

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL SESSION OF
THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 25th DAY OF APRIL, 2024

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Special Session, on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., in the Government Plaza Chambers, 505 Travis Street, Shreveport, with Mr. Young, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (8). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, and Kracman (4).

The invocation was given by Mr. Thomas, and Mrs. Blake led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

There being no Agenda Additions, so the Commission moved onto Citizens Comments.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Christa Pazzaglia came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

I am the executive director for Hope Connections. In November, we opened a 37 bed homeless shelter for people who can't access other homeless shelters, meaning that they are severely mentally ill; that they are actively using drug addicts; that they have other disabilities that are not able to be addressed at the other shelters. So far, since that time, we've housed 77 people and about 20 of those people have obtained permanent housing. So we're making huge success. When we got the grant from the Louisiana Housing Corporation to build the property, we had \$400,000 in operating money in the contract. The contract was through the Office of Community Development, and operating costs were not an allowable line item for the Office of Community Development. Therefore, the contract we had with the Louisiana Housing Corporation—that line item was void. So we thought we had a year or more of operating funding when we had zero. So, we have been operating off of general operating funds, but we are out of money. We are requesting or begging for some funding to get us through. It costs about \$30k per month to operate the Safe Haven. About 40-50 will be without a place to stay if we have to close down. Those are the hardest people to serve—they've spent the most time in jail, most time hospitalized, most time causing property destruction—the things you don't want in the community. And so, I just wanted to come and say that—I realize that y'all have another purpose in mind, but I'm just advocating on behalf of Hope.

Lyndon B. Johnson came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

I stand before you today as a board member of Hope Connections. I was told about the situation. They do need some emergency funding. The old Commissioners, you remember doing the housing program and American Rescue Plan going on? We had some of the landlords—some of them were actually slumlords—before they would force some people out, we called Hope Connections to try to find temporary housing for those individuals since they had been evicted out of their apartments and homes. They are a viable asset to our community. Right now, I think they home 37 people in the shelter. Its full, and there's people that are wanting to get in. There was funding that they were supposed to get, but they hadn't gotten it yet, so its forcing them to have to have layoffs. And also, forcing them to cut some of the services they were trying to do for the people that were staying in the shelter. I'm just hoping that we can have—I guess the next scheduled meeting—that we could have an NGO meeting so that we could allocate some money to help Hope Connections out. Thank you.

COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mrs. Blake talked about the plant swap in Commissioner Jones' district. She said that event was successful and well-attended. She also mentioned that the women who hosted the event were beautifying and fixing homes in the Cedar Grove neighborhood. Mrs. Blake is proud of the women hosting the event.
- Mr. Thomas agreed and said that the REDI Partners were the women who hosted the event. He also invited everyone to attend Taco Wars. Spring Cleanup Day in Stoner Hill will be scheduled for this Saturday.
- Mr. Cothran invited everyone to attend Music In The Park in Southern Hills on April 27, 2024.
- Mr. Greg Young thanked everyone for working with him and welcoming him to the Caddo Parish Commission. He said that last Friday was his 100th day as a Commissioner.
- Mr. Burrell announced that Legislative Day in Baton Rouge will be held on April 30-May 1. He also invited everyone to attend Queensborough Elementary' s Field Day.

NEW BUSINESS

At this time, the Clerk of the Commission read aloud the following ordinance for

introduction:

- *Ordinance No. 6426 of 2024, 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 1,000' east of Linwood Avenue and McCarey Street intersection, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, from R-A, Rural Agricultural Zoning District to C-4, Heavy Commercial Zoning District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

After the recitation of the ordinances for introduction, the Commission then moved onto the next New Business items.

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Cothran, *to extend the deadline for the Commission to consider Ordinance No. 6417 of 2024 by 90 days.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (8). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, and Kracman (4). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Cothran, *to extend the deadline for the Commission to consider Ordinance No. 6403 of 2024 by 90 days.*

Attorney Frazier wanted to know the expiration date. The Clerk of the Commission stated it has expired, and this was a suggestion from the PZC. Attorney Frazier stated that Legal will do research in the background to ensure the process will not have to start over.


At this time, Mr. Burrell's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (8). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, and Kracman (4). ABSTAIN: None (0).


The Commission then moved onto the presentation for Sexual Assault & Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month.

Mrs. Blake said that this is near and dear to her heart. She provided a kit to all of the Commissioners for distribution to their constituents. Mr. J. Young suggested that this also be posted on the website.

Mr. Thomas said that there are more resources for people available at the Harbor with regards to children and families.

There being no more business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 3:57 p.m.


Michelle Nations
Assistant to the Commission Clerk


John-Paul Young
President