

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION  
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 8<sup>th</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2024

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Regular 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, Gage-Watts, Giles, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (11). ABSENT: Commissioner Epperson (1).

Mr. Giles gave the invocation, and Mr. Kracman led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

John Wilkinson came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good afternoon. I wanted to appeal to the board about my property standards case. I appreciate you guys hearing me today and the other day. I also have an appreciation for your sympathetic demeanor telling me that having the property demolition would be a blessing in disguise for me; however, I have a failure to see—and you'll have to forgive me that me ascribing to \$6,000-\$12,000 worth of debt as a Caddo Parish citizen is in my best interest. So I would ask you today—well, first of all, I would like to implore or beseech this Commission to find a way to creatively fund demolition for properties in the Parish for future residents. I know probably mine [inaudible] but like, for me as a Caddo Parish citizen, this is going to set me back \$6,000 to \$12,000 on a \$24,000 property that a home is not longer livable in. So, for me, that could mean that I'm paying somewhere around \$34k-\$36k for this less than an acre property, and I have no home to live in. I need time to get the property demolished. We have a common goal. I want it removed, and you guys do too. I want to beautify the community, but I need more time, please. Thank you.

Breka Peoples came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

I'm happy to see you. Its been a minute. I got to first say thank you to Commissioner Victor. He helped support us to get a dumpster and support our mission. We need something that—we still need some type of policy in place to hold landlords accountable. Because what's going on in Oak Meadows is criminal. We had a child with lead poisoning. The mom just got the chart back the other day and showed it to us. So I feel like that's criminal what's going on—I mean the landlord. The landlord ran off with the tenants money, and we got to do something. That's why we got y'all. Ok, so—I want to speak about why I'm really here. For the past three years, I've been doing community outreach for Compassion for Lives. I go into the community and do conflict resolution. I use Compassion for Lives as a tool to get the people educated as far as job training and GEDs. I also utilize my pillars for the community like Commissioner Dr. Handy Giles who been knowing me since I was in my Mama womb. When I go into the community and somebody says, 'I want to cut hair', I send them over there to G-Style. Or if I get someone who needs some type of guidance, I send them to my mentor, Commissioner Greg Young. Why am I saying this? Without Compassion for Lives, Dr. Handy Giles, ASAP, and Commissioner Greg Young. I cannot do what I do without them. It is very disturbing to me that Compassion for Lives was not on the list for funding. I know some people might have a disdain for Carla Butyn, the executive director, but it's not even hurting her—it's hurting me and the community. For the past three years, I don't know how many GEDs did we gave out. I don't know how many people we sent to G-Style and say Dr. Giles, 'I need you. Go help these kids like you helped me when I was 15 years old with my first job'. Let's work together to better Shreveport because better Shreveport is something that Carla Buntyn is doing now. I hope everybody will work with her and doing what she doing in the community as well. Thank you. Bye.

Omari Hosang came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good afternoon! I just wanted to come in terms of our cleanup in Oak Meadows. I just want to send so much gratitude to you, Commissioner Thomas, for acting fast, right? And making sure that we had everything that needed. So, I also want to express that on Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> ASAP Shreveport and our community partners, including ROLA and The People's Promise, met over in Oak Meadows to help alleviate the trash burden at the apartment complex at 1901 Centenary Boulevard. Because our mission with ASAP is to engage everyday people to solve long-term problems, we recognize that that one day that we went over to Oak Meadows, there's more that is required in terms of actually alleviating a systemic problem across the City. Now, we recognize that the Parish if not necessarily responsible for the inner city happenings, but we also recognize that sometimes, we have to step outside of our comfort zone in order to make things happen in our city. And so, the first thing that we're asking for is whatever policy can be created to hold property owners across the Paris accountable for slum conditions because, as Breka mentioned earlier, there are young children who are being exposed to lead. There are elderly who are being exposed to additional health problems. There are vagrants and squatters that are living in these properties. We know that Oak Meadows is not the first; and it is not the last; and it is not the only. We're also asking for the Commission to stand in partnership with us and supporting the organizations that are actually helping the people. We have run into a little bit of a challenge in making sure agencies are actually helping the people, number one to be relocated. What agencies exist in the City of Shreveport in the Parish of Caddo that can actually help individuals in their time of need. Because my concern is, if an agency is receiving funding, especially from this body, and they're not actually supporting people in their time of need that there

are perhaps other organizations that can support people in their time of need. So this is a very critical problem when it comes to housing justice. We really really need some teeth in whatever law already exists. So Public Works, the Property Standards, or whatever department is responsible for clearing these properties are actually able to do it. So we hope that it is a part of each of your agendas to support us because we are willing to do the work. We don't work for property standards but we had to alleviate several pounds of trash from Oak Meadows, and I'm sure we do not want to make that a pattern. So I really look forward to our continuing partnership with Commissioner Thomas, but also the whole body to make sure that we have a policy that stands the test of time that the people can utilize. Agencies that are willing to do what they're paid to do. Thank you so much.

### **ADOPT REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *to englobo and adopt Regular Session Minutes from January 18, 2024 and Special Session Minutes from January 24, 2024. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Gage-Watts, Giles, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Epperson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

### **SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS**

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Cothran, *that the following actions be taken on the Special Resolutions:*

- *Postpone the presentation of Special Resolution for Calvary Baptist to the next Regular Session*
- *Adopt Special Resolution proclaiming Black History Month*
- *Adopt Special Resolution recognizing American Heart Month and Go Red Day*
- *Adopt Special Resolutions recognizing good Samaritans during the Ice Storm*

Mr. Burrell commended the men for their selflessness for helping citizens out during the inclement weather. Mrs. Gage-Watts, Mr. Thomas, and Mr. Giles echoed the same sentiments as Mr. Burrell and expressed how proud they are of these men and their exemplary display of good citizenship during a difficult time.

- *Postpone Special Resolution honoring Maxine Sarpy to the next Regular Session*
- *Adopt Special Resolution recognizing March as National Kidney Month*
- *Ratify Special Resolution recognizing 2024 Human Trafficking Awareness Month*

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Gage-Watts, Giles, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Epperson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

### **PROCLAMATION BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

WHEREAS, the month of February is intentionally observed as Black History Month, also referred to as African-American History Month in the United States and Canada, an effort that has the purpose of focusing attention upon a long-neglected and overlooked, but important and consequential segment of the historical record of the United States and more broadly, the Africa diaspora; and

WHEREAS, this celebration of the role and contributions of African American and Black citizens of the Parish, state, and country throughout its history is a fitting and beneficial process that serves to enlighten all citizens, and to strengthen the fibers of the national fabric; and

WHEREAS, the observance of Black History Month calls our attention to the continued need to battle racism and build a society that lives up to its democratic ideas as well as to celebrate the many achievements and contributions made by African Americans to our economic, cultural, spiritual, and political developments; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month grew out of the 1926 establishment of Negro History Week by Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of African American Life & History, and has blossomed into today's month-long observance, the theme of which is Black Health & Wellness; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal

and regular session this 8<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2024 that it does hereby proclaim February 2024 as:

**‘BLACK HISTORY MONTH’**

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and urges all citizens to join with the Parish in recognition of this important month.

**PROCLAMATION  
AMERICAN HEART MONTH & GO RED DAY**

WHEREAS, February is designated as American Hearth Month; and

WHEREAS, the death rate from heart disease in the United States has fallen dramatically since the 1960s, a significant health victory. Heart disease remains a leading cause of death for both men and women in the United States and unfortunately Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, we have learned much about factors that contribute to heart disease, how to monitor those triggers, and ways to treat them. We know that individuals can live longer and better lives by refraining from tobacco use, maintaining an optimal blood pressure and healthy weight, eating a healthy diet, and exercising regularly. Innovative tools and online systems give people more access than ever to information they can use to make informed, health conscious choices; and

WHEREAS, scientific research and evidence-based interventions to prevent or treat heart attacks and strokes have played an important part in making improvements. Developments in technology and discovery of early markers of heart disease have allowed doctors to diagnose and treat disease sooner than ever before. American innovators continue to develop treatments in drugs, equipment, and strategies to educate Americans to stay heart healthy; and

WHEREAS, this month we stand with the families and friends affected by heart disease, and we recognize the ongoing efforts of dedicated advocates, researchers, and health care providers who strive each day to raise the awareness about heart disease in Caddo Parish.

NOW, THEREOFE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, by the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal and regular session this 8<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2024, that it does hereby proclaim February 2024 as:

**‘AMERICAN HEART MONTH’**

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and urges all citizens to join with the Parish in recognition of this important month and celebrate those who participated in the tradition of Wear Red Day on the first Friday of February, February 2, 2024 when everyone across the country is asked to don the color red in order to raise and spread awareness to help eradicate heart disease and stroke in millions of men and women across the nation.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION  
GOOD SAMARITANS**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission desires to give appropriate recognition to those men and women of Caddo Parish who serve the community, and who, in doing so, reflect favorably and positively upon themselves, their families, and all citizens of this Parish; and

WHEREAS, Daryl Lane, Darrell Walters, Marco Edwards, and Jeffrey Kendrick provided an exceptional example of good citizenship and neighborly concern as they identified a need and moved quickly to address that need when Caddo Parish experience a winter storm and significant freeze in January 2024 Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, Lane, Walters, Edwards, and Kendrick realized that many citizens would have difficulty traversing the dangerous roads during the hard freeze and found themselves facing a situation where citizens were in need; these men, some of whom have never met, came together in the spirit of service and illustrated the importance of modeling ourselves on the Good Samaritan when they united to focus not on their own safety or comfort, but on providing assistance to get others safely home to warmth and shelter; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal and regular session this 8<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2024, that it does hereby extend its heartiest expressions of appreciation and commendation to Darryl Lane, Darrell Walters, Marco Edwards, and Jeffrey Kendrick, and other Good Samaritans in Caddo Parish for the dedication they displayed in assisting Caddo Parish citizens during the 2024 Caddo Parish Winter Storm.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby call upon all citizens of this Parish to celebrate these men and those like them as examples of good citizenship,

selflessness, and neighborly concern by seeking to follow the example of Good Samaritans in our own lives.

**PROCLAMATION  
NATIONAL KIDNEY MONTH**

WHEREAS, kidneys play a vital role in maintaining the overall health and well-being of individuals; and

WHEREAS, kidney diseases affect millions of people worldwide, posing a significant health challenge that requires increased awareness and prevention efforts; and

WHEREAS, the month of March is annually designated as Kidney Month, serving as a time to raise awareness about kidney health, promote preventative measures, and support those affected by kidney diseases; and

WHEREAS, World Kidney Day, observed on March 14, 2024, serving as a global initiative to highlight the importance of kidneys and the need for early detection and intervention to prevent kidney diseases; and

WHEREAS, through education, outreach, and advocacy, we can empower individuals to make informed decisions about their kidney health, leading to healthier lives and communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal and regular session this 8<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2024, that it does hereby proclaim March 2024 as:

**‘NATIONAL KIDNEY MONTH’**

with particular emphasis on March 14 as World Kidney Day in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and urges all citizens to participate in activities that promote kidney health awareness, support those affected by kidney diseases, and take proactive measures to maintain their own kidney health.

**PROCLAMATION  
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, January is designated as Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month; and

WHEREAS, today, millions of men, women, and children are victims of human trafficking. These victims face cruelty that has no place in a civilized world: children are made to be soldiers, teenage girls are beaten and forced into prostitution, and others exploited and compelled to work for little or no pay. It is a crime that takes many forms, and one that tears at the social fabric, debases our common humanity, and violates what we stand for as a country and a people; and

WHEREAS, founded on the principles of justice and fairness, the United States continues to be a leader in the global movement to end human trafficking and are working to combat human trafficking, prosecute the perpetrators, and help victims recover and rebuild their lives; and

WHEREAS, during Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month, Caddo Parish stands together with the survivors, advocates, and organizations dedicated to building a parish, state and nation where our people and children are not for sale.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission that it does hereby proclaim January 2024 as:

**‘HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS & PREVENTION MONTH’**

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and urges all citizens to join with the Parish in recognition of this important month.

**ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

- Budget Books

Mrs. Bryant advised the Commissioners that adopted budget books were at the Commissioners’ stations.

- Valarie Jamison  
Government Relations Liaison Officer

Mrs. Bryant introduced Ms. Jamison, who is the newly appointed Government Relations Liaison Officer. Mr. J. Young congratulated Ms. Jamison on her new role within the Parish.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know if Ms. Jamison will be continuing her role in the procurement department. Mrs. Bryant said that Mrs. Barnett has appointed Ms. Darlene Cooper as the Procurement Officer and will be announcing those changes in the near future.

#### **COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mr. Cothran said that the NGO Appropriations Committee met today to discuss procedures with NGO process.
- Mr. Kracman gave the numbers for the water and cases of water delivered to Blanchard and North Caddo. He gave kudos to Administration and Public Works for acting fast with his request for water in District 1.

Mr. Kracman suggested that a warehouse be cleared in each of the municipalities for emergency preparedness and storing pallets of water. He will be speaking with the villages and townships regarding this.

He also said that there were a few water leaks found in Oil City and Blanchard. Mr. Kracman thanked the Lawler's and other citizens to help find the sources of the leaks.

Mr. Kracman then announced that baseball season is about to start and encouraged all to sign their children up for the season.

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

Mr. J. Young said that there is a rise in distemper in raccoons in Caddo Parish. He urged all citizens to keep their dogs updated on their shots. Mrs. Bryant said that they are sending information out to the citizens with regards to distemper.

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

The President of the Commission opened the floor for anyone to speak in favor or against the following ordinances:

- *Ordinance No. 6413 of 2024, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures to appropriate funds for a Caddo Community Lighthouse Pilot Project, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

Jon Glover came before the Commission regarding Ordinance No. 6413 of 2024 and gave the following comment:

Good afternoon. I have rose to speak on numerous of occasions about this particular ordinance—the Lighthouse Project, particularly as it began to take shape as to funding as to Oil & Gas Reserves. Now, my question today is not so much the project itself, but the project itself. How will those \$250k be managed? How will there be in accounting or a record keeping of the operations—the hours of operations? Because these Lighthouse Projects, as I understand it, are supposed to be in place for emergency situations and emergency situations only. If indeed there is those solar panels and electricity is being collected, who gets to use that electricity? What happens to it in the interim of being collected? If it is that we're going to support a \$250k venture, we need to know how those dollars are going to be expended. How, when, where, and why? And all of this has to be a part of the equation that cooperative endeavor that you all will undertake should you approve this—we need that—those questions answered in the cooperative endeavor. How are our dollars going to be managed? And how will we know how that \$250k is utilized. Thank you.

There being no one else to speak in favor or against the Ordinances, the President closed the public hearings.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Cothran, *that Ordinance No. 6413 of 2024, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures to appropriate funds for a Caddo Community Lighthouse Pilot Project, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. J. Young briefly addressed the questions raised by Ms. Glover during the public hearings. He said that there have been several meetings regarding this project, and those questions have been answered, exhaustively. The Parish's \$250k is intended to be matched by the Lighthouse organization. This is a requirement, he said. The funds will be used to by solar panels, battery backups, and a water system. The electricity generated by those solar panels will be for the use of the Highland

Center 365 days a year, with the exception of this year, which will be 366 days.

Mr. Atkins has objected to this project from the beginning and does not feel that this is the most cost-effective way to deliver this service. He is in support of the idea of the project, but not the delivery of it.

At this time, Mr. Burrell's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Giles, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (7). NAYS: Commissioner Atkins, Kracman, and Lazarus (3). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson and Gage-Watts (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

**ORDINANCE NO. 6413 OF 2024**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR A CADDO COMMUNITY LIGHTHOUSE PILOT PROJECT AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, in 2021 Caddo Parish experienced a winter weather freeze where Caddo residents lost access to drinking water and electricity; and

WHEREAS, without water and electricity conditions quickly deteriorated for our senior citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Community Lighthouse Project is a strategy to establish a network of 20 neighborhood-led resiliency hubs at congregations and non-profit institutions throughout Caddo Parish with commercial-scale solar power and backup battery capacity and an emergency water supply; and

WHEREAS, the North Louisiana Interfaith is seeking support to develop Community Lighthouses at Morning Star Baptist Church and The Highland Center as part of the pilot phase; and

WHEREAS, the funding for both Lighthouses was appropriated with Ordinance 6317 of 2023; and

WHEREAS, the funding source for The Highland Center location was originally funded through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) by reducing the Green Infrastructure Project; and

WHEREAS, the Lighthouse Project did not meet eligibility requirements of ARPA and therefore funding will be reallocated to Green Infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to change the original funding source from ARPA to the Oil and Gas Fund; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Oil and Gas and ARPA Fund for the year 2024 is hereby amended as follows:

	<u>Budget Increase (Decrease)</u>
<b><u>Oil and Gas Fund</u></b>	
Expenditures:	
Community Lighthouse Pilot Project	\$250,000
<b><u>ARPA Fund</u></b>	
Expenditures:	
Community Lighthouse Pilot Project	(\$250,000)
Green Infrastructure	\$250,000

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any provision or item of this ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this ordinance shall take effect upon adoption.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

**WORK SESSION MINUTES**

It was **moved by Mr. Cothran**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that the Work Session Minutes*

from February 5, 2024 be ratified. Motion carried.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that Resolution No. 8 of 2024, a resolution to change the designation of the polling place for Precinct 10-8 (formerly Precinct 92) from Ridgewood Middle School, 2001 Ridgewood Drive, Shreveport, Louisiana 71118 to Forest Hills Elementary School, 2005 Francais Drive, Shreveport, Louisiana 71118, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Giles, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson and Gage-Watts (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

### **RESOLUTION NO. 8 OF 2024**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION TO CHANGE THE POLLING PLACE FOR PRECINCT 10-8 (FORMERLY PRECINCT 92) FROM RIDGEWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL, 2001 RIDGEWOOD DRIVVE, SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71118 TO FOREST HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 2005 FRANCAIS DRIVE, SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71118, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the previously established polling location for Precinct No. 10-8 (formerly Precinct No. 92) is located at Forest Hills Elementary School, 2005 Francais Drive, Shreveport, Louisiana 71118;

WHEREAS, the ordinances establishing the new precinct boundaries and designations incorrectly designated the polling place for that precinct as Ridgewood Middle School, 2001 Ridgewood Drive, Shreveport, Louisiana 71118; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary that the Caddo Parish Commission formally change the official designation of the polling place for Precinct 10-8 so as to correct the error;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby change the polling location for Precinct No. 10-8 from Ridgewood Middle School, 2001 Ridgewood Drive, Shreveport, Louisiana 71118 to Forest Hills Elementary School, 2005 Francais Drive, Shreveport, Louisiana 71118.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that notice of this change shall be published in the official journal of the parish in accordance with La.R.S. 18:535.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

It was **moved by Mr. Cothran**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that Resolution No. 9 of 2024, a resolution authorizing the Caddo Parish Administrator to enter into an agreement with Cape Construction, LLC, obligating the Parish to pay 20% of the \$434,150 constructions cost of the Boom or Bust Scenic Byway, and assume all legal liability for, and all maintenance and operating costs of the subject Boom or Bust Scenic View Project No. H.013315, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. Atkins said that former Commissioner Hopkins reached out and wanted to remind the Commissioners that he is in support of this project. He also said that the Commissioners have already appropriated this allocation.

Mr. J. Young wanted to know if the contract would move forward if the Commission did not adopt this resolution. Attorney Frazier said that the Commission has already appropriated the funds, and the Administrator can sign the contract. It would be a question of whether or not the State would accept just her signature or not.

Mr. Kracman said that he was originally in support of this resolution and loves the idea of having a visitor's center less than a mile from his house; however, thinking about it more, he realized that the roads on the map are almost impassable. Putting a big, beautiful visitor's center would be an

embarrassment after driving these roads to get to it, he said. Mr. Kracman feels that the infrastructure should be fixed prior to constructing the visitors center. LADOTD is \$18B in debt, and to get a grant for this and be in debt is embarrassing in my opinion, he said. Mr. Kracman then talked about LA 538 being in horrible condition.

Mr. G. Young asked that Public Works come before the Commission and give an update on the roads. Mr. Chuck Wilson, Public Works, said that these are LADOTD roads, not Parish roads.

Mr. J. Young suggested that Public Works grade these roads based on LADOTD standards.

Mr. G. Young wanted to know the material affect of postponing this vote. Mrs. Bryant said that they are at the point where they would like to collect the monies from the State.

Dr. Ward reiterated that the roads in question are state highways, not Parish roads. Mr. G. Young wanted to know if there were any plans to fix these roads in the foreseeable future. Dr. Ward said that he would have to find out and get back to the Commission.

Mr. J. Young suggested that Mr. Kracman request from Administration a resolution asking DOTD to fix those roads.

Mr. Cothran wanted to know the affect of postponing this resolution. Mrs. Bryant said that promoting this Parish is not only about the roads that are driven, but also what this Parish has to offer. This needs to be communicated to tourists and citizens alike. Administration believes that this pavilion is important.

Dr. Ward said that this project is already out the door, and if this resolution is not passed, the Parish would be liable for any repercussions with regards to the project.

Mr. Cothran wanted to know why this took so long. Dr. Ward said that the design was the hold up, and every submittal had to go back to the State. Finally, everybody approved it, and now it is in this stage.

Mr. Giles is a firm believer of a man's word is his bond. The funds have already been allocated, so this project needs to move forward, he said.

Mr. Atkins respects Mr. Kracman's position on this project, but "would hate to go backwards at this point". He hopes that this project would be a catalyst to repair the roads in that area.

Mrs. Blake believes it is important to move forward with this project. She understands the concerns for the roads though.

**Call for the Question by Mr. Lazarus**, seconded by Mr. Atkins. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Giles, Lazarus, Thomas, and J. Young (8). NAYS: Commissioners Kracman and G. Young (2). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson and Gage-Watts (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Cothran's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Cothran, Giles, Lazarus, Thomas, and J. Young (7). NAYS: Commissioners Burrell, Kracman, and G. Young (3). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson and Gage-Watts (2). ABSTAIN: None (

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 9 OF 2024**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CADDO PARISH ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CAPE CONSTRUCTION, LLC, OBLIGATING THE PARISH TO PAY 20% OF THE \$434,150.00 CONSTRUCTION COST OF THE BOOM OR BUST SCENIC BYWAY, AND ASSUME ALL LEGAL LIABILITY FOR, AND ALL MAINTENANCE AND OPERATING COSTS OF THE SUBJECT BOOM OR BUST SCENIC VIEW PROJECT-NO. H.013315, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission in Resolution No. 71 of 2021 authorized the Parish Administrator to execute an agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to pay 20% of the cost of the Boom or Bust Scenic Byway Installation; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development will provide for

the installation of the Boom or Bust Scenic View Project-No. H.013315; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development has bid the project and Cape Construction, LLC is the successful bidder; and

WHEREAS, prior to the execution of the Boom or Bust Scenic View Project, H.013315, the Department of Transportation and Development requires that the governing authority authorize the Parish Administrator to execute the subject agreement on behalf of the Parish.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Administrator is authorized to execute on behalf of the Parish of Caddo, an agreement with Cape Construction, LLC, which obligates the Parish to pay 20% of the construction cost of the subject Boom or Bust Scenic View Project-No. H.013315.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any portion or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications of this resolution which can be given effect without invalid provisions, items or applications and to this end the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

It was **moved by Mr. J. Young**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that Resolution No. 10 of 2024, a resolution applying for code text amendment to the Unified Development Code relative to short-term rentals, to amend provisions relative to revocation or suspension of a short-term rental permit thereunder, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. J. Young explained that this rule needs to be amended for both the City and for the Parish to write provisions that would allow for revocation and suspension.

At this time, Mr. J. Young's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Giles, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson and Gage-Watts (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 10 OF 2024**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION APPLYING FOR CODE TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT CODE RELATIVE TO SHORT- TERM RENTALS, TO AMEND PROVISIONS RELATIVE TO REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF A SHORT-TERM RENTAL PERMIT THEREUNDER, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission recently amended the Unified Development Code to include provisions regarding short-term rentals including a permitting process;

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission desires that additional provisions be added to the Unified Development Code regarding suspension or revocation of short-term rental permits;

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission believes that such suspension or revocation of short-term rental permits should be warranted when the conduct of the business of short-term rental is incompatible with the neighborhood and environs of the property on which the short-term rental is located; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission, under Paragraph 16.1(B) of the Unified Development Code, may propose amendments to the Unified Development Code,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby apply for a code text amendment to the Unified Development Code to add provisions relative to the revocation or suspension of a short-term rental permit thereunder when the conduct of the business of short-term rental is incompatible with the neighborhood and environs of the property on which the short-term rental is located.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Parish Administrator and Parish Attorney are

authorized to take such steps as warranted to initiate an application to the Parish Planning & Zoning Commission for a code text amendment as provided herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that the Charter Review Committee appointments be postponed until the February 22, 2024 Regular Session.*

Mr. J. Young asked that all of his nominees be removed from the list with the exception of Curtis Joseph.

At this time, Mr. Burrell's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Giles, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson and Gage-Watts (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *that the following members be appointed to the Caddo Children & Youth Planning Board with their terms expiring January 1, 2026:*

- *Wilbert Pryor (Criminal Justice Prosecution role)*
- *Michelle AndrePont (Criminal Justice Defense role)*
- *Kelli Todd (Community Support Programs role)*
- *Andrew Randall (Juvenile Services role)*
- *Patrick Wesley (Parks role)*

Mr. J. Young said that several of these roles are by state statute. He wanted to know if there were anymore roles that needed to be filled by the Parish. The Clerk of the Commission stated that there are two additional appointments.

Mr. Cothran wanted to know if this was from the previous board. The Clerk of the Commission stated that this board has been dormant for 8-10 years.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if the State law specifies the number of people on the board. The Clerk of the Commission explained that the roles are specific, but more may come up. Mr. J. Young said that there are about 21 board members.

Mr. Giles suggested that the Commission goes on and add people on the board.

At this time, Mr. Atkins' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Giles, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson and Gage-Watts (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that the following people be appointed to the Citizens Disaster Response Committee:*

- *Peggy Heacock (Atkins)*
- *Kathy Lewis (Atkins)*
- *Tommy Giles (Lazarus)*
- *Sheri Peace (Lazarus)*
- *Gabriel Balderas (Administration)*
- *Coretta Smith Kimble (Gage-Watts)*

Mr. J. Young wanted to know how many people are on the board. The Clerk of the Commission stated that each Commission would appoint two, and Administration would appoint three, with a total of twenty-seven board members.

At this time, Mr. Atkins' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Giles, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson and Gage-Watts (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Lazarus**, seconded by Mr. J. Young, *to take the following actions with regards to the cases heard during the February 8, 2024 Property Standards Committee hearing:*

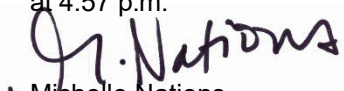
- 7720 Dixie Blanchard Road, Shreveport (Demolish)
- 3801 Anderson Road, Shreveport (Demolish)
- 9582 Mailhes Road, Shreveport (remand back to Property Standards)
- 152 Barlow Avenue, Shreveport (Demolish)
- 6038 LA Hwy 169, Mooringsport (Demolish)


At this time, Mr. Lazarus motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Giles, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson and Gage-Watts (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

#### **COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mr. Thomas thanked Ms. Omari Hosang for bringing attention to Oak Meadows. He also thanked Administration for helping out in the ways they could.
- Mr. Kracman reminded everyone that building government facilities is not creating jobs.
- Mrs. Blake announced that the Highland Parade, Krewe of Gemini, and the Oceana Parade will roll this weekend.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

  
Michelle Nations  
Assistant to the Commission Clerk

  
John-Paul Young  
President