

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 6th DAY OF MARCH, 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. Burrell, presiding, and the following members in attendance, constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Cothran, Epperson Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (12). ABSENT: None (0).

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Public comment was given by Pat Gilly regarding time wasting agenda items. Public comment was given by John Settle regarding upcoming voting dates and which voters can vote for the . Public comment was given by Candy Peavy regarding the speech censorship from the Louisiana Secretary of State.

VISITORS

- Shreve Memorial Library (SML) Executive Director John Tuggle reported that the SML is accepting reviews through their 2022 Strategic Planning Survey, the SML had almost returned to pre-pandemic engagement levels, and that the year 2023 marks their 100th anniversary. Mr. Tuggle discussed the SML's interest in a new downtown library prospect for the Millenia Studios property and requested that the Commission and the City of Shreveport engage in discussion regarding the Millenia Studios real estate.

Mr. Epperson reviewed the entities that appoint members to the Shreve Memorial Library Board. Mr. Epperson requested the Parish Legal staff to provide him a copy of the library censorship legislation and requested that Mr. Tuggle provide the SML's stance on the censorship issue. Mr. Tuggle advised the Commission of the SML's expectation of parents and material access, and the SML's process to reconsider library materials. Mr. Epperson advised that the 2023 Regular Legislation House Bill 25 by Representatives Hollis and Amadee, and Senate Bill 7 by Senator Cloud, refer to censorship.

Mr. Tuggle explained that SML would maintain its support if the Millenia Studios property were purchased by 50 Cent. Mr. Jackson recommended SML to partner with SciPort regarding their expansion goals. Mr. Jackson advised Mr. Tuggle about Stoner Hill residents' interest in turning E.B. Stoner Hill school into a library.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- Mrs. Bryant announced that the Administration will host community meetings regarding Parish housing programs. Mrs. Bryant reported the capacity of the Juvenile Detention and CCC, and that there were no reported covid cases.

- Mr. Dale Sibley, Registrar of Voters, reported the start of early voting, the completion of setting up the second early voting site, and the distribution of the mail-in ballots. Mr. Mike Spence, Clerk of Clerk, reported the status of election commissioners and the preparation of the voting machines for voting day.

- Mr. Atkins enquired about the accuracy of voting maps and the confidence of the Clerk of Court and Registrar of Voters on having resolved recent voter issues. Mr. Sibley addressed key issues regarding incorrect absentee voting ballots, the resolution of those issues, and the education and coordination between all entities involved that affects voting. Mr. Sibley explained the role of the Registrar of Voters Office. Mr. Sibley and Mr. Johnson discussed the process of the Registrar of Voter regarding incarcerated registered voters. Mr. Sibley recommended the use of GeauxVote for registered voters to find their voter information. Mr. Sibley explained the canvass process and the importance to review voter canvass cards for accuracy. Mrs. Gage-Watts and Mr. Sibley discussed the function of the Secretary of State and the Registrar of Voters regarding communication with active voters, the process of removing an inactive voter, what determines an inactive voter, and the role of the Registrar of Voters to communicate with inactive voters. Clerk of Court Mike Spence addressed the technology level of voting machines in response to Mrs. Gage-Watts' enquiry. Mr. Sibley addressed uncounted absentee voting ballots due to lack of following directions. Mr. Epperson and Mr. Sibley addressed there were no issues with the school board's redistricting. Mr. Cothran and Mr. Sibley addressed the Registrar of Voter's communication with voters whose absentee ballot was not counted. Mike Spence addressed Mr. Atkins' enquiry about the request for bid process for voting machines and the process of bidding for voting machines. Mr. Burrell and Mr. Sibley discussed maps and drafting maps related to redistricting maps.

COMMISSION REMARKS

- Mr. Epperson informed the Commission that the Public Safety Funding Ad Hoc Committee recommended requesting a resolution from the Police Jury Association to request the Louisiana State Governor for financial aid to the Crime Lab.
- Mrs. GW received an update from Mrs. Bryant regarding tornado sirens and that the Administration is still working on the RFP. Mrs. Gage-Watts suggested that Commissioners use their platforms to address their constituents. **Point of Information by Mr. Burrell**, regarding the Parish's responsibility of the tornado sirens and Mrs. Bryant explained that the Parish has only appropriated funding to study the need of the sirens.
- Mr. Tim Weaver acknowledged that he will provide Mr. Johnson an update on the widening of Roy Road on Thursday.
- Mr. Jackson announced the Juvenile Justice Committee will have a meeting at the Juvenile Detention Center. Mr. Jackson addressed concerns evictions from Stoner Hill Apartments, discussed community organizations that assisted the evicted tenants with housing needs and emergency housing vouchers. Mr. Jackson encouraged the community to participate in meetings with the NDC. Mr. Jackson announced a home-buyer seminar on April 1 from 10A-1PM at Southern University Shreveport.
- Mrs. Gage-Watts announced black caucus meeting will be held on March 8, 2023 10:30 a.m. at the Shreveport Convention Center.
- Mr. Jones asked to be excused for his tardiness and requested that Dr. Ken Ward provide a name plate for under his Commission photo.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Burrell reminded the Commission that the Police Jury Association of Louisiana is hosted by Bossier Parish and held at the Shreveport Convention Center. Mr. Burrell confirmed that Mrs. Gage-Watts received communication from Mr. David Aubrey, Assistant Vice President AT&T.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *Authorize Introduction Of Ordinance No. 6314 Of 2023 Related To 22-26-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 north side of Highway Seventy One North, approximately three hundred feet north west of Regmar Drive, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, from R-1-7 Single-family Residential Zoning District to R-1-7 Single-Family Residential Zoning district (spud), and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Johnson requested that Mr. Alan Clark, MPC Director, provide an explanation of the ordinance.

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *to consider Ordinance No. 6314 of 2023 related to 22-26-P at the end of New Business. Motion carried unanimously.*

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *to englobo and adopt the following ordinances:*

- *Authorize Introduction of Ordinance No. 6315 Of 2023, an ordinance amending and re-enacting Ordinance No. 5111 of 2011 and Ordinance No. 5935 of 2019, and 6310 of 2023 reapportioning Caddo Parish into Twelve Commission Districts, enumerating the constituent precincts respectively comprising the Commission Districts, and otherwise providing with respect thereto.*
- *Authorize Introduction of Ordinance No. 6316 Of 2023, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Oil and Gas Fund for the year 2023 to provide an appropriation for relocation assistance and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Authorize Consideration of Resolution No. 8 Of 2023, 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*
- *Authorize Consideration of Resolution No. 9 Of 2023, 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

- *Authorize Consideration of Resolution No. 10 Of 2023, A resolution urging and requesting the United States Congress to support increased funding for Second Chance Act programs and to otherwise provide with respect thereto.*

Friendly amendment by Mr. Johnson to remove Ordinance No. 6315 of 2022 from the englobo. Mr. Jackson accepted the friendly amendment.

At this time, Mr. Jackson's motion carried as amended, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Ordinance No. 6315 of 2022 be advanced to Thursday.* Mr. Young's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, Cothran, and Young (10). NAYS: Commissioners Epperson, and Johnson (2). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Cothran, *to englobo and advance*

- *Authorize Special Resolution Recognizing March as Women's History Month and Those Achievements Made by Women Over Time*
- *Special Resolution Recognizing and Proclaiming International Women's Day*
- *Authorize Resolution of Recognition and Appreciation to Francine Monro Brown*
- *Authorize Special Resolution of Recognition and Welcome to Mr. Kenneth B. Morris, Jr.*
- *Authorize Special Resolution of Recognition Commemorating The 30th Anniversary of The New Creation Family Church*

Friendly Amendment by Mr. Johnson, *to include agenda item 11.1, Authorize Introduction of Ordinance No. 6314 Of 2023 Related To 22-26-P to the englobo and to allow Mr. Alan Clark, MPC Director, to speak on the ordinance.* Mrs. Gage-Watts accepted the friendly amendment.

Mr. Alan Clark discussed the rezoning request of a tree service company that was operating in a residential zoned district that was surrounded by a residential zoned area.

Mrs. Gage-Watts' motion carried as amended, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Cothran, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *to discussion of oil and gas drilling issues.*

Mr. Epperson requested the Chair of the Natural Resources Committee to call a meeting and requested that a representative from the State's Natural Resources Department to attend the committee meeting. Mr. Young requested that the Administration be strict with the Paloma company to abide by Parish rules as they operate on Parish property. Mr. Atkins acknowledged that as the Chair of the Natural Resources Committee he will call a meeting and requested that the Clerk coordinate with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to attend the meeting. Mr. Epperson requested Mr. Chuck Wilson to look into the operators drilling in the Cherry Hill Subdivision and the 3800 block of Treat Drive. Mr. Epperson requested that the Clerk and the Chair of the Natural Resources Committee invite those drilling operators to the Natural Resources Committee Meeting.

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

COMMUNIQUE/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to advance Report from Veterans Affairs Committee Relative to Colonel Paris Davis, U.S. Army Retired to Thursday.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, Cothran, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Jackson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

- Mr. Cothran and Mrs. Bryant addressed the impact of natural disasters and the assistance available to impacted citizens through Catholic Charities.
- Mr. Travis Clark addressed Mr. Chavez's enquiry about Animal Services' attempt to capture a stray dog and the tampering of the trap. Mr. Chavez announced Southern Hills Homeowners Association meeting that day at 6 pm at the Southern Hills Park to discuss renter pathways to homeownership.
- Mr. Jones discussed the middle school basketball championship tournament and the positive impact it had on youth.
- Mr. Young addressed tranquilizer guns to the Administration.

CONSENT AGENDA

- *Ordinance No. 6312 Of 2023, an ordinance amending the 2022 Budget to amend the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Head Start Fund and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 2 Ordinance No. 6313 Of 2023, an ordinance of the Caddo Parish, Louisiana, recognizing the final form and execution of the Bond Purchase Agreement in connection with the issuance and sale of its General Obligation Bonds, Series 2023, and providing for other matters in connection thereto.*

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

/s/ Linda J. Montgomery
Linda J. Montgomery
Administrative Specialist I