

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE  
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 23rd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2023

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Regular Session, on the above date, at 3:33 p.m., in the Government Chambers, with Mr. Burrell, presiding, and the following members in attendance, constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (11). ABSENT: Commissioner Chavez (1).

The invocation was given by Pastor Craig Collier, and Mr. Young led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA ADDITIONS**

- It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Young, *to englobo and expand the agenda to include a Special Resolution Recognizing Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.*

The President of the Commission opened the floor for anyone to speak in favor or opposition to the agenda addition. There being no one to speak in favor or against the agenda addition, the President closed the public hearing.

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 (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Chavez, and Jackson (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Public comment by David Acknee regarding the Tim James Inc. toll road bridge.

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to consider agenda item 8.2 Special Resolution Declaring Early Education Month in Caddo Parish and Expressing Appreciation Toward Caddo Community Action Agency's Head Start Program before Visitors.* Motion carried unanimously.

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *that Special Resolution Declaring Early Education Month in Caddo Parish and Expressing Appreciation Toward Caddo Community Action Agency's Head Start Program* be adopted. 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 (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Chavez, and Jackson (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

**VISITORS**

Mr. Lawrence Guidry, Caddo Community Action Agency (CCAA) Executive Director introduced Mr. Gregory Bradley, Director of Head Start/Early Head Start, who reviewed the Caddo Parish Commission Head Start Program Annual Report for the school year 2021-2022 and the provisions of the CCAA. Mr. Bradley recognized several leaders within the CCAA Head Start/Early Head Start program.

**REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to adopt the Regular Session Minutes February 9, 2023.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Cothran, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Chavez, and Epperson (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

**SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS**

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to englobo and adopt the following items:*

- *Authorize Special Resolution of Appreciation for Vanessa Brown*
- *Authorize Special Resolution of Recognition for Pastor Craig B. Collier*

Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Cothran, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (9). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Chavez, Epperson, and Hopkins (3). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Mrs. Gage-Watts announced that the following agenda items are rescheduled for presentation on the Caddo Parish Commission's March 23, 2023 Regular Session:

- Special Resolution of Recognition for Jean Woods

- Special Resolution for Motown Reunion Founder & CEO Tasha Taylor
- Special Resolution of Recognition for Taylor Sims, Miss North Louisiana And People's Choice Award Winner for Miss Louisiana

### **COMMUNIQUES and COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mr. Cothran discussed loose animals in his area and asked all Directors to review their answering machines.
- The Administration and the Commission Clerk addressed Mr. Johnson's enquiry about security provided in the Chambers.
- Mr. Epperson requested that Public Works coordinate with Solid Waste to provide trash bins for the Timberline-Deer Creek Home Owner's Association's Annual Spring Clean Up on March 31, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.
- Mr. Atkins requested that Mr. Kelvin Samuels, Assistant Director of Animal Services continue to provide Parish presence in his district regarding its cat issue.
- Mr. Jackson addressed Mr. Johnson's enquiry about the security policy in the Chambers for the Caddo Parish Commission meetings.
- Dr. Ken Ward addressed Mr. Johnson's enquiry regarding a Lakeview resident's drainage issue in the Parish.
- Mr. Jackson requested a copy of any existing policy regarding security in the Chambers be provided to all Commissioners.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Burrell announced a Queensborough Community Clean Up on March 18, 2023 at 10 AM. Mr. Burrell reported that he will re-address the school zone traffic cameras due to citizen concerns.

### **PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES**

The President of the Commission opened the floor for anyone to speak in favor or opposition to the agenda addition.

- *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.*

There being no one to speak in favor or against the agenda addition, the President closed the public hearing.

#### **ORDINANCE (For Final Passage)**

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *that Ordinance No. 6305 of 2023* be adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Chavez (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *that Ordinance No. 6306 of 2023* be adopted.

**Substitute motion by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to englobo and adopt the following items:*

- *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*

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

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Ordinance No. 6308 of 2023* be adopted. Motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioner Gage-Watts (1). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (10). ABSENT: Commissioner Chavez (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *that Ordinance No. 6309 of 2023* be adopted. Motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Hopkins, and Lazarus (3). NAYS: Commissioners Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, and Young (8). ABSENT: Commissioner Chavez (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Mr. Jackson suggested that the adopted redistricting ordinance receive three public notifications to notify citizens of changes in their district. Mr. Johnson enquired about the potential amendments to Ordinance No. 6310 of 2023. Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Young addressed Mr. Johnson's enquiry. At Mr. Cothran's request, Mr. Cedric Floyd addressed the Commission's concerns about Plan AA's affect to demographics.

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *that Ordinance No. 6310 of 2023* be adopted.

**Amendment by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Young, *to amend Ordinance No. 6310 of 2023 with the proposed amendments to Plan AA.*

Mr. Cedric Floyd, the Parish Attorney and the Commission Clerk clarified the proposed amendments attached to the agenda.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *that Ordinance No. 6310 of 2023* be adopted as amended. Mr. Jackson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, and Young (8). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Hopkins, and Lazarus (3). ABSENT: Commissioner Chavez (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

#### **ORDINANCES (For Introduction by Title)**

- *Ordinance No. 6312 Of 2023, an ordinance amending the 2022 Budget to amend the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Head Start Fund and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6313 Of 2023, an ordinance of the Caddo Parish, Louisiana,*

*recognizing the final form and execution of the Bond Purchase Agreement in connection with the issuance and sale of its General Obligation Bonds, Series 2023, and providing for other matters in connection thereto.*

**WORK SESSION MINUTES**

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Work Session Minutes from February 21, 2023* be adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Chavez, and Hopkins (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

**COMMUNIQUES AND REPORTS**

- Mr. Jackson addressed enforcement of pets. Mr. Jackson called a Juvenile Services Committee meeting on March 6, 2023 around 12 noon at the Juvenile Detention Center.
- Mr. Atkins addressed the redistricting map selection and discussed syncing the redistricting map with voter data. **Point of clarification by Mr. Jackson**, that the Clerk of Court and the Secretary of State oversees the voter's precinct and the Registrar of Voters oversees early voting.
- Mr. Epperson called a Public Safety Funding Ad Hoc Committee meeting on March 6, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.
- Mrs. Gage-Watts reminded the Administration to provide precinct number signs at each precinct on voting day.
- Mr. Cothran provided his cell number 318-402-2793 to District 8 citizens and requested that any leader of a neighborhood association to contact him regarding things going forward.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS (Late Arrivals)**

Public comment by Carla Buntyn regarding the Commission's support for Compassion for Lives.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

/s/ Linda J. Montgomery  
Linda J. Montgomery  
Administrative Specialist I