

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL SESSION OF
THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 12th DAY OF JANUARY, 2023

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Regular Session, on the above date, at 4:35 p.m., in the Government Chambers, with Mr. Burrell, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (11). ABSENT: None (0).

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Public comment was given by Jeff Harper, Charles McMillan, Roger Tinsley, Dr. Mac Lattier, Pastor Patrick Dennis, Kimberley Jones, Everardo Recendiz, and Dr. R. Timothy Jones.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *that Resolution No. 2 of 2023, a proclamation (resolution) ordering and calling a special election to be held to fill the vacancy in the office of Caddo Parish Commissioner, District 8, for the unexpired term thereof; to set the date therefor and other pertinent matters, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto (Fall Election)*

Mr. Jackson and Mr. Hopkins addressed concerns regarding the published agenda.

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to recess for five minutes.*
Motion carried by acclamation.

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to reconvene into session.*
Motion carried by acclamation.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *to suspend the rules, return to agenda additions and add the selection for Caddo Commission District 8.*

The President of the Commission opened the floor public hearing. There being no one to speak in favor or against these ordinances, the President closed the public hearing on ordinances.

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, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

SELECTION OF INTERIM CADDO PARISH COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 6

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to amend the selection process to allow three minutes for each candidate introduction and up to five minutes for question and answer.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Mrs. Grace Anne Blake addressed the Commission as a candidate for the District 8 vacancy.

Mr. Ronald Cothran addressed the Commission as a candidate for the District 8 vacancy.

Mrs. Lea Desmarteau addressed the Commission as a candidate for the District 8 vacancy.

Mr. Jason Frazier addressed the Commission as a candidate for the District 8 vacancy. Mr. Hopkins discussed the candidate contacting Commissioners. Mr. Jackson discussed the candidate's aptitude to lose. Mr. Chavez addressed being in touch with the candidate and discussed the candidate's time management.

Mr. Frank Thaxton addressed the Commission as a candidate for the District 8 vacancy.

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *to appoint Ronald L. Cothran as the Commissioner for Caddo Parish District 8.*

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *to appoint Frank Thaxton as the*

Commissioner for Caddo Parish District 8.

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to close nominations*. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, and Lazarus (9). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, and Young (2). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

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

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

Mr. Mike Spence, the Caddo Parish Clerk of Court, swore in Mr. Ronald L. Cothran.

There was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.



Linda J. Montgomery
Office Specialist I

Roy Burrell
President