

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 3RD DAY OF JANUARY, 2023

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Work Session, on the above date, at 3:32 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, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (11). ABSENT: None (0).

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

AGENDA ADDITIONS

• It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *to englobo and expand the agenda to add the following agenda additions:*

- Special Resolution Proclaiming Roy's Kids Day
- Special Resolution Stage Center
- Special Resolution Zhailon Levingston

The Chair opened the floor for anyone to speak in favor or opposition to the agenda addition. There being no one to speak in favor or against the agenda addition, the Chair closed the public hearing.

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Joseph Cason came before the Commission and discussed his concerns with a neighbor damaging his property, disturbing the peace and other noise violations. He also mentioned that there is one road to enter his community that requires entering Texas state line and returning into Louisiana.

Mariah Lofton came before the Commission and discussed her experience with neighbors threatening her, her family, and their property, disturbing the peace, and noise violations.

Mr. Epperson said the citizens are in his district and he was aware of their complaints. Mr. Epperson advised the citizens to visit with MPC Director Mr. Alan Clark, the Sherriff's Department on the seventh floor of Government Plaza, and Public Works Assistant Director Dr. Ken Ward. Mr. Epperson said he and the citizens will follow up together in the future. Mrs. Gage-Watts wanted to know if any of the citizens had the Ring doorbell. Mr. Epperson responded that he will convene with Mrs. Gage-Watts after the meeting to discuss that.

Jeffrey Jackson came before the Commission and requested two Commission Officers to escort him to a home from the book of Daniel and the flag. Mr. Atkins advised that no one on the Commission could assist Mr. Jackson. Mr. Clay Walker assisted the citizen.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- Juvenile Detention

Dr. Wilson said that there are twenty-four youth in the detention center, five of which are OJJ and seven are 17-year-olds. There are a few youths at the Caddo Correctional Center.

- COVID-19

Dr. Wilson said that there were four organizational covid infections, three from reporting external agencies that report to the Caddo Parish Administration.

COMMISSION REMARKS

- The Clerk pointed out that each Commission station has a form for each Commissioner to complete regarding upcoming travel and requested that they review and complete the form.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Atkins thanked the Commission for allowing him to be the President of the Commission for the year and thanked for the help of prior Commission Presidents. He acknowledged

professionalism, civility, dedication, and his pleasure working with the Commission, Parish staff, and the citizens in District 9 for their support.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Lazarus**, seconded by Mr. Gage-Watts, *that Ordinance No. 6299 of 2023, 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 east side of Mansfield Road, approximately 2,100 feet south of Keithville-Kingston Road, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, from R-A Rural-Agricultural Zoning District to I-1 Light Industrial Zoning District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Johnson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that Ordinance No. 6300 of 2023, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues for the American Rescue Plan Fund to provide an appropriation for RING Doorbell Program in Caddo Parish and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*, be moved to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Hopkins wanted to know how helpful the program has been and how many people received the RING Doorbells. Mrs. Bryant responded that each RING Doorbell is required to be registered with the Real Time Crime Center (RTCC) and that the Administration has requested the RTCC to provide data to determine whether the RING Doorbells from the Parish have produced results. Mrs. Bryant said that there were 400 recipients but installation was stalled due to subscription service issues. Mrs. Bryant also said that the subscription service issue has been resolved and installation has resumed for the remaining recipients that did not have their RING Doorbells installed. Mr. Chavez requested that the data be provided to the Commission by the next Commission meeting and wanted to know whether there is a map of where the Parish's RING Doorbells are located. Mr. Chavez also wanted to know if there were ARPA funds available for the program. Mrs. Bryant responded that RING Doorbells are accessed only when necessary and that the RTCC does not provide random, ongoing monitoring to RING Doorbells. Mrs. Bryant confirmed that Administration has the locations of all RING Doorbells distributed through the program and that it is funded from a reallocation of ARPA dollars. Mr. Chavez wanted to know whether the program meets ARPA funding requirements. Mrs. Bryant responded that the Administration requested crime statistics to show an increase in crime during a period that warrants the program's need.

Mrs. Gage-Watts said the program is optional for citizens to apply for and that its requirements are disclosed.

Mr. Burrell commented about differentiating between addresses that the RTCC must locate the RING Doorbells from the Parish program.

Mr. Jackson requested for clarity on the available ARPA funds and the program. Mrs. Bryant clarified that the available funds for the program are not obligated dollars.

Mrs. Gage-Watts motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Johnson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Young, *that Resolution No. 1 of 2023, a resolution approving the Amended 202 and Proposed 2022 Budgets of the North Louisiana Criminalistics Laboratory Commission and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*, be moved to Thursday's agenda. 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. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that Special Resolution of Recognition for Dr. James Hobley* be moved to Thursday. 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. Lazarus**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to Authorize Administration to Use Reserve Trust Fund Allocations to Assist Victims of Pecan Place/Keithville Tornadoes*, be moved to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Atkins discussed the data of the damages that was done by the tornadoes. There were twelve homes totaled, about fifty thousand dollars of damages and the loss of two citizens. Dr. Wilson confirmed that the Reserve Trust Fund amount is \$350,000. Dr. Wilson explained that the Red Cross assists the Parish to determine the need and that there is a limit for each person per household which is consistent with the process the Parish did historically. Mr. Johnson wanted to know which organization will organize and ensure the funds were spent properly. Dr. Wilson said that Administration is looking for one.

Mr. Jackson requested for the specific assistance provided to the citizens and whether mobile/trailer homes qualify for assistance. Dr. Wilson responded that Red Cross validates the extent of the damage, and that he will do an assessment on what is needed such as electrical, drywall replacement, etc. Dr. Wilson said that emergency assistance for the mobile homes depend on the axle and that the assistance is to make the house livable again. Dr. Wilson said that if the emergency assistance is reimbursable the Parish would apply for it.

Mrs. Gage-Watts requested that fire damages be included in the emergency assistance. Attorney Frazier responded that Mrs. Gage-Watts did not need to make an amendment to include fire damages to the emergency assistance.

Mr. Hopkins wanted to know if emergency assistance included temporary housing. Dr. Wilson responded that affected citizens reported they have places to stay.

Mr. Epperson clarified that the emergency assistance will include all Caddo citizens.

Substitute motion by Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *to englobo and adopt the following:*

- *Authorize Administration to Use Reserve Trust Fund Allocations to Assist Victims of Pecan Place/Keithville Tornadoes*

- *Authorize Appointment to The Shreve Memorial Library Board*

- *Authorize Appointment to The Industrial Development Board*

- *Authorize Appointment to Lakeview Water Board*

- *Authorize Commission Travel to Washington DC Mardi Gras 2023*

- *Special Resolution Proclaiming Roy's Kids Day*

- *Special Resolution Stage Center*

- *Special Resolution Zhailon Levingston*

Substitute motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *to englobo and adopt the following:*

- *Authorize Administration to Use Reserve Trust Fund Allocations to Assist Victims of Pecan Place/Keithville Tornadoes*

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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).

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Young, *to authorize appointment to the Industrial Development Board be moved to Thursday's agenda.*

Mr. Johnson commented that the vacancy was not shared with all Commissioners. Mr. Burrell discussed that he does not receive appointment notifications and that appointments should be distributed to all Commissioners. Mr. Johnson suggested tabling the appointment to give all Commissioners a chance to recommend an appointee. The Clerk said the resignation was sent to Mr. Atkins and Mrs. Gage-Watts.

Point of Order by Mr. Jackson that the question has been called.

Call for the Question by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (10). NAYS: Commissioner Epperson (1). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Atkins' motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Hopkins, and Lazarus (4). NAYS: Burrell, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, and Young (7). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that Authorize Commission Travel to Washington DC Mardi Gras 2023* be removed from the agenda. 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).

COMMUNIQUE/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Clerk's Note: You Will Select A New President, Vice President and Parliamentarian During Your January 5th Regular Session Meeting
- Mr. Epperson asked MPC Director Mr. Clark whether the permitting process for trail rides apply to the Parish Planning and Zoning Commission. Mr. Clark said that the area of the citizens that attended the meeting today are not in the planning limits, so the MPC is unable to do anything for them. Mr. Clark said that the Commission has the authority to expand the planning limits, but the MPC is contracted to serve the planning limits as it is currently. Mr. Epperson requested Attorney Frazier to advise on what he can do. Attorney Frazier said there is no planning in that area by the MPC or the Parish Planning and Zoning Commission and she would research the issue further.
- Mr. Young said that the Waskom Road noise could be in violation of the Parish's noise ordinance and that the Parish could document and enforce the ordinance. Mr. Young asked for his colleague's support for him to serve as Vice President of Commission for this year.
- Mr. Johnson pointed out that his appointee Mrs. Tiffany Hines to the Lakeview Water Board was in attendance.
- Mr. Burrell asked for his colleague's support for the Presidency.
- Mr. Hopkins thanked Public Works for their hard work in the Parish during the inclement weather and hazards during the holiday season. Mr. Atkins agreed with Mr. Hopkins.
- Dr. Wilson announced that Mr. Jimmy Whittington is retiring from the Parish and thanked Mr. Whittington for his work with the Parish.
- Mrs. Gage-Watts asked for support for Parliamentarian.

CONSENT AGENDA

- *Resolution No. 52 of 2022, a resolution to request the Parish Planning and Zoning Commission to create a R-1-43 district/zone*
- *Ordinance No. 6297 of 2022, an ordinance amending the 2022 Budget to amend the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Section 8 Fund*

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

/s/ Linda J. Montgomery
Linda J. Montgomery
Office Specialist