

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 1st DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2021

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Work Session, on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., via Zoom teleconference, with Mr. Johnson, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (10). ABSENT: Commissioner Cawthorne and Gage-Watts (2).

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

OLD BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *that Ordinance No. 6117 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Caddo Parish Personnel Policy to require that all parish employees hired, appointed or promoted to Parish Attorney, Assistant Parish Administrator, Parish Administrator/CEO, Department Director or Commission Clerk, must be residents of Caddo Parish, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto be moved to Thursday's agenda with the recommendation to amend the ordinance for anyone hired before January 1, 2022 would be grandfathered into the policy.*

Mr. Jackson pointed out an issue with the Commission's process of agenda items that have been remanded to a committee and returning to the full body agenda before that committee has a meeting.

The Clerk of the Commission clarified that pertaining to Ordinance No. 6117 of 2021, the committee met and the item is on the agenda.

Mr. Jackson requested that they establish the process on this issue and how to determine that.

Point of Information by Mr. Hopkins, that the items could be sent to a committee and advanced to Thursday's agenda or was it only remanded to committee. And whether they advertise

The Clerk of the Commission confirmed that the motion to remand to committee and to advance occur in some cases.

Mr. Epperson commented that the ordinance or resolution should be amended and advertised before being placed on an agenda and that he is not in favor of passing the ordinance.

Point of Clarification by The Clerk of the Commission that they are voting to authorize the ordinance for introduction and that the amendment will be advertised before the public hearing.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *that Ordinance No. 6118 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues for the American Rescue Plan Fund to provide an appropriation for counseling in public high schools in Caddo Parish and to otherwise provide with respect thereto, be advanced to Thursday's agenda. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, , Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, , Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (9). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Cawthorne, Gage-Watts and Jackson (3). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *that Resolution 72 of 2021, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to request and authorize the Louisiana State Mineral and Energy Board and the Office of Mineral Resources to accept nominations and advertise for oil, gas and mineral leases, accept bids, and award and execute oil, gas and mineral leases on certain mineral interests owned by the Parish of Caddo, and otherwise providing with respect thereto, be advanced to Thursday's agenda.*

Substitute motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *to englobe and move the following ordinances to Thursday's agenda for introduction:*

- *Resolution No. 72 of 2021, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to request and authorize the Louisiana State Mineral and Energy Board and the Office of Mineral Resources to accept nominations and advertise for oil, gas and mineral leases, accept bids, and award and execute oil, gas and mineral leases on certain mineral interests owned by the Parish of Caddo, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*

- *Resolution No. 73 of 2021, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to request and authorize the Louisiana State Mineral and Energy Board and the Office of Mineral Resources to accept nominations, advertise for, accept and award bids, and execute all oil, gas and mineral leases on certain mineral interests owned by the Parish of Caddo, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*

Mr. Johnson requested that Mr. Epperson does not include Resolution 74 of 2021 in his motion and does not support placing wells near populated areas. Mr. Epperson agreed.

Mr. Whittington stated that they will not have the locations of the oil wells until later and that the companies are required to have a 5-acre tract minimum to install a well. And that they would provide the well locations to the Commission as soon as possible.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know whether discontinuing oil leases will hinder companies from accessing minerals from existing wells. Mr. Johnson responded that it may not but it will send a message.

Mr. Burrell cautioned that they must take cautions in well locations in heavily populated areas.

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

Point of Information by Mr. Atkins, on the process to determine the oil well locations in order to advance Resolution 74 of 2021. Mr. Johnson acknowledged that the full body could remove the agenda item and allow the Parish staff to obtain answers in order to move forward with the resolution.

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that Resolution No. 74 of 2021, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to request and authorize the Louisiana State Mineral and Energy Board and the Office of Mineral Resources to accept nominations and advertise for oil, gas and mineral leases, accept bids, and award and execute oil, gas and mineral leases on certain mineral interests owned by the Parish of Caddo, and otherwise providing with respect thereto, be removed from the agenda until Parish staff provides answers they need. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, , Chavez, Epperson, , Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Cawthorne and Gage-Watts (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Mr. Epperson read into the record:

Dear Commissioners, We live at 7046 Greenwood Road immediately across the highway from the property located at 7115 Greenwood Road. We have written you earlier about our concerns with the suspected illegal activities being conducted on this property. Currently there are approximately five each 3000 to 5000 gallon water hauling trucks operating in and out of this property. We have no idea as to the total weight of these trucks when full of water. When fully loaded they may be exceeding established weight limits when crossing highway bridges. Farther more we don't know where they are getting the water to haul in these trucks. Our property relies sole source on well water. We are concerned that our aquifer is rapidly being depleted. This company needs to be investigated as to where they are getting the water for these trucks. We do not want them pumping water from our aquifer to fill their trucks for construction work. In addition to water trucks there are also 4 very heavy duty, large capacity material hauling trucks as well as several 40 ft. long flatbed trailers operating in and out of the property. These trucks are so long that they have to make a broad swinging arc to turn into their property. Their driveway is in the middle of a "Blind Curve". There is danger of a highway accident occurring when a driver is rounding the blind curve only to discover at the last instance a heavy truck making a wide turn right in his lane of travel. There have been two highway accidents in the curve in the past two years. The original zone permit was issued to the company for growing hay. It has been quite some time since hay has been baled on that property. The wild life habitat that once existed there has been totally destroyed. At one time deer grazed there. Rabbits in abundance nested there and many species of birds roosted in the large leafy trees. All of that has been destroyed. Basically all the wild animals have been driven from that property. The owner is storing all types of construction equipment, gravel and other building materials on this property. He has erected temporary buildings & sheds. At times construction activities take place resulting in excessive noise and dust levels. The MPC should request the State Environmental Quality Department to investigate the activities and the manner in which this property is being used. We are concerned as to the fire, air and water safety on that property. There is no fire hydrant within a 1000 ft. Winds stir up and blow dusts into our home and contaminates the quality of the air that we

breathe. The property has been turned into a Junk Yard and an “Eye Sore”. It has greatly depreciated the value of our property. We respectfully and strongly request the MPC to exert its authority and insists that they order this company to immediately halt their illegal operations. This company must stay within its original zoning permit. In the meantime until they cease their illegal operations, the company should be required to erect a “Privacy Fence” and to install a Fire Hydrant of sufficient capacity to protect themselves as well as their surrounding neighbors should fire occur there. We kindly request the MPC to address our concerns and to advise us of the actions it takes to correct this deplorable situation of unlicensed and unzoned activities taking place and destroying our property value. Carroll & Gwen Michaud

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to extend Mr. Epperson’s time by 5 minutes.* Motion carried by acclamation.

Mr. Epperson continued to read into the record:

Dear Commissioner Epperson, I hope that you and your family are doing well, as well as, that of your fellow Commissioners. As it pertains to the above referenced subject, there is a growing concern among your constituency, particularly, those who supported a Petition in opposition to the Re-Zoning Case , for this property. As a result of the Caddo Parish Commission voting to deny the re-zoning, the owner filed an Appeal in Caddo District Court, which, as I understand, has not yet been heard. However, the current activity ongoing at this property is constantly causing problems and concerns for property owners, i.e., presenting potential health challenges due to all of the dust and loud noise, as well as, potential damage to Greenwood Road with the heavy hauling by numerous trucks and the drawdown of water from the Aquifer. It appears that the property owner is proceeding with the original plans to develop this property for a **Use** that I and several other property owners were in total disagreement. It further appears that the property owner is totally ignoring the decision of the Caddo Parish Commission to deny the Re-Zoning request, economy, we are not against economic development - in fact, we welcome it, however, as property owners, **“we are stakeholders”** in this endeavor and should be treated as such. We should **“have a say”** in what is deemed to be a **“good fit”** for our community. It is appalling that this owner has taken this position and, again, seemingly, ignoring the decision of the Caddo Parish Commission in denying the Re-Zoning Application. Commissioner Epperson, I totally agree with other property owners who have contacted you regarding this situation. At this point, the only apparent alternative to remedy this situation until a determination has been reached by the Court is through **Injunction Relief**. All potential business neighbors must and should realize that surrounding property owners are **“stakeholders”** in their endeavors and we must all **“sit at the table”** when it comes to new developments in our community. We look to you, Commissioners and our other fellow Commissioners to please remedy this situation. Thank you all for all that you do for our Parish!! Sincerely yours, Karen Kaye Bell

Mr. Epperson stated that the Commission overturned the MPC ruling relative to zoning case 20-11-P on February 4, 2021 with seven in agreement and five in opposition. And the property owner has been operating on their property to date.

Mr. Taliaferro wanted to know how close in proximity is his property to a nearby subdivision. Mr. Epperson acknowledged that the Timberline subdivision is about 60 feet north of the property.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know how this is going on when it is not permitted. Mr. Clarke addressed that

Mr. Clarke commented that the MPC had cited the property owners and gave them time to be compliant. And that the property owners seemingly hadn’t ceased their activity on their property. He added that they have sought advice from the Parish Legal Department for possible legal actions to take on the issue. He reassured the Commission that the MPC does not support the property owners in violation of their ruling.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know if there is any legal course that the Commission can take on the issue. Mrs. Frazier recommended that he ask his questions regarding this case during the executive session.

Mr. Epperson requested copies of the citations the MPC send to the property owners. Mr. Clarke acknowledged.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that Ordinance No. 6143 of 2021, an ordinance amending the budget of estimated revenues and expenditures for the economic development fund to provide an appropriation of \$6,500 for the usa boxing national championship, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto, be advanced to Thursday’s agenda.*

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if Parks and Recreation did an application and whether their application went through a committee. Mrs. Bryant acknowledged that they completed an application.

Dr. Wilson confirmed that it did not go through a committee.

Mr. Jackson stated that he wanted it on the record.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that Ordinance No. 6144 of 2021, an ordinance to close and abandon a portion of the dedication for East Pine Island Road in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto, be moved to Thursday.*

Mr. Johnson wanted to know if the ordinance went through a committee. Mr. Hopkins acknowledged that it did not.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *that Resolution No. 80 of 2021, a resolution approving the issuance of not exceeding Twelve Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$12,500,000) Certificates of Indebtedness, in one or more series, of Communications District Number One of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and providing for other matters in connection therewith, be advanced to Thursday's agenda.*

Grant Schluter from the Foley Judell Bond Council commented that the 911 district is reducing the annual debt service and principal interest and extend their payments of about \$127,000 for four years to 2036. and is requesting to refinance their existing debt with a reduced rate from Capital One Public Funding. And that their request is going to provide \$1.7 million to enhance the Parish's 9-1-1 system.

Mr. Burrell recognized Mr. Schluter from their history working together.

Mr. Taliaferro wanted to know how long the debt was extended. Mr. Schluter restated that the debt was extended for four years from 2032 to 2036.

Mr. Epperson commemorated the Parish's triple A bond rating and expressed gratitude to see Mr. Schluter after many years.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Resolution No. 81 of 2021 a resolution giving notice of intention to create an economic development district known as the I-49 North Corridor Economic Development district, and otherwise providing with respect thereto.*

Mr. Hopkins explained that the resolution expands the economic development district to include the intersections from on Interstate 49 north to Hwy 173 towards Arkansas and the sales tax accrued from the district will be used for infrastructure. He is corresponding with the mayors of Ida and Hosston for approval to be included in the district.

Mr. Epperson felt that they are going to district West Shreveport into degradation and oblivion whereas Youree Drive district is booming. And requests to be invited to the next Economic Development Committee meeting.

Mr. Burrell requested for a copy of the I-49 corridor map of the districts.

Mr. Jackson encouraged Mr. Epperson to look into the movement of development on Youree Drive and that their districts are not able to flourish. He expressed that he has to shop in Bossier because retail is easily accessible and his concerns about the travel time from West Shreveport to Youree Drive. And that he will monitor how Mr. Hopkins' experience with the tif district will proceed.

Mr. Atkins gave regards to Mr. Hopkins on following the process to establish the district on I-49.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *to englobo and move the following ordinances to Thursday's agenda for introduction:*

- *Authorize Special Resolution Of Remembrance For Tony Rhodes*
- *Authorize Special Resolution Of Appreciation For Dads On Duty*
- *Authorize Special Resolution For Alan Clarke*
- *Authorize Special Resolution Of Appreciation And Recognition For Paris Lacour*
- *Authorize Special Resolution Acknowledging National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month*
- *Authorize Special Resolution Proclaiming National Diabetes Awareness Month*

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that the Commission convenes into Executive Session including the Parish Administration, The Parish Attorney, The Assistant Administrator and Mr. Clarke.*

Substitute motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *to move up the Communiques and Committee Reports and Citizen's Comments (Late Arrivals) before the Commission to convene into Executive Session. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Cawthorne and Gage-Watts (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

COMMUNIQUES AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

▪ Mr. Epperson reported that the Natural Resources Committee meeting submitted recommendations to the Parish's Legal Department and are waiting on location sites of drilling wells. He asked to be put on the board after the next speaker so that the Clerk to render the votes from the committee

▪ Mr. Jackson asked the Parish Administration for a status update from Kathy Gleason with the People of Praise. Mr. Bernstein acknowledged that he and Mr. Jimmy Whittington are corresponding to have their project on the next agenda and that they will reach out to Ms. Gleason.

Mr. Jackson requested that the Administration encourage people to get their second vaccine shot with an incentive. And complimented the Administration for coordinating the COVID vaccination clinics.

▪ Mr. Chavez announced that the Long Range Planning Meeting is November 3rd at 2:00 pm in the Conference Room and that the Southern Hills Homeowner Association Meeting that night at 6:30 p.m.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- Update on the Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Dr. Wilson said that they have assisted 8,400 families through the program and issued \$21 million dollars. They will have distributed \$25 million by the end of the year.

- Juvenile Detention Center

Dr. Wilson said there are currently twenty-three juveniles in the detention center, five of which are OJJ and five seventeen-year olds. There are also eleven juveniles at Caddo Correctional Center.

- Budget Retreat

Dr. Wilson said that the budget retreat is scheduled at 9:00 am on November 9th at the conference room in the Shrek Central Fire Station and invited all Commissioners to come.

- COVID Cases

Dr. Wilson said there were no positive COVID cases in all Parish facilities. None of the Parish's employees have been exposed since his last report.

COMMUNIQUES AND COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

• Commissioner Epperson read the following proposal of recommendations voted in the Natural Resources Committee to be reviewed by the Parish Attorney, and added that the Committee will reconvene on the proposal before recommending the proposal to the full body:

1. Well head to property lines shall be 3,000 feet.
2. All drilling pads shall baffled/sound suppression system installed.
3. All entrance roads to drilling sites shall be overlaid with mitigating products as needed to Eliminate or minimize dust.
4. No Fracking or noise generating activities from 10:00PM until 7:00AM near residential areas Within 1-½ miles of drill site.
5. Drilling companies shall meet with residents within the communities surrounding the drilling site, prior to commencing drilling operations to informed the citizens as what to expect during the drilling activities. (The same process as to MPC zoning change regulations)
6. All transmission and distribution pipelines, compressor sites, relief valves located near and on residential neighborhoods shall be prominently identified, labeled with product content and known to residents.
7. Emergency phone numbers for drilling companies shall be highly visible and posted to at the entrance of drilling sites. Phone lines shall be staffed with personnel to monitor all calls in real time relative to concerns/complaints from citizens and emergency situations.
8. All trucks that are supplying resources to support the drilling operations, shall be properly Placarded with the proper DOTD codes, or names of the items that they are transporting. This includes, solids, liquids, etc. (waste water, drilling fluids, machine and vehicle maintenance fluids)
9. A restorative plan for the trees, shrubs, and natural habitat for animals, that have been displaced because of clearing entrance roads, and drill pad sites should be put in place.
10. The Louisiana Office of Conservation-Department of Natural Resources or whomever is in charge of regulating Oil & Gas drilling in the state should immediately convene regional Citizens Advisory Committees to reevaluate regulations regarding drilling activities, for they are grossly outdated.

Mr. Epperson announced that the Annual Veteran's Celebration will be held virtually on Zoom on November 5, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. and will present the current Col. Steven dePyssler Award, recognizing 7 veterans, and the guest speaker is Lt. Col. Ebony C. Carter . And that the Annual Veteran's Parade at the State Fair has been cancelled, but all active military, all veterans and their family will receive free admission and parking at the State Fair on November 14th.

Mr. Atkins commented that oil and gas companies take measures to operate in a safe and quiet manner and that if he was on the Natural Resource Committee he would not be in favor of the proposal. And that the Administration works with the Committee on a compromise that benefits all parties.

Mr. Burrell stated that a representative from an oil and gas company disagreed with components of the proposal and he invited them to the next Natural Resources Committee meeting.

Mr. Epperson pointed out that oil and gas drilling came after Shreveport became settled by its citizens.

Mr. Atkins pointed out that oil and gas industries arrived in 1905.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Johnson reported that the Commissioner's parking area is the official smoking area for the building due to new signage. Dr. Wilson acknowledged that he will correspond with Mr. Johnson on that situation.

COMMISSION TO CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that the Commission convenes into Executive Session including the Parish Administration, The Parish Attorney, The Assistant Administrator and Mr. Clarke. Motion carried by acclamation.*

CONSENT AGENDA

- *Ordinance No. 6101 Of 2021, an ordinance amending and re-enacting section 32 46.1 of the Caddo parish code of ordinances regarding the carrying of weapons, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6103 of 2021, an ordinance creating the “Amazon TIF District, State of Louisiana”; defining the boundaries thereof from which area local sales tax, property tax, and hotel & occupancy tax increments will be determined and used to finance economic development projects in accordance with and as authorized by Part II of Chapter 27 of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended; and providing for other matters in connection with the foregoing*
- *Ordinance No. 6109 of 2021, an ordinance amending the budget of estimated revenues and expenditures for the Riverboat Fund for the year 2021 to provide an appropriation of \$165, 300 to provide ballistic vests for Shreveport and Caddo Parish Fire Districts, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6119 of 2021, an ordinance adopting the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Shreve Memorial Library for the Year 2022*
- *Resolution No. 78 of 2021, a resolution authorizing the Caddo Parish Administrator to enter into an agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development obligating the Parish to pay 10% of the construction cost, and assume all legal liability for, and all maintenance and operating cost, of the Subject Boom or Bust Scenic View Project-No. H.013315, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Special Resolution For Shirley Simmons Snell*

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 4:41 p.m.


Administrative Clerk III