

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 15TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2021

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, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (9). ABSENT: Commissioners Hopkins and Johnson (2). VACANT: District 6 Seat (1).

Minister Joyce Rogers gave the invocation, and Commander David Williams led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ADDITIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *to expand the agenda and add setting the policy and procedures for filling the vacancy for Commission District 6.*

At this time, Mr. Atkins opened the floor for anyone to speak in favor or against adding this item to the agenda. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (7). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, and Johnson (4). ABSTAIN: None (0). VACANT: District 6 Seat (1).

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Linda Schmwel came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

I'm here to comment on the possible Pit Bull spay neuter law ordinance. I started a no kill shelter called Pet Savers in 2005, hoping to rescue a few animals in my retirement for no pay. It soon became clear that there is a bottomless Pit of homeless pets in our area. And there is absolutely no rescue or shelter that can possibly handle them all. We turn down at least 10 dogs and cats a day. And we don't even take Pits because it's so hard to find good homes for them. They would be with us until they die. And we don't just take cute, small animals or pure breed dogs. If you're unlucky enough to be born a Pit in the Ark-La-Tex, you can count on either a very short life or an unhappy life in most cases. I'm sure there few exceptions. You either roam the streets or you're chained up. I'd like to introduce you to a dog I met almost 10 years ago on Lakeshore Drive. I have one other passion in my life besides pets and that's sailing. And when I go to Cross Lake I have to pass this poor dog and her friend every time I go out there. Pretty White and Tutu live at 2306 Lakeshore Drive. They're always chained up on a chain and about this thick. And they would have no cover, except I finally talked the man who owns them to let me bring them a couple of igloo dog houses from Pet Savers. Yesterday, I passed by and they were still there. Chained up. They're out there in the harsh conditions in the heat and the cold. I called Animal Control for help and they've been out. But they're still there and they're still suffering. Believe me when I tell you this is just one small example of the Pit Bull ownership that I know about. Yesterday, I put a post on our Facebook page about the meeting today, and, as of this morning, there have been over 12,000 people who have seen it. Sadly, most of them, or many of them, made comments such as I wont support-Pardon? Is my three minutes over all ready? Okay, I thought I was going to have more. Anyway, most people who answered said they wouldn't support it until we had a spay neuter ordinance for all dogs, which I think is sad because I think this is a wonderful start. And I really applaud Commissioner Young for presenting it. Anyway, we'd be the first Southern city to have such a thing I believe. I got some statistics from Commissioner Young today. And I understand that one-third of the dogs taken into the Caddo Animal Services are Pits, 55% of the dogs euthanized are Pits, and 85% of the dogs that are there at any one time are Pits. I don't know if y'all remember a couple years ago, a woman was killed by her own pet, a Pit. We don't hear about Labs killing their owners or Poodles killing their owners. But, unfortunately, Pits have that reputation. And they roam the streets. And we-I don't want anything bad to happen to any of them. I just don't want so many of them to be born and not cared for. This is it.

Megan Everett came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Thank you. Good afternoon Commissioners, I would like to first and foremost thank you for allowing me speak on behalf of this ordinance proposal and would like to express my support of something like this. In my time as an employee at CPAWS as the Rescue Coordinator, I built relationships with many rescue groups. While we were able to help a small amount of pittie type dogs in comparison to the amount coming in, most rescues cannot support the volume of pitties that enter the shelters across the United States. I'm with Parish PAWS, we take in really any dog. And we really do our best to take in the pittie types because of the lives they do lead here. And it's getting harder for us to move them to our northern rescues and to our eastern rescues, because there are so many of them. During my time at Caddo, I did participate in humane euthanasia. I can't account for the emotional stress or toll it takes on a person euthanizing for reasons other than extreme aggression or quality of life. Running an animal rescue takes me out of that part of it. But it does take a toll emotionally when you cannot find a place for an animal you have met, socialized with and know would make a good companion. To some people, they see them and understand - sorry. To some people they may see the numbers of animals or the pictures

of animals, but we are actually hands on with them and understand the characteristics and chances of them finding forever homes. Whether it be adopted at Caddo or adopted once placed with a rescue. I do understand there are concerns with pediatric spay and neuter. I have been in vet medicine since 2009. I started out as a veterinary receptionist and then moved into a veterinary technician. I have assisted in many elected euthanasia. Whereas the animal has no quality of life. It is something that the veterinarian does recommend. I also participated in many unelected euthanasia at the shelter. To go to a kennel and pull a dog out of there that is wagging its tail, walking with you to take it into the room, to hold it and tell it that it wasn't their fault while they pass away, and possibly lick you the entire time-That's not fair. There's a huge difference in what comes into a veterinary office. They come in for care and they come in for to be seen for their heart worm prevention. When they come to the shelter they're not wanted, they come in as a stray. They come in as -okay, I'm sorry. They come in unwanted. And then they sit at the shelter and hope for the chance to leave. And they-just don't. we as rescues are out here fighting for them. Though we can't save them all. And it's a hard truth to face. I think having this ordinance would assist in the efforts of the animal community from preventing more unwanted litters that could end up in Caddo and assist in the overall health of the animal community. I will continue to support this legislation as it moves forward. Thank you for your time today. And thank you, Commissioner John Paul Young, for even attempting to attack and act this. It's more than appreciated. I also know that the AVMA does not support mandatory spay and neuter but they have adopted spay and neuter policies relating to population control and age of the animal. I can-would be more than willing to forward these articles to either one of you, Commissioner Chavez or Commissioner Young. There are also journal entries on spay neuter programs on the Association of Shelter Veterinarians. Thank you.

Lorraine Guerrero came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Excuse me. My name is Lorraine Guerrero. I'm the President of an organization called Nova's Heart. We help to feed, vet, give vaccinations, spay neuter, most anything that the pets of the homeless, low-income, veterans, or disabled need. All of this is at no cost to them. We also have a once a month rabies clinic where our veterinarian comes up to our office at Hope House and gives rabies vaccinations on his dime for free. Almost 80% of the animals we see in our program, and we've been doing this for over 7 years, are Pit Bulls. Less than 10% of those ever agree to be spay neutered. They-Well actually I got an excuse last week from a man I was trying to educate about the importance of spay neuter and the over population in our area. He said 'I just don't do that'. Whatever that means. Responsible pet owners are lacking in our area. We need to educate people on the advantage of spay neutering. We also need to educate people on how our Caddo Parish Animal Control, Bossier Animal Control, our local animal controls are overrun with Pit mix type animals. Now I'm a Pit lover. Pit Bull technically is not a breed. It's a mix of other breeds. I have three in my home that sleep in the bed with me every night. They're not chained outside. Yeah, they're big dogs. But they're all in my house. We need to tell people that it's not right to chain a dog in your front yard like a yard ornament. Dogs are companions. They're not protection. They're companions. Unless it's a trained service dog for protection or a police dog, it's not for protection. Its companion. And owning an animal is not a right. It's a responsibility. And we have to teach people how to be responsible pet owners when they don't know. So, I just-I hope we can get somewhere with this ordinance to alleviate the problems we have in our local animal shelters. Transports from here go up north every single week to take animals that are unwanted here up north, because they have mandatory spay neuter laws all over this country. They don't have an influx of animals like we have in our area. And it's unfair to an animal who didn't ask to be here, but who is bred over and over and over again, to be euthanized. Because people don't know any better. We see 7 to 10 Pit mix litters from to our organization every single year for vaccinations. And maybe somebody should would say 'You shouldn't vaccinate them. Just don't give them that service'. I'm not going to let an animal not be vaccinated and get sick and die from parvo or distemper. If I can do that, I'm going to help out. And just in closing, none of us get paid for doing what we do. We're all volunteers, because we care about our community. And we want to see our community progress and move forward. And not be known as the dumping ground for Pit bulls, Pit bull mixes or any other animal. Thank you.

VISITORS

- Presentation of Veteran's Week Recognition Ceremony Awards

Mr. Epperson presented awards to the following honorees: Maj. Courtney Fitzgerald (USAF), Laurence Guidry (USAF), Ralph Davis Henderson (Specialist 5 E-5), Lt. Col. Tedris T. Smith (U.S. Army), Maj. Thompson (U.S. Army), and 1st Lt. Shelford E. Wilson (U.S. Army).

He also presented Sgt. Rellis P. Godfrey with the Colonel Steven D. dePyssler Award.

Mr. Epperson thanked each of the committee members for all of their hard work over the past eleven years. He said that it is their goal to get Col. dePyssler on a U.S. postage stamp, as well as, constructing a NWLA Veterans Museum.

Mr. Burrell commended Mr. Epperson for the Veterans Celebration presentation. He thanked each veteran for their service, as well as all veterans for their service.

Mr. Chavez "tipped his hat" to all veterans and thanked each veteran for their service to

this country.

Mr. Jackson agreed that everyday should be Veterans Day for the sacrifices that each Veteran has given to this country. He also thanked Mr. Epperson for his leadership on this committee for recognizing veterans.

Mr. Taliaferro thanked Mr. Epperson and the Veterans Celebration Committee for all of their hard work in recognizing veterans and their sacrifices for this country. He also thanked all the honorees for their service to this country.

Mr. Atkins thanked the honorees for their service to this country, as well as Mr. Epperson for his leadership on honoring all veterans.

- Long Range Planning & Special Projects Committee's Citizen's Advisory Committee
Gen. (ret) Jim Graves, Chairperson

General Graves came before the Commission and said that they are wrapping up the process and plan to give a report soon. He said that the process has been inclusive, diverse, open, and transparent. He said that they followed the acronym Caddo RISES; R-respect, I-integrity, S-service, ES-enduring interests in the citizens' safety and security. General Graves said that they were available to the public and brought in all public input that they could get. He also commented that the Citizens' Advisory Committee found listening to the citizens is that "they don't want us to just sit there, but do something; they want us to maybe not do something, but sit there". He said that they have looked at areas like the north part of Caddo and southwest part of Caddo where they don't have zoning activity. He said that other cities in Texas also do not have zoning in the rural parts of their counties.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if there was any consideration for areas, such as District 12, where there it is both inside the city limits and in the parish. General Graves said that they have been very careful to not invade the prerogatives to the City of Shreveport. He said that the opinions that they have heard is that the citizens would like the jurisdiction of the city to stop at the city limits; and outside the city limits, there be open zoning. He said that this is "not a negative, but a trust your neighbor program rather than a created government entity".

Mr. Jackson asked for clarification on open zoning. General Graves said that it is no zoning, other than by ordinance from this Commission.

Mr. Epperson thanked General Graves for coming today and giving an update on this committee's work. He also appreciated that the meetings were streamed.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Ordinance No. 6451 of 2021, in regards to Zoning Case No. 21-30-P, 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 east side of Ratcliff Road, approximately 400 feet south of S Roach Drive., Caddo Parish, LA., from C-1, Neighborhood Commercial District to I-1, Light Industrial District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mrs. Gage-Watts said that SWEPCO is developing in this area.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if this is inside the city limits or outside. Mrs. Gage-Watts said that this area is outside of the city limits of Shreveport. Mr. Jackson wanted to know if this change would still be in effect January 1, 2022. Dr. Wilson said that it would not, unless there was an action to rescind the zoning change.

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (9). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Hopkins and Johnson (2). ABSTAIN: None (0). VACANT: District 6 Seat (1).

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Ordinance No. 6146 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Oil and Gas Fund to provide an appropriation of up to \$100,000 for a "Relocate to Caddo Parish" advertising campaign and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Young said that he brought this idea up last year when discussing water systems for Blanchard and Greenwood. He said that this is intended to advertise Caddo Parish as a good place to live and increase the population and tax base.

Amendment by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Young, *to broaden the target audience.*

Mr. Jackson said that it is a great idea and would like to capture more than just remote workers. He would like industry to be targeted as well.

Mr. Epperson feels that this is premature and suggested that it be vetted further. Mr. Burrell agreed.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know if promoting the glass plant in Southern Hills would qualify for this campaign. Dr. Wilson said that it might be, but they would need to define the target audience. Mr. Chavez wanted to know if the Commission is working with local agencies such as NLEP, IDB, etc. to advertise Caddo Parish just like other agencies do for cities like Las Vegas, New York City, etc. Dr. Wilson said that those agencies market industrial parks and economic development opportunities in Caddo Parish. Mr. Chavez then wanted to know if Dr. Wilson thinks this would be a good return on investment for the Commission. Dr. Wilson said that it would be difficult to measure the ROI, unless it is target audience specific. He also mentioned that the intent for this funding would be to get people to move and live in Caddo Parish. Dr. Wilson said that new houses being built, apartments being rented, property taxes, and the Census could be used to measure the ROI.

Substitute by Mr. Atkins, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *to remand Ordinance No. 6146 of 2021 to the Long-Range Planning Committee for consideration. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (9). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Hopkins and Johnson (2). ABSTAIN: None (0). VACANT: District 6 Seat (1).

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Young, *that Ordinance No. 6147 of 2021, an ordinance to donate surplus property under Chapter 19, Article II, Division 3 of the Code of Ordinances relative to Donation of Adjudicated Property acquired by the Parish under LA.R.S. 47:2236 et seq., to authorize the donation of property to People of Praise to address substandard housing and provide a benefit to low and moderate income residents of distressed areas, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Jackson explained that this process started in the summer months, and this ordinance would make the actual donation of the property to People of Praise.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if this property is "clear or if the Parish has an interest in it". Attorney Frazier said that this particular ordinance terminates the Parish interest in the property, but prior to this, those procedures terminated any other interests in the property.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know if the property has a clear title and if the Parish will be out of it completely. Attorney Frazier said that the Parish will be out of it completely. Mr. Chavez then wanted to know if the Parish purchased title insurance on the property. Attorney Frazier said that the Parish only has a tax title interest.

He then wanted to know if the properties are being donated for low-income housing. Mr. Jackson said that it is for supporting their school. Mr. Chavez wanted to know the end use for the property. Attorney Bernstein said that he will look up the application and provide that information at a later time.

Mr. Jackson suggested attaching the organization's application to the agenda. It is his understanding that this organization has a school, and these are blighted properties across the street from that school. He also said that one piece of property will be used for a park; another piece of property will be used for a parking lot; and the other property will be used for another school-based setting. He said that the overall goal is to reduce blight.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know how much property this is. Mr. Jackson said that it is three lots.

At this time, Mr. Jackson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (8). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson, Hopkins, and Johnson (3). ABSTAIN: None (0). VACANT: District 6 Seat (1).

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that Ordinance No. 6148 of 2021, an ordinance enacting Section 8-37.1 of the Caddo Parish Code of Ordinances regarding the mandatory sterilization of pit bulls type dogs and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Young said that this was discussed in the Animal Services Committee twice and read aloud the following statement:

'The Commission has the sole authority over the regulation of animals in Caddo Parish. That not only gives a right, but also duty to pass good laws for animal control. Currently, one-third of dogs entering our custody are pitbulls. About 80% of the dogs in our kennels are pitbulls. More than 50% of the

dogs we euthanize are pitbulls, and this number is in the hundreds every year. This is because pitbulls are overpopulated in Caddo Parish. To fulfill our duty to control the animal population in Caddo Parish for public safety, we must either institute a new policy to spay/neuter pitbulls or continue our current policy of spending our money and manpower to catch and kill the puppies. Pitbulls are great dogs. They are naturally loving, loyal, strong, and brave. Pitbulls are also excellent fence climbers. If they are intact—that is not spayed/neutered—they are highly motivated to escape their enclosures and breed. A female pitbull can produce up to ten pitbull puppies per year. Pitbulls are great, but their owners vary. Some owners are responsible and know already that an altered pitbull is better behaved and cannot recklessly breed. Some owners are less responsible and keep owners intact, which allows them to breed indiscriminately and produce more dogs than our community can humanely manage. There are not enough homes in Caddo Parish for all the pitbulls who are recklessly bred here. Even after hundreds are shipped to other states for adoption every year, Animal Services must still catch, cage, and kill pitbulls by the hundreds. This is fundamentally inhumane both to pitbulls and our Animal Services staff. So much of our Animal Control Officers' time is occupied by pitbulls that they have trouble efficiently responding to citizens' calls. We can change this dynamic with a sane moderate rule: requiring pitbulls in Caddo to be spayed and neutered. This law provides that the financial costs of pitbull sterilization will be bourn by taxpayers. This results in a cost-savings over time in both money and manpower as the out-of-control population of pitbulls begins to decline. A decline in our pitbull population will free up time and resources at Animal Services and reduce the need for the costly expansion of our Parish kennels. We have already observed this cost-savings with cats because of the spay/neuter work, especially with the wonderful work of Robinson's Rescue. Another moderate feature of this rule is that it is temporary and lasts for only two years, after which we can evaluate its success in controlling the animal population here. There are objections to this rule on philosophical grounds. One goes like this; my dog is property and I should be able to do what I want with it. If this is true, then mandatory rabies shots should be optional instead. Also, optional should be whether an owner provides shelter for a dog from the elements, or keeps it outdoors on a heavy chain, or feed it adequately, or confines it an adequate enclosure. An absolute unregulated property right in our dogs would allow us to impose heavy costs in our neighbors and put public safety in jeopardy; so does the supposed right to own an intact pitbull, which is extremely likely to escape and recklessly reproduce as our animal statistics clearly show. Another objection is that—despite our clear statistics that show overpopulation in only one dog type—regulating only that one type of dog would be unfair. The objection goes, all dogs should be regulated the same. So, either all dogs should be required to be spayed/neutered or none. Requiring no dogs to be spayed/neutered leads us to the inhumane situation we have today where we catch and kill pitbulls and take them to the landfill like garbage. On the other hand, requiring all dogs to be spayed/neutered—with the reasonable exceptions of responsible breeders and medical conditions—is an even better rule. If any of my colleagues will offer that as an amendment or substitute, in place of a pitbull specific rule, I will regard it as friendly and vote for it. We must do something to control the animal population in Caddo Parish, and it is inhumane and inefficient to attempt to euthanize our way to a healthy population size when we could instead use sterilization. The alternatives are sterilization or euthanasia. I think the ethical choice is clear, please vote to support it.'

Mr. Taliaferro said that he is on the Animal Services Committee and voted not to send this recommendation to the full body because he feels that it needs to be vetted further and craft a more comprehensive ordinance for the protection of this and all breeds, while respecting the rights of the individual owners. He would like to send it back to further discuss this ordinance.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if this process voids the dangerous and vicious breed process. Mr. Young said that it does not. He also mentioned that this ordinance would require sterilization for a pitbull if it came in contact with an Animal Control Officer (ACO).

Mr. Jackson then wanted to know if Animal Services would "round up pitbulls". Mr. Young said that they will not.

Mr. Chavez asked Mr. Travis Clark, Animals Services Director, if he was in favor of this ordinance. Mr. Clark said that this is a step in the right direction and is in favor of this.

Mr. Chavez also wanted to know if they would be able to tell if this program is successful in the two-year timeframe. Mr. Clark said that the standing metric would be how many puppies and young dogs are coming into the facility.

Mr. Chavez applauded Mr. Young for bringing this to the Commission. He also mentioned that there are an ample number of dogs at Caddo Parish Animal Shelter (CPAS) with no clear vision in the future of how to lower that number. Mr. Chavez said that he is in favor of this ordinance.

Substitute motion by Mr. Taliaferro, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *to remand Ordinance No. 6148 of 2021 to the Animal Services Committee.*

Mr. Taliaferro said that he is not against this ordinance, but is concerned with the enforcement aspect of it.

Mr. Young asked Mr. Clark if enforcement of this ordinance would be manageable for his staff. Mr. Clark explained that all the municipal codes are only enforced by ACOs when they contact people or when they are aware of a situation. He also mentioned that there are currently eight ACOs. Mr.

Clark also pointed out that he will not know about intact dogs at a property unless they get called out.

Substitute motion by Mrs. Gage-Watts, seconded by Mr. Young, *to enact sterilization of all cats and dogs.*

Mrs. Gage-Watts said that she is not in support of isolating a certain breed, but she is in support of doing something to address the overpopulation of dogs and cats in the Parish.

Mr. Epperson wanted to know if there is an ordinance for an owner to clean up their dog's poop. Mr. Clark said that there is, and it would be a nuisance violation for sanitation.

Mr. Jackson would like this ordinance to become effective in three months. Mr. Young mentioned that there is a six-month effective date in the ordinance.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if there will be adequate staffing to implement this ordinance. Mr. Clark explained that if an ACO is called out, they have to check for rabies vaccine, proper enclosure, etc., so this would just be something else that they would check. Dr. Wilson explained that this will be on a contact basis.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if there will be an additional financial impact on spaying and neutering all cats and dogs. Mr. Clark explained that Mr. Young will be researching which facilities will be readily available for the citizens to get their dogs and cats fixed. Mr. Young explained that the original ordinance was just for pitbull type dogs, but with this substitute motion, the ordinance may need to be edited to reflect the changes to sterilizing all cats and dogs. Mr. Clark wanted to know where the services would be rendered. Mr. Young said that it has not been determined, but suggested increasing funding to Robinson's Rescue to facilitate this.

Mr. Clark also explained that when an animal comes to the shelter, the owner has the option to get their animal fixed at a reduced rate.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if this amendment would impact Animal Services in terms of employees or additional costs. Mr. Clark said that it would not.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know the exceptions to this ordinance. Mr. Clark said that if the animal is AKC, ADDBA, or UKC; if the animal has medical issues; or if the animal is a working dog.

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts' substitute motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, and Young (6). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (3). ABSENT: Commissioners Hopkins and Johnson (2). ABSTAIN: None (0). VACANT: District 6 Seat (1).

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that Resolution No. 82 of 2021, giving written public notice of the regularly scheduled meetings of the Caddo Parish Commission for the calendar year 2022 be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration.*

Substitute motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to englobe and move the following items to Thursday's agenda for consideration and remove Special Proclamation designating Veterans Week from the agenda:*

- *Resolution No. 82 of 2021, giving written public notice of the regularly scheduled meetings of the Caddo Parish Commission for the calendar year 2022*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition & Appreciation for Njeri Camara*
- *Special Resolution declaring November Homelessness Awareness Month Homelessness, Hunger, & Mental Awareness Month*
- *Reappointment of John Robinson to the Caddo Parish Communications District One Board (term to expire September 25, 2025)*
- *Reappointment of Clarence Jackie Lewis to the Caddo Parish Communications District One Board (term to expire September 25, 2025)*
- *Reappointment of David Houston to the Caddo Parish Fire District No. 7 Board (term to expire December 1, 2026)*
- *Authorize the following end of the year appointments be moved to December 9 Regular Session for consideration:*

<u>Name</u>	<u>Board</u>	<u>Term Expire Date</u>
Vacant	Pine Hill Waterworks District No. 8	5/20/2022

Vacant	Sewerage District No. 2	9/18/2022
Appoint 5	Caddo Parish Zoning Commission	
Appoint 12	Caddo Parish Broadband Committee	
Carlos Gibson	Fire District No. 1	1/1/2022
Ed Angel	Fire District No. 1	1/1/2022
Helen Mazier	Fire District No. 3	1/1/2022
Mickey Gilcrease	Fire District No. 4	1/1/2022
James Robinson	Fire District No. 4	1/1/2022
David Winkler	Fire District No. 5	1/1/2022
Kyle Dill	Fire District No. 5	1/1/2022
Charles Partain, Jr.	Fire District No. 6	1/1/2022
Claude Jackson	Fire District No. 8	1/1/2022
Jewell Wagner	Waterworks District No. 7	1/8/2022
Dep. Jessica Anderson	Caddo Animal Services Board	1/1/2022

- *Approval of Commission travel to attend Washington Mardi Gras*
- *Authorize Administrator to utilize excess funds appropriated for 2021 Juneteenth fireworks to be used for New Year's Eve fireworks*
- *Authorize Southern University Law Center's Off-Campus Instructional Site (OCIS) Team as Visitor for Regular Session*
- *Authorize setting the policies and procedures for selecting Interim Commissioner for District 6 seat*

The Clerk of the Commission noted that there are a few vacancies on the End of the Year Appointments. He asked that the Commissioners reach out to this office to fill those vacancies.

At this time, Mr. Jackson's substitute motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (9). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Hopkins and Johnson (2). ABSTAIN: None (0). VACANT: District 6 Seat (1).

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *that Article I, Rule 2, Letter I be removed from the Rules & By-Laws.*

At this time, Mr. Jackson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Jackson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (8). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts, Hopkins, and Johnson (3). ABSTAIN: None (0). VACANT: District 6 Seat (1).

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *to remove Article V, Rule 1, and advance Resolution No. 83 of 2021 as amended to the December 9 Regular Session.*

Mr. Epperson said that this is a strategy that can be utilized. He does not feel that the Commissioner should be compelled. Mr. Epperson also mentioned that a By-Law change takes a three-fourths votes.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if the Sheriff has the authority to impose fines. Attorney Frazier said that she will have to research it further because it references a specific Louisiana statute.

Mr. Chavez asked that Attorney Frazier research how long can the Commission not have a meeting legally.

At this time, Mr. Epperson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Jackson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (8). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts, Hopkins, and Johnson (3). ABSTAIN: None (0). VACANT: District 6 Seat (1).

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Taliaferro, *to authorize discussion regarding ITEP application be remanded to the Economic Development Committee. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (7). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, and Johnson (4). ABSTAIN: None (0). VACANT: District 6 Seat (1).

COMMUNIQUES AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Clerk's Note: Reminder, there will be a public hearing for the 2022 Budget Ordinances during the November 18, 2021 Regular Session.

- Mr. Burrell asked for an update on the coyote situation. Mr. Kelvin Samuel, Animal Services, stated that there have not been anymore sightings.

He also talked about orphaned wells in Caddo Parish. Mr. Burrell said that he will be getting with Dr. Wilson in regards to these wells.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- U.S. Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Dr. Wilson said that they are receiving thirty applications per day, and there are no delays. He also mentioned that if they do not get an additional infusion of funds, they would need to determine a cut-off date for receiving applications.

- Juvenile Detention

There are twenty-one children currently in detention; four of which are OJJ. There are also eleven 17 year olds at CCC.

- Demographer

Dr. Wilson also announced that Cedric Floyd was selected as a demographer. His contract should be signed by end of this week, and he will be working with the Commission on redistricting based on the Census data.

- COVID-19 Update

Dr. Wilson also announced that there have been no new COVID cases within the organization, and no new exposures that have been reported.

- October 2021 Financial Report

Dr. Wilson advised the Commissioners that the 2021 October Financial Reports are attached to the agenda and placed at each Commissioners' station.

CITIZENS COMMENTS (late arrivals)

Henderson came before the Commission and gave the following statement:

I wasn't planning on coming to the meeting today. I was down here doing something else. But anyway, I stepped in. I learned a lot that affects our lives. You guys, I take my hat off to you. It's a hard job. My concern is corner lot fencing. The ZBA has laws, or wherever those laws are found. The corner lot has 3 feet, the height if it's facing the road. And the ZBA pick and choose who they want to go higher than that. And I think it should be fair. It should be everybody. Like Parish Commission said everybody, all the dogs. We shouldn't be picking and choosing. I think it should be the same. I have a corner lot. And my 6-foot fence would have to be at my house. I'm going to have more yard outside of the fence than I'm going to have on the inside. And I'm having grand children now. I want my grandchildren to be able to run across the yard, play with a ball, ride a bicycle anything they want without that obstruction. Came to the ZBA, they told me no. The fellow that went before me, on a corner lot, they told him he can raise his fence up 6 feet. They told me no. I ask them for the same privileges, the same reason that he was given to allow me to have it. They told me no. It didn't make sense to me. He said people looking can see through his window. They can see through my window. The Board told me I was further away from the road. If you 50 yards from my street you can still see in my house. I deserve that privacy just as someone that's house is 20 feet from the road. It doesn't matter. I don't think the Board should have the authority. So, therefore the rules will have to be changed, I think, to pick and choose who can have and who can't. There are other homes in Shreveport that have water. They just told me I couldn't have it. And now, in December when I did it, the price of lumber has skyrocketed. I'm retired from the City. I can't-I mean, I'm going to have to afford it but it's a cost to me. And I feel like they snub they nose. I did the research. I showed them what they had approved it. They didn't look at anything that I presented or they didn't consider it. They looked at it. And I just feel I was treated unfairly. I have to go to Court. I'm familiar with it. Or I have to go to Court. That's what they told me I have to go directly to the District Court. And it's costing me money. I'm retired. I'm not a lawyer. It makes no sense. And during that meeting they referred me to the standards of the boards-of the City, the ZBA-the Board's rules and regulations. And whoever was sitting over here, it may have been you-I'm not sure-said they can only go with the Code. They have to go by the code. And the only people that can override the code is the Board. And if the Board pick this person to have what he wants, and this person not, it's not fair as a citizen to pick and choose. I'm in the wrong place. This is not what I do. I apologize.

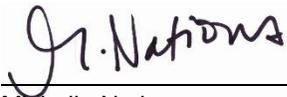
CONSENT AGENDA:

- *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 (as amended)

- *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*
- *Ordinance No. 6143 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & 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*
- *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*
- *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*

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 6:08 p.m.



Michelle Nations
Assistant Commission Clerk