

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION  
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 17th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2022

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Work Session, on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., in the Government Chambers, with Mr. Atkins, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). ABSENT: Commissioner Jones (1).

Mr. Taliaferro gave the invocation, and Mr. Epperson led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Melinda Schexnaider came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good afternoon Commission. Thank you for again allowing me the opportunity to represent our neighbors and constituents there on the Winderweedle, west side of Fournoy Lucas Road. This is regarding a zoning change for case number 22-20-P. Y'all did hear from me a couple of weeks ago I just don't want to completely rehash I believe you may receive the email that I sent to our Commissioner Ken Epperson to just touch some of our points again. We are in opposition of this zoning change even if its change from what was originally requested, as it was originally requested to go completely commercial C-4; and now, its been recommended to a C-2. We still oppose this. We would like to see and hope and pray that you would follow the wishes of the citizens who are there and established and have lived there for most of our lives. We are concerned about taxes, drainage, trash, traffic—all of these again, I spoke with you about a couple of weeks ago. Further acknowledgment and something that has come to light I believe in the last week—if you are to approve this and it were to go to commercial—this is one of our biggest concerns is that when that happened, if somebody wanted to come into our another available part of the property there, they could open a business and we would not have a voice and to what would happen. Now what has happened that I saw on the news last week. The old IHOP at Financial Plaza—right there where it intersects Pines Road, someone has come in and is opening an adult novelty store. I believe most of you probably know what an adult novelty store is. So from what I was heard on the news—again, this was a Channel Three newscast, that the even the City Council Member was not aware of that business going in. That is a big concern. If this does change, what will happen to us that we will no longer have a voice if this goes to commercial. I do thank you today for allowing me to speak again and on behalf of our neighbors that are here to represent—we thank you and appreciate your time, Mr. Epperson. We really appreciate your representation.

Carolyn Price came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

My name is Carolyn and I agree with all Melinda's concerns. I live at 7382 Winderweedle Road. We have three properties there on the corner of Fournoy Lucas and Winderweedle. It's about three and a half acres and backs up to the wooded area. There's a little bit of a wooded area between the proposed area there wanting to zone change. Our concerns are because we are Residential-Agricultural, we raise organic crops. We also—some of our family neighbors have animals, so we are concerned about the traffic, the pollution, the trash that it might generate. We're concerned about the noise. I don't know if there would be noise ordinances, but being a restaurant and possibly having night hours, and so that would create more traffic and noise. Also, I feel like that increased traffic would possibly increase crime. Right now, our area is zero crime. We're just a little country area. The proposed site—I don't know if anyone's gone out to see it, but it's a very triangular little strip of property. So its wide on the front, and then it goes real narrow in the backward and joins into the wooded area behind my house. So I just want to express my opposition to it. I thank y'all again for letting us come and represent ourselves.

**VISITORS**

- Goodwill Industries Representative

Ms. Lynn Stevens announced that Goodwill will be hosting a disability inclusion job fair tomorrow as part of National Disability Employment Awareness Month. She further stated that disabilities is something that she is very passionate about. She said that she did not plan to be in a wheelchair, but it happened, and life changed for her about seven years ago. At the time, she was gainfully employed and walking, and she wanted to continue to stay employed, but faced bias. There are so many people that want to work; and there's so many employers that need bodies, these are the people we should all consider, she said.

Mrs. Gage-Watts thanked Ms. Stevens for coming today and said that there is a Disability Awareness Month Proclamation.

**ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

- *Juvenile Detention*

Mrs. Erica Bryant, Assistant Parish Administrator, said that there are ten children in the Detention Center, four of which are 17 years old, and eight children at CCC.

Mr. Young talked about the low numbers in the Detention Center. Mrs. Bryant said that there were extenuating circumstances regarding this. She further explained that there is work being done at the facility right now.

- COVID

Mrs. Bryant reported zero COVID cases and zero monkey pox cases.

- 2022 September Financials

Mrs. Bryant said that the 2022 September Financials were attached to the agenda.

### **COMMISSION REMARKS**

- Mr. Young talked about tornado sirens. He said that there is drone siren that flies around and alerts people in certain areas, which costs between \$15,000-\$20,000 each. He asked that Administration look into this. Mrs. Bryant said that their first plan to have an analysis completed on the best approach to take. Mr. Young suggested that they look at the drones and study simultaneously.

- Mr. Burrell commended Mrs. Gage-Watts on the successful Expungement Summit. He said that they also partnered with LSU to provide vaccinations.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Atkins thanked everyone who attended the grand opening of the Veterans Affairs Office.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that Zoning Case 22-P-CTAP, Ordinance No. 6261 of 2022, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, relative to surfacing requirements for parking lots, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be remanded to the Long-Range Planning Committee.

Mr. Jackson understands that this came from the Parish Planning & Zoning Commission, but would like this to be vetted further.

Mr. Johnson requested that the changes in the ordinances be stricken out and underlined.

Mr. Hopkins pointed out that this did start in the Economic Development Committee.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Zoning Case 22-20-P, Ordinance No. 6262 of 2022, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, by amending the zoning of property located on the east side of Flournoy Lucas Road, approximately six hundred and fifty feet, south of Winderweedle Road, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, from R-A, Rural Agricultural Zoning District to C-2, Corridor Commercial Zoning District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Jones (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Young, *that Zoning Case 22-21-P, Ordinance No. 6263 of 2022, 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 of Cessna Drive, approximately one thousand three hundred and twenty feet south of East Flournoy Lucas Road, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, from R-1-7, Single-Family Residential Zoning District to R-1-5, Single-Family Residential Zoning District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if zoning changes amend the UDC. Attorney Frazier stated that it does.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *that Ordinance No. 6264 of 2022, an ordinance amending and re-enacting Ordinance No. 5111 of 2011, reapportioning Caddo Parish into twelve Commission districts, enumerating the constituent precincts respectively comprising the Commission districts, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Jackson would like to set up additional townhall meetings, so his constituents are a part of the process as well. He also commented that the was fine with the December 31 deadline.

Mr. Atkins asked about the deadline. Attorney Frazier explained that per the Charter, an ordinance shall be passed by the Caddo Parish Commission by December 31, 2022. This is also per State Law. If it is not passed, there are potential malfeasance and office penalties or potential in the Parish not sharing funds with the State. She also said that it was her understanding that each Commissioner was to arrange their meetings with the Commission Clerk. Attorney Frazier wanted to know if that has taken place. The Clerk of the Commission explained that there have been several prompts for dates, but they have not received those final prompts.

Mrs. Bryant said that the Administration can work with the Commission Clerk to schedule these meetings.

Mr. Burrell agreed with Mr. Jackson on getting the community more involved in the redistricting process.

Mr. Jackson asked for more clarity about what the Charter says with regards to redistricting. He wanted to know when the Commission has to adopt the maps. Mr. Jackson would like for there to be an opportunity for substantial community input. He does not want to rush this process.

Mr. Atkins suggested that community meetings be set up as soon as possible so the Commission can meet the December 31, 2022 deadline.

Attorney Frazier explained that the Charter specifically states by the end of the year following the year in which the population of Louisiana is reported to the President of the United States for the decennial census. The Parish Commission, by ordinance, shall, if necessary, alter, change, or rearrange Commission district boundaries so as to provide for population equality among districts as nearly as reasonably practical. She reiterated that there is a firm deadline of December 31, 2022.

Attorney Frazier also states that penalties for failure to meet time for reapportionment by local governing bodies and unless there's a different period of time for your local government governing bodies specified by the Constitution or statute. The state law also states that you shall reapportion your voting districts by the end of the year following the year in which the census is reported to the President. The census was taken in 2020, reported in 2021, and this is the year following the year of the report.

Attorney Frazier pointed out that Mr. Cedric Floyd, demographer, in attendance today to answer any questions or concerns regarding the maps that have been circulating prior to this meeting. She pointed out that there are only three Regular Sessions left to hold community meetings and adopt the ordinance.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know how many Commissioners are required to adopt the redistricting ordinance. He also wanted to know what would happen if that threshold wasn't met. Attorney Frazier said that it would need seven Commissioners to pass. She further explained that if it is not passed by the deadline, then it could result in malfeasance in office.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if this was based upon State Law and the Charter. Attorney Frazier explained that this is based upon the Charter and State Law with regard to the Supreme Court and the Voting Rights.

The Clerk of the Commission said that he will be providing the dates for the Commissioners to set up the community meetings.

**Substitute motion by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that Ordinance No. 6264 of 2022, an ordinance amending and re-enacting Ordinance No. 5111 of 2011, reapportioning Caddo Parish into twelve Commission districts, enumerating the constituent precincts respectively comprising the Commission districts, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction and considered for adoption during the December 8 Regular Session.

Mr. Jackson said that this would allow time for the Commissioners to meet with their constituents.

Mr. Atkins asked the Mr. Floyd come before the Commission. He wanted to know if any other maps were being proposed. Mr. Floyd said that if any other Commissioner had another proposal, he is open to work with any Commissioner.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know if the will of the Commission is "between his goal posts or our goal posts". Mr. Floyd said that he does things that are within the boundaries of the law.

At this time, Mr. Jackson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Johnson, Taliaferro, and Young (9). NAYS: Commissioners Hopkins and Lazarus (2). ABSENT: Commissioner Jones (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *that Ordinance No. 6265 of 2022, an ordinance to amend Chapter 4, Article II, Division 3 relative to Alcoholic Beverage Employee Handling Card, to provide for compatibility with the City of Shreveport requirements for such cards, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Chavez said that the Economic Development Committee has been working on this, and he would like the ABOs to be consistent between the City and the Parish.

Mr. Hopkins wanted to know if this has been discussed with the Sheriff. Mr. Chavez said that Attorney Bernstein did meet with the Sheriff's Office.

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

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *that Ordinance No. 6266 of 2022, an ordinance adopting the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Shreve Memorial Library for the year 2023* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mrs. Gage-Watts explained that this is an annual ordinance.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that Ordinance No. 6267 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Oil & Gas Fund to appropriate additional funds for a remembrance garden at the Caddo Parish Courthouse and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be delayed to the November 14, 2022 Work Session.

Mr. Johnson said that there was discussion in the Long Range Planning Committee regarding the treatment. He said that this would allow the Committee members to review the treatment.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Resolution No. 44 of 2022, a resolution to urge and request the Caddo Parish Planning Board to review and make recommendations regarding the placement of mobile homes as a use-by-right in R-A zoning district, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, and Johnson (7). NAYS: Commissioners Hopkins, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (4). ABSENT: Commissioner Jones (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *that Resolution No. 47 of 2022, a resolution urging and requesting the Louisiana State Legislature to authorize the use of ballot boxes and to extend the early voting period and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration.

Mrs. Gage-Watts said that this is an additional tool for the citizens to have access to voting.

Mr. Chavez said that he is supportive of this, if it goes to the State Legislature in 2023.

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Johnson, and Young (7). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Hopkins, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (4). ABSENT: Commissioner Jones (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to englobo and move the following items to Thursday's agenda for consideration:*

- *Special Resolution honoring Pancho Trejo*
- *Special Resolution recognizing Alzheimer's Awareness Month*
- *Special Resolution recognizing National Disability Awareness Month*

- *Special Resolution recognizing Spanish Heritage Month*
- *Discussion of Caddo Parish's Sexual Oriented Business Ordinance by Parish Attorney*
- *Consideration of approval of Commissioner travel to attend I-20 Corridor Passenger Rail Meeting*

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

#### **COMMUNIQUES/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mrs. Gage-Watts thanked the Commissioners and Administration who helped and attended the Expungement Summit.

#### **CITIZENS COMMENTS (late arrivals)**

Kendrick Farris came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

How's everybody doing today? Hallelujah for today. We just want to thank you for you time. we just want to have an opportunity to speak with you all about the rezoning that's going on over near Winderweedle Way. We are the property owners. Again, my name is Kendrick Farris. Speaking on behalf of my family and Craving Croquettes, this is a family business. What we are looking to do with the property since it is Rural Agriculture is to keep it true to that. If you look at those codes, between a Rural Agriculture and a C-2, what you will notice is there are a lot of similarities. There are some things that you can C-2 that you can't do with Rural Agriculture. For example, a community center or a community garden. Also, child daycare and things of that nature. We are only looking to open family businesses. Those are the things that we are interested in. Also, growing our food. Our opposition—they mentioned that they grow their food organically. Those are things that we are interested in as well. With my background—I competed in three Olympic games. I've been so thankful to be able to do that. So what we're looking to do is not only open a business here in Shreveport, but also to be able to shine a light here in Louisiana—that Louisiana can be looked at as a positive place, a place of health. We know—if you look at statistics, Louisiana is ranked terrible in health. The United States basically has some of the worst diets in the world, and Louisiana is at the top of that at being the worst. We know we have great people here. We want to do is have an opportunity just to make healthy food convenient. And just have an opportunity to put that on display. What we are doing with this is—this is a Hebrew dish, croquette. If you have not had one, you just have a taste and you will certainly know why we came up with that name, Craving Croquettes. We are not planning on running a business that's all during the night. You just saw my family in here, that's still here with me. So, we're looking to run a business during the day. As far as noise, that area is near a train track. I don't think we are going to be any louder than any train that's coming through there. As far as traffic goes, it'll be just during the day. I know our opposition that they did not get an opportunity to make it to our MPP meeting, so I got to talk to them after our meeting that we had with the MPC. We talked after that meeting. What they voiced to me, their concerns were the noise and traffic, but they didn't have any research that showed it would be detriment to the traffic or that it would be a problem or anything of that nature, so what we have is a family owned business. We're just looking to establish more family owned businesses, such as a farmer's market. We would need a special permit to do that—which you need for any farmer's market, but that would give us an opportunity to help them, if they are interested. Those interested in growing organic food and taste that to have an opportunity to healthier food than what they would do is come out and work with us and join with us when we put on a farmer's market, so people can have access to healthy food. This is the first project that we are looking to do. What I mentioned in the beginning is what we are looking to bring afterwards, that's a daycare center, community garden, animal shelter, and things of that nature. One thing that our opposition mentioned at our last meeting was about the woods and the trees being cut down. He mentioned he didn't want his deer to leave. I said, 'well, its actually God's deer, and since I own the property, it would be my deer.' I'm not looking to rid the animals. We are actually looking to have an area with animals. If children and families wanted to come out, they would be able to see the animals; they would also be able to see food being grown and have a hand in on growing food and learning things of that nature. This is the first project, Craving Croquettes.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- *Ordinance No. 6161 of 2022, an ordinance amending the 2022 Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund to carryover the 2021 appropriation for the African American Chamber of Commerce, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6162 of 2022, an ordinance granting approval for an additional septic system at 153 Monique Drive, Shreveport, Louisiana, and to otherwise provide respect thereto*

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the

Commission adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

*J. Nations*

Assistant Commission Clerk