

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 3rd DAY OF JANUARY, 2024

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Work Session, on the above date, at 10:00 a.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: Commissioner Blake (1).

Mr. Epperson gave the invocation, and Mr. Young led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ADDITIONS

It was moved by **Mr. Young**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *to expand the agenda and add the following items under New Business:*

- *Advance a presentation of special resolution to Dr. Joe Gant, Jr. upon his 50th Anniversary of preaching the gospel*
- *Advance an action item authorizing the Administration to enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement with the Brandon House for additional services needed in the wake of the closure of the Johnny Gray Jones facility*

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

Jon Glover came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good morning, Jon Glover. Looking to the potential of adding this number two to the agenda. I wanted to know what was Brandon House. I've never heard of Brandon House before—that does not mean its not a good project; it just means, me as a citizen, has never heard of it. Then too, what is that we—the Commission—are looking to support in this endeavor. Thank you.

At this time, Mr. Young'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: Commissioner Blake (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Jon Glover came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Before I go into my position with regards to what I want to talk about—I wanted to say, 'happy new year' to all of you all. Number two, when I come before you all requesting information or making a statement that I am not torn apart once I sit down. Because that is not to be the intent or purpose of this Commission. If I come here with a situation, issue, or concern is because there was concern, not [inaudible]. Thank you. Now, moving onto my intended purpose for standing here. I noticed that when I was going over this Work Session agenda, that there was an item—as a matter of fact, two items, Item 11.10 and Item 11.11. 11.11 was really the cause of a red flag. First of all, it says that we had a project, Lighthouse, that was declined for ARPA funding. I wanted to understand, one, what was it that that project did not meet? That the project that was accrued as a pilot met. And so, too because of other language in that legislation, the Great Infrastructure Project, what is that? When was it established? What funding is attached to it? There are so many moving parts to that particular piece of legislation that needs to be clarified for me, a citizen. Now, I'm only speaking on my behalf because I don't understand here, but it's important for me to understand that when you all are considering even voting on an issue, then it is indeed [inaudible] and that I understand those questions that I just presented you. Number two, Item 11.10, how long is that pilot supposed to be and will it ever become not a pilot, but a true program itself? I do understand the needs that you all have required and noted for that, but understand that, I just need to know what you're really doing here to make sure that we are indeed that with clarity of any information that you bring before us. Thank you.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- RFP Update

Mrs. Bryant said that the Opioid and Housing RFPS have been issued. The Opioid RFP is due January 16; the housing RFP is due back by February 20. There is a target date to issue the RFP for traffic cameras on January 8.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know what services are being requested for the Opioid RFP. Mrs. Bryant explained that it is primarily treatments or some other ancillary items.

- Orientation—January 8, 2024

Mrs. Bryant reminded the Commissioners that the New Commissioner Orientation is scheduled for January 8, 2024 following the Swearing-In.

- LSU Ag Center Annual Luncheon

Mrs. Bryant announced that the LSU Ag Center Annual Luncheon will be held on January 9, 2024.

- Juvenile Detention

Mrs. Bryant said that there are eleven juveniles in detention, five being OJJ. There are three 17-year old juveniles.

Mr. Jackson gave kudos for the low numbers in the Juvenile Detention Center.

- Legislative Priorities

She also mentioned that Administration will be sending out the requests for Legislative Priorities.

- Commission Requests

Mr. Young asked that Administration answer the questions that Ms. Glover had regarding the Community Lighthouse Project. Mrs. Bryant explained that the Commission approved \$500k for a pilot program to establish locations that citizens could go to in the event of a natural disaster. \$250k would come from APRA—The Green Infrastructure—that could be used to promote green infrastructure in the Parish. When it was vetted, ARPA dollars could not be used because the assets would not necessarily be owned by the Parish.

Mr. Atkins pointed out that that these would be solar facilities, which may or may not be the most cost-effective way to pursue that goal.

Mr. Young thanked Mrs. Bryant for the information. He also asked when could the project not be a pilot program. Mrs. Bryant explained that there would need to be a natural disaster prior to obtaining the data needed to determine the effectiveness of this program.

Mr. Burrell reminded the Commissioners that there were two recent catastrophic events. He would like to see the Commission be proactive when it comes to these natural disasters.

Mr. Johnson pointed out that there is a potential polar vortex that could reach Louisiana in the next few weeks.

COMMISSION REMARKS

- Mr. Young explained that the group Community Lighthouse asked the Commission to participate in the funding of two pilot projects, but there is a third one being considered today. It is his understanding that the group will use rebates and other parts of financing within their organization to make more emergency response sites in Caddo Parish and the region. He said that at that point, it would become an independent organization and no longer a government sponsored pilot program.

- Mr. Jackson spoke about the Johnny Gray Jones questions that were asked earlier. He said that the Juvenile Services Committee met and identified a low-security, low-restriction facility that the Caddo Parish could send juveniles. He pointed out that this is not a place to address overcrowding.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Burrell wished everyone a Happy New Year.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *that the following ordinances be advanced to Thursday's agenda for introduction:*

- *Ordinance No. 6403 of 2024, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, relative to the creation of a new use to allow storage facility structures in residential districts, as well as, identifying how certain nonconforming lots can exist without the need for a variance, and to otherwise provide with respect*

thereto

- *Ordinance No. 6404 of 2024, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, amending the provisions for accessory dwelling units, with all provisions included herein, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6405 of 2024, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, adding a new use for overnight truck parking, with all provisions included herein, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6406 of 2024, 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 south side of Locust Hill Road approximately 1870' west of Highway 79, Caddo Parish, LA, from R-A, Rural-Agricultural Zoning District to R-A (PUD) Rural-Agricultural Planned Unit Development Zoning District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6407 of 2024, 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 southwest corner of Old Mansfield Road and Midyett Street, Caddo Parish, LA, from R-A, Rural-Agricultural Zoning District to C-3, General Commercial Zoning District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6408 of 2024, 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 south of East Flournoy Lucas approximately 840 feet west of Ellerbe Road, Caddo Parish, LA, from R-1-7, Single-Family Zoning District to C-1, Neighborhood Commercial Zoning District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6409 of 2024, 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 the East Kings Highway and Hanover Drive Intersection, Caddo Parish, LA, from R-E, Residential Estate Zoning District to R-1-5, Single-Family Residential Zoning District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

Mr. Jackson asked that Mr. Alan Clarke, MPC Executive Director, come before the Commission and explain each of the ordinances.

Mr. Clarke talked about *Ordinance No. 6403 of 2024, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, relative to the creation of a new use to allow storage facility structures in residential districts, as well as, identifying how certain nonconforming lots can exist without the need for a variance, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*. He said that citizens in the Parish want to have the ability to place garages and other structures in their front yards. This ordinance would allow accessory buildings to be in the front yard.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know if this would be in the rural area. Mr. Clarke said that this would only be in the 5-mile area. Mr. Johnson understood and said that this issue was brought up before where a citizen wanted to put a building in the front yard because the backyard would flood due to the lake. Mr. Johnson further explained that the neighbors did not want that because the large structure would block the views of the lake. Mr. Johnson said that these are the types of concerns that neighbors may have in other neighborhoods.

Answering another question from Mr. Johnson regarding the aesthetics of the accessory buildings, Mr. Clarke explained that they would need final approval by the executive director and would need to have similar appears as the primary structure. Mr. Clarke said that citizens in the rural area do not want to apply for variances for accessory structures.

Mr. Burrell asked about the rural areas versus the suburban areas. Mr. Clarke explained that the original Metropolitan Planning Commission was to do development, growth, and zoning within the City of Shreveport. The Parish contracted with the MPC for zoning within the five-mile area around the City of Shreveport.

Mr. Young wanted to know if these accessory buildings are storage facilities or residential use storage buildings. Mr. Clarke said that they would be allowed by right on occupations, but that's the extent of it.

Mr. Young responded to Mr. Johnson's comment regarding the storage building on the lake. He stated that the Commission adopted a new rule defining front yards and backyards on lakefront properties. He further explained that the front yard on lakefront properties is on the lake, and the backyard is defined as the part of the property closest to the road. This would allow storage buildings of whatever character in the backyard.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know if there was an acreage minimum before this comes into play. Mr. Clarke said that it would be for any property in the Parish. Mr. Chavez suggested considering a minimum

Mr. Atkins wanted to know if the MPC and PZC still had the ability to prohibit egregious behavior if this ordinance were to pass. Mr. Clarke agreed. Mr. Atkins then wanted to know if the property owner could appeal the MPC or PZC's decision. Mr. Clarke said that they could appeal it to the Caddo Parish Commission.

Mr. Clarke then moved onto *Ordinance No. 6404 of 2024, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, amending the provisions for accessory dwelling units, with all provisions included herein, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*. He explained this would allow residents to use storage containers as dwelling purposes as long as it meets the residential codes.

There being no questions, Mr. Clarke then moved onto *Ordinance No. 6405 of 2024, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, adding a new use for overnight truck parking, with all provisions included herein, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*. He explained that there are not enough places for 18-wheelers to park. Mr. Clarke further stated that if alternative surfaces were approved by a civil engineer that could sustain the weight of an 18-wheeler, along with protections in place to prevent fluids from seeping into the ground, this ordinance would allow 18-wheeler parking.

Mr. Epperson asked about farm areas and catch basins. Mr. Clarke stated that the MPC is requiring a certification by a civil engineer to prevent seepage in the soil and surface water.

Mr. Young agreed with the concerns Mr. Epperson had about the potential of harmful fluids seeping into the soil and surface water. He also asked if this ordinance applies to the tractor and trailer. Mr. Clarke said that a trailer can be parked anywhere in the approved parking lot for 18-wheelers. Mr. Young then wanted to know if someone could park the tractor in another place that is not approved for a tractor trailer. Mr. Clarke said no.

Mr. Young continued and said that there is a tractor parked at a liquor store in the Highland neighborhood. He understands now that is not allowed. Mr. Young wanted to know who would enforce this. Mr. Clarke explained that enforcement is complaint driven. He said that there would be an investigation, and the property owner would be given notice via certified mail. After two letters, it would be referred to the city prosecutor for prosecution.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know if this would be in a special zone. Mr. Clarke said that it would need to be in industrial. Mr. Johnson then wanted to know how many trucks would there need to be for it to be considered a truck parking lot. Mr. Clarke said that it would be anytime an 18-wheeler is parked and left overnight.

Mr. Clarke pointed out that the Shreveport Police Department has the authority to write tickets when trucks are parked in residential areas.

Mr. Hopkins wanted to know if there were ordinances that addresses water retention and water detention for businesses. Dr. Ward said that the Parish has a 100-year storm policy where the water has to be captured.

Mr. Chavez suggested that Dr. Ward provide additional language so that the Parish could achieve a zero impact to the Parish. Dr. Ward explained that their current policy handles 99.9% of all situations. If a zero impact is created, it could impact economic development issues for the Parish.

Mr. Clarke mentioned that anytime a code text amendment is presented, all stakeholders, i.e. city engineer, Parish Public Works, etc., are at the table to make recommendations.

Mr. Jackson said that there are some discrepancies on SPD citing violations for truck parking. Mr. Clarke explained that SPD has the authority to cite violations. Mr. Jackson said that residents call into the police department, who in turn tell them that it is a civil matter, not a criminal matter. Mr. Clarke understands, but reiterated that SPD has the authority to cite these types of violations. Mr. Jackson suggested there may be more conversations regarding this.

Mr. Burrell

Mr. Clarke now moved onto *Ordinance No. 6406 of 2024, 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 south side of Locust Hill Road approximately 1870' west of Highway 79, Caddo Parish, LA, from R-A, Rural-Agricultural Zoning District to R-A (PUD) Rural-Agricultural Planned Unit Development Zoning District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto. Before going into detailed information, Mr. Epperson informed the Commission that this case is in District 12, and there was no opposition.

Mr. Clarke understood and moved onto Ordinance No. 6407 of 2024, 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 southwest corner of Old Mansfield Road and Midyett Street, Caddo Parish, LA, from R-A, Rural-Agricultural Zoning District to C-3, General Commercial Zoning District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto. Mr. Lazarus spoke up and informed the Commission that this case is in District 11, and there is no opposition.

Mr. Clarke moved onto Ordinance No. 6408 of 2024, 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 south of East Flournoy Lucas approximately 840 feet west of Ellerbe Road, Caddo Parish, LA, from R-1-7, Single-Family Zoning District to C-1, Neighborhood Commercial Zoning District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto. Mr. Chavez said that this case is in District 10, and there were six people who showed up to the hearing with nobody against it.

Mr. Clarke then moved onto Ordinance No. 6409 of 2024, 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 the East Kings Highway and Hanover Drive Intersection, Caddo Parish, LA, from R-E, Residential Estate Zoning District to R-1-5, Single-Family Residential Zoning District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto. He explained that this case is a property owner wanting to use his residence as an office as well. The property owner went before the PZC, and there was no opposition.

At this time, it was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *that Ordinance No. 6403 of 2024 be removed from the englobo and advance Ordinance Nos. 6404 of 2024- 6409 of 2024 to Thursday's agenda for introduction.*

Mr. Johnson suggested that the City Marshal and Sheriff's Office could issue citations. Mr. Clarke said that they will recommend it.

Mr. Jackson suggested that the Parish's CVEU unit be authorized to issue citations.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know if a neighborhood's homeowners association supersede these ordinances. Mr. Clarke said that a homeowner's association is not a covenant. He also explained that the government does not enforce covenants.

Mrs. Gage-Watts said that she has several questions and would like these ordinances to be vetted further.

At this time, Mr. Johnson'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: Commissioner Blake (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *that Ordinance No. 6403 of 2024, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, relative to the creation of a new use to allow storage facility structures in residential districts, as well as, identifying how certain nonconforming lots can exist without the need for a variance, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto be postponed to the February 20, 2024 Work Session. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (10). NAYS: Commissioner Hopkins (1). ABSENT: Commissioner Blake (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

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

- *Ordinance No. 6410 of 2024, an ordinance amending the 2023 Budget to amend the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Head Start Fund, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6411 of 2024, an ordinance amending the 2023 Budget to amend the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Housing Choice Voucher Program Fund, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

Mr. Johnson explained that this is a passthrough for federal funds.

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: Commissioner Blake (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Young, *that Ordinance No. 6412 of 2024, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures to appropriate funds for a Caddo Community Lighthouse Pilot Project, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Johnson said that it was his understanding that the organization was doing these lighthouses in phases. He also said that Willow Chute and Williams Memorial Temple were supposed to be included in Phase 2, not Galilee. Mr. Burrell said that there was a public meeting regarding this, and that's how Galilee became a part of this.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know if this request is to fund two pilot programs. Mrs. Bryant said that the Commission originally approved Morning Star and the Highland Center, but this ordinance would be for an additional one at Galilee. Mr. Atkins then wanted to know if any funds have been spent. Mrs. Bryant said that no dollars have been spent, but they have drafted the contract for Morning Star.

Answering another question from Mr. Atkins regarding the reasoning for federal government to deny this, Mrs. Barnett explained that the ARPA requirements are rigid and strict. One of the major issues for the lighthouses is the FEMA pre-mitigation rules that ARPA has to follow says that you cannot make changes to a religious facility. Since all of these structures are primarily churches, federal dollars cannot be used. The second reason is that the Parish would not have control of those assets. With federal dollars, you have to follow those assets until disposal, she explained. Since they would not have control, they may not be able to follow them. Mr. Atkins understood.

He further stated that he is not opposed to the mission of providing places for citizens during natural disasters. He is opposed to the approach of installing solar panels because of the economics. Mr. Atkins said that it would be more cost effective to install a natural gas-powered generator at each of the facilities. Mr. Atkins would like to see data convincing him otherwise that this is a more economic route.

Mr. Chavez said that they used diesel generators to power everything in the military. He then asked Dr. Ward what is being used for standby power generation. Dr. Ward said that they have zero backup, but they are starting to look at power generation at different Parish sites.

Mr. Chavez said that this would not net the power generation that would be needed for this project. The mission is sound, but the method is not, Mr. Chavez said.

Mr. Jackson stated that because this could not be funded out of ARPA dollars, it would be funded from Oil & Gas. Mrs. Bryant agreed. Mr. Jackson then wanted to know this ordinance fails, the next one would too. Mrs. Bryant explained that the Commission allocated \$250k from Oil & Gas for Morning Star and \$250k from ARPA for the Highland Center. They went forward with the appropriation for Morning Star. Ordinance No. 6413 would be to appropriate the funds for the Highland Center from Oil & Gas, not ARPA. Mr. Jackson understood and said that there is already a precedent for providing Oil & Gas funds for the lighthouse projects. Mrs. Bryant agreed.

Mr. Jackson also pointed out that the federal government provided the State of Louisiana with \$240M. He said that the lighthouse programs were looking to do more quicker, so that's how Galilee became a part of this. He also pointed out that Galilee and Lakeside have a vulnerable population and would benefit from this.

Mr. Johnson said that this plan was brought to the Commission by a private group. He said that they asked the Commission for Parish dollars to help them get federal dollars. Mr. Johnson said that the politics come into play when a certain Commissioner is at a particular church and includes their church in. Mr. Johnson said that he is not sure that the Lighthouse organization even knows the Commission is proposing Galilee as a lighthouse site.

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

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

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Young, *that Ordinance No. 6413 of 2024, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures to appropriate funds for a Caddo Community Lighthouse Pilot Project, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Johnson, Jones, and Young (6). NAYS: Commissioners

Atkins, Chavez, Hopkins, Jackson, and Lazarus (5). ABSENT: Commissioner Blake (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to englobo and move the following ordinances to Thursday's agenda for introduction:*

- *Ordinance No. 6414 of 2024, an ordinance declaring the intent of the Parish under LA.R.S. 47:2236 to acquire full ownership interest in a parcel of property identified by Caddo Parish Tax Assessor's Geographic Number 181437-036-0005-00 and described as Lot 5, J.B. Pickett Subdivision, Tal 14, Shreveport, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6415 of 2024, an ordinance declaring the intent of the Parish under LA.R.S. 47:2236 to acquire full ownership interest in a parcel of property identified by Caddo Parish Tax Assessor's Geographic Number 181430-001-0154-00 and described as Lots 154, 155, and 156, and one half adjacent abandoned alley, Lakeview Subdivision, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6416 of 2024, an ordinance declaring the intent of the Parish under LA.R.S. 47:2236 to acquire full ownership interest in a parcel of property identified by Caddo Parish Tax Assessor's Geographic Number 201625-001-0014-00 and described as AC Lot 3 of Mooringsport less that part north and west of KCS&G Railroad right-of-way and that part of tract lying south and east of right-of-way described as: begin 52 feet east of northwest corner of SD Lot 3; thence easterly along north line of SD Lot 42: thence southerly a right angle 91 feet; thence westerly at right angle 42 feet; thence northerly at right angle 91 feet to port of beginning; and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

Mr. Atkins asked for a quick summary of these three ordinances. Mr. William Talton, Adjudicated Property Manager, came before the Commission and said that this property has been adjudicated. The Parish seizes the property, then the applicant pays the cost of the Parish seizing the property. Afterwards, the property is sold through a private sale.

At this time, Mr. Johnson'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: Commissioner Blake (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *that Resolution No. 1 of 2024, a resolution to designate and change the polling places for Precincts 3-3, 3-7, and 9-13 and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration.

Mr. Jackson asked that notifications be made to the voters in these precincts with regards to these changes.

At this time, Mr. Jackson's 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: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Blake and Epperson (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that Resolution No. 2 of 2024, a resolution approving the holding of an election in Caddo Parish Fire District Seven, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, April 27, 2024, to authorize the continuation of a special tax therein* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration.

Mr. Hopkins explained that this is to continue a special tax for ten more years.

Mr. Young asked for clarity on how this election worked. Mrs. Bryant said that this would only be for this fire district. The Clerk of the Commission explained that they needed to go through the State Bond Commission, and this would be the earliest date available.

At this time, Mr. Hopkins' 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: Commissioner Blake (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *to englobo and move the following items to Thursday's agenda for consideration:*

- *Resolution No. 3 of 2024, a resolution authorizing the Caddo Community Action Agency, Inc. to administer the Head Start Program for the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 4 of 2024, a resolution approving the amended 2023 and proposed*

2024 budgets of the North Louisiana Criminalistics Laboratory Commission and to otherwise provide with respect thereto

- Advance Special Resolution of Recognition for Calvary Baptist for their State Championship
- Special Resolution of Remembrance for Korey Davis
- Advance Special Resolution recognizing the contributions of outgoing Commissioners
- Special Resolution honoring Judge Sheva M. Sims upon her investiture as Chief Judge of the Shreveport City Court
- Special Resolution recognizing Andrea Mona Bowman for her work on the Color Purple, which was nominated for a Critic’s Choice Award
- Appoint Tom Tebbe to fill the unexpired term of Patricia White, who has resigned from the North Caddo Hospital Service District Board. Term to expire August 18, 2028
- Advance the presentation of Special Resolution recognizing Donna Curtis upon her retirement

At this time, Mr. Johnson’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: Commissioner Blake (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *to englobe and move the following items to Thursday’s agenda for consideration:*

- Advance a presentation of special resolution to Dr. Joe Gant, Jr. upon his 50th Anniversary of preaching the gospel
- Advance an action item authorizing the Administration to enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement with the Brandon House for additional services needed in the wake of the closure of the Johnny Gray Jones facility

Mr. Atkins asked for more clarity regarding the Brandon House. Mr. Jackson explained that conversations came into play when they were notified of the closure of Johnny Gray Jones. The discussions were had to identify a location to send juveniles who were runaways and low security. The Brandon House was mentioned, and they have OJJ approval and DCFS approval. Mr. Jackson reiterated that this would be solely for Caddo Parish children, and the dollars would come from the funds allocated to Johnny Gray Jones.

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: Commissioner Blake (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Jones announced that the My Community Cares: Finding Hope will have a Parent Café on Thursday, January 4 from 5:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. at A.B. Palmer Center, 547 E. 79th Street. He said that the purposed of this is to provide a space for parents to vent, get advice, and find resources.
- Mr. Young announced that the first green infrastructure erosion control project took place at Highland Park in Caddo Parish. There will be a community planting event held there later this year.

Mr. Young also gave kudos to Animal Services for responding during the holidays regarding loose dogs in the Highland neighborhood.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Ordinance No. 6402 of 2023, an ordinance implementing an ad valorem tax exemption for first responders, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto
- Additional Appointments (to be held until new Commissioners are installed)

Peggy Heacock	Citizens Disaster Response Committee
Kathy Lewis	Citizens Disaster Response Committee
Tommy Giles	Citizens Disaster Response Committee
Sheri Peace	Citizens Disaster Response Committee

<i>Gabriel Balderas</i>	<i>Citizens Disaster Response Committee</i>	
<i>Coretta Smith Kimble</i>	<i>Citizens Disaster Response Committee</i>	
<i>Wilbert Pryor</i>	<i>Children & Youth Planning Board</i>	<i>1/1/2026</i>
<i>Michelle AndrePont</i>	<i>Children & Youth Planning Board</i>	<i>1/1/2026</i>
<i>Kelli Todd</i>	<i>Children & Youth Planning Board</i>	<i>1/1/2026</i>
<i>Andrew Randall</i>	<i>Children & Youth Planning Board</i>	<i>1/1/2026</i>
<i>Patrick Wesley</i>	<i>Children & Youth Planning Board</i>	<i>1/1/2026</i>
<i>Frank Thaxton</i>	<i>Charter Review Committee</i>	<i>12/31/2024</i>
<i>Stuart Creighton</i>	<i>Charter Review Committee</i>	<i>12/31/2024</i>
<i>Tim Euler</i>	<i>Charter Review Committee</i>	<i>12/31/2024</i>
<i>Ralph Johnson</i>	<i>Charter Review Committee</i>	<i>12/31/2024</i>
<i>Steven Coleman</i>	<i>Charter Review Committee</i>	<i>12/31/2024</i>
<i>Lyndon Johnson</i>	<i>Charter Review Committee</i>	<i>12/31/2024</i>

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.



Assistant to the Commission Clerk