

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 1st DAY OF APRIL, 2024

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Work Session, on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., in the Government Chambers, with Mr. John Paul Young, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Giles, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (12). ABSENT: None (0).

Mr. Atkins gave the invocation, and Mr. Kracman led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were no Agenda Additions, so the Commission moved onto Citizens Comments.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

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

I rise to speak to you all with regards to Resolution 19 of 2024. The resolution opposing Louisiana House and Senate bills regarding traffic cameras legislation. I ask—and I know I won't get it today—what is it that you all are utilizing to be able to support cameras in Caddo Parish? Not the City of Shreveport, but Caddo Parish as a whole. Definitely we know that the CAO was down in Baton Rouge here recently. He spoke before the legislation in support of the cameras. I just don't understand why we need them in the Parish. I mean there's not a lot of activity, other than us driving, that dictates or even warrants cameras. So again, I would ask that—provide us that documentation that says that this is an essential for our Parish that will indeed impact us citizens of the Parish because we don't need any additional undue stress financially because someone has determined that this is an avenue to get funds. If it is—again, that data that supports that we need someone to dictate or to regulate speeders? Definitely, we need to understand why this legislation. Thank you.

VISITORS

- Todd Derrick
Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness

Mr. Derrick introduced himself as the Regional Coordinator for the Governor's Office of Homeland Security. He explained that there are three levels of emergency preparedness: FEMA (federal), GOHSEP (state), and parish level emergency manager (Caddo Parish—Robert Jump). The initial response for any emergency or disaster would come directly from the Parish. Once an emergency goes beyond the Parish's ability to control the situation with parish level assets, then the State can become involved at the specific request from the Parish. This is communicated through a parish level declaration, which can be rescinded at any time.

Answering a question from Mr. Atkins regarding Mr. Derrick's region, Mr. Derrick explained that the regions mirror the State Police's troop. This region is Troop G or GOHSEP Region 7, which encompasses northwest Louisiana and seven parishes.

Mrs. Blake wanted to know who would be contacted initially when there is an emergency. Mr. Derrick said that Mr. Robert Jump would be the initial person to reach out to.

Mr. Derrick provided his cell phone number to the public for additional information: (318) 510-1460.

Mr. J. Young said that the Commission has been discussing a chronic emergency related to gun violence. He wanted to know if GOHSEP has a role or precedent dealing with chronic emergencies. Mr. Derrick does not believe GOHSEP deals with issues such as this, but will research further. Mr. J. Young then wanted to know if GOHSEP responds to things such as riots. Mr. Derrick said that GOHSEP responds to the aftermath of riots. Mr. J. Young understood that GOHSEP does not restore public order, but responds to a crisis once it has ended to restore normality.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- Juvenile Detention

Mrs. Bryant said that there are nineteen children in the Detention Center; five of which are OJJ. There are five 17-year olds, and fourteen children at CCC. There are 631 children on probation.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know more about the children on probation. Mr. Andrew Randall, Juvenile Services Director, said that some of the children are on a caseload with a probation officer. Mr. Burrell then wanted to know how many juveniles were on monitors. Mr. Randall said that there are currently seventy-four juveniles with electronic monitors. Mr. Burrell then wanted to know if there was a need for more monitors. Mr. Randall said that there is not a need for more monitors.

Mr. J. Young wanted to know if there were any children on probation for truancy. Mr.

Randall said that there were some, but truancy represents about 25% of the children on probation.

Mrs. Blake asked about the parental responsibility of the child being monitored for truancy. Mr. Randall said that the parents are partners with Juvenile Services and the court. Mrs. Blake then asked about the parental responsibility of children as it relates to gun violence. Mr. Randall explained that they urge parents to keep guns locked up and monitoring their children.

Mr. J. Young wanted to know if there was a way to enforce that type of monitoring. Mr. Randall said that would be in the purview of the District Attorney's Office, not Juvenile Services. Mr. Young then wanted to know if they ask if there are guns in the home. Mr. Randall said that might be a discussion that's had with the courts, but it would be valuable information to know.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know the ratio of probation officers to juveniles on probation. Mr. Randall said that the average caseload is about 30 juveniles, with the exception of the intensive officers who have to see those juveniles multiple times a week. Those officers have a smaller caseload. Mr. Burrell wanted to know what would happen if the probation officers are overwhelmed with their caseload. Mr. Randall explained that the supervisors and probation officers work together to handle the caseloads.

Mr. Burrell then talked about gun violence. He wanted to know if the guns are coming from home or off the streets. Mr. Randall said that they don't monitor that. He said that it is unfortunate any time when a child brings a gun to school, but it is less of a school issue and more of a street issue.

- Justyn Dixon, NLEP

Mr. Dixon said over the past three years, NLEP has established a new staff, structural change, mission and brand refresh, and started a capital campaign.

2023 has been a successful year. There has been multiple announcements, with five being in Caddo Parish. The SLB plant is revitalizing the former GM plant. They've already hired 200 employees, and will be hiring 50 per month. Prolec GE estimated 150 employees, but they have actually hired over 200 people. In 2023, 1,281 new jobs were created with a capex of \$466,320,000.

Mr. Dixon also explained the NWLA FAME (NWLA Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education), which is a work study program. Local businesses and industries participate in this program, including Frymaster, Prolec GE, ADA, Maxim Watermakers, Benteler, Music Mountain, and Ternium.

The 2022-2026 five year plan goal was to recruit 3,750 new jobs, \$2.5B CapEx, 100 existing industry visits, and identify 3-5 most competitive sites. The 2021-2023 results show 3,483 new jobs and a CapEx of \$1.9B.

Mr. Dixon said that a new strategic plan will be rolling out soon with its main focus on preparing, pursuing, and partnering.

Mr. Atkins said that he is not familiar with ADA Carbon Solutions. Mr. Dixon said that ADA is in Red River Parish, which is a carbon capture plant and cleans emissions from polluting the area. Mr. Atkins then asked about JPMorgan Chase. Mr. Dixon said that it is in Lincoln Parish and was a \$40M capital investment.

Mr. Burrell commended Mr. Dixon and his team for the successes they've had for this region. He then asked about subsidiary companies. Mr. Dixon said that his team will pursue any lead to recruit jobs and capital investments.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if Amazon is currently tracking its employee numbers, and what type of jobs are they currently employing. Mr. Dixon said that they've initially started hiring supervisory employees, but are beginning to start hiring "boots on the ground" employees. Mr. Burrell understood and said that he is interested in "rebuilding our middle class, and you don't do that with sub-level jobs".

Mr. Cothran asked how the Parish "comes in second" in some instances and also wanted to know how the citizens of the Parish could assist NLEP with recruiting jobs and companies. Mr. Dixon said that there are variety reasons for "coming in second". Caddo Parish citizens should start looking for the positive, he said. Mr. Atkins and Mr. J. Young encourage all the citizens not to litter and pick up trash if they see it.

Mr. J. Young wanted to know more about Maxim Waterworks. Mr. Dixon said that they filter water out for ships and oil/gas rigs.

Mrs. Blake appreciates Mr. Dixon and thanked him for the tour of the SLB building.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know the State's commitment to bringing jobs to northwest Louisiana. Mr. Dixon said that the new State Commissioner is committed to working hand in hand for bringing jobs, investments, and companies to this area.

COMMISSION REMARKS

- Mr. Burrell talked about the traffic situation on Lakeshore. He said that a ministry is feeding people, but the cars are lined up and causing digestion. He would like this to be looked and addressed. Mr. J. Young hopes they can find a solution that doesn't inhibit this ministry from giving out food because they do good work. Mr. Burrell agreed, but said that he's received complaints about the traffic.
- Mr. Kracman would like the Public Works North Camp Site to be utilized for something such as small equipment or maybe something for Animal Services.
- Mr. Epperson said that there were several complaints during the election. He would like those issues to be addressed. Mr. Epperson asked that the Registrar of Voters and Clerk of Court to attend the Public Safety Committee meeting to discuss these matters further.

Mr. Kracman asked that in person handicap accessible polling locations be discussed as well. Mrs. Gage-Watts requested that mail-in ballots be discussed during this meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. J. Young talked about the traffic camera resolution. He said that the Commission passed a resolution last year supporting traffic cameras in the Parish. Mr. J. Young did not support it at the time. Since then, he knocked on the doors in Dixie Garden, which is in the Parish, and those citizens want the traffic cameras due to high levels of speeding. He also mentioned that the traffic camera enforcement would bring in revenue, and the Commission could determine where those funds go.

Mrs. Blake requested someone to come and speak to the Commission with regards to traffic cameras. Mrs. Bryant said that they are in the process of determining which company they will be using for the cameras. She explained that the fine tuned details haven't been established currently.

Mr. Epperson asked the Clerk of the Commission to look through the committee minutes regarding traffic cameras and present them to the new Commissioners.

Mr. J. Young also congratulated all of the persons who won during the previous election. He also congratulated Mr. Whitehorn, who is the new Caddo Parish Sheriff.

NEW BUSINESS

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

- *Resolution No. 17 of 2024, a resolution to authorize the acceptance of the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire*
- *Resolution No. 18 of 2024, 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 interests owned by the Parish of Caddo, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Special Resolution recognizing National Autism Awareness Day*
- *Special Resolution proclaiming ARC of Caddo Bossier Day*
- *Special Resolution recognizing Mrs. Estelle Brown to April 18th agenda*
- *Special Resolution recognizing Foster Grandparents Day*
- *Special Resolution recognizing Commissioner Handy Giles*
- *Advance appointment of Poet Laureate*
- *Advance the approval of the 2024 Internal Audit Schedule*

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Giles, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Resolution No. 19 of 2024, a resolution opposing Louisiana House and Senate bills regarding traffic camera legislation, for the 2024 Regular Legislative Session, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Giles, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (8). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Kracman, and Lazarus (4). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

COMMUNIQUE AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mrs. Blake announced that Broadmoor will be celebrating its 100 years as a neighborhood on April 20.
- Mr. Burrell congratulated Sheriff-elect Whitehorn. He wished him well and hopes to have a great working relationship with him.
- Mr. Cothran announced that Southern Hills will be hosting their Music In The Park event on Saturday, April 27, 2024.
- Mr. Thomas reminded the Commissioners that April is National Autism Awareness Month. The Bakowski Bridge of Lights will light up the bridge blue in support.
- The Clerk of the Commission reminded the Commissioners that there are students who will be Commissioners for A Day during Thursday's Regular Session. He also announced that the swearing in for Commissioner Elect Steffon Jones on April 15.

CONSENT AGENDA

- *Ordinance No. 6421 of 2024, PZC Case 24-2-P, 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 northeast corner of Southern Loop and Wallace Lake Road, Caddo Parish, LA, from R-A, Rural Agricultural Zoning District to C-UV(PUD) Urban Village Commercial Zoning District Planned Unit Development Zoning, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6422 of 2024, an ordinance to close and abandon Sea Street in the Colworth Place, Unit No. 2 Subdivision, in Section 27, Township 16 North, Range 15 West, in the Parish of Caddo, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6423 of 2024, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund to appropriate funds for the Caddo Parks Grab & Go Feeding Program and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6424 of 2024, an ordinance amending the 2023 Budget to amend the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Housing Voucher Program Fund*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition for Katrina Worsham*
- *Recognize Parish & County Government Month and Student Commissioners*
- *Animal Appeal Case #C008475219—Appellant Terrance Jackson appealing Dangerous Dog determination issued by the Caddo Animal Control Board*

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 4:51 p.m.


Assistant to the Commission Clerk