

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE  
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 31st DAY OF JULY, 2023

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Work Session, on the above date, at 3:33 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, Lazarus, and Young (11). ABSENT: Commissioners Jones (1).

The invocation was given by Mrs. Gage-Watts, and Mr. Atkins led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Public comment by Jon Glover regarding questions for agenda items.

**ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

- Mrs. Bryant announced the scheduling of a groundbreaking for Walter B. Jacobs Nature Park for August 3rd at 10 am. Mrs. Bryant recommended Mr. Andrew Randall as the Director of Juvenile Services. Mrs. Bryant reported on the population of the juvenile detention and the June 2023 financial reports. Mrs. Bryant addressed Mr. Cothran's inquiry about the release of juveniles from the OJJ facility. Mrs. Bryant addressed Mr. Young's inquiry about the number of probation officers at juvenile services. Mr. Travis Clark addressed Mr. Burrell's inquiry about mosquito drones and that Animal Services was working out flight maps for the drones.

**COMMISSION REMARKS**

- Mr. Epperson announced Ad Hoc Public Safety Committee meeting scheduled for August 2nd at 5:30 pm and discussed the purpose of the meeting. Mr. Epperson requested an updated report on malaria mosquitos from the Administration. Mr. Epperson announced that the Pines Road Area Business Association fan drive was ongoing due to citizen's need.
- Mr. Atkins reported on the Natural Resources Committee meeting regarding noise and that the committee would propose to delay Ordinance No. 6328 of 2023 to the September 7<sup>th</sup> Regular Session.
- Mr. Cothran announced a meeting of the City Council District E with the Parish Commissioners for that district to be located at AB Palmer Park on August 1<sup>st</sup> from 6pm -7pm.
- Mr. Johnson requested that the Administration and the Clerk to write a policy on travel advance for commissioners including a procedure for travel expenses and cash advance checks.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Burrell reported on the NACo conference in Austin, Texas held during July 21-24, 2023 and the wealth of information at the conference. Mr. Burrell discussed the Broadband Committee, gumbo Grant recipients, and requested that a letter be sent to the Governor. Mr. Tracy Calloway, Information System Director, indicated that there hadn't been any updates from one of the Gumbo Grant recipients, Altas/CSC Holdings. Mrs. Bryant addressed Mr. Burrell's inquiry of more information on broadband and the grant recipients. The Clerk advised that Altas is a conglomerate for several broadband providers including Suddenlink and Cablevision. Mr. Burrell requested that the Administration provide an updated report on broadband and the gumbo grant recipients.

**NEW BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *that Ordinance 6345 of 2023, An Ordinance Amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for Oil and Gas Fund to Provide Air Conditioning to Caddo Citizens and To Otherwise Provide with Respect Thereto* be advanced to Thursday's agenda.

Mrs. Gage-Watts discussed the purpose of the ordinance. Mr. Chavez discussed the details of the ordinance, compared the poverty rate of the parish's population and the average cost of a/c units. Mr. Chavez reviewed the cost of the program and suggested utilizing local educational institutions to develop an a/c repair vocational program instead of funding new units. Mrs. Gage-Watts clarified the type of a/c units, the cost of a/c units, and the program targeting disabled and senior citizens instead of every citizen in the Parish. Mr. Cothran discussed ease of use of certain types of a/c. Mrs. Gage-Watts explained that the units would cost around \$200 and \$250. Mr. Chavez indicated how a/c units could increase the cost of an electric bill and discussed the effect it could have on low income individuals. Mr. Jackson requested the Clerk to research a quote. Mr. Jackson suggested increasing the budget of the air conditioning program to assist more citizens, and excluding rental properties from the ordinance. Mr. Jackson discussed the need to review minimal living standards and hold property owners accountable for providing air conditioning to tenants. Mr. Young requested the Administration and Legal that eligibility

requirements and the type of air conditioning units be included in the ordinance before final adoption, which Mrs. Bryant addressed. Mrs. Bryant advised that an agency would be administering the program. Mrs. Bryant indicated that the Administration would work quickly to advertise, receive and review applications, and have air conditioning units delivered to applicants.

**Amendment by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to amend Ordinance No. 6345 of 2023 and add a stipulation that the program is limited to eligible homeowners, the elderly, and the disabled.*

**Point of Information by Mr. Burrell**, that the air conditioning unit would be owned by the individual that applied for the unit. Mrs. Bryant indicated that the air conditioning units could be a window unit or a stand-alone unit. Mr. Jackson discussed property owners that receive rent payments without updating the property's facilities.

**Call for the Question by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Jones (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Mr. Jackson's amendment carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Chavez, Cothran, Epperson, Jackson, Lazarus, and Young (6). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, and Johnson (5). ABSENT: Commissioner Jones (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Mrs. Gage-Watt's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Jackson (6). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Hopkins, Lazarus, and Young (5). ABSENT: Commissioner Jones (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *that Ordinance No 6346 Of 2023, An Ordinance Declaring The Intent Of The Parish Under La.R.S. 47:2236 To Acquire Full Ownership Interest In Six Parcels, Namely Lot Thirty-Three (33) And West 5.0 Feet Of Lot Thirty-Four (34), Block C, Highland Park Subdivision (Geo No. 181331-072-0099); The East 30.0 Feet Of Lot Thirty-Five (35) And West 15.0 Feet Of Lot Thirty-Six (36), Block C, Highland Park Subdivision (Geo No. 181331-072-0100); The East 20.0 Feet Of Lot Thirty-Seven (37) And West 25.0 Feet Of Lot Thirty-Eight (38), Block C, Highland Park Subdivision (Geo No. 181331-072-0115); Lot Thirty-Two (32), Block C, Highland Park Subdivision (Geo No. 181331-072-0032); The East 35.0 Feet Of Lot Thirty-Four (34) And West 10.0 Feet Of Lot Thirty-Five (35), Block C, Highland Park Subdivision (Geo No. 181331-072-0110); Lot Thirty (30), Block C, Highland Park Subdivision (Geo No. 181331-072-0030), And To Otherwise Provide With Respect Thereto* be advanced to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Jackson clarified the location of the properties and the purpose of the ordinance. Mr. Johnson discussed the lack of opportunity for individuals to purchase the properties, which Attorney Bernstein addressed. Attorney Bernstein discussed the Reinvest Caddo Program and the Parish's adjudicated property program. Mr. Jackson and Attorney Bernstein clarified the accessibility of the adjudicated property program. The Commission discussed the adjudicated property program and the transparency of the program.

Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Jones (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *to englobo and advance to Thursday's agenda the following items:*

- *Resolution 36 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*
- *Resolution 37 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*

Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Jones (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *to englobo and advance to Thursday's agenda the following items:*

- *Resolution 38 Of 2023, A Resolution of The Caddo Parish Commission, State of Louisiana Approving the Caddo Parish Fire District No. 3 Of the Parish of Caddo, State of Louisiana To Issue, Sell and Deliver Not to Exceed One Million Five Hundred Thirty Five Thousand Dollars (\$1,535,000) Revenue Bonds, In One Or More Series, And Providing for Other Matters in Connection Therewith*
- *Resolution 39 Of 2023, A Resolution Granting Preliminary Authority for The Caddo Parish Fire District No. 3 Of the Parish of Caddo, State of Louisiana To Incur Debt and To Issue Not to Exceed One Million Five Hundred Thirty Five Thousand Dollars (\$1,535,000) Revenue Bonds, In One Or More Series; Seeking State Bond Commission Approval; And Providing for Other Matters in Connection Therewith*

Mr. Epperson requested the Administration to invite a representative from Fire District No. 3 to the Regular Session Meeting. The Clerk and Mrs. Bryant addressed Mr. Atkins inquiry to clarify the purpose of two resolutions regarding Fire District No. 3.

Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Jones (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that Resolution 40 Of 2023, A Resolution Urging and Requesting the United States Congress to Enact Bipartisan Bills to Address the Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy, And to Otherwise Provide with Respect Thereto* be advance to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Jackson discussed health care and Medicaid for inmates. Mr. Atkins discussed healthcare costs of the Parish for pre-trial detainees. Mr. Young requested that the Clerk correct the spelling of the acronym for the Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy (MIEP) be corrected in the resolution before final adoption. Mr. Johnson discussed the detainees' right to vote. Mrs. Bryant requested that Mr. Burrell provide the information he had regarding a class action suit for private medical providers overcharging for insulin to inmates so that she could get more information.

Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Jones (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to englobo and advance to Thursday's agenda the following items:*

- *Resolution No. 41 Of 2023, A Resolution Urging and Requesting the United States Senate to Expeditiously and Promptly Take Up and Consider Pending Appointments to Military and Defense Department Positions, And Otherwise Providing with Respect Thereto.*
- *Confirmation of Andrew Randall As the Director of Juvenile Services*
- *Special Resolution Recognizing Caddo Assistant District Attorney Terry Pitman, Jr.*
- *Special Resolution Recognizing Tristan Blow-Smith for Earning the Rank of Eagle Scout*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition to The Shreveport Dixie League 6 And Under All Stars Team*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition to The Shreveport Dixie League 7 And Under All Stars Team*
- *Special Resolution Commemorating The 75th Anniversary of The Abolition of Segregation in The United States Military*

Mr. Epperson discussed changes to the resolution and reported on the action of the veterans steering committee relative to the resolution. Mr. Atkins discussed the affect of the resolution to the Barksdale Air Force Base.

Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Jones (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

#### **COMMUNIQUE/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mr. Epperson discussed information from the NACo conference regarding excessive heat disaster funding. Mr. Epperson recommended the CCAA as the agency to manage the air conditioning program. Mr. Epperson announced the Ad Hoc Public Safety Committee meeting on August 2, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. and indicated requested that Mrs. Beauchamp and the Clerk get people to attend the meeting.
- Mr. Jackson requested the Administration to advertise supplemental heat assistance and that the information would be provided to Mrs. Bryant. Mr. Jackson requested that the Reinvest Caddo Program be posted to the parish website. Mr. Jackson requested that Mrs. Beauchamp coordinate providing paper applications with the Shreveport Parks and the Parish Parks Departments.
- Mr. Cothran discussed making program applications accessible to the elderly.
- Mr. Burrell announced the citizen participation and procurement information for the LA Community Development Block Grant program for the fiscal year 2024-2025. The Office of Community Development would discuss the programs, application process at meetings scheduled on: August 14<sup>th</sup> the Coordinating Development Corporation 4000 Viking Drive Bossier City LA; Aug 15<sup>th</sup> at Mainstreet Community Center at 708 Mainstreet Pineville, LA; August 16<sup>th</sup> at the LRWA Office 1325 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Hwy 190, Kinder, LA; and August 17<sup>th</sup> at the Claiborne Building Thomas Jefferson Room 1-136C 1201 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Baton Rouge, LA. Mr. Burrell requested that Mrs. Beauchamp include the information to the parish website.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- *Ordinance 6328 Of 2023, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND REINACTING CHAPTER 32, ARTICLE VI OF THE CADDO PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES, REPEALING SECTION 32-52 AND SECTION 34-22 OF THE CODE OF THE CADDO PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO*
- *Ordinance 6342 Of 2023, AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH AND MERGE PRECINCTS CONSISTENT WITH THE 2023 CADDO PARISH COMMISSION DISTRICTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOUISIANA REVISED STATUTES 18:532 AND 18:532.1, TO AMEND CERTAIN PRECINCT LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS*

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

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

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Roy Burrell  
President