

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S  
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
HELD ON THE 6<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2023**

The Caddo Parish Veterans Affairs Committee met in legal session on the above date, at 2:30 p.m., in the Government Chambers Conference Room, with Mr. Epperson, Chairman, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Jones, and Lazarus (7). ABSENT: None (0).

Mr. Jones gave the invocation, and Mrs. Blake led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no agenda additions or public comments, so the Committee moved to the next agenda item.

***NEW BUSINESS***

- *Discuss Veteran related enhancements to Welcome to Caddo signs*

Mr. Epperson said that the purpose of today's meeting is to add verbiage to the Welcome to Caddo Parish signs on I-49. He wants to ensure that everyone entering Caddo Parish knows that Caddo Parish is veteran friendly, as well as keeping the veterans from Barksdale Air Force Base in Caddo Parish.

He said that there are three proposals, and at this time, Mr. Epperson passed around the renderings of the proposals.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know if the letters are cut out. Mr. Kevin Lawrence, Director of Facilities & Maintenance, said that it would be a solid piece with a vinyl overlay. Mr. Chavez then wanted to know the lifetime of the vinyl. Mr. Lawrence said that it should last around 10-15 years.

Mr. Atkins believes that this project is worth the investment. Mr. Chavez said that "he's cheap", but he would be voting to add the verbiage to the sign.

Mr. Lazarus and other Committee members voiced their preference for the option with the additional verbiage right under the sign.

Answering a question regarding the costs of the project, Mr. Lawrence said that the costs are estimated to be between \$30k-\$35k.

Mrs. Blake believes that this is an important and worthwhile investment for this Parish. She thanked Mr. Epperson for bringing this project forward.

Mrs. Bryant said that the budget amendment is on today's agenda to advance to Thursday's Regular Session for introduction.

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$35,000 for veterans enhancement of the Welcome to Caddo signs on I-49. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Jones, and Lazarus (7). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *to recommend to the full body the option with the verbiage directly below the current sign be approved. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Jones, and Lazarus (7). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Before adjourning, Mr. Epperson announced that the Veterans Honor Ceremony & Parade will be held this weekend.

There being no further discussion, the Committee adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

  
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Michelle Nations  
Assistant to the Commission Clerk