

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 4th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2023

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Work 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, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, and Young (10). ABSENT: Commissioners Jackson and Jones (2).

The invocation and Pledge were given during the Alcohol Beverage Committee, so the Commission moved onto Agenda Additions.

AGENDA ADDITIONS

It was moved by **Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Young, *to expand the agenda and add the advancement of the recommendations made by the Alcohol Beverage Committee* be added under New Business.

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.

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Tim Euler came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good afternoon, Commissioners. Good to see you. I brought my friend, MJ. I'm going to try to read this directly so that I don't get too emotional. But today, I say before God Almighty, my brother in Christ, my fellow conservative, friend, advisor, but most importantly, my friend, Mario Chavez. At the end of this month will conclude eight years of service for Caddo Parish and the City of Shreveport as an elected official. Mario has served our Commission with integrity and passion. Mario believes in our Parish and our City. Mario served the last eighteen years with the best interest of the people at the forefront of his heart and mind. When you serve like Mario has, you gain many friends, but you also gain some people who become jealous of you, Mario. You realize people will not always agree with you, but that's fine because that's the American way. You never become [inaudible] with that because you truly believe that you feel what should be accomplished must be beneficial for all. I met Mario seven years ago—I met him as an introduction from our friend, CL Bryant. We just had the honor of—his wedding. CL told me in that meeting that I was meeting a rising star in Caddo and Shreveport, and I believe that I had. A couple of months later—I had some problems with the City collecting my garbage. I'm not in Mario's district, but the only phone number I had was Mario's. It was a City issued. I called Mario who connected me with my now friend, John Nickleson. John took care of it. A couple of years later, I had an issue with the zoning—again, a city issue, which also happened to be in Mario's district. Mario couldn't take my word for it because we were friends. He went door to door and knocked on peoples' doors and said, 'what do you want for the community?'. That, to me, demonstrated Mario's integrity. It wasn't the fact that you were rising up for a friend; it was the fact that you 100% wanted what was best for your people. You exhibit what elected officials should, and I appreciate that. My story of Mario is not much different than many. Mario is the type of person that if you both are without a shirt—Mario's going to find a shirt for you before he finds the shirt for himself. With all due respect to anyone sitting around the horseshoe, I think this man right here is the most caring and giving elected official in Caddo Parish and Shreveport. These are stories that are private and personal. I have a young man standing right here that's a witness of that. Mario, you're the real deal, brother, and I appreciate it. When Mario decided to run for mayor, it was a no brainer for me. It had nothing to do with his political ideas—even though I agree with him pretty much 100%--they had to do with his heart. I knew why he was running. Is Mario perfect? All you have to do is ask Megan, and she will tell you that Mario is not perfect. But, Mario, you are a Caddo/Shreveport hero. As the calendar turns to 2024, I believe Caddo Parish and Shreveport will be losing one of the most brilliant and conservative minds this Parish and City has seen in decades. Mario can be trusted; Mario can be counted on; Mario embodies service before self. Mario, a friend—I've learned so much from him. If I had the opportunity to create a special resolution from Caddo Parish, I'd do it. You know I'd do it. It was the first thing on my to-do list if I would have been elected was to honor you. Thank you for never turning your back on Caddo and on Shreveport. Thank you for never turning your back on me. Thank you for letting God guide your heart, thoughts, motives, and decisions. You are an elected official. You have been an elected official that everybody should look up to and everybody should say, 'when I get elected, I want to be like Mario Chavez.' Thank you for giving me your time. I know your family, your resources, and your energy to save and serve our Parish. Proverbs 17:7 says, a friend of us at all time, and a brother is born for adversity. Thank you, Mario, for being my friend and my brother. I love you.

Adele Shaverman came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

As we've seen in the recent elections, it's impossible to fully audit our elections. What is

called an audit, is merely a head count of the number of people who voted. If the head count matches the number on the voting machines, our elections are claimed to be audited and everything is ok. It's not the votes themselves are in no way audited, except the absentee ballots. Only absentee ballots are about 17% of the total amount in the disputed sheriff's race could be accounted. All other votes went into cyberspace to be counted outside of our state on software. These votes are unavailable for [inaudible] count, and therefore, all citizens who voted on machines are disenfranchised for the recount. Let that sink in. The majority of Caddo voters are disenfranchised by our computer voting system. The solution is hand marked paper ballots. The States of Missouri and Louisiana have developed a secure trustworthy and fast process. The template is available online. The system is easily understood by voters, candidates, and election officials. No technology required. It is 100% auditable. Many voting procedures already in place can be applied to the paper ballot hand counting system. There is no need to certify the machines before and after the elections. There will be no need to haul and store the heavy machines. There will be no need for technical support to be on hand the day of the elections. There will be no need for security upgrades. There will be no need to purchase a new fleet of computer voting machines in 15-20 years. Here are additional monetary advantages. Local citizens, not an out of state software company, will be paid to do the counting. Additionally, the cost of paper, pens, privacy screens, and the salaries will be still far less than the purchase of new computer button machines. So, you, as Caddo Parish Commissioners, have the opportunity to steer us towards an election system that everyone in this room can understand and trust. Giving the benefits to Caddo Parish, it is worth investigating. We, the people of Northwest Louisiana, are eager to exchange ideas with you and answer your questions. Thank you for your time.

Bonnie Pharr came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

The paper ballots and the chain of custody. You, no doubt, have questions about the paper ballot system. As a Commissioner in charge of almost forty years, I feel that I have some knowledge of what goes on at the precinct. Commission-In-Charge is responsible for what goes on in that precinct from the time they get there at—whatever time—thirty minutes before opening to the time they deliver the results to the Clerk downtown. Right now, we don't do that. They took that—and someone else comes to the polls and picks it up and delivers it. After marking the ballot, the voter places his ballot into a closed box that cannot be opened, except with a scanner. Every hour of the day, on election day, starting with one hour after voting begins, the ballot box is taken from the voting area to a secure counting room. Once removed from the box, the ballots are counted and totaled on tabulator sheets. At the close of the voting hours, the ballots tabulator sheets and totals are returned to the box and sealed inside. Commissioner-In-Charge then takes the box to the Clerk of Court's Office. Recently, like I said, someone comes and gets it from the Clerk at the precinct. Which to me—its convenient to we, the Commissioner-In-Charge, we don't have to take it downtown, but we don't know what happens to it once we release it at the court. Someone else has it, and we don't know where they go or who sees it. But with paper ballots, it's a direct shot from a Commissioner to the Clerk's Office. I also have questions about the workers and the counters in the paper ballots. A minimum of four counters is required—two democrats and two republicans or other parties also might be represented as observers. A Commissioner-In-Charge shall also watch the counting. Camera might be an extra layer of security. No person in the counting room is allowed to leave the room or to have a cellphone. No doubt, we have to have meals and go to the bathroom, and that would be worked out. The parties of the candidates shall provide the counters. It is in their interest to do so. For further security, the ballots will be sterilized just like the numbers on our paper money. A limited number batch of ballots will be delivered to each precinct. Unused ballots will be returned to the Clerk's office, along with the marked ballots. Again, a camera may be focused on the ballot box, capturing photos of who has worked and who is voting. Commissioner-In-Charge will receive the registration book and other paperwork, as they are already do. There's no need to change this process. Due to limited time, I cannot answer anymore questions, but we invite you and ask you—we're asking you to set up a time when We the People of Northwest Louisiana can demonstrate this paper ballot box and how it operates for you personally in a group. So, would you please give us that opportunity to teach you about the paper ballots and the count? Thank you.

Susan Bairnsfather came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

I live in Shreveport, Louisiana. The evidence for the paper ballot votes checked in the Sheriff's race demonstrated two voters voted twice. Four voters voted and then died before Election Day. Fifty-one voters had unsigned ballot flaps, and those ballots were accepted in vote count while forty plus were rejected appropriately as required by law. The power of Election Supervisors required to approve these decisions—they do this process, as required by law. They were not present to oversee the process nor do it themselves. All issues in that courtroom were proven to be due to officials not being diligent with following what Louisiana law dictates. In the court hearing on Thursday, officials testified under oath these misstatements. We do electronic hand counts. I'm sorry. People, there is no such thing as electronic hand counts. Hand count means by the very word, 'counting by hand'. So, this official knows better than this, and this official blatantly interjected this misstatement in this court hearing. Another misstatement, the board counts that paper ballots. I witnessed the counting of the paper ballots after the City Marshal race. Here's what I observed. The board, meaning the Board of Elections Supervisors, say they count the paper ballots. The board does not count the paper ballots. This is required by Louisiana law that they do. The board simply sits while the Clerk of Court staff and the Registrar of Voters staff feed paper ballots through a scanner. The Board only addresses a ballot when the scanner kicks the ballot out that it cannot read. When I witnessed the paper ballot counting process, out of over 5,000 paper ballots in that City Marshal's race—they were run through two scanners. So half of each in a scanner, only twelve ballots were adjudicated by this board of five people in four hours time. The scanner reached those ballots and then the

voting system software counts the ballots. The Board of Election Supervisors do not count the paper ballots. So one might think if the Board members were supposed to be counting our ballots, then certainly one of those board members is running the computer software to do so. Absolutely not. We, the taxpayers hire a contractor and IT person who comes from Baton Rouge—sets up the scanners, sets up the computers—

Motion by Mr. Chavez, seconded by Mr. Young, *to extend for two minutes.* Motion carried by acclamation.

Ms. Bairnsfather continued. So, we, the taxpayers, are hiring an IT person from Baton Rouge to set up the scanners, set up the computers, set up the laptops, set up the desktop, and to run the software to count the ballots. Our Board of Elections Supervisors do not count those ballots as required by Louisiana law. So, our Board is so technically challenged that they would not even know if a mistake was made, unless they overheard the technicians say, 'oops' or 'oh'. So, another misstatement, 'we trust the system'. The screenshot I sent you, Commissioners, the last time I spoke—after the last time I spoke—showed a 592% turnout rate in one precinct. That's impossible. That's an impossible number. So how did that happen? 100% turnout rate means that everybody in the precinct voted, right? That's a glaring error. I would never be allowed as a programmer—I am a computer programmer—if I produce software coding that produced that result. I'd be fired. Another example our voting system during the 2023 Sheriff's race. After re-scanning the paper ballots, produces six additional votes. That race has a one vote advantage. Those six votes mattered. Now they came out three and three even, but how did that happen? 'We trust the system' is what we're hearing from our officials. So with that means that six voters' votes were disenfranchised in the first run through. I submit to you that none of the above should be acceptable to you; it is not acceptable to me. I want my vote to count when I go vote, and I'm sure you do, too. Louisiana law says that our election should be certified. Before the election, it proves to me, they were not.

Brenda O'Brock came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

It may sound a little redundant what I have to say, but I think it's worth repeating. I want to thank John-Paul Young for being at the recount the other day. I also want to thank him for submitting a resolution earlier. I think it was to our Secretary of State, Kyle Ardoin, to try to clean up the voter records. The people who are paying attention really know the serious issue that this is. I think it's very interesting and a little bit funny that before the recount the other day—Susan mentioned this, but I'm going to mention it again—John Nickleson requested a hand count. He should have gotten that, but he didn't. They ran the absentee ballots through the scanners. I've watched it in a room full of attorneys, SOS employees, the Clerk of Court's Office was there, and citizens. Those scanners proved wrong. Y'all, the machines are not accurate. The machines are not accurate. They came up with six additional votes: three for Nickleson and three for Whitehorn. Where did this come from? That's proof right there in a room full of people. This proved that the machines don't work. Yes, they're wonderful. I have a Tesla. I'm not against technology, so you know it's not about that. This is about truth and accuracy and our votes that should count the way we cast them.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- RFP Update

Mrs. Bryant said that the Opioid RFP will be issued by December 14, the Housing RFP by December 21, and the Camera RFP by January 2024.

Answering a question from Mr. Atkins regarding the Housing RFP, Mrs. Bryant said that there are some remaining dollars from the Emergency Rental Assistance Program that could go towards housing. They are proposing to issue an RFP to use those funds.

- Budget Adoption—December 5, 2023

Mrs. Bryant also reminded the Commissioners that the Budget Adoption will be held tomorrow at 3:30 p.m.

- Announcements

Mrs. Bryant announced the LSU Health Center will have their grand opening for their new medical education building that the Commission helped fund on December 11 at 11:00 a.m.

Toys for Tots will be held on Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. at Moffet Audi, Bert Kouns.

Mrs. Bryant stated that the LSU Ag Center Annual Luncheon has been postponed to January 9th due to remodeling work that has not been completed yet.

New Commissioner Orientation is scheduled for January 8, 2024 following the Swearing-In.

- November 2023 Financial Statements

Mrs. Bryant said that the November 2023 financial statements have been attached to the agenda, as well as, a hard copy placed at each Commissioner's station.

- Juvenile Detention

Mrs. Bryant said that there are twenty-four juveniles in detention, ten being OJJ. There are seventeen 17-year old juveniles, and thirteen at the Caddo Correctional Center. Mrs. Bryant also said that there are sixty-four juveniles on probation at this time.

- Johnny Gray Jones Closure

Mr. Randall understands that there have been some concerns regarding the closure of the Johnny Gray Jones facility. He explained that the facility is primarily used by DCFS and OJJ, but it houses status offenses, i.e. runaways, ungovernable, and truants. Johnny Gray Jones (JGJ) was one of two in the State of Louisiana with the other being Alexandria.

Mr. Randall further explained that JGJ has operated as a transient place for OJJ children who are in the Caddo Juvenile Detention Center. The closing of JGJ could create some backlog due to the lack of OJJ facilities.

There were some discussions about stop gap funding from the State to keep the facility open through the end of the year, but that did not happen, Mr. Randall said. JGJ closed on November 30, 2023. It would cost approximately \$2M to operate the facility. If there is some legislative action or appetite from the State, it could possibly reopen, but Mr. Randall could not speak to the certainty of that.

Mr. Randall then talked about the Brandon Transitional Home for Boys and utilizing it as a substitute facility. He explained that the Brandon's House has a contract with OJJ and houses young men who have already been adjudicated.

Mr. Randall reiterated that the close of JGJ were not children who would otherwise be in the Juvenile Detention Center. He also explained that during the law enforcement committee, the stakeholders come together to develop solutions regarding children who would be housed at JGJ, as well as other situations with juveniles.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know what happened to the children who were housed at JGJ. Mr. Randall said that those children were transitioned to other places in the State. He further explained that the Brandon House is a place where young men would go once they've been adjudicated and placed in OJJ.

Mr. Burrell also asked if there was a need for a facility similar to JGJ. Mr. Randall said that it does serve an important purpose. He also said that other jurisdictions across the State have developed other ways to handle children like those who were housed at JGJ.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know where would the ungovernable, runaways, etc. go now. Mr. Randall said that the Juvenile Detention Center is not a solution to those types of situations. He explained that if it is a DCFS matter, those children will be placed in foster care. Mr. Randall reiterated that they do not house FINS or runaways in the Detention Center. Mr. Jackson understood, but wanted to know where the children would go. Mr. Randall explained that there is not one answer to this question. He explained that the child could be placed with familial placement, foster care, or other temporary housing. Mr. Randall also said that sometimes The Rescue Mission can be utilized.

Mr. Randall also explained that the Brandon House would have to restructure its purpose to fill the gap in the system that has been created by the closure of Johnny Gray Jones because its mission is to house young men who have already been adjudicated and are OJJ.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if the Rutherford House would be an option. Mr. Randall said it would not. He also said that this is a cost issue. Mr. Jackson understood and would like to start a conversation regarding this problem.

Mr. Young wanted to know the number of children in Juvenile Detention right now. Mr. Randall said that there are twenty-five juveniles. Mr. Young wanted to know how many children were OJJ. Mr. Randall said that there are ten children who are OJJ.

Mr. Young then asked about the protocol for when a law enforcement officer brings a child to Juvenile, but there's no room. Mr. Randall said that he can provide this information, if needed.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know what led to the closure of the facility. Mr. Randall said that it was a funding issue.

Mr. Atkins said that 40% of the Caddo Juvenile Services Detention Center's capacity is due to OJJ. He suggested that those juveniles should be moved to their appropriate places. Mr. Atkins also thanked Mr. Randall for all the information he provided during the Drug Court Thanksgiving Dinner. Mr.

Randall acknowledge him and thanked Mr. Atkins for attending.

Mr. Burrell agreed with Mr. Atkins and suggested that this be applied to the Caddo Correctional Center as well.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if Juvenile Services has looked at the vacant building by CCC. Mrs. Bryant reminded the Commissioners that anytime another space is looked at, there's an operating cost associated with it. Mr. Jackson understood and asked that they look at it for the Johnny Grey Jones situation. Mrs. Bryant said that the location of Johnny Grey Jones is not the problem; it is the funding for the facility. We can continue to have dialogue to see what alternative we can look at and make recommendations to the Commission, if any, she said. Mrs. Bryant also reminded everyone that the millage did not pass.

Answering a question from Mr. Johnson regarding the number of Caddo children being housed at JGJ, Mr. Randall said that it was dozens. Mr. Johnson then suggested that Mr. Randall look into and see if another agency could house those children.

Mrs. Blake stated that the Detention Center and Johnny Gray Jones are two separate facilities serving two separate purposes. She agreed that there needs to be a place for the children who are placed at JGJ.

Mr. Jones said that the millage did not pass. He also said that something needs to be in place for those children who are in need.

COMMISSION REMARKS

- Mr. Chavez scheduled a Long-Range Planning Committee meeting on Thursday, December 7 before the Regular Session to discuss the homestead exemption ordinance and to discuss paper ballots.

- Answering Mr. Atkins' question regarding the Parish's role in the election process, Mrs. Bryant stated that the Commission appoints the Registrar of Voters, as well as office space to the Clerk of Court and others involved in the election process. She also stated that this body is not involved in the decision making in the election process.

It was Mr. Atkins' understanding that the Registrar's role was to ensure there was "sound books of voters". Mrs. Bryant said that the Registrar's Office does collect the absentee ballots.

- Mr. Jackson brought up Johnny Grey Jones again. He agreed with Mrs. Blake's comments about Juvenile Services and Johnny Grey Jones being two separate issues. He also agreed that it is a funding issue. Mr. Jackson said that the fund balance at the end of the year is \$204M. Mr. Jackson said this closure could become problematic. Mr. Jackson then asked to schedule a Juvenile Services Committee to be scheduled.

Mrs. Bryant explained that there is a projection of a \$204M fund balance, but the majority of those funds are for specific purposes that are not in regards to juvenile justice.

Mr. Jackson then talked about the election issue. He said that some people are accusing "vote buying". Mr. Jackson said that Administration went out of their way to move the food distribution away from the precinct locations.

- Mrs. Blake said that giving away food on the day of an election was a great concern of hers. She didn't see it as electioneering; she saw it as blocking people from having access to vote. This is not about race, she said, this is about how we handle things moving forward. She requested that these types of giveaways not be done on election day.

Perception is in the eye of the beholder, Mr. Burrell said. Mrs. Blake agreed and said that her concern was blocking access to voters. Mr. Burrell also said that Administration did their due diligence to move the food distributions away from the polling sites.

- Mr. Chavez asked that Animal Services Director, Mr. Travis Clark, provide more information regarding the dogs on Kingston Road and Riding Club. Mr. Clark said that those were not adopted dogs, they were returned to owner dogs. He said that person lives in Bossier, but works in Shreveport, and the dogs kept getting out.

- Mr. Johnson said that people of all races lined up to get the food boxes at Willow Chute. He also said that there was a need for food, and the Commission provided food boxes to the citizens of this Parish. Mr. Johnson does not believe the food distribution affected voter turnout. He said that the voter turn out was low at 30%.

- Mr. Jackson wanted to know why the food distribution was being singled out when there were other events happening on that day, i.e. adoption event, tree giveaway, etc. He pointed out that the

tree giveaway was at Mall St. Vincent which is a polling place.

- Mr. Epperson said that the overall turnout for the Sheriff's race for October 14 was 30.5%. The voter turnout for November 18 was 28.7%. He also pointed out that the precincts at Mall St. Vincent were in favor of Nickelson.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Burrell said that his Thanksgiving was interrupted by allegations of improprieties of the food drive. He said that the conservative media put out that the food drive was being used as a quid pro quo to buy votes. Mr. Burrell said that he was specifically called out because of an interview he did. Mr. Burrell said that his statement in the interview was "asking people who pick up food to be more responsible and register to vote". I did not tell people who to vote for, he said.

Mr. Burrell also said that urban Commissioner get very little opportunity to do for their citizens because the majority of the funds are spent outside the city limits. He said that all different races showed up for the food distribution.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *that the amended Ordinance No. 6402 of 2023, an ordinance implementing an ad valorem tax exemption for first responders, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction and remanded to the Long Range Planning Committee.

Mr. Jackson explained that the amendment is for an additional \$500 for the homestead exemption. He said that this is for active first responders, and they would need to be employed with a Caddo Parish agency for a minimum of three years.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know how much this would cost the Parish. Mr. Jackson said that it would cost the Parish approximately \$200,000. Mr. Johnson also suggested that language be added to the legislation to reflect the homestead exemption amount.

Mr. Johnson also wanted to know if the other taxing bodies would have to approve this. Mrs. Bryant said that if this body passes this, it would cover them. Mr. Johnson also requested that the definition for a first responder be added to the ordinance.

Mr. Jackson pointed out that the person has to reside and be employed in Caddo Parish.

Mr. Hopkins said that Public Works should be included in this ordinance. Mrs. Bryant said that this would also need to include the City of Shreveport's Public Works.

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

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

- *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 nominations and advertise for oil, gas, and mineral leases. Accept bids, and award and execute oil, gas, and mineral leases on certain mineral interest 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*
- *Special Resolution honoring David Hylan*
- *Advance recommendations from the Alcohol Beverage Committee*

Mrs. Gage-Watts asked for more clarification on the oil and gas resolutions. Dr. Ward said that these are resolutions that are done all the time. One resolution is to authorized the Louisiana Board to offer the mineral rights, and the other resolution reassigns the lease from one oil company to the other.

Mr. Chavez "thinks its petty to pull Special Resolution for Harold Sater". Mr. Johnson said

that he pulled Special Resolution for Harold Sater because Mr. Sater chastised the Commission.

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

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

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Resolution No. 67 of 2023, a resolution supporting the MLK Food Desert Project* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration.

Mr. Jackson thanked Mr. Johnson for bringing this before the Commission.

Mr. Atkins will support the continuation to evaluate the project, but is not yet committed to funding the project.

Mr. Johnson said that this is only a resolution of support. He reiterated that this is a non-binding resolution with several different moving pieces. This project addresses the food desert and will provide jobs, he said. Mr. Johnson also pointed out that there is not any money being asked today.

Mr. Chavez said that this is the second time this issue is coming before this Commission. He further explained that the first ordinance was remanded back to Committee. Mr. Chavez asked to see the study that was done, but has yet to receive it. He further stated that there is language in the resolution stating that they will request up to \$2M in funding. Mr. Chavez said that he will voting no because the original ordinance has not gone to committee yet. He also said that they have not received any data that was being requested.

Mr. Chavez also said that it was not Harold Sater that "chastised" the Commission, it was Mr. Lorick.

Mr. Hopkins support economic development projects, but he would like to see what exactly will be involved along with the payback for the costs.

Mr. Johnson explained that this came out of Economic Development with an affirmative vote. He reiterated that this is a resolution of support, not a budget ordinance.

Call for the Question by Mrs. Gage-Watts, seconded by Mr. Johnson.

Mr. Atkins said that he will withdraw his request to speak. There being no one else in the speaker que, Mrs. Gage-Watts withdrew her motion to call for the question.

At this time, Mr. Jackson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, and Jones (8). NAYS: Commissioners Blake, Chavez, and Lazarus (3). ABSENT: Commissioner Young (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that Special Resolution honoring Harold Sater* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration.

Mr. Jackson would like to be added to this resolution.

Mr. Jones would like to be added to this resolution.

Mrs. Blake would like to be added to this resolution.

At this time, Mr. Chavez's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Chavez, Hopkins, Jackson, Jones, and Lazarus (8). NAYS: Commissioners Epperson and Johnson (2). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts and Young (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Jones announced that the My Community Cares: Finding Hope will have a Parent Café on Thursday, December 7 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.

CITIZENS COMMENTS (late arrivals)

CONSENT AGENDA

- Ordinance No. 6398 of 2023, an ordinance to accept the streets in Northwood Trace Subdivision Unit 7, New Territory Unity 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 & 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*
- 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*
- End of the Year Appointments:*

<i>Dr. Brad Everson</i>	<i>Animal Board</i>	<i>1/1/2023</i>
<i>Catherine Alred</i>	<i>Animal Board</i>	<i>1/1/2023</i>
<i>Mary Tallant</i>	<i>Lakeview Waterworks District</i>	<i>3/17/2023</i>
<i>Jake Brown</i>	<i>PZC</i>	<i>9/8/2023</i>
<i>Calvin Millender</i>	<i>Sewerage District No. 7</i>	<i>11/1/2023</i>

First Of The Year Appointments:

<i>Tony Moffett</i>	<i>Fire District No. 1</i>	<i>1/1/2024</i>
<i>Roderick T. Casey</i>	<i>Fire District No. 1</i>	<i>1/1/2024</i>
<i>Helen M. Mazier</i>	<i>Fire District No. 3</i>	<i>1/1/2024</i>
<i>Mickey Gilcrease</i>	<i>Fire District No. 4</i>	<i>1/1/2024</i>
<i>James E. Robinson</i>	<i>Fire District No. 4</i>	<i>1/1/2024</i>
<i>David L. Winkler</i>	<i>Fire District No. 5</i>	<i>1/1/2024</i>
<i>John B. Frierson, Jr.</i>	<i>Fire District No. 5</i>	<i>1/1/2024</i>
<i>Mike McCullough</i>	<i>Fire District No. 6</i>	<i>1/1/2024</i>
<i>Charles William Partain, Jr.</i>	<i>Fire District No. 6</i>	<i>1/1/2024</i>
<i>James Martin</i>	<i>Fire District No. 8</i>	<i>1/1/2024</i>
<i>Stormy Gage Watts</i>	<i>Sport Commission</i>	<i>1/1/2024</i>
<i>Ann Osment</i>	<i>Waterworks District No. 7</i>	<i>1/8/2024</i>

Old Appointments That Were Never Filled/Reappointed

<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Sewerage District No. 2</i>	<i>9/18/2018</i>
<i>Glenda Britton</i>	<i>Waterworks District No. 7</i>	<i>1/8/2021</i>
<i>Robert Brown</i>	<i>Lakeview Waterworks District</i>	<i>3/17/2021</i>
<i>Kenneth Mitchell</i>	<i>Sewerage District No. 2</i>	<i>8/6/2021</i>
<i>Diann Adams</i>	<i>Sewerage District No. 2</i>	<i>9/11/2021</i>
<i>JoAnn Witkowski</i>	<i>Sewerage District No. 7</i>	<i>11/1/2021</i>
<i>Charles Reynolds</i>	<i>Black Bayou Watershed</i>	<i>8/14/2022</i>

Citizen's Disaster Response Committee (multiple appointments)
Children and Youth Planning Board (7 positions to appoint)
Charter Review Committee (6 positions to appoint)

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m.


 Assistant to the Commission Clerk