

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF  
THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 4th DAY OF JANUARY, 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. Burrell, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (12). ABSENT: None (0).

Pastor Joe Gant gave the invocation, and Mrs. Gage-Watts led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Megan Chavez came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good afternoon, everybody. I hope you guys are doing well. My name is Megan Chavez. Commissioner Chavez—excuse me, my love. So today, I don't actually stand here today as your wife, but as your constituent. I actually didn't physically grow up in Southern Hills. I grew up a couple streets over in Valley View and Sunset Acres, but Sunset Acres didn't really offer the things that Southern Hills had whenever I was growing up like a lot of the other neighborhoods surrounding. I did spend most of my childhood years in Southern Hills. SPAR Park, I grew up—I learned how to swim at the SPAR Park. I shopped at the Walmart on Mansfield Road, ate at the restaurants—even my first job was at the Plex on Meriwether. So, needless to say, Southern Hills was very near and dear to my heart. Over the year, I watched this area decline at a racing pace. Shops closed, restaurants closed, crime increased, and home values went down. Mansfield Road was no longer the thriving strip we once paraded. Eight years ago, you complained about it to a little lady, Miss D. She told you that if you saw something wrong, you need to do something about it, and you did. And his comment was, 'what do I do? Do I ride around the neighborhood with a gun and fight crime and wear a cape like Batman?' She said, 'no, this seat is available, and you should run for it'. And wholeheartedly, you did. I've had the joy of watching you breathe life back into Southern Hills. You gave them hope. Working behind the scenes bringing businesses back, helping create programs at the high school to give students a brighter future with robotics and multiple other things, 5k races, dog parks, zoning, manufacturing plants, fixing streets—many many calls, many emails, many Facebook messages, and countless pieces of trash. We all know you love to pick up trash. But it's the ability to convince other people to love to pick up trash is what really blows me away. It has led us to the neighborhood boys that have changed our lives and have humbled us and showed us the face of God. This isn't about trash; this isn't just about Animal Services; it's not just about parks or roads or buildings or business, or even budgets; its honestly about showing up and keeping your word and your consistency. It's about every across the board, no matter what. The betterment of people, the betterment of Shreveport. You do it with such grace, as you always do, with our family and with our boys, and as my husband, there is not lack with you—it is all. There is no all or nothing. It is just all. Your goal is to leave it better than you found it. Your reputation of being able to get stuff done spills over throughout the whole city, and the district lines have never mattered to you. It's always about the person rather than the imaginary line. I pray that if anything, your servant heart will spark something in many as it forever has in mine and in our voice. I know that there is no title needed to make a change just to show up for people, and you do that. Now, as your wife, I'm so proud of you. These eight years have been wonderful. I'm so proud of all of you guys for honestly just working together. I hope that really shows the City that things can get done and outside of party lines and politics. At the end of the day, you know, that everybody's just a person. I'm just honored to be your wife. Our boys are very proud of you, our family, our friends. I look forward to many years of you helping the community without the title. Thank you.

Jon Glover came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good evening, Jon Glover. Yesterday, at your Work Session, I listened to an exchange between members of this Commission with regards to agenda item—Ordinance No. 6413 of 2024. The more I listen, the more disturbed I became about this particular situation. First of all, when it was that the Lighthouse Project at the Highlands was included in the original grouping of those emergency sites. It was approved under ARPA, but then I learned yesterday or even perusing the Work Session agenda, that such was not; it was declined. So my question to all of you all was that if that project did not meet criteria for ARPA, why was the Commission choosing to use taxpayer dollars? You went from funding where you had allocated from the Green Infrastructure, which it was supposed to have been—now, you're going to Oil & Gas at a rate of \$250k. Now, it was said too that there was a precedent that was set because they had done such before, but it should not have been done before. Because, again, if we have federal dollars that us with our taxpayer dollars. When it is that that project that you may bring before us that does not meet the guidelines. Why are we just so about going on to do what we want to do? It shouldn't be like that. You to me, owe an explanation why it was and what is was, number 1, that caused that project to be disqualified for ARPA dollars. Then, what was it that qualified to be used for those Oil & Gas dollars. See, we need to know what you're doing, and though, yes, we elect you all to serve us—we're not just going to give you that

privilege of just serving without us actually having a conversation or even a voice in this matter. So, right now, we're face with an acquisition—one would say—that you're going to be utilizing \$250k of taxpayer dollars for a project that was declined. So, tell us why it was? what is it that motivates you to go beyond the decline to use taxpayer dollars when you had those free dollars that could have been used had that been qualified. Thank you.

**ADOPT REGULAR SESSION MINUTES  
SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS**

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *that the Regular Session Minutes from December 7, 2023 and the Special Resolutions be adopted. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Jackson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

**SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS**

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION  
DONNA CURTIS**

WHEREAS, Donna Curtis has served as the Executive Director of Shreveport Green for an outstanding period of 32 years, dedicating her career to the advancement of our community's environmental & aesthetic well-being; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure as Executive Director, Donna Curtis has demonstrated unwavering commitment and exceptional leadership, steering Shreveport Green towards a greener, cleaner, and more sustainable future for Caddo Parish, while promoting environmental awareness, implementing transformative educational programs, and initiating numerous enhancement projects aimed at fostering a cleaner and more vibrant community; and

WHEREAS, among Curtis' achievements is the Tree Legacy Program, which has seen the planting of thousands of trees throughout our region, contributing to the beautification and conservation of our natural resources, the establishment of nearly 20 Community Gardens, the planting of countless wildflowers and daffodils, and the organization of thousands of volunteers for annual litter removal events, all of which have left an indelible mark on our landscape, the establishment of a mobile market that has combated food shortages and improved access to fresh, healthy food options within underserved areas; facilitated neighborhood-based and school-based outreach and education programs, furthering the reach of Shreveport Green's mission to create a more sustainable, eco-conscious community, been instrumental in the proper redirection of hazardous waste and recyclable materials, fostering sustainability and responsible waste management practices within our community; and

WHEREAS, Curtis's commitment to data-driven decision-making is exemplified through the annual litter index surveys she has conducted, providing valuable insights that have guided the community towards more effective litter prevention and removal strategies; and

WHEREAS, Donna Curtis's exemplary leadership has garnered national recognition, with Shreveport Green receiving a total of 21 national awards, including eleven first-place Keep America Beautiful National System awards, the National Tree Trust Branching Out Volunteer Award in 2000, KAB National Youth Group Award for ShreveCorps, and four Keep Louisiana Beautiful awards.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby express its profound gratitude and admiration to Donna Curtis for her 32 years of dedicated service as the Executive Director of Shreveport Green; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Commission extends its heartfelt congratulations to Donna Curtis for her remarkable achievements and leadership in advancing environmental stewardship, sustainability, and community engagement in Caddo Parish; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this Special Resolution be duly executed and presented to Donna Curtis as a token of the highest esteem and appreciation from the Caddo Parish Commission and the citizens of Caddo Parish for her extraordinary contributions to our community.

Mrs. Donna Curtis introduced everyone to the staff at Shreveport Green. She thanked everyone for all of the support throughout the year, and is looking forward to retirement.

Mr. Epperson said that he did not put his name on Mrs. Curtis' proclamation because he started Shreveport Green with her. He said that they had one of the largest neighborhood cleanups in the history of Shreveport and Caddo Parish in the Cedar Grove area. Mr. Epperson appreciated Mrs. Curtis'

work ethic through the years. There's still a lot of work to be done, he said.

Mr. Young stated that he is so proud of Mrs. Curtis. He thanked her for her decades of services and appreciates all that she's done.

Mr. Burrell also gave Mrs. Curtis' accolades and wished her well on her future endeavors as a newly retired person.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION  
JUDGE PAMELA LATTIER**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission recognizes and honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the legal profession and the community; and

WHEREAS, Judge Pamela Lattier has exemplified a remarkable commitment to justice, fairness, and equality throughout her distinguished career; and

WHEREAS, Judge Pamela Lattier holds the historic distinction of being the first female and the first African American to serve as Chief Judge of the Shreveport City Court, breaking barriers and paving the way for future generations; and

WHEREAS, her tenure as Chief Judge has been characterized by unwavering dedication to upholding the principles of the judicial system and ensuring access to justice for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, Judge Pamela Lattier's leadership, wisdom, and compassion have left an indelible mark on the legal community, fostering a sense of inclusivity and fairness; and

WHEREAS, as she embarks on the well-deserved journey of retirement, the Caddo Parish Commission wishes to express its deepest gratitude for Judge Pamela Lattier's outstanding service, acknowledging the impact she has made on the legal profession and the broader community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, in a special session assembled, that we extend our heartfelt appreciation to Judge Pamela Lattier for her trailblazing career, her dedication to justice, and her role as a role model for aspiring legal professionals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be appropriately documented and presented to Judge Pamela Lattier as a token of our sincere admiration and gratitude for her remarkable contributions to the Shreveport City Court and the entire Caddo Parish community.

Judge Lattier thanked the Commission for this proclamation. She wanted to be a judge since the second grade. She complimented her staff for all of their hard work, and is proud to leave the court with Chief Judge Sheva M. Sims. Judge Lattier has enjoyed her time at Shreveport City Court.

Mrs. Gage-Watts congratulated Judge Lattier for all her accomplishments throughout the years.

Mr. Burrell, Mr. Epperson, and Mr. Johnson also congratulated Judge Lattier for everything through the years and wished her well during her retirement.

Mr. Jackson thanked Judge Lattier and Shreveport City Court for all they did to keep people in their homes during the pandemic.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION  
REV. DR. JOE GANT**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission acknowledges and celebrates the remarkable achievements and dedication of Reverend Dr. Joe Gant, Jr., who has served as the Senior Pastor at Calvary Missionary Baptist Church for an astounding fifty years; and

WHEREAS, this esteemed pastor has been a steadfast beacon of leadership, compassion, and community service whose commitment to spreading the gospel has extended far beyond the walls of Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, and taken many forms from successful marches to reclaim neighborhoods from the influence of drugs in the late 80's to service as a chaplain assistant in the United States Army, to his participation in international ministries; and

WHEREAS, for over 42 years, Rev. Gant has hosted a city-wide Prayer Vigil at Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, fostering unity and spiritual reflection among citizens and providing dedicated prayers for educators, elected officials, law enforcement officials, and the nation; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Gant's extensive service to education and civic life is exemplified by his twenty years on the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University and Agriculture and Mechanical College System and twelve years as a member of the Shreveport Airport Authority; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Gant's creativity, determination, perseverance, and extraordinary courage in advancing fundamental rights were recognized with the 2017 Louisiana Association of Educators' Human & Civil Rights Trailblazer Award; and

WHEREAS, Doctor Gant's personal achievements, including being the first in his family to earn a college degree, obtaining a Bachelor of Arts degree from Louisiana State University Shreveport and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Louisiana Baptist University & Seminary, reflect his commitment to education and personal growth; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, that it does hereby heartily congratulate and commend Rev. Dr. Joe R. Gant, Jr. for his 50 years anniversary at Calvary Missionary Baptist Church; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Commission does extend its gratitude for Rev. Dr. Gant's many indelible contributions to Caddo Parish and extends our wishes of continued blessings upon his efforts as he continues his service to his congregation, community and his Creator.

Rev. Dr. Gant thanked his wife for standing beside him during his ministry. He said that "we need to get rid of some of the red tape because we are not pro-business".

Mr. Epperson, Mr. Jones, Mrs. Gage-Watts, and Mr. Burrell commended Rev. Dr. Gant on reaching the 50<sup>th</sup> year milestone of preaching.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION  
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH STATE CHAMPIONSHIP**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission continues to observe with a growing sense of awe and admiration the annual demonstrations of gridiron prowess exhibited by the football teams fielded by Calvary Baptist, as their achievements reflect great honor and pride upon Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, the Calvary Baptist Cavaliers have now earned the school's 4th State Division III Football Championship by defeating the St. Charles Catholic in the Caesar's Superdome in New Orleans on December 9; and

WHEREAS, St. Charles came into the game with as reigning champions for the last 2 years and a 20-game winning streak, but their success and talent were not enough to best the Cavaliers who clinched 15 points in the last 3 minutes of the game to maintain their perfect record in state championship games of 4-0; and

WHEREAS, with the win the Cavaliers expanded a legacy of football excellence that has made their name known statewide. The Cavaliers captured their 4th Division III title, their first since 2020; making this a season to remember for Coach Rodney Guin and his Cavaliers; and

WHEREAS, the hard work, sportsmanship, and perseverance displayed by the Calvary Baptist football team have brought pride and honor to our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission this 4th day of January, 2024, that it does hereby express its heartiest congratulations to Coach Rodney Guin and the coaches and players of the 2023 DIVISION III STATE CHAMPION CALVARY BAPTIST CAVALIERS for their demonstrations of football excellence, and for the tremendous example they provide as representatives of their school, their City and their Parish.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION  
JUDGE SHEVA M. SIMS**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission acknowledges and celebrates the distinguished career and significant achievements of Shreveport City Court Judge Sheva Sims; and

WHEREAS, Judge Sheva Sims has demonstrated unwavering dedication, exceptional competence, and a steadfast commitment to justice throughout her tenure as a member of the Shreveport City Court; and

WHEREAS, her legal acumen, integrity, and tireless efforts have earned her the respect

and admiration of her peers, colleagues, and the community she serves; and

WHEREAS, Judge Sheva Sims has exhibited exemplary leadership qualities, contributing to the efficient and effective administration of justice within the Shreveport City Court; and

WHEREAS, her investiture as Chief Judge of the Shreveport City Court marks a significant milestone in her illustrious career, symbolizing not only personal achievement but also a continued dedication to the pursuit of justice; and

WHEREAS, Judge Sheva Sims' appointment as Chief Judge reflects the trust and confidence placed in her by her colleagues and the legal community at large;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission, assembled January 3rd, 2024, that we extend our heartfelt congratulations and deepest appreciation to Shreveport City Court Judge Sheva Sims upon her investiture as Chief Judge of the Shreveport City Court.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be presented to Judge Sheva Sims as a token of the high regard and esteem in which she is held by the Caddo Parish Commission and the entire community.

### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF REMEMBRANCE KOREY DAVIS**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission and City of Shreveport note with deep regret the passing of individuals whose life, works, and legacy have been beneficial to the City of Shreveport, Caddo Parish, and beyond, such an individual being **Mr. Korey Deon Davis, Sr.**, who will be laid to eternal rest on December 23, 2023.

WHEREAS, Mr. Davis was born in Shreveport, Louisiana on March 31, 1970 and reared by his father, Mr. Leroy Davis, his mother, Ms. Sammy Mahoney, and his step-father, Mr. Ben Mahoney; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Davis attended Northwood High School where he set the top record for long jump and track and played quarterback on the football team before graduating in 1988; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Davis attended Grambling State University where he was a member of the world famed Tiger Marching Band from 1988-1992, playing tuba and serving as Drill Sergeant; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Davis continued his graduate studies at California State University, San Bernardino, where he received a Master's Degree in Education and before embarking on a successful career as an educator, teaching special education in public schools in Louisiana, California, and Texas; and

WHEREAS, he and his bride, Coleone Davis, were blessed with a fruitful marriage that produced six children: Cortyera, Dallas, Clark, Brie, Carter, and Korey, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Davis was a respected member of any organization he joined, including Silver Dogs, Inc., AF&AM Masons, Kappa Kappa Psi (honorary band society), and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., where he served as Community Service Chairman for the Mansfield Cedar Hill Alumni Chapter; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Davis had a love of life that led to many interests including his role as President and CEO of Black Top Publishing, author of novels as "I Ain't Gonna Gossip in Church No More", success as a stand-up comedian who performed with some of the most widely respected comedians in the industry, and hobbies including golf, hunting, riding, karaoke, tuba, and travel; and

WHEREAS, he is warmly remembered by many current and past associates, friends, and family for his infectious enthusiasm, genuine care for others, love for family, and many talents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission, along with Shreveport Mayor Tom Arceneaux, does further convey to the family and friends of Mr. Korey Davis, Sr. its most sincere expression of sympathy and consolation, and the prayer that they will be comforted by the lasting impact that Davis' life has had.

### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION ANDREA MONA BOWMAN**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission takes great pride in acknowledging and

celebrating the outstanding achievements of those who bring honor to Caddo Parish through their accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Andrea Mona Bowman, a distinguished member of our community, has demonstrated exemplary dedication and talent in the field of hair design, particularly in film and television; and

WHEREAS, her exceptional contributions to the industry have garnered widespread acclaim, culminating in her nomination for a Critics Choice Award for her outstanding work in *The Color Purple* which follows other nominations including a Emmy nomination for her work in *True Detective Season 3*, and a 2018 Make Up & Hair Stylists Guild nomination for *Pitch Perfect 3*; and

WHEREAS, Andrea Mona Bowman's artistic prowess, commitment to excellence, and unwavering passion have not only brought honor to herself but have also brought positive recognition to the Caddo Parish community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission expresses its sincere appreciation and heartfelt congratulations to Andrea Mona Bowman for her remarkable achievements in film and television, leading to her well-deserved nomination for a Critics Choice Award for *The Color Purple*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission commends Andrea Mona Bowman for serving as an inspiration to aspiring artists within our community and beyond, showcasing the incredible talent that resides within Caddo Parish; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution be presented to Andrea Mona Bowman as a token of our community's gratitude and admiration, and that a copy be maintained in the official records of the Caddo Parish Commission.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION  
CONTRIBUTIONS OF OUTGOING COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission is always pleased to acknowledge and honor those citizens of the Parish, who by their ongoing demonstrations of selfless service to their fellow man, set superlative examples of good citizenship and community involvement; and

WHEREAS, such individuals Mr. Todd Hopkins, Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson, Mr. Steven Jackson, and Mr. Mario Chavez who have all served as Caddo Parish Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Todd Hopkins was elected to serve Caddo Parish Commission District 1 in 2020, after retiring from his position of Caddo Parish Commission Clerk and serving as Director of Caddo Fleet Services. Mr. Hopkins continued to serve the constituents of District 1 until January of 2024; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson was appointed to serve the Commission District 2 seat in 2010 left by the resignation of former Commissioner Rose McCulloch. Mr. Johnson served as the Caddo Parish Commission President during 2015 and 2021. He continued to serve the constituents of District 2 until January of 2024; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Steven Jackson was elected to serve Caddo Parish Commission District 3 in 2016. He served as the Caddo Parish Commission President during 2017. He continued to serve the constituents of District 3 until January of 2024; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mario Chavez was elected to serve Caddo Parish Commission District 10 in 2016. He served as the Caddo Parish Commission President during pandemic in 2020. He continued to serve the constituents of District 10 until January of 2024; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, that it does hereby express its deep and sincere appreciation to Mr. Todd Hopkins, Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson, Mr. Steven Jackson, and Mr. Mario Chavez for their invaluable contributions rendered on behalf of their service to the citizens of Caddo Parish.

Commissioner Lyndon B. Johnson (District 2) gave the following comment:

I want to start off to thank God for allowing me this opportunity to have this—to this service in my life. I'd also like to thank the constituents of District 2 who voted for me to serve three terms. I want to thank my sisters for the support. They watch every meeting that we have, Work Sessions, Regular Sessions—they're watching right now. I want to thank my kids, my children, for understanding that Dad was a public servant and that I couldn't be in two places at one time. And finally, my many supporters. Thirteen

years ago, I sat at the horseshoe for the first time, and I had two women that aspirations to do great things: the late Joyce Bowman and Stephanie Lynch. Both ladies had their way of doing things, but they had a common denominator between the two, that was never come to a Commission meeting unprepared, and do your research on the topic so that you can elaborate on the topic in your own perspective. It was the late Carl Pierson and Ken Epperson, Sr. that say, 'you can't learn just sitting here in Caddo Parish and come to meetings'. That you had to get out and go to conferences and meeting to network for ideals and come up with political strategies. It was Lindora Baker that gave me the inspiration to get involved with NACo and the subcommittees. It was Commissioners John Escude, John Atkins, David Cox, and Mario Chavez that made me work on my debating skills and also to work on that most important seventh vote. And finally, has been Commissioners Steffon Jones and Stormy Gage-Watts has given me the opportunity to give back the knowledge that I learned to the next generation. Some of the highlights include saving the General Motors facility that was targeted for demolition. Right now, it has couple of companies in there, which people are making money, so that was a good save. The removal of the Confederate Statue at the Parish Courthouse—there's been mixed emotions about that, but that's the only courthouse that had a statue in front of it that wasn't pleasing to everyone. Over \$1.5M allocated to Southern University for needed programs; the nursing program is one that has taken off and the aerospace program. The North Port development. If you're not familiar with that, that's up LA Hwy 1 before you get to Northwood. It has a Walmart, Autozone, Taco Bell, Quick Care, Sonic, Red River Credit Union, Spring Market, Tire Crew, Wendy's, O'Reilly's Auto Parts, Trejos, Zaxby's, Barksdale Federal Credit Union, Citizens Bank & Trust, just to name a few that has been added in the last thirteen years. It has been many residential developments in northern Shreveport/Caddo Parish in the past thirteen years that has brought in additional tax revenue to the Parish. [inaudible] and road repairs in the unincorporated areas of the Parish of District 2. Chaired the Appropriations Committee and allocated funds annually to non-profit organization averaging over \$750k per year. Created a Caddo Parish Summer Student Employment Program and Natural Disaster Fund. When I got here, we weren't hiring summer students. So, I was like, 'why are we not hiring summer students?' So, the initial budget was small because our Administration was like, 'well, let's try this out first because we stopped it for a reason'. I say, 'let's start it small, and we'll gradually grow it up'. And we did. The Natural Disaster Fund came in 2015 when we had the flooding. I call it the I-30 Flooding when all the water came from Oklahoma and Texas down to the Louisiana area. I was president, and a lot of senior citizens' homes were flooded, and they had no means to getting those houses fixed. So, the Disaster Fund was a means to get those done. I have kept my original and only promise of no new taxes, helping our veterans, and helping our senior citizens. I want to thank the employees of the Parish for their support. I especially want to thank Dr. Woodrow Wilson, Mrs. Erica Bryant, and all the directors that I called when I needed help. As I move to my next chapter in life, it brings a new passion, which is watching my son play high school football and basketball. New goals, new dreams, and a new love. I can honestly say that I will leave District 2 in better shape than when I came.

Commissioner Todd Hopkins (District 1) gave the following comment:

Thirty-four years ago, yesterday, I walked into the Caddo Parish Commission as an employee. Today, I walk out as a former employee, and now a former Commissioner. I'm really proud of the time served here. I've served with a lot of good people whether it be the Commission Clerk or the Director of Fleet Services. There have been some great Commissioners. The staff has been unbelievable. Good thing when I walk out the door, there'll be somebody to walk right in the door, and things will never change. And it won't change because that staff will continue to make sure things run properly and run right. I'm proud of the last four years. We were able to do a lot of things in District 1. Todd didn't do them; this body did them. I had to fight a few times. Lyndon and I—I think we stayed on each other more than anybody. But you know, we agreed to disagree on things and without ever getting mad. I've got a smile. I woke up like a ton of bricks off my shoulders this morning. From now on, you'll probably see me in camouflage because I'm going to be hunting or fishing or gardening one. Thank y'all once again.

Commissioner Steven Jackson (District 3) gave the following comment:

I want to say thank you to the citizens of District 3. I came to this position very ambitious, very optimistic, and I was—fast forward eight years, I'm still just as ambitious and optimistic as I was eight years ago. I think government is a place where people look to for help; people look to for an opportunity to make life a little bit better for them. When I started this, I had my mother with me. We all know that in 2018, while we were out dealing with floods, I left to go deal with some constituents, and when I got back, she had gone into a come and never came out. It was the loved and inspiration that member and staff showed during that time that I want people to understand that what you see here—when you see folks and you see debates, its not necessarily folks getting into it and things of that nature. But we agree to disagree. But when individuals need the support that love and respect, it is there. The cameras don't always catch it, but it is there. I can text John Atkins at 11:30 at night and wear the hell out of him about trying to get one vote. Well, I could txt the whole entire group text at one or two o'clock in the morning just posing a question or just get some stuff off my mind before I can go to sleep. We can get together and have conversations about the Dallas Cowboys—I think you're the only outlier in the group. But its not what you see up here. I can txt Erica Bryant or Woody Wilson at six o'clock in the morning asking them how much did summer workers make or on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve just asking random questions, and everyone responds. So

that's one of the things that I want folks to understand about government is what you often see on TV is just a tiny fraction of what we actually do and who we actually are. There's a complete picture; there's a complete story that has to be told. I'm thankful for every moment. Being here, it has made me more mature; it has made me grow up a lot. It has made me more optimistic about who we are as Caddo Parish. I listen to Pastor Gant talk about his daughter not willing to come back. There are a lot of folks that have that position and have that thought process. Those are the people who we have wake up to try to figure out how do we, one, attract the folks who have left and how do we keep the ones who are here? we must also always remember particularly that the twelve that sit up here—there are 200,000 residents in Caddo Parish; only twelve get to come down here and do this job. Only twelve of 200,000. That is all of Caddo Parish represented by twelve people. Bishop TD Jakes preached a sermon a couple of weeks ago that talked about strengthening your shoulders when you feel weak. And his prayer was that God gave him the strength to strengthen his shoulders—make his shoulders stronger when he gets weak. My prayer for Caddo Parish and my prayer for the State of Louisiana and my prayer for the City of Shreveport is when we feel at our weakest points, our prayers that we get stronger because people are dependent on us. People have expectations that when we knock on their door and we ask for their support and we say we're going to do something, we at least try. We may not succeed on every case, but as I always tell you Ed, 'I gotta try'. I may not succeed, but I gotta try. That's what this is all about. I can promise you that Erica Bryant didn't have a vault in her office where Ken Epperson, Steven Jackson, and Todd Hopkins get together on the third Thursday of every month, and we go raid it and put money in our back pocket. That just doesn't happen. We have some of the strongest safeguards here. we have some of the strongest mechanisms in place. Henry and Donna, I know y'all think I may have issues with y'all, but I appreciate it because it makes the system—it protects the process. There's never been a time where I've hung up from anybody or walked away from anybody with any personal animosity. We say what we have to say, but then we figure out how do we make it better? I want to say to Administrator Bryant, thank you. I think y'all figured out somewhere internally who could maneuver me. Y'all figured out that she was the one to just come and—but what she does is she has a very approachable tone. To say, 'well Commissioner, I'm not going to say no, but how about this? or can we do this.' That is what our constituents have an expectation of. So whatever it is that Caddo Parish decides its going to do over the next four to twelve years, I want you to know that we have to do it with an intent of making Caddo Parish better for the least of these. I'm going to be alright; Steffon Jones is going to be alright. We have to make sure we are looking out for the least of these. I want to thank everybody up here on this body, from District 1 to District 12. I want to thank everybody up here because everybody has played a role in my maturity. It's not easy being a millennial growing up in politics under the spotlight; it is not easy. I just want folks to understand that everybody up here has played a role in my maturity, in my progression—personally and professionally—it has made a difference to me. I want to say my gratitude is to you. If there's anything I can do in this next chapter of my life to help, you have a friend and an advocated for Caddo Parish. Thank you.

Commissioner Mario Chavez (District 10) gave the following comment:

After 8 years and two terms elected to serve on the Caddo Parish Commission, I am humbled thinking back over the many years of all the many friendships I have made. Serving the people of Caddo Parish has been an amazing honor. People have asked, as I am coming to a close of my term, "what are some of the biggest accomplishments or memories you will take with you?" And as I sit and reminisce over my time, the events that come to mind are not exactly newsworthy. What were more memorable were all the times I sat with complete strangers in their living rooms, understanding issues they had and had nowhere else to turn. The time I met a mom at 5am at the military entrance processing station to see her son off to the Navy, and the many times I got to sit down with kids at school, read them books, and hear their dreams. I know most people focus on the highlights however, it is the little things that really made this office worthwhile. I recall serving as the Parish President during 2020 and the amazing challenges we faced as an entire world shut down due to Covid. That same year, we faced Louisiana hurricanes in August and October. As well as an incredibly challenging winter. As I think back over Southern Hills and our progress in the last 8 years, I am thrilled to see the amazing growth we have experienced on the Mansfield Road corridor and the surrounding areas. It also saddens me to know that our late great Councilman James Flurry and City Marshall Charlie Caldwell are not able to see the progress they are responsible for producing; from breaking ground at our very own dog park, a world class fire station, and now in the works, our first regional Ronald Mcdonald house. Southern Hills is only poised to continue growing. A deciding factor for me to run for public office was the decline of our neighborhood due to the General Motors Plant closure in 2012. As a son of an auto worker, I saw firsthand the hardships many families faced as great high paying jobs disappeared and forced families to move to Michigan and Texas. I can proudly say that now 11 years later, that very plant is undergoing an 18-million-dollar upgrade and will hire 600 new direct jobs with an annual payroll of more than 50 million. Additionally, 750 new indirect jobs to total over 1,350 new jobs across our region, backfilling all our empty Southern Hills homes and exploding our local economy. In closing, I must thank the amazing citizens of Southern Hills that elected me twice to represent them, my incredible rock and wife Megan Chavez, and my family as they had to share me with thousands and deal with my crazy 24 hour "on call" schedule. As I hand the torch off to Commissioner Elect Ron Cothran, I know between Councilman Jackson and Commissioner Cothran our neighborhood is in great hands. Thank you everybody.

Mr. Jones thanked each of the outgoing Commissioners for helping him in his career as a public servant. He wished each of them well on their next chapters.

Mr. Atkins also recognized and thanked the outgoing Commissioners for all of their hard work over the years. He said that he learned a little from each one of them and wished them well on their future endeavors.

Mr. Epperson appreciates each of the Commissioners for everything they've done and accomplished over the years.

Mrs. Gage-Watts echoed the same sentiments as her colleagues. She wished them each well and asked that they stay in touch.

Mr. Burrell agreed with the previous Commissioners and wished them each well on their future endeavors.

### **ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

Mrs. Bryant reminded the Commissioners of the LSUAg Center Luncheon that will be held on January 9, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

She also thanked each of the outgoing Commissioners for all of their hard work over the years, as well as their commitment and dedication to the citizens of Caddo Parish.

### **COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mr. Young asked that the Clerk's Office provide a verbatim transcript to Jon Glover with regards to the Lighthouse Project—Highland Center.

- Mr. Epperson asked that there be some sort of legislation concerning language be put in a candidate's qualifying package that requires them to remove their signs within a certain timeframe after the election is complete.

He also said that the Greenwood/I-49 area is exploding economically with Starbucks, Golden Chick, etc. opening up. His concern is the horrible odor that has been in this area for years. Mr. Epperson asked that Public Works figure out what that smell is.

- Mr. Atkins asked for clarification on the citizen's comment regarding the Highland Center. Mrs. Barnett explained that it did not qualify due to not being able to upgrade a facility that is mainly used for religious purposes. She also explained that the Parish would have to track the federal dollars until disposal, but they would not have any way to track assets that no longer belong to the Parish.

- Mrs. Gage-Watts had questions regarding the vacant position in District 6. The Clerk of the Commission stated that the new Commission body would have to adopt the process for selecting the interim Commissioner. She then wanted to know if there are any requirements. The Clerk of the Commission stated that they would have to follow the same requirements as if they were running for the position in an election.

- Mr. Jackson forgot to mention Animal Services and the other department heads for all of their hard work that they do each and every day.

- Mr. Johnson forgot to thank Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Alan Clarke, and Mrs. Michelle Nations for all of their hard work during the years he was Commissioner. He also thanked the Sheriff Deputies for keeping the Commissioners safe and always smiling when they come through the doors.

### **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. 6402 of 2023, an ordinance implementing an ad valorem tax exemption for first responders, 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.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *that Ordinance No. 6402 of 2023,*

*an ordinance implementing an ad valorem tax exemption for first responders, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. Epperson said that he will be voting no because “there was a time when certain people could not be firemen, police officers, EMS, etc.”. He said that he will not support anything that will erode property taxes at this particular time. Mr. Epperson would like to see a minimum wage increase and salary increase for teachers.

Mr. Jackson said that this follows the Constitutional amendment. He said that this is to retain first responders in Caddo Parish. This was vetted in Committee and all the questions were answered.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know how much this would impact the Parish. Mrs. Barnett estimated that it would reduce the tax collections by \$20k.

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 6402 OF 2023**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE IMPLEMENTING AN AD VALOREM TAX EXEMPTION FOR FIRST RESPONDERS, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, first responders are often the first to arrive to the scene of an emergency or disaster. They provide services essential to the response and the community; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana voters have approved an amendment to the Louisiana Constitution allowing qualified first responders, who occupy and own a home subject to the standard homestead exemption, to receive an additional two thousand five hundred dollars in homestead exemption, contingent upon local government approval; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission wishes to take appropriate action to allow Caddo Parish first responders to receive the additional homestead exemption.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that an additional five hundred dollars in homestead exemption is to be available to first responders in Caddo Parish. The first responder must have been employed with a Caddo Parish Agency for a minimum of 3 years before being eligible for the additional five-hundred-dollar exemption.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the exemption is available in accordance with all provisions outlined in the Louisiana Constitution.

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 become effective ten (10) days after publication in the official journal, and is applicable for 2024 property assessments.

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

***ORDINANCES (for introduction by title)***

- *Ordinance No. 6404 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, amending the provisions for accessory dwelling units, with all provisions included herein, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6405 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, adding a new use for overnight truck parking, with all provisions included herein, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

- *Ordinance No. 6406 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 south side of Locust Hill Road approximately 1870' west of Highway 79, Caddo Parish, LA, 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. 6407 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 southwest corner of Old Mansfield Road and Midyett Street, Caddo Parish, LA, from R-A, Rural-Agricultural Zoning District to C-3, General Commercial Zoning District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6408 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 south of East Flournoy Lucas approximately 840 feet west of Ellerbe Road, Caddo Parish, LA, from R-1-7, Single-Family Zoning District to C-1, Neighborhood Commercial Zoning District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6409 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 east side of the East Kings Highway and Hanover Drive Intersection, Caddo Parish, LA, from R-E, Residential Estate Zoning District to R-1-5, Single-Family Residential Zoning District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6410 of 2024, an ordinance amending the 2023 Budget to amend the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Head Start Fund, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6411 of 2024, an ordinance amending the 2023 Budget to amend the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Housing Choice Voucher Program Fund, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *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*
- *Ordinance No. 6414 of 2024, an ordinance declaring the intent of the Parish under LA.R.S. 47:2236 to acquire full ownership interest in a parcel of property identified by Caddo Parish Tax Assessor's Geographic Number 181437-036-0005-00 and described as Lot 5, J.B. Pickett Subdivision, Tal 14, Shreveport, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6415 of 2024, an ordinance declaring the intent of the Parish under LA.R.S. 47:2236 to acquire full ownership interest in a parcel of property identified by Caddo Parish Tax Assessor's Geographic Number 181430-001-0154-00 and described as Lots 154, 155, and 156, and one half adjacent abandoned alley, Lakeview Subdivision, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6416 of 2024, an ordinance declaring the intent of the Parish under LA.R.S. 47:2236 to acquire full ownership interest in a parcel of property identified by Caddo Parish Tax Assessor's Geographic Number 201625-001-0014-00 and described as AC Lot 3 of Mooringsport less that part north and west of KCS&G Railroad right-of-way and that part of tract lying south and east of right-of-way described as: begin 52 feet east of northwest corner of SD Lot 3; thence easterly along north line of SD Lot 42: thence southerly a right angle 91 feet; thence westerly at right angle 42 feet; thence northerly at right angle 91 feet to port of beginning; and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

#### **WORK SESSION MINUTES**

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that the Work Session Minutes from January 3, 2024 be ratified. Motion carried.*

#### **RESOLUTIONS**

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to englobe and adopt the following Resolutions:*

- *Resolution No. 1 of 2024, a resolution to designate and change the polling places for Precincts 3-3, 3-7, and 9-13, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 2 of 2024, a resolution approving the holding of an election in Caddo Parish Fire District Seven, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, April 27, 2024, to authorize the continuation of a special tax therein*
- *Resolution No. 3 of 2024, a resolution authorizing the Caddo Community Action Agency, Inc. to administer the Head Start program for the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

Mrs. Gage-Watts asked that signs be placed at the polling locations for the March 23, 2024 election. She pointed out that the citizens are not being moved out of their polling locations, just the precinct numbers changed. Mr. Jackson agreed with Mrs. Gage-Watts and suggested that an informational campaign be had explaining this.

At this time, Mr. Johnson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 1 OF 2024**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE AND CHANGE THE POLLING PLACES FOR PRECINCTS 3-3, 3-7, AND 9-13 AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 6397 was adopted on November 22, 2023 to amend and reenact Ordinance No. 6342 regarding the establishment of the voting precincts in Caddo Parish;

WHEREAS, several voting precinct polling locations were relocated shortly before the adoption of Ordinance No. 6397 resulting in the ordinance reciting incorrect polling place locations for several precincts;

WHEREAS, Resolution 46 relocated the polling place for Precinct No. 127 (now denoted as Precinct No. 9-13 in Ordinance No. 6397) from LSU Pecan Station, 10300 Harts Island Road, Shreveport, Louisiana to the Caddo Parish Port Commission, 6000 Doug Attaway Blvd., Shreveport, Louisiana;

WHEREAS, Resolution 47 relocated the polling place for Precincts No. 006, 064, and 099 (now denoted as Precinct No. 3-7 in Ordinance No. 6397) from E. B. Williams Stoner Hill Elementary School, 2127 C. E. Galloway Blvd., Shreveport, Louisiana to Valencia Park Community Center, 1800 Viking Drive, Shreveport, Louisiana;

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 6342, as amended by Ordinance No. 6397, incorrectly denoted the polling place for Precinct No. 3-3 as Government Plaza, 505 Travis Street, Shreveport, Louisiana;

WHEREAS, the established polling location for Precinct No. 3-3 is located at Cherokee Park Elementary School, 2010 E. Algonquin Trail, Shreveport, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the polling places corrected herein have been reviewed and meet all requirements for polling places.

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, reestablish, and otherwise designate pursuant to La. R.S. 18:534 the following polling places:

- Precinct No. 3-3 -- Cherokee Park Elementary School, 2010 E. Algonquin Trail, Shreveport, Louisiana;
- Precinct No. 3-7 -- Valencia Park Community Center, 1800 Viking Drive, Shreveport, Louisiana; and

- Precinct No. 9-13 -- Caddo Parish Port Commission, 6000 Doug Attaway Blvd., Shreveport, Louisiana.

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.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2 OF 2024**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE HOLDING OF AN ELECTION IN CADDO PARISH FIRE DISTRICT SEVEN, STATE OF LOUISIANA, ON SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024, TO AUTHORIZE THE CONTINUATION OF A SPECIAL TAX THEREIN.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Caddo Parish Fire District Seven, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of Caddo Parish Fire District Seven, State of Louisiana (the "District"), adopted a resolution on December 11, 2023, calling a special election in the District on Saturday, April 27, 2024, to authorize continuation of a special tax therein; and

WHEREAS, the governing authority of the District has requested that the Caddo Parish Commission, acting as the governing authority of the Parish of Caddo, State of Louisiana, give its consent and authority for the District to hold the aforesaid election, and in the event that the election carries to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein; and

WHEREAS, as required by Article VI, Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, it is now the desire of the Caddo Parish Commission to approve the holding of said election and in the event that the election carries, to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission, acting as the governing authority of said Parish, that:

SECTION 1. In compliance with the provisions of Article VI, Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, and in accordance with the request of the Board of Commissioners of Caddo Parish Fire District Seven, State of Louisiana, the Caddo Parish Commission hereby approves the holding of an election in the District, on Saturday, April 27, 2024, at which election there will be submitted the following proposition, to-wit:

**PROPOSITION  
(MILLAGE CONTINUATION)**

Shall Caddo Parish Fire District Seven, State of Louisiana (the "District), continue to levy a tax of 10 mills on all the property subject to taxation in the District (an estimated \$674,250 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for a period of 10 years, beginning with the year 2024 and ending with the year 2033, for the purpose of hiring full time firefighters and paying salaries and related benefits, together with providing an allowance for uniforms and equipment?

SECTION 2. In the event the election carries, the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby further consent to and authorize the District to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

Member	Yea	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Todd A. Hopkins	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

Lyndon B. Johnson	<u>  X  </u>	_____	_____	_____
Steven Jackson	<u>  X  </u>	_____	_____	_____
John-Paul Young	<u>  X  </u>	_____	_____	_____
Roy Burrell	<u>  X  </u>	_____	_____	_____
Steffon D. Jones	<u>  X  </u>	_____	_____	_____
Stormy Gage-Watts	<u>  X  </u>	_____	_____	_____
Grace Anne Blake	<u>  X  </u>	_____	_____	_____
John E. Atkins	<u>  X  </u>	_____	_____	_____
Ed Lazarus	<u>  X  </u>	_____	_____	_____
Ken Epperson, Sr.	<u>  X  </u>	_____	_____	_____

And the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 4th day of January, 2024.

/s/ Jeff Everson  
Clerk

/s/ Roy Burrell  
President

**RESOLUTION NO. 3 OF 2024**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CADDO COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY, INC. TO ADMINISTER THE HEAD START PROGRAM FOR THE PARISH OF CADDO, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission desires to obtain state and federal funds, where available, to benefit low- and moderate-income persons in the Parish of Caddo; and

WHEREAS, federal grants which are administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services are available for the purpose of providing a Head Start Preschool Education Program to qualified parish governments; and

WHEREAS, the program provides a comprehensive program to children in Early Head Start ages 0-3 and Traditional Head Start ages 3-5 and their families; and

WHEREAS, this program consists of five components: education, health, parent involvement, social services and transportation; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned program provides critical services by assisting children from low- and moderate-income families during their formative years; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Community Action Agency, Inc. has administered this program for the Caddo Parish Commission over the last forty-five (47) years; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission is the appropriate agency to receive federal and/or state funding for the purpose of providing programs to support the indigent persons living with the Parish of Caddo.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission, in due, legal and regular session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby authorize the Caddo Community Action Agency, Inc. to administer the Head Start program on behalf of the Parish of Caddo.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Laurance Guidry and/or his successor is hereby authorized to do all things necessary to implement, maintain, amend or review any documents associated with the Head Start Program from the effective date of this resolution through January 31, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that 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 the Resolution are hereby declared severable.

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

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

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Resolution No. 4 of 2024, a resolution approving the amended 2023 and proposed 2024 budgets of the North Louisiana Criminalistics Laboratory Commission and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know if there was anyone present representing the Crime Lab. He had questions about their budget. Mrs. Bryant said that they have been struggling with revenues. In 2023,

they were able to carry over the funds to 2024. She said that they cannot adopt a budget with a deficit. They would either need to reduce expenses or have a mechanism for additional revenue. Mr. Atkins then wanted to know who funds the Relief Fund. Mrs. Bryant said that it was the State that funds that.

Mr. Jackson pointed out that there is a bill to authorize the State to build two crime labs additional crime labs.

**Substitute motion by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Resolution No. 4 of 2024, a resolution approving the amended 2023 and proposed 2024 budgets of the North Louisiana Criminalistics Laboratory Commission and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be postponed to the February 20, 2024 Work Session.

Mr. Johnson pointed out that some of the parishes that utilize this facility do not help fund it. He also suggested that the Sheriff's Office should be helping fund this facility as well.

Mr. Burrell mentioned that there is space at the facility that could be leased out as a revenue stream.

At this time, Mr. Epperson's substitute motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

### **NEW BUSINESS**

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

- *Appoint Tom Tebbe to fill the unexpired term of Patricia White, who has resigned from the North Caddo Hospital Service District Board (term to expire August 18, 2028)*
- *Authorize Administration to enter into a CEA with the Brandon House for additional services needed in the wake of the closure of Johnny Gray Jones*

Mr. Hopkins stated that this is the Hosston/Ida appointment for the hospital board.

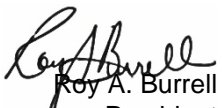
At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

### **COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mr. Young said that he is offering his name up as a nomination for the 2024 Caddo Parish Commission President. He asked for everyone's support.
- Mr. Burrell thanked Mr. Atkins and the other Commissioners for their thoughtful gifts.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

  
Michelle Nations  
Assistant to the Commission Clerk

  
Roy A. Burrell  
President