

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF
THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 7th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2023

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Regular Session, on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., in the Government Chambers, with Mr. Burrell, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (11). ABSENT: Commissioner Epperson (1).

The invocation and Pledge were given during the Committee meetings.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Nancy Treadwell came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

I live in Shreveport, 71105. Thank you for allowing me to speak. I want to tell you about my concerns about the food distribution on Election Day and concerns about how the election, in general, is being discussed amongst the Commission. [inaudible] matters to me is no public money should be used to influence any election. No event should impede a polling location—be it a group of people, a line of cars, or any obstruction. That, as Commissioners, your words influence our community. Yesterday, I listened to your Tuesday's Work Session. I found helpful information, such as the date of the October distribution was made by the Northwest Louisiana Food Bank, and the distribution locations were moved away from the polling places. Also, there was some interesting election statistics given, and I appreciate that. But instead of hearing other positive discussions, I heard blame. That made me very concerned. I have over 300 pages of election code. Every legal vote should be counted and polling places should be safe. Public funds shouldn't be used in any way to influence an election. In my opinion, public officials should follow these laws, both in the literal sense and understand how perception does matter in the way that the public of the fairness of elections. When I heard some of you imply that or even outright say that to question the wisdom of the food distribution on an Election Day had a racial motivation or showed callousness towards hungry people, I couldn't help but take that personally. I was actually a little shocked, and I'm sorry—I'm nervous. I'm just a plain old citizen who loves her community, and I don't take politics personally usually, but I did feel that way yesterday because I care about the community; I care about hungry people. To hear some of your discussion, I'm sorry, was personally hurtful. Some of you even said that the recount and subsequent lawsuit was unfair—that the election was already won, fair and square, but we have election laws for exactly this situation. That each candidate owes it to their constituents to follow the letter of the law in representing the voters. So when there are fifty votes that were proven illegal—it's not unfair to follow the law and how candidates pursue their day in court—and that's what's playing out now. The system's working. As a community, we must be able to speak about difficult issues without blame to address, race issues without implying racism, and to discuss differences without assuming the worst. I appreciate y'all. I thank you for this opportunity to speak. My only question about this thing was at what time during the week before the election was the problem identified and the food distribution—which I think is wonderful, by the way—was moved away from any polling location?

Irma Rogers came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

President Burrell, Vice President Young, and all of the Commissioners assembled. First, I'd like to thank you for support of the Martin Luther King Community Development Corporation during the past few years. It is hard, sometimes, as small non-profits to provide for things like extra summer help, which has been request by the State Superintendent. So, your assistance with some of that does help. When you run upwards of \$25,000 to pay the tutors for two to three weeks. The other issue I'd like to address this evening is Resolution No. 67, the resolution supporting the MLK Food Desert Project. Over the years—and I understand that at your last meeting, I could not be present—we've had several studies about not only indicating that MLK/Cooper Road is a food desert, but how to alleviate some of these problems. Revitalization and economic development. The first study was done when Mr. Calvin Lester—we're talking more than fifteen years ago—was our City Councilperson. Heard, McElroy, and Vestal—they were called in to do the study, but the Council said since we haven't had an updated Master Plan since 1957—it's in this Master Plan. I'd like to read one excerpt before my time runs out. It is going to be 11.4 This is the original, which I gave two years of my life to help with. So this is everything we did from like 2009-2011. Over the years as annexation and place, basic infrastructure was built, streets, and paved for MLK. This is north of the Cooper Road area now. MLK was semi-rural. At that time, you had gardens—you had a lot of other things, ok. That changed with annexation. Revitalization to this neighborhood, where were overpopulating at some times has been marked and needed. It's in the Master Plan, so studies have been done. Studies have been done for the last 12-15 years. I just want to give you some background on it. So if you need some, we can pull those original files if we have to. But this is from 2009-2010, we definitely need a grocery store. Lo-Mart has been closed for several years now, not 9, as the owner who has it now has said—but at least four to five, there has ceased to be an existence for our community. We have dollar stores, but that's not complete and home economic development. So, I encourage you to support this resolution. It's for a large chunk of their city. I could not read all of this, but it is in 11.4—11.4 is the original.

This is the original and the draft that I bought. The smaller version is this, and there's a CD disc, which you have to have an older computer to run right now. But, in the new version online, and see page 11.5—you will find the same information. It says, 'Martin Luther King neighborhood has followed a somewhat different trajectory than many of the other historically African American neighborhoods. The presence of Southern University as availability of inexpensive land spark creation of some middle-class subdivision and more recently, apartment development. However, the MLK area has some of the same infrastructure problems and housing blight as the inner core neighborhoods for different reasons. Historically, white inner core neighborhoods, such as Highland, also experience some of the disinvestment. The post-WWII moved from the city center to more suburban locations are more attractive to some families, just for a background.' And we do have a couple of—two or three locations—and there's something else coming into our neighborhood what you would call a gated community on Audrey Lane. That's already in progress. So there are rooftops. My information had recorded only about 700 housing starts. Information from Ms. Moore's office at more than 900 housing starts within our neighborhood since 2007-2008. So that lets you know, there is a population there; however, we do not have all of the amenities and conveniences that several of them—all of our counterpart neighborhoods have. Generally, things go around our community and not into our community. if you look at the growth spurt of economic development that's hitting Blanchard right now. Blanchard is up past us, but that's not coming into MLK. So we're looking for specifics. We've done the homework; we've done the training; we do understand what you're talking about in terms of economic development and being economically available to sustain this. So that's why I'm speaking up for this particular resolution. It's been several years. We're looking forward to new developments. Thank you for your time.

John Settle came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

I'm glad that Resolution 61 was withdrawn because, legally, it was defective....very much so. Mr. Lattier's term ends in 2027. Mr. Clark's term ends January 18th, after we have a new governor. The statute says very clearly that y'all recommend people to that, one, if an office is vacant—it's not vacant. Mr. Lattier is still alive, functioning, and going to meeting. If you read their minutes, he is very diligent; the same with Mr. Clark. Secondly, no terms have expired. So the very basis, legally, of that was totally defective. You've had other people here that you want to come speak to the Commission, and they didn't come—and I was disappointed, whether it was the Registrar or Sheriff or other people. The motive of trying to penalize the board member for not coming here—I think was improper, but the biggest problem with that resolution is that your president does not have, you know, lateral power to make recommendations to boards. If there's a vacancy, the procedure you all have always followed is to ask citizens to volunteer, ask y'all to make recommendations, and then y'all go through a vetting process. It was a total abuse of power for the President to make a recommendation and get you to pass that without participation. I'm glad good government has prevailed. I'm glad that common sense and legal reasoning has prevailed with your president. Since I'm here, I hope that my comments will be heard and recorded so that they will not be attributed to things that I have not said that people in the media have said. It's been so much fun. Thank you.

ADOPT REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that the Regular Session Minutes from November 22, 2023 and the Special Session Minutes—Budget Adoption from December 5, 2023 be adopted.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Epperson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to englobo and adopt the following special resolutions:*

- *Special Resolution Honoring Harold Sater*

Mr. Chavez thanked Mr. Sater and his wife, Bev, for given so much of their time to District 10 and Southern Hills.

- *Special Resolution Honoring David Hylan*

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

SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION & APPRECIATION HAROLD SATER

WHEREAS, Mr. Harold Sater has dedicated himself and demonstrated an unwavering and selfless commitment to the betterment of Caddo parish and its residents; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sater has served with distinction and honor in various capacities that have significantly contributed to the growth and prosperity of our community, including his exceptional service with the Shreveport Metropolitan Planning Commission, the Southern Hills Business Association, and as a dedicated business owner and REALTOR; and

WHEREAS, his tireless efforts, both as a business owner and as a REALTOR, have not only bolstered the local economy but have also helped countless residents find their dream homes; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sater's involvement with the Shreveport Metropolitan Planning Commission and the Southern Hills Business Association has fostered community development and economic growth; and

WHEREAS, his leadership, compassion, and dedication to public service have made him a respected figure in our community, admired for his wisdom, dedication, and vision for a better future; and

WHEREAS, we cannot overlook the vital support and contribution of Mr. Sater's wife, Bev, who has been a pillar of strength and encouragement throughout his endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that we express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the many years of devoted service that Mr. Harold Sater, along with the unwavering support of his wife, Bev, have given to Caddo Parish.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission that we extend our deepest appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Harold Sater and acknowledge the invaluable contributions of his wife, Bev, for their outstanding service to our community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be presented to Mr. Harold Sater and his wife, Bev, as a symbol of our heartfelt thanks and as a reminder of the impact they have made on the lives of the residents of Caddo Parish.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution be duly recorded in the official records of the Caddo Parish Commission and that copies be provided to Mr. Harold Sater and his wife, Bev, for their personal archives.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION & APPRECIATION
DAVID HYLAN**

WHEREAS, David Hylan has served with distinction as the Executive Director of the Betty & Leonard Phillips Deaf Action Center, leaving an indelible mark on the organization through his unwavering commitment and leadership; and

WHEREAS, David Hylan's dedication to the Deaf community has been exemplary, fostering a spirit of inclusivity, advocacy, and empowerment throughout his tenure; and

WHEREAS, David Hylan's tireless efforts have significantly contributed to the betterment of the lives of individuals within the Deaf community, championing their rights and promoting equal opportunities; and

WHEREAS, David Hylan's strategic vision and innovative initiatives have propelled the Deaf Action Center to new heights, establishing it as a beacon of support and a catalyst for positive change; and

WHEREAS, David Hylan's passion for serving others has not only impacted the Deaf community but has benefitted the overall community by allowing the hearing-impaired members to contribute and participate in community at a deeper level, as well as inspiring colleagues, stakeholders, and community members; and

WHEREAS, David Hylan's retirement marks the end of an era, and the Caddo Parish Commission wishes to express its deepest gratitude for his years of dedicated service and leadership.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission that we extend our heartfelt thanks to David Hylan for his exceptional contributions as the Executive Director of the Betty & Leonard Phillips Deaf Action Center.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be presented to David Hylan as a token

of our appreciation for his commitment, dedication, and the positive impact he has made on the Deaf community and the broader community.

COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Jackson said that the Juvenile Justice Committee meeting met today and discussed the issue regarding the closure of the Johnny Gray Jones facility.

Mr. Jackson also proclaimed that there were no public funds used to solicit for a campaign. The Commission worked with the Northwest Louisiana Food Bank to provide food boxes for citizens. Mr. Jackson reiterated his statements that were made during Monday's Work Session. He said that there were several events going on during the Election Day, but only the food distribution was being criticized.

- Mr. Hopkins thanked Mr. Patrick Wesley and Parks & Recreation for all of their hard work for the Christmas on Caddo event.

- Mrs. Blake appreciates the comments made during Citizens Comments. She stated that she shared the same concerns that Ms. Treadwell had. Mrs. Blake reiterated that nothing should be given away on Election Days.

She also talked about the Johnny Gray Jones closure. She appreciates the information that was given during the Juvenile Justice Committee meeting.

Mrs. Blake thanked Mr. Sater for all of his hard work within the community.

- Mr. Atkins also addressed Mrs. Treadwell's concerns. He does not believe that the Parish had any ill intent, but understands the concerns that were had. Mr. Atkins pointed out that once the realization was had regarding the polling places, Administration responded quickly and moved the food distribution sites away from those locations.

- Answering a question from Mr. Johnson regarding the food distribution locations, Mrs. Bryant stated that she is not away that any of the distribution locations were at a polling place, aside from Fire District 4 in District 11. Mr. Johnson shared the same sentiments as Mr. Atkins. He does not believe that there were any ill intentions regarding the food giveaway. Mr. Johnson said that there was a need, and that need was met.

- Mr. Jackson said that he is a huge advocate of citizens coming down and speaking, but there is also a responsibility to speak the truth.

- Mr. Jones reminded everyone about the Hopeless Parent Café event that will be held tonight from 5:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. at A.B. Palmer Park, 547 E. 79th Street.

He also thanked the Juvenile staff for providing a safe haven for the children who are in need. Mr. Jones wants to work hard to ensure Juvenile Justice has what it needs to for our young people.

Mr. Jones agreed with Mr. Jackson in making sure correct and accurate information is being put out to the public. Mr. Jones also said that many of the young people are moving out of Caddo Parish as quickly as they can because 'there aren't any good paying jobs; they don't trust the leadership; and they don't trust in the voting system'. He said that there are several problems and issues, but nothing is being resolved because 'we refuse to come together'. We've got to stop all of this foolishness and find real solutions, he said.

- Mrs. Gage-Watts said that the Parish fed several households based on a natural disaster. The Commission stepped up to the plate and addressed a need in the community: hungry people. Mrs. Gage-Watts also mention a "public health crisis, crime". She also agreed with Mr. Jackson and Mr. Jones regarding citizens' engagement. She encouraged citizens to come down and speak, but ensure that the information they are saying is correct and accurate.

- Mrs. Blake agreed with Mrs. Gage-Watts regarding encouraging citizens to speak during the meetings. She then commented that it is also important to protect voting and elections. Mrs. Blake said that the community does not trust leadership. She agreed with Mr. Atkins that it is important to address the needs of the citizens, especially when it comes to food, but it should not be done on election days nor near polling sites. On Election Day, we should never do something that could cause the perception of electioneering nor should we do anything that would deter people from voting because we do need change for this community, she said.

- Mr. Young talked about an incident at a short-term rental in his district. There was a party, and someone shot a gun with the bullets going in the house next door. Mr. Young wanted to research and

create a process of revoking a license of a short-term rental.

- Mr. Jones reiterated that the Parish of Caddo did not push votes for a particular candidate during the food distribution. He said that people were hungry and needed food for Thanksgiving. Mr. Jones also said that the court paperwork stated eleven illegal votes were counted, not fifty.
- Mrs. Gage-Watts said that a leader, she is ashamed of this discussion. I am not going to let a date on the calendar ruin the gifts of food that we were able to provide for so many households for Thanksgiving, she said.
- Mr. Johnson pointed out that Caddo Parish is not growing; its population is shrinking. Something different needs to be done, he said.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Burrell talked about Resolution No. 61 of 2023 with regards to the Red River Waterway Commission. He said that there was some misinformation put saying that the President of the Commission made a unilateral decision for a board appointment. Mr. Burrell said that was not the case because the whole Commission body has to vote on all of the appointments.

Another piece of misinformation was given, he said, regarding Mr. Clark. Mr. Burrell said that his name was never brought up. He also pointed out that he should not have been taken off the Red River Waterway Commission because it was not a violation of the law.

Mr. Burrell then talked about the food distribution. He said that he was vilified saying that he was giving away food for votes; this was not the case. Mr. Burrell said that every citizen has a civic responsibility to go and vote, not who to vote for, but to vote.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES

The President of the Commission opened the floor for anyone to speak in favor or against the following ordinances:

- *Ordinance No. 6398 of 2023, an ordinance to accept the streets in Northwood Trace Subdivision, Unit 7, New Territory Unit IV-A, and New Territory Unit V into the Parish of Caddo System, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6399 of 2023, an ordinance to close and abandon a portion of the dedication for Laura Lea Lane located in Sections 28 and 29, Township 21 North, Range 16 West, in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6400 of 2023, an ordinance to deem property surplus and authorize the sale of surplus property owned by the Parish of Caddo and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

There being no one else to speak in favor or against these ordinances, the President closed the public hearing.

ORDINANCES (for final passage)

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

- *Ordinance No. 6398 of 2023, an ordinance to accept the streets in Northwood Trace Subdivision, Unit 7, New Territory Unit IV-A, and New Territory Unit V into the Parish of Caddo System, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6399 of 2023, an ordinance to close and abandon a portion of the dedication for Laura Lea Lane located in Sections 28 and 29, Township 21 North, Range 16 West, in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6400 of 2023, an ordinance to deem property surplus and authorize the sale of surplus property owned by the Parish of Caddo and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

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

ORDINANCE NO. 6398 OF 2023

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION

AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT THE STREETS IN NORTHWOOD TRACE SUBDIVISION UNIT 7, NEW TERRITORY UNIT IV-A, AND NEW TERRITORY UNIT V INTO THE PARISH OF CADDO ROAD SYSTEM, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has received a request to accept the streets in Northwood Trace Subdivision Unit 7, New Territory Unit IV-A, and New Territory Unit V into the Parish of Caddo road system;

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has received and reviewed the subdivision plats showing a dedication to the Parish of Caddo; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo finds that the acceptance of the subdivisions into the Parish of Caddo system is in the best interest of the Parish of Caddo.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Caddo Parish Commission, in due, legal and regular session convened, that the Parish of Caddo hereby accepts into the Parish of Caddo road system all of the streets in Northwood Trace Subdivision Unit 7, New Territory Unit IV-A, and New Territory Unit V Caddo Parish, Louisiana as shown on the attached subdivision plat marked as "Exhibit A".

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that a copy of this ordinance, with a subdivision plat of the Northwood Trace Subdivision Unit 7, New Territory Unit IV-A, and New Territory Unit V attached thereto as "Exhibit A", shall be filed in the conveyance records of the Parish of Caddo.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that if any provision or item of this ordinance or application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items, or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provision, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this ordinance shall be effective ten days after publication in the official journal.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

ORDINANCE NO. 6399 OF 2023

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION

AN ORDINANCE TO CLOSE AND ABANDON A PORTION OF THE DEDICATION FOR LAURA LEA LANE LOCATED IN SECTIONS 28 & 29, TOWNSHIP 21 NORTH, RANGE 16 WEST, IN THE PARISH OF CADDO, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has received a request from Mr. James R. Branton to release the public dedication for Laura Lea Lane over his property in Sections 28 & 29, Township 21 North, Range 16 West; and

WHEREAS, Mr. James R. Branton has recently acquired the property in Section 28 and is now the owner of record for all of the land under this portion of Laura Lea Lane and also all of the adjacent linear footage; and

WHEREAS, a tacit dedication for Laura Lea Lane was established through public use and maintenance by the Parish of Caddo; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has reviewed the request for the release of the dedication for Laura Lea Lane on Mr. Branton's property and finds that this portion of Laura Lea Lane serves no other property owners and this closure and abandonment is in the best interest of the Parish of Caddo.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that a portion of the dedication for Laura Lea Lane on properties identified by Caddo Parish Tax Assessor's Geographic Numbers 211628-000-0001-02 & 211629-000-0018-00, as shown on Exhibit A, located in Sections 28 & 29, Township 21 North, Range 16 West, in the Parish of Caddo be, and the same is hereby, closed and abandoned, said portion of Laura Lea Lane being more specifically described as follows:

All of that portion of the dedication of Laura Lea Lane located in the Parish of Caddo as shown in red hash marks on the attached plat marked Exhibit "A"

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a copy of this ordinance and plat marked Exhibit "A", displaying the portion of the dedication for Laura Lea Lane, located in Sections 28 & 29, Township 21 North, Range 16 West, to closed and abandoned shall be filed in the conveyance records of the Parish of Caddo.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any provision or item of this ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items of applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after publication in the official journal.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

ORDINANCE NO. 6400 OF 2023

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE TO DEEM PROPERTY SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZE THE SALE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY OWNED BY THE PARISH OF CADDO AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo owns equipment that is no longer being used; WHEREAS, that equipment is enumerated in the attached Exhibit A;

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo no longer needs the above equipment, and said equipment should be deemed surplus, obsolete, or unused for present and future parish needs;

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo is authorized to dispose of certain supplies, materials, and equipment determined to be surplus;

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo desires to dispose of the above-listed equipment by public auction; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission concurs with the finding that the items described above are surplus and are no longer needed for public purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal, and regular session convened that the property itemized in Exhibit A is no longer needed for parish public purposes and is declared surplus property which is to be disposed of by public auction.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the items described above are being offered on an "as is" basis, without warranty of title or recourse whatsoever.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Caddo Parish Administrator or his designee shall be authorized to do any and all things and to sign any and all contracts and other documents in a form acceptable to the Caddo Parish Attorney necessary to effectuate the purposes set forth herein.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any provision or item of this ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items, or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items, or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are

hereby repealed.

ORDINANCES (for introduction by title)

- *Ordinance No. 6402 of 2023, an ordinance implementing an ad valorem tax exemption for first responders, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

WORK SESSION MINUTES

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *that the Work Session Minutes from December 4, 2023 be ratified. Motion carried.*

RESOLUTIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Resolution No. 61 of 2023, a resolution submitting to Governor John Bel Edwards a name for appointment for membership on the Red River Waterway Commission be removed from the agenda.*

Mr. Burrell said that this appointment does not expire until 2026. He also explained that a new Governor will be taking office soon. When a new governor comes in, they normally clear all boards and appointments, at their discretion. At that time, it would be appropriate to make a recommendation to this Commission.

At this time, Mr. Burrell's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Epperson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that the following items be adopted:*

- *Resolution No. 64 of 2023, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to request and authorize the Louisiana State Mineral & Energy Board and the Office of Mineral Resources to accept nomination 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 No. 65 of 2023, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to approve the assignment, bill of sale, and conveyance of State Agency Lease 2775 from SWN Production (Louisiana), LLC, to Paloma Natural Gas, LLC, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 67 of 2023, a resolution supporting the MLK Food Desert Project*
- *Accept the recommendations of the Alcoholic Beverage Committee*

Mr. Atkins is supporting Resolution No. 67 of 2023, and reiterated that there is no funding associated with this project at this point. This resolution is to continue to vet and evaluate the project. Mr. Hopkins agreed with Mr. Atkins.

At this time, Mr. Jackson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, and Young (9). NAYS: Commissioners Chavez and Lazarus (2). ABSENT: Commissioner Epperson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

RESOLUTION NO. 64 OF 2023

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

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

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo may own certain mineral rights underlying the following described property, to-wit:

Those certain road dedications located in Section 30, Township 17 North, Range 14 West, known as Tai Drive in the Shreve Hills Subdivision located in the Southwest Quarter of Section 30, T17N, R14W and more particularly described in that certain Plat and Dedication under Reg. #1911946, records of Caddo Parish, Louisiana and containing 3.5432 acres, more or less, and that portion of Denny Drive in Valley View Subdivision located in the Southeast Quarter of Section 30, T17N, R14W and more particularly described in that certain Plat and Dedication under Reg. #269726, records of Caddo Parish, Louisiana and containing .69 acres, more or less, and those certain adjudicated properties described as Lot 1000, Shreve Hills Subdivision, Geo. #171430-065-1000, containing 3.04 acres, more or less, and a three foot strip off the North side of Lot 17, Valley View Subdivision, Geo. #171432-003-0026, containing .0121 acres, more or less, with Section 30, Township 17 North, Range 14 West containing a total of 7.2853 acres, all in Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has received a written request from Cypress Energy Partners, LLC., that the Parish seek public bids for an oil, gas and mineral lease covering said property; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo does not have the knowledge or resources available to determine if it owns the mineral rights and the Parish of Caddo will rely on the expertise and experience of the lessee in determining ownership; and

WHEREAS, it is expressly agreed that any lease granted by the Parish of Caddo and accepted by lessee is without any warranty of title and without any recourse against the Parish of Caddo whatsoever, either express or implied, and it is expressly agreed that the Parish of Caddo shall not be required to return any payments received or be otherwise responsible to lessee therefore; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana State Mineral and Energy Board and the Office of Mineral Resources, is available upon the request of Caddo Parish to lease the aforesaid property for oil, gas and other minerals if requested to do so by Caddo Parish.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Louisiana State Mineral and Energy Board and the Office of Mineral Resources, be and it is hereby requested and authorized to accept nominations and advertise for oil, gas and mineral leases, accept bids and award and execute oil, gas and mineral leases on the aforesaid properties of certain mineral interests owned by the Parish of Caddo.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any such lease contain a no surface operations provision as follows: Lessee, its successors or assigns, may produce oil, gas and other minerals from the leased premises by drilling from a surface location on other lands, but notwithstanding any other provision of this lease, Lessee, its successors or assigns, shall not use the surface of the Lessor's property for drilling or any other operations without prior written permission of Lessor, which permission may be withheld at Lessor's discretion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any such lease contain a horizontal pugh provision as follows: Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein contained, at the end of the primary term or any extension thereof by operations, if the Commission of Conservation of the State of Louisiana establishes a drilling unit which includes a part of the land herein leased, the production of oil, gas and other minerals from such unit shall maintain this lease in full force and effect only as to such portions of the leased land embraced in said pooled unit; and this lease shall expire as to that part of the land herein leased not included in such unit; and lessee, its successors and assigns agrees to relinquish by formal instrument any portion of the leased land not included in a unit created by the Commission of Conservation while this lease is in effect

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any such lease contain a vertical pugh provision as follows: Upon the expiration of the primary term hereof or any extension thereof by operations, this lease shall automatically terminate and be of no further force or effect except as to all that part of the leased premises then included within the geographical boundaries of a producing unit duly established by governmental agency or authority having jurisdiction, from the surface of the earth to a depth of 100 feet below the deepest depth from which any well commenced during the primary term hereof on the leased premises or on lands pooled therewith is completed and from which there is production in paying quantities, such depth determination to be made on a unit by unit basis. In the absence of units so established, this lease shall terminate except as to 40 acres around each producing oil well and 160 acres around each producing or shut-in gas well located on the leased premises, in as near the form of a square as is

practicable, from the surface of the earth down to a depth of 100 feet below the deepest depth from which said well or wells are completed and from which there is production in paying quantities, such depth determination to be made on a well by well basis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any such lease contain a minimum royalty provision as follows: Royalty of not less than 1/4th or 25%.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any such lease contain a minimum bonus provision as follows: Bonus of not less than \$3,000.00 per acre.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any such lease contain a hard or solid mineral exclusion provision as follows: This lease shall exclude free sulphur, potash, lignite, salt and any other hard or solid mineral. Lessee shall not have any rights to explore, drill for, mine, produce or take any action whatsoever in regard to any such hard or solid mineral deposits.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any such lease contain a maximum term provision as follows: Primary term of lease shall not exceed three (3) years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

RESOLUTION NO. 65 OF 2023

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CADDO PARISH ADMINISTRATOR TO APPROVE THE ASSIGNMENT, BILL OF SALE AND CONVEYANCE OF STATE AGENCY LEASE 2775 FROM SWN PRODUCTION (LOUISIANA), LLC, TO PALOMA NATURAL GAS, LLC, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo is a Lessor in that certain oil, gas and mineral lease from the Caddo Parish Police Jury to Plymouth Oil Company, in State Agency Lease 2775, dated July 20, 1955, and recorded at registry No. 109689 of the conveyance records of Caddo Parish, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, State Agency Lease 2775 has been conveyed by numerous assignments, bill of sale, conveyance and mergers to SWN Production (Louisiana), LLC; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has received a written request from Paloma Natural Gas, LLC, seeking approval from the Caddo Parish Commission of an Assignment of Oil, Gas and Mineral Leases from SWN Production (Louisiana), LLC, to Paloma Natural Gas, LLC, dated effective 9-21-2023, and filed and recorded under Reg. #2944647, records of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, that includes State Agency Lease 2775.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Administrator is hereby authorized to approve the Assignment of Oil, Gas and Mineral Leases from SWN Production (Louisiana), LLC to Paloma Natural Gas, LLC, dated effective 9-21-2023, and filed and recorded under Reg. #2944647, records of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, that includes State Agency Lease 2775.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

RESOLUTION NO. 67 OF 2023

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT TO ELIMINATE THE FOOD DESERT IN THE MARTIN LUTHER KING AREA, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the City of Shreveport has commissioned a study to eliminate a food desert in the Martin Luther King Area of Shreveport, Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, the study has been completed and it has been determined that the community would be best served with the development of a multi-tenant commercial center, with a grocery facility being the anchor tenant; and

WHEREAS, several steps toward completing the project have been taken; and

WHEREAS, the author of the study, Ronnie L. Bryant, LLC is soliciting Caddo Parish's support as essential to the success of this project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission, in due, legal and regular session convened, that:

The Caddo Parish Commission expresses its support of the development of a multi-tenant commercial center with a grocery facility in the Martin Luther King Area of Shreveport, Caddo Parish, in order to eliminate the food desert in that area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Young, *that the End of Year Appointments, First of Year Appointments, and Old Appointments that were never filled/reappointed* be adopted with the exception of the Citizen's Disaster Response Committee, Children & Youth Planning Board, and Charter Review Committee. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (9). NAYS: Commissioner Chavez (1). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson and Jackson (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

2023 END OF THE YEAR APPOINTMENTS:

<i>Dr. Brad Everson</i>	<i>Animal Board</i>	<i>1/1/2027</i>
<i>Catherine Alred</i>	<i>Animal Board</i>	<i>1/1/2027</i>
<i>Mary Tallant</i>	<i>Lakeview Waterworks District</i>	<i>3/17/2028</i>
<i>Jake Brown</i>	<i>PZC</i>	<i>9/8/2027</i>
<i>Calvin Millender</i>	<i>Sewerage District No. 7</i>	<i>11/1/2027</i>

FIRST OF THE YEAR APPOINTMENTS:

<i>Tony Moffett</i>	<i>Fire District No. 1</i>	<i>1/1/2026</i>
<i>Roderick T. Casey</i>	<i>Fire District No. 1</i>	<i>1/1/2026</i>
<i>Helen M. Mazier</i>	<i>Fire District No. 3</i>	<i>1/1/2026</i>
<i>Mickey Gilcrease</i>	<i>Fire District No. 4</i>	<i>1/1/2026</i>
<i>James E. Robinson</i>	<i>Fire District No. 4</i>	<i>1/1/2026</i>
<i>David L. Winkler</i>	<i>Fire District No. 5</i>	<i>1/1/2026</i>
<i>John B. Frierson, Jr.</i>	<i>Fire District No. 5</i>	<i>1/1/2026</i>
<i>Mike McCullough</i>	<i>Fire District No. 6</i>	<i>1/1/2026</i>
<i>Charles William Partain, Jr.</i>	<i>Fire District No. 6</i>	<i>1/1/2026</i>
<i>James Martin</i>	<i>Fire District No. 8</i>	<i>1/1/2026</i>
<i>Stormy Gage Watts</i>	<i>Sport Commission</i>	<i>12/31/2026</i>
<i>Ann Osment</i>	<i>Waterworks District No. 7</i>	<i>1/8/2029</i>

OLD APPOINTMENTS THAT WERE NEVER FILLED/REAPPOINTED

Glenda Britton	Waterworks District No. 7	1/8/2026
Robert Brown	Lakeview Waterworks District	3/17/2026
Kenneth Mitchell	Sewerage District No. 2	8/6/2025
Diann Adams	Sewerage District No. 2	9/11/2025
JoAnn Witkowski	Sewerage District No. 7	11/1/2025
Charles Reynolds	Black Bayou Watershed	8/14/2026

COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Johnson wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
- Mr. Atkins also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
- Mr. Burrell thanked the Commissioners for this year. He said that there were several accomplishments, and he appreciates everyone around this horseshoe.
- Mr. Jones agreed and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He hopes that everyone loves their neighbors as they love themselves.

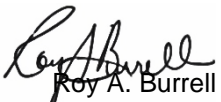
CITIZENS COMMENTS (late arrivals)

Nancy Treadwell came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak again. First, I want to apologize if I even implied that there was intentionality related to voting and y'all's intention. I was trying to express my concerns about—there's nothing more important than our vote in terms of how we live our lives in our communities. That's our biggest way to community our desires and our representative government. I apologize if I came off as saying that y'all had intention about doing that. In fact, I learned watching y'all talk earlier this week that wasn't the case and that date was already assigned. So, I want to make that on the official record that I acknowledge that there was no planning on your part for that. What I was interested in finding out was the day that the decisions were made to move things away from polling places. I appreciate that because we can't measure that, but there could be influences on large numbers of people around polling places. This is from my heart. I want to say that it's important to me that y'all know that what I was concerned when I listened to your meeting from Tuesday was that I didn't see the concern from y'all that it was a big deal, and not just to me or another person, but as a community that y'all as elected officials hold those things very important and take them seriously. And not just say, 'oh, that's not important'. That was the big thing I was trying to say. Again, I appreciate that. Y'all actually did respond and whatever happened to make that change. I wanted to separate that from concern for people in need, which I think for every one of us here when we show up to things like this—we care about our communities. Of course, we want to help people in need. The race issues—I mean, I can't understand what someone else lives through whether they're black or white—that's not my life, but I can have empathy for it, and I can listen. Unless we all do that, I mean just listening to y'all talk early in the week—I felt degraded and then the way some of y'all spoke about me here today, to my face, I felt the same way. My hope and prayer is that we can talk to each other with respect and empathy, and that's why I'm humbly asking you for forgiveness if I implied on an official record that y'all intentionally did something wrong on voting day. I apologize. I do not believe that. I've learned from you, and I want to thank you again for this opportunity to talk.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.


Michelle Nations
Assistant to the Commission Clerk


Roy A. Burrell
President