if there were plans in place to address the brown water issue. Mayor Pro Temp explained that they have issues with brown water periodically, but they are working on improvements to the plant. He also provided contact info on their website for any concerns or issues with the water.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know why the Town of Greenwood has not received funds for their water system. Dr. Wilson explained that the money has been appropriated, but Town of Greenwood has not contacted Administration for the CEA. Mr. Epperson said that he is working on this.

Mr. Johnson said that the infrastructure needs to be right before annexations.

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

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 41 OF 2022**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION TO URGE AND REQUEST THE TOWN OF GREENWOOD TO FORM A CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD TO REVIEW AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING WATER ISSUES WITH THE TOWN'S WATER SYSTEM, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Town of Greenwood's water system serves citizens both within and outside the town limits; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Greenwood's water system has had ongoing problems with water quality over a several year period; and

WHEREAS, a citizen's advisory board could:

- solicit input from all water and sewer system users and relay their input to the

Board of Aldermen.

- reviews, recommends, and advises the Board of Aldermen on matters relating to:
  - Capital Improvements
  - Customer Billings and Other Elements of Customer Service
  - Policies to Govern the Operation of the Water and Sewer Systems
  - Quality of Water Delivered to Customers
  - Rates to Be Charged for Water and Sewer Service
  - Management, Operation and Maintenance of Water and Wastewater Systems and Properties

WHEREAS, such input by an advisory board could lead to system improvements and consistently potable drinking water.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby urge and request Town of Greenwood to form a Citizens Advisory Board to review and make recommendations regarding the town's water system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to all members of the Greenwood Board of Aldermen and the Greenwood Mayor.

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.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson's**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to englobe and adopt the following appointments:*

- *Reappointment of Patricia White to the North Caddo Hospital Service District. Term to expire August 18, 2028.*
- *Reappointment of David Hale, Elmer E. Moreau, Ronnie Festavan, and Charles Dennis Barr to the Black Bayou Watershed. Terms to expire August 14, 2026.*
- *Authorize use of already approved ARPA funding for Grambling State University vs. Northwestern State University for Shreveport football game*

Mr. Epperson asked to be a sponsor for the game.

At this time, Mr. Johnson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, and Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Jones and Taliaferro (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

The Commission then moved onto the next New Business item, *Discussion of NACo Initiative Operation Green Light.*

Mr. Epperson explained that Operation Green Light is an initiative of NACo, which the Caddo Parish Commission is a member of. This initiative to raise awareness for the suicide rates for military members by lighting up buildings and houses with green lightbulbs.

The Commission then moved onto the next New Business item, *Discussion of orphaned oil and gas wells in Louisiana.*

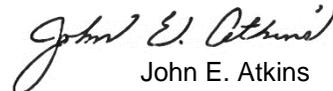
Mr. Epperson explained that funds are becoming available to deal with orphaned oil and gas wells.

The Commission then moved onto the next New Business item, *Discussion of proposed Settled Inn Village in Bethany, Louisiana.*

Mr. Epperson would like to get some answers relative to questions he has with this facility. He asked that Ms. Mayberry join his teleconference on Thursday, August 25.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

  
Michelle Nations  
Assistant Commission Clerk

  
John E. Atkins  
President