

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

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Regular Session, on the above date, at 3:35 p.m., in the Government Plaza Chambers, with Mr. Burrell, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Cothran, and Young (10). ABSENT: Commissioner Epperson, and Jones (2).

The invocation was given by Mr. Atkins, and Mr. Chavez led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *to move up Women's Month Presentation*.

Amendment by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to move up Resolution No. 14 of 2023*.

Amendment by Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to move up Ordinance No. 6315 of 2023*.

Point of Order by Mr. Hopkins, that a public hearing must be first in order to vote on an ordinance. The President and the Clerk clarified that the amended motion would include a public hearing for Ordinance No. 6315 of 2023.

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

The Clerk and Mrs. Gage-Watts presented certificates to women leaders.

The President allowed a moment for the Chambers to clear.

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *that Resolution No. 14 of 2023 be adopted*.

Mr. Johnson advised that there is a lack of a quorum.

Mr. Johnson discussed the legacy of Mrs. Earnestine Thompson and recognized and invited Mrs. Thompson's family in attendance to speak on behalf of the resolution. Public comment from Mrs. Earnestine Thompson's daughter and Mrs. Irma regarding Mrs. Earnestine Thompson's legacy.

The Clerk advised that the Commission returned to a quorum. Mrs. Gage-Watts requested a presentation by Judge Sims.

Point of Order by Mr. Johnson, that there is a motion on the floor.

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

The Commission returned to Women's Month Presentation to allow Judge Sims to provide public comment and presentation of a poster of the Louisiana Judicial Honors to Commissioner Gage-Watts.

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

- *Ordinance No. 6315 of 2023, an ordinance amending and re-enacting Ordinance No. 5111 of 2011 and Ordinance No. 5935 of 2019, and 6310 of 2023 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 these ordinances, the President closed the public hearing on ordinances.

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Ordinance No. 6315 of 2023 be removed from the agenda*. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Cothran, and Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson, and Jones(2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *to return to regular session.*
Motion carried by acclamation.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Public comment by Kenny Gordon regarding the City and the Parish role on streets. Mr. Burrell requested the Parish Administrator to address the citizen's concerns.

ADOPT REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

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

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that Special Resolution Proclaiming Navy Week* be adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Cothran, and Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson, and Jones(2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

COMMUNIQUES AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Dr. Wilson reported that the two ARPA Grant recipients will more than likely attend the April 3rd Commission meeting.
- Mr. Atkins discussed Navy Week and the presentation by RADM English from the VAC meeting.
- The Clerk advised that the Administration provided a packet for the 2023 summer employment program at each Commissioner's station.
- Mr. Cothran discussed Navy Week.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ZONING ORDINANCES

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

- *Ordinance No. 6314 Of 2023 Related To 22-26-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 north side of Highway Seventy One North, approximately three hundred feet north west of Regmar Drive, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, from R-1-7 Single family Residential Zoning District to R-1-7 Single-Family Residential Zoning District (SPUD), and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

Public comment by Ricky Wood regarding support for Ordinance No. 6314 of 2023.

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

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES

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

- *Ordinance No. 6316 of 2023, an ordinance amending the budget of estimated revenues and expenditures for the oil and gas fund for the year 2023 to provide an appropriation for relocation assistance and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

There being no one else 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. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *that Ordinance No. 6314 of 2023 Related To 22-26-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 north side of Highway Seventy One North, approximately three hundred feet north west of Regmar Drive, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, from R-1-7 Single family Residential Zoning District to R-1-7*

Single-Family Residential Zoning District (SPUD), and to otherwise provide with respect thereto be adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Cothran, and Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson, and Jones(2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *that Ordinance No. 6316 of 2023 an ordinance amending the budget of estimated revenues and expenditures for the oil and gas fund for the year 2023 to provide an appropriation for relocation assistance and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Cothran, and Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson, and Jones(2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

WORK SESSION MINUTES

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

- *Work Session Minutes from March 20, 2023*
- *Resolution No. 12 of 2023, a resolution authorizing the execution of a cooperative endeavor agreement with the Louisiana office Of State Lands relative to improvements at Earl G. Williamson Park, and otherwise providing with respect thereto.*
- *Resolution No. 13 of 2023, a resolution authorizing the parish to apply for and fulfill the requirements of a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant to provide improvements to Earl G. Williamson Park, and otherwise providing with respect thereto.*
- *Remove Ed Angel from The Caddo Fire District #1 Board*
- *Appoint Roderick T. Casey To the Caddo Fire District #1 Board*
- *Authorize Administration to Transfer \$50,000 In ARPA Funds from Vaccine Incentive to Summer Employment Program*
- *Authorize Administration to Award Grant Funds Up To \$1,000,000 For Each Project from The E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund*

Substitute motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *to suspend the rules for a brief presentation by a developer and architect on one of the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund projects.* Motion carried unanimously.

Edward Taylor, with Brown Taylor Development Fairfield Properties and Jeff Spikes, with iArchitecture, provided a presentation regarding the 114 Texas project, the floor plan and the preservation of the property. Mr. Atkins reviewed the American Rescue Plan Committee's discussion regarding the two qualified projects.

Substitute motion by Mr. Cothran, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to remove Authorize Administration to Award Grant Funds Up To \$1,000,000 For Each Project from The E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund* from the englobo and to vote on the agenda item independently.

Amendment by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *to remove Authorize Administration to Award Grant Funds Up To \$1,000,000 For Each Project from The E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund* from the englobo.

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

Mr. Jackson discussed housing challenges, President Biden's encouragement of counties to use remaining ARPA funds towards workforce development and housing, and to renovate buildings. Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Taylor discussed the housing development being a best fit for a historically entertainment district. Mr. Cothran and Mr. Taylor discussed parking for the housing development, and the rental rate for the apartments. Mr. Jackson discussed parking issues in downtown Shreveport and the target market for the housing project.

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Authorize Administration to Award Grant Funds Up To \$1,000,000 For Each Project from The E. Edward Jones Housing Trust*

Fund be adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Cothran, and Young (8). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, and Jones (4). ABSTAIN: None (0).

COMMUNIQUE AND REPORTS

- Mr. Chavez thanked Mr. Travis Clark and his staff for handling the situation with the horse.
- Hopkins discussed trash pickup in the Blanchard area on every first Saturday of the month. Mr. Kelvin Samuels and Mr. Hopkins discussed the chicken situation on Mooringsport-Latex.
- Mr. Young and Mr. Kelvin Samuels, Assistant Director Animal Services, discussed a scheduled drone flight in about one week or next Wednesday.
- Mr. Burrell requested that Mr. Samuels keep an eye out for stray, unleashed animals that were disturbing volunteers during the Queensborough Clean Up. Mr. Samuels agreed.
- M. Atkins and Mr. Samuels discussed cat issue in his district.
- M. Burrell discussed clean up and advocacy of bad roads of urban Commissioners.
- GW discussed coordination for the Women's Month Presentation and support for the Black Caucus celebration.

There was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Roy Burrell
President