

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION  
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 3rd DAY OF OCTOBER, 2022

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

Mr. Burrell gave the invocation, and Mr. Lazarus led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

**VISITORS**

- Master Plan Update

**ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

- *Juvenile Detention*

Dr. Wilson said that there are seventeen children in the Detention Center; six of which are OJJ. There are six 17-year olds, and eight children at CCC.

- *COVID*

Dr. Wilson also mentioned that month to date, there were ten infections within the Caddo Parish organization, and four positive cases within the agencies.

- *Grand Re-Opening of Veterans' Affairs Office & Caddo Adult Drug Court*

Dr. Wilson announced that the Grand Re-Opening of the Veterans Affairs Office & Caddo Adult Drug Court will be held on October 14 at 10:00 a.m.

- *Expungement Summit & Resource Fair—LA State Fairgrounds*

Dr. Wilson also announced that the Expungement Summit & Resource Fair will be held on October 14 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

- *Legislative Priorities*

Dr. Wilson requested that these be submitted to Administration by September 29<sup>th</sup>. He said that they've received a few, but would like everyone's input so it can be compiled into one document.

**COMMISSION REMARKS**

- Mr. Jackson talked about the overcrowding issue at CCC. He said that the Commission has a vested interest in what's going on at CCC because the Commission is responsible for the facility, paying the inmates' medical expenses, etc. Dr. Wilson said that a meeting was held to determine what could be done to address the overcrowding at CCC. He explained that there are currently 1,520 inmates in a facility designed to hold 1,070. Mrs. Bryant said that the judges are working with the District Attorney's Office to try and work out a solution to remedy the overcrowding problem. She also mentioned that there will be another committee meeting to address this and determine where the Commission would like to be in regards to the Public Defender's office.

Mr. Jackson said that it causes some concerns with the Public Defender's Office and their attorneys, who may not be well versed in criminal defense, defending someone who has a serious charge. He also has a concern with the "catch and release" narrative that may come of this. Mr. Jackson believes that the conversation will lead to building a bigger jail. Dr. Wilson said that has already come up. His response was that a feasibility was conducted in 2010, and the estimated cost then was \$100M. Dr. Wilson said that it would take an enormous millage to pay for it. Mr. Jackson wanted to know who would be responsible for building and pay for the jail. Dr. Wilson said that the Commission is.

Mr. Jackson is a proponent for keeping the community safe, but there needs to be a conversation around resources for workforce development, sustainable resources for Pre-K, sustainable resources for neighborhood development, etc.

- Mr. Burrell attended the Public Safety Committee. The take-away that he got was a lack of

communication with law enforcement, District Attorney, and the judges. He also said that the Legislature accused the Commissioners of not communicating their wishes, concerns, and priorities to the judges. Mr. Burrell said that the Commission does communicate their needs with the Legislative Priorities that are submitted each year. Mr. Burrell then wanted to know if the recommendations that were made in the Public Safety meeting were vetted and reviewed. Dr. Wilson said that there was an additional meeting to figure out what would need to be done to address the immediate concern. They are looking to contract with additional lawyers from the community and pay them for their services. Mrs. Bryant said that several recommendations were made, but no definitive recommendations were made at this time. She also mentioned that the Parish is not responsible for implementing any policies or changes that are put in place. Mr. Burrell said that was his concern. It seems that we are sitting there with the purse, but have very little input on what is derived, Mr. Burrell said. Mrs. Bryant said that hopefully they will have some recommendations and the Commission will be notified of those changes.

- Mr. Johnson announced that the American Rescue Plan Committee will be on October 17 at 2:00 p.m. The NGO Appropriations Committee will be on the same day at 3:00 p.m.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that Ordinance No. 6161 of 2022, an ordinance amending the 2022 Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund to carryover the 2021 appropriation for the African American Chamber of Commerce and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mrs. Barnett said that the African American Chamber of Commerce did not receive their funding in 2021. Mrs. Bryant added that they did spend the money and turned in their receipts and report, but their CEA was not finalized until 2022, after 2021 was closed. She further explained that the funds need to be carried over into 2022 in order to reimburse them. Mr. Jackson hopes that issues like this will be alleviated with the new NGO process. He also pointed out that this is budget neutral.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that Ordinance No. 6162 of 2022, an ordinance granting approval for an additional septic system at 153 Monique Drive, Shreveport, Louisiana, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Atkins explained that this has been a long and complicated path for Ms. Basco to put another septic system on her property. Currently, there is an ordinance that does not allow two septic systems on a one-acre lot without proof of safety by professional engineer. A study has been done, and the letter is attached to the agenda.

Mr. Hopkins stated that the Health Unit and Public Works Department are both ok with this. He will be supporting this ordinance.

Mrs. Basco did her due diligence, and it is her only intention to put a home on the back part of her property so she can care for her father while his health is failing.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if this would set a precedence that a professional engineer would be required for this type of exception. Mr. Atkins said that the current ordinance already states that.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *that Resolution No. 46 of 2022, a resolution to provide an annual certification to the State of Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development in accordance with the Off-System Bridge Replacement Program, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration.

**Substitute motion by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *to englobe and move the following items to Thursday's agenda for consideration:*

- *Resolution No. 46 of 2022, a resolution to provide an annual certification to the State of Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development in accordance with the Off-System Bridge Replacement Program, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Special Resolution of Acknowledgement for Breast Cancer Awareness Month*
- *Special Resolution of Acknowledgement for Domestic Violence Awareness Month*

- *Appoint James Martin to Caddo Parish Fire District No. 8 Board to fill the unexpired term of Claude Jackson. Term to expire January 1, 2024.*
- *Appoint Stacy Fuselier Pierce to the Caddo Parish Fire District No. 5 Board to fill the unexpired term of Wayne Woodruff. Term to expire December 4, 2022.*
- *Authorize consideration of recommendations concerning recognition of POW-MIA*
- *Authorize approval for Commissioner travel to 2022 Keep Louisiana Beautiful Conference*

Mr. Jackson and Mr. Burrell asked to be a co-sponsors to the Special Resolution for Breast Cancer Awareness and Special Resolution for Domestic Violence Awareness.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *to suspend the rules and take Consideration of a moratorium on enforcement of Ordinance No. 6240 of 2022, relative to occupational license requirements of off-track betting establishments.*

Attorney Frazier said that the reason for Executive Session is to answer any questions. She further explained that if there are no questions, then the Executive Session is not needed.

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

It was then **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that the consideration of a moratorium on enforcement of Ordinance No. 6240 of 2022, relative to occupational license requirements of off-track betting establishments be moved to Thursday's agenda.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (9). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts, Jones, and Young (3). ABSTAIN: None (0).

The Commission then moved back into regular session.

### **COMMUNIQUES AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mr. Burrell talked about the Fairgrounds Field demolition. He said that the deconstruction of the ballpark may pose as a public health issue. Mr. Burrell explained that the bat guano could become airborne and cause histoplasmosis, which is a lung disease. He asked that Dr. Wilson reach out to Dr. Whyte with regards to this.

- Mr. Jackson reminded the Commissioners that tomorrow is National Night Out. He also asked that Administration reach back out to Mrs. Stacy Brown with his requests.

Mr. Jackson also talked about 114 Texas Street. He said that there will be a meeting forthcoming with an agreement or understanding by the end of the month. He would like to have the meeting in the Government Chambers Conference Room.

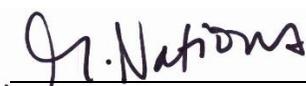
- Mr. Burrell asked that a list of all the National Night Out events be provided to the Commissioners.

- Mr. Epperson stated that Mayor Stawaz passed, and the funeral arrangement are pending.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- *Ordinance No. 6259 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund and the Oil & Gas Fund to provide an additional appropriation for the Safe Summer Program, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

  
Assistant Commission Clerk