

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF  
THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 9th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 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, Burrell, Chavez, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (12). ABSENT: None (0).

The invocation was given by Mr. Andrew Randall, and Mr. Lazarus led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA ADDITIONS**

The President of the Commission 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.

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *to expand the agenda and add following items:*

- *Accept the recommendations of the Property Standards Hearing Committee*
- *Resolution No. 8 of 2023, a resolution authorizing the Caddo Community Action Agency, Inc. to administer the Head Start Program for the Parish Of Caddo, and to otherwise provide respect thereto*

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

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Public comment by Kenny Gordon regarding the role of the Parish Commissioners. Public Comment by Brian White regarding Parish bond funding.

Mr. Epperson requested the Administration to follow up with the first public commenter regarding their concerns.

**ADOPT REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Regular Session Minutes from January 19, 2023* be adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

**SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS**

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *to englobo and adopt the following resolutions:*

- *Special Resolution Proclaiming Black History Month*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition for Orlandeaux's Café*
- *Special Resolution Proclaiming American Heart Month and Go Red Day*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition for The National Panhellenic Council/ The Divine Nine*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition for Bryant Keith Taylor Aka P2K*

Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Mr. Johnson invited the Commission to the National Panhellenic Council's Gala on September 2, 2023 at Sam's Town Casino Resort.

Mr. Burrell announced a clean up in Queensborough on March 18, 2023 from 8:00 Am to 12:00 PM and invited the National Panhellenic Council members.

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *to recess for five minutes.* Motion carried by acclamation.

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to reconvene.* Motion carried by acclamation.

At Mr. Epperson's request, the Clerk read in to the record the Special Resolution of Recognition for Orlandeaux's Café.

Mr. Epperson announced that KOKA radio station and the Shreveport-Bossier African American Chamber of Commerce's Black Power Week from February 19-25, 2023; and the Grassroots Forum will host a special program on February 23, 2023 at 8:00 AM. The information will be available at #blackpowerweek The Grassroots Forum special program will be re-broadcast at 9 am on KOKA's AM and FM radio stations.

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to suspend the rules and take the following items out of order.*

- *Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 6304 Of 2023, an ordinance providing for the incurring of debt and issuance of Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000) of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2023, of Caddo Parish, Louisiana; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.*
- *Ordinance (For Final Passage) Ordinance No. 6304 Of 2023, an ordinance providing for the incurring of debt and issuance of Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000) of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2023, of Caddo Parish, Louisiana; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.*

Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

The President opened the public hearing for Ordinance No. 6304 of 2023. There being no one to speak, the President closed the public hearing.

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Young, *that Ordinance No. 6304 Of 2023, an ordinance providing for the incurring of debt and issuance of Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000) of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2023, of Caddo Parish, Louisiana; and providing for other matters in connection therewith* be adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Lazarus (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *to unsuspend the rules and return to regular session agenda.* Motion carried by acclamation.

#### **COMMUNIQUES AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mrs. Erica Bryant updated the Commission that the Administration is working on the Commission's request to invite representatives from the Registrar of Voters, Clerk of Court, the Secretary of State and the Crime Lab.

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Burrell discussed the redistricting meeting and behooved Commissioners to help their district constituents with the redistricting process.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING ON ZONING ORDINANCES**

The President of the Commission opened the public hearing for the following zoning ordinances:

- *Ordinance No. 6301 Of 2022 Related To CTAP-22-4-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, to replace the terms "Metropolitan Planning Commission" and "Zoning Board of Appeals" with "Caddo Parish Planning and Zoning Commission," as applicable, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto.*

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

#### **PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES**

The President of the Commission opened the public hearing for the following ordinances:

- *Ordinance No. 6302 Of 2023, an ordinance to amend Section 19-31 and 19-51 of the Code of Ordinances, relative to purchase of adjudicated property for economic development and housing, to delete the requirement that the purchaser's plan of work be supported by the City of Shreveport's Office of Community Development, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto.*

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

#### **ORDINANCES (for final passage)**

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Ordinance No. 6301 Of 2022 Related To CTAP-22-4-P*, be adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Lazarus (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Young, *that Ordinance No. 6302 Of 2023* be adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Cothran, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (11). NAYS: Commissioner Gage-Watts (1). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

#### **ORDINANCES (for introduction by title)**

- *Ordinance No. 6305 Of 2023, an ordinance to close and abandon a portion of the drainage easement for One North Place Subdivision, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6306 Of 2023, ordinance amending the 2023 Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund to provide an appropriation for Charles Johnson Ministries, Inc. and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6307 Of 2023, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund to provide an appropriation of \$20,000 for Louisiana Urban Gardening and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6308 Of 2023, an ordinance amending and re-enacting Ordinance No. 5111 of 2011 and Ordinance No. 5935 of 2019, reapportioning Caddo Parish into Twelve Commission Districts, enumerating the constituent precincts respectively comprising the Commission Districts, and otherwise providing with respect thereto.*
- *Ordinance No. 6309 Of 2023, an ordinance amending and re-enacting Ordinance No. 5111 of 2011 and Ordinance No. 5935 of 2019, reapportioning Caddo Parish into Twelve Commission Districts, enumerating the constituent precincts respectively comprising the Commission Districts, and otherwise providing with respect thereto.*
- *Ordinance No. 6310 Of 2023, an ordinance amending and re-enacting Ordinance No. 5111 of 2011 and Ordinance No. 5935 of 2019, reapportioning Caddo Parish into Twelve Commission Districts, enumerating the constituent precincts respectively comprising the Commission Districts, and otherwise providing with respect thereto.*

#### **WORK SESSION MINUTES**

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Work Session Minutes from February 6, 2023* be ratified. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Hopkins (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

#### **RESOLUTIONS**

**Substitute motion Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to englobo and adopt the following items:*

- *Resolution No. 6 Of 2023, resolution urging and requesting the Louisiana Legislature to implement a social media campaign to educate the youth on the elements of and sentences for murder charges*
- *Resolution No. 7 Of 2023, resolution urging and requesting the Louisiana*

*Legislature to add a mandatory life sentence for killing children under the age of 4*

- *Resolution No. 8 Of 2023, a resolution authorizing the Caddo Community Action Agency, Inc. to administer the Head Start Program for The Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide respect thereto*
- *Authorize Administration to Award Green Infrastructure Funds to Krewe Of Highland Projects*
- *Authorize the Administration to Alter the Scope of Work On Fire District 8'S American Rescue Plan Application.*
- *Accept the Recommendations of The Property Standards Hearing Committee*

**Friendly amendment by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, to remove the Regular Session Minutes from January 5, 2023 from the englobo. Mr. Jackson accepted the friendly amendment.

Mr. Epperson requested that the Caddo Community Action Agency be invited to the Caddo Parish Commission's Regular Session to be held on February 23, 2023. The Clerk acknowledged that he will.

Substitute motion carried as amended, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, Cothran, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *to approve the Regular Session Minutes from January 5, 2023 as amended.*

**Substitute motion by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Hopkins, *to move to Communiques and Committee Reports.* Substitute motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

#### **COMMUNIQUES AND REPORTS**

- Mr. Jackson updated the Commission on the Juvenile Justice Committee meeting.
- Mr. Epperson discussed the Public Safety Funding Ad Hoc Committee meeting and announced the next Public Safety Funding Ad Hoc Committee meeting on March 6, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.
- Mr. Cothran announced the Southern University of Shreveport is hosting The Montgomery Bus Boycott Staged Reading & Reception event on February 15, 2023
- Mr. Jackson responded to Mr. Atkins enquiry about the goals of the Juvenile Justice Committee and the Juvenile Justice Citizen's Advisory Committee's goals.
- Mrs. Gage-Watts announced the Black Caucus Police Jury will hold an Annual Business Meeting and Empowerment Luncheon on Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 10:30 AM in the Shreveport Convention Center.
- Mr. Cothran announced he will attend informational meetings in his district regarding redistricting.

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *to approve the Regular Session Minutes from January 5, 2023 as amended.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

There was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

/s/ Linda J. Montgomery

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Linda J. Montgomery  
Administrative Specialist I

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Roy Burrell  
President