

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF
THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 22nd DAY OF JUNE, 2023

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Regular Session, on the above date, at 3:35 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. Cothran with a moment of silence, and Mr. Lazarus led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ADDITIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to expand the agenda and add Special Resolution Recognizing the Caddo OHSEP Office.*

The Chair held a moment of silence on behalf of the MPC Director.

The Chair 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 Chair closed the public hearing.

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Public comment by Constance L. Green regarding isolated disrupted utility service.

VISITORS

- Visit from Mrs. Cathy Bonds, Fair Park HS Alumni Association Director

Mrs. Cathy Bonds presented to the Commission a proposal for the Fair Park High School, which aims to establish full-time medical profession high school on the Fair Park campus. Mrs. Bonds explained dual enrollment of high school students into the medical program, the outreach with local partnerships and collaboration to initiate the program, workforce development and the progress of the program. Mrs. Bonds addressed Mr. Cothran's inquiry about the issues that caused the program to discontinue. Mrs. Bonds addressed Mr. Atkins' inquiry regarding the feasibility and readiness of the program. Mr. Jackson discussed creating a career center at Booker T. Washington High School. Mrs. Bonds requested the Commission to connect her with the Chancellor at SUSLA. Mr. Johnson discussed the history of the Fair Park Medical career center program. Mr. Epperson discussed shortage of medical professionals. Mr. Burrell suggested Mrs. Bonds speak with the Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Gladys Stars spoke in support of the Fair Park Medical Career Program. Mrs. Bonds introduced graduates of Fair Park High School.

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to suspend the rules and allow citizen comment.* Motion carried by acclamation.

Public comment by Shelley McMillan regarding Project Swim.

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to return to regular session.* Motion carried unanimously.

ADOPT REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Regular Session Minutes June 8, 2023 and Special Session Minutes June 20, 2023 be adopted.* Motion carried.

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to suspend the rules and consider Confirm Clay Walker as Assistant Parish Administrator.* Motion carried unanimously.

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *to confirm Clay Walker as Assistant Parish Administrator.* 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. Clay Walker discussed his goals as Assistant Parish Administrator. The Commission discussed expectations of Mr. Clay Walker as Assistant Parish Administrator.

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to return to regular session.*
Motion carried unanimously.

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Special Resolution Celebrating The 50th Anniversary of Ernest And Shirley Baylor.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Hopkins, and Jackson (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Mr. Burrell announced the 45th Annual Sickle Cell Softball Tournament would be held on July 7th-9th, 2023. Mr. Burrell acknowledged the Commission's support for the public video regarding the Sickle Cell Softball Tournament.

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

- *Special Resolution of Recognition and Appreciation for Caddo Football Stars and Their Families*
- *Special Resolution of Appreciation for Retiring Administrator & CEO Dr. Woodrow Wilson*
- *Special Resolution Recognizing LSUS' Office of Diversity's Juneteenth Celebration*
- *Special Resolution Recognizing The 45th Annual Sickle Cell Softball Tournament*
- *Special Resolution Recognizing the Caddo OHSEP Office*

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

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *to move up Resolution No. 32 Of 2023.* Motion carried by acclamation.

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *to adopt Resolution No. 32 Of 2023.* 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).

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *to return to Regular Session.*
Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNIQUEs AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Administration Report

Mrs. Bryant announced that citizens may contact the Providence House at 318-221-7887 to apply for repairs to restore power and debris removal.

- Mr. Burrell announced a Zoom meeting with Homeland Security Robert Jump is scheduled for June 23, 2023 at 10 am and an invite would be sent out.

- At Mr. Epperson's request, Attorney Frazier advised that price gouging should be reported to the local law enforcement agency or the Attorney General's Office. Mr. Epperson requested that the Administration include the price gouging information on the caddo.org website. Mr. Epperson addressed Mrs. Constance Green's concern. Mr. Epperson announced a teleconference call would be held on Thursday, June 29th at 6:30 p.m. regarding the emergency disaster, and requested the Parish Administrator be available for the teleconference call. Mr. Epperson requested the Clerk to investigate the death of the lineman that passed away in Waskom, Tx and to send a condolence letter and copy of the relative special resolution. Mr. Epperson announced June 14th as the 248th anniversary of the U.S. Army.

- Mr. Burrell announced the atty general phone number to report price gouging: 1-866-801-2549. Mr. Burrell announced the Zoom call meeting has been rescheduled to June 23rd at 10:00 a.m.

- Mr. Chavez discussed the disposal of debris on the right of way, which Councilwoman

Taylor and Mrs. Bryant addressed.

- Mr. Cothran discussed eligibility of assistance, which Mrs. Bryant explained the eligibility is based upon income.
- Mr. Jackson discussed loss of power and requested that the Chair continue hosting meetings regarding loss of power for vulnerable communities. Mr. Jackson announced that the 318 Football Camp on Sunday, June 25th.
- Mr. Johnson discussed community support in the MLK area, the issues from the lack of utilities in the MLK area, and the need to serve.
- Mr. Hopkins advised the Administration that he had not received information from Comcast regarding internet, which Mrs. Bryant advised that the Administration would send that information to all Commissioners.
- Mr. Burrell requested the Administration to provide information from the Chamber of Commerce and information regarding broadband to all commissioners.
- Mrs. Gage-Watts discussed the work of the Parish, and volunteers supporting the cooling centers and food distribution sites. Mrs. Gage-Watts suggested citizens sign up with the Everbridge system for local alerts.
- Mr. Johnson discussed the readiness and benefit of the lighthouse project.
- Mr. Epperson requested for the status of the old Sam's Warehouse on the corner of Jewella and Meriwether, which Mrs. Bryant explained that the state cite had lost power and that the Administration would try to find out why there was not generator power.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Burrell discussed the scheduled meeting with Homeland Security and requested the commission attend the meeting. Mr. Burrell discussed public speaking.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES

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

- *Ordinance No. 6332 Of 2023, an ordinance setting the Parish millage for the purpose of paying principal and interest, due in 2023 on outstanding Parish bond issues and to instruct the assessor to include said millage on the tax roll of the Parish of Caddo for the year 2023, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6333 Of 2023, an ordinance to adopt the values fixed, or to be fixed by the Louisiana Tax Commission on all assessments for railways and other public service corporations, and to instruct the assessor to extend such assessments and values on the tax roll of the Parish of Caddo for the year 2023, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6334 Of 2023, an ordinance to set the general purpose and special purpose millages providing for millage rate adjustments, as allowed by Article vii, section 23 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 and La R.S. 47:1705 (b), levying and imposing taxes and assessments for 2023 on all the property subject to taxation in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6335 Of 2023, Ordinance to set the 2023 assessment for property classified as timberlands at eight cents (\$.08) per acre. There is an annual tax of eight cents per acre on each acre of timberland in the State of Louisiana to be paid by the owners known as the forest protection tax. This tax is in addition to the assessment of timberland at its use value. The Commission must adopt an ordinance each year to set the forest protection tax at eight cents per acre. The revenue from this tax is remitted to the Louisiana Forestry Commission.*

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, to englobo and adopt the following ordinances:

- Ordinance No. 6332 Of 2023, an ordinance setting the Parish millage for the purpose of paying principal and interest, due in 2023 on outstanding Parish bond issues and to instruct the assessor to include said millage on the tax roll of the Parish of Caddo for the year 2023, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto
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Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, and Jones (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Lazarus, and Young (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

ZONING ORDINANCES (for introduction by title)

- Ordinance No. 6337 Of 2023 Related To PZC Case #22-37- 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 on the west side of Wallace Lake Road, approximately seven hundred- and eighty- feet south of Overton Brooks Road, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, from R-A Rural-Agricultural Zoning District to R-A (PUD) Rural-Agricultural Planned Unit Development Zoning District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto
- Ordinance No. 6338 Of 2023 In Regards To PZC Case #23-12-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 on the west side of Albany Road, approximately three thousand feet north of Old Mooringsport Road, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, from R-A rural Agricultural Zoning District to C-4 Heavy Commercial Zoning District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto

ORDINANCES (for introduction by title)

- Ordinance No. 6336 Of 2023, ordinance amending the 2023 Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Parks and Recreation and Oil and Gas Funds to appropriate funds for Shreveport Green
- Ordinance No. 6339 Of 2023, ordinance amending the 2023 Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Reserve Trust Fund

WORK SESSION MINUTES

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Jones, that Work Session Minutes from June 19, 2023 be ratified. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS

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

- Resolution No. 23 of 2022, a resolution urging the United States Congress to

improve the United States Postal Service's reliability and timeliness of its deliveries, and otherwise providing with respect thereto

- *Resolution No. 24 of 2022, urge and request the State of Louisiana to pursue any legislative solutions or improved enforcement of existing prohibitions to minimize the occurrences of and negative impact to the public associated with drag racing on public roads and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 25 of 2022, urging and requesting the Louisiana Legislature to adopt Senate Bill 322 of 2022, concerning the Official Journal and advertising for local governments to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

Amendment by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *to include the following items in the englobo:*

- Authorize Administration to Adjust ARPA Appropriations to Move \$25k From Security Trailers, Then Apply \$15k Of That to Crime Stoppers And \$10k To Rock Solid
- Reappoint Robert Green to The North Caddo Medical Center Board
- Authorize Parish to Use Up To \$500,000 In Emergency Funds to Help Citizens with Tree and Debris Removal
- Establish the Incoming Administrator's Salary as A 10% Increase in Current Salary Per Parish Personnel Policy

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

COMMUNIQUEs AND REPORTS

- Mrs. Bryant confirmed that former Parish Administrator's event has a cocktail hour at 5:45 p.m. and the event starts at 6:30 p.m.
- Mr. Jackson discussed the Juneteenth celebration, and the Rho Omega's 36th Annual Let the Good Times Roll event.

There was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the meeting was adjourned at 5:43 p.m.



Linda J. Montgomery
Administrative Specialist I

Roy Burrell
President