

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE  
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 26th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2023

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Special Session, on the above date, at 3:56 p.m., in the Government Chambers, with Mr. Burrell, presiding, and the following members in attendance, constituting a quorum: Commissioners Blake, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, and Young (8). ABSENT: Commissioners Atkins, Gage-Watts, Johnson, Jones, (4).

The invocation was given by Mr. Blount, and Mr. Calvin Pressly led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Epperson requested military involvement in war and hostage situations and to not ever forget the POW-MIAs.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Public comment by Superman Blunt regarding need for Shreveport to educate the community about diet, health and wellness, and the Fit for Life Health and Wellness Expo.

Mr. Epperson discussed the purpose of the citizen's comments. The Clerk advised that Commissioner Johnson requested Mr. Blount to present during the November 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> meetings. Mr. Epperson requested that Mr. Blount's presentation be held until Administration Report. The Chair requested Mr. Blount to return with his report during Administration Report.

Public comment by Peterson Sisker regarding support for Mr. Epperson's discussion about fracking noise and in Caddo Parish. Mr. Epperson indicated that the citizen is making a comment prior to the agenda item for discussion on noise.

Public comment by Stacy Brown, from Visit Shreveport-Bossier, regarding short-term rentals, socio-economic effects of short-term rentals and effective regulation for short-term rentals.

Public comment by Calvin Pressly regarding noise, contamination and long term effects on health from fracking, and the effect of the noise on his private rental property.

Mr. Epperson recognized attendees in the audience related to fracking noise.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Bryant presented the 2024 Budget to the Commission. Mrs. Bryant reviewed the highlights of the 2024 budget, the revenue analysis, expenditure analysis, criminal justice deficit, capital projects, the Walter B. Jacobs Nature Project, fund balance analysis and the looking forward at budget challenges and budget positives. Mrs. Bryant discussed the next steps of the budget adoption process. Mrs. Bryant acknowledged the budget teams.

Mr. Jackson and Mrs. Bryant clarified that the Commission has an opportunity to make budget amendments and review the budget before final adoption of the budget at the December 5<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting. Mr. Jackson asked whether the technology upgrade to the Chambers would be included in the 2024 budget, which the Clerk explained that the technology upgrade was included in the budget. Mrs. Bryant clarified that it was reflected in the capital section of the budget. The Clerk advised that the current situation with the Chambers technology system is being reprogrammed and repaired, but it would still be inadequate. The Clerk advised that modern system to manage modern technology is being looked in to and that is what is reflected in the budget. Mr. Jackson requested to be pointed in the direction regarding the Chamber's technology. Mr. Jackson requested whether juvenile hearing officers were included in the budget. Mrs. Bryant explained that the Juvenile Justice Fund funds both the Juvenile Services, which is under direction of the Caddo Parish Commission supervision, and the Court. The public hearing officers comes under direct supervision of the Court. Director of Juvenile Services Andrew Randall explained that there is a judicial administrator, an assistant judicial administrator who equally serve as hearing officers, and that there was one other hearing officer which are the three elected judges through the Court. Mrs. Bryant clarified that the state statutory requirement is only for the actual elected Judges. Mr. Jackson and Mrs. Bryant discussed the SLB CEA being separate from the budget. Mr. Jackson clarified that there were more budget retreats, which Mrs. Bryant explained that the next budget retreat is November 8<sup>th</sup>.

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Young, *that the Public Hearing For The 2024 Operating and Capital Improvements Budget be set for November 22, 2023, 3:30pm, and the Adoption For The 2024 Operating and Capital Improvements Budget be set for December 5, 2023, 3:30pm.*

**Point of Information by Mr. Young**, that November 22, 2023 is a Wednesday. Mrs. Bryant advised that Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> is Thanksgiving and asked for the Commission to appear for the public hearing. Mr. Burrell indicated that he would be out of town.

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

**ORDINANCES (for introduction by title)**

- *Ordinance No. 6357 Of 2023*, 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 Short-Term Rental Property, With All Their Provisions Included Herein, And To Otherwise Provide With Respect Thereto.
- *Introduction Of The 2024 Operating And Capital Improvements Budget Ordinances No. 6358 Of 2023 Through No. 6385 Of 2023*
- *Ordinance No. 6386 Of 2023* Related To PZC Case # 23-6-Ctap, 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 Various Code Text Amendments, With All Their Provisions Included Herein, And To Otherwise Provide With Respect Thereto.
- *Ordinance No. 6387 Of 2023*, Related To PZC Case # 23-29-P, An Ordinance To Amend Volume II Of The Code Of Ordinances Of The Parish Of Caddo, As Amended, The Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, By Amending The Zoning Of Property Located Southwest Corner Of Linwood Avenue And Mayo Road, Caddo Parish, La., From R-A Rural-Agricultural District To C-2 Corridor Commercial District, And To Otherwise Provide With Respect Thereto
- *Ordinance No. 6388 Of 2023*, An Ordinance Declaring The Intent Of The Parish Under La.R.S. 47:2236 To Acquire Full Ownership Interest In Nine Parcels, Namely: East 28.5 Feet Of Lot 29 & West 16 Feet Of Lot 28, Block 2, Gilmer Subdivision (Geo No. 181331-075-0051-00); East 24 Feet Of Lot 28 & West Half Of Lot 27, Block 2, Gilmer Subdivision (181331-075-0035-00); Lot 21, Block 2, Gilmer Subdivision (Geo No. 181331-075-0021-00); Lot 20, Block 2, Gilmer Subdivision (Geo No. 181331-075-0020-00); Lot 17 & West 10 Feet Of Lot 16, Block C, Highland Park Subdivision (Geo No. 181331-072-0106-00); West 30 Feet Of Lot 19 & East 10 Feet Of Lot 20, Block C, Highland Park Subdivision (Geo No. 181331-072-0111-00); Lot 35 & East Half Of Lot 36, Belmont Subdivision (Geo No. 181331-050-0091-00); Lot 38 & East 10 Feet Of Lot 39, Emerald Hill Subdivision (Geo No. 171305-006-0038-00); Lot 7, Woodlawn Subdivision (Geo No. 171305-038-0007-00) And To Otherwise Provide With Respect Thereto
- *Ordinance No. 6389 Of 2023*, An Ordinance Adopting The Budget Of Estimated Revenues And Expenditures For The Shreve Memorial Library For The Year 2024

The Clerk indicated that the ordinances for introduction excluding the budget ordinances would have a public hearing on November 9<sup>th</sup>. The budget ordinances would have a public hearing on November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *that Resolution No. 51 of 2023, Resolution Of Approval To Renew The CAFA Cooperative Endeavor Amendment, And To Express Approval Of Bonds Issued By CAFA Pursuant To Section 147(F) Of The Internal Revenue Code Of 1986, As Amended* Be adopted.

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Young, *to englobo and adopt the following items:*

- *Resolution No. 51 Of 2023, Resolution Of Approval To Renew The CAFA Cooperative Endeavor Amendment, And To Express Approval Of Bonds Issued By CAFA Pursuant To Section 147(F) Of The Internal Revenue Code Of 1986, As Amended*
- *Resolution No. 52 Of 2023, A Resolution Of Final Acceptance Of State Project No. H.013766, Regarding LRSP Signs And Striping, Caddo Parish And Otherwise Providing With Respect Thereto.*
- *Resolution No. 53 Of 2023, A Resolution Supporting Operation Green Light For Veterans In Caddo Parish, Louisiana*
- *Special Resolution Proclaiming Veterans Celebration Week & Authorize Signing Of Joint Proclamation*

**Substitute motion by Mr. Jackson**, *to postpone Resolution No. 51 of 2023.*

Mr. Jackson clarified that the Resolution for CAFA had already been approved and wanted to know the purpose of the resolution. The Clerk advised that there was an amendment to the CEA. Attorney Bernstein clarified that the taxable status of the CAFA bonds, that CAFA met the requirements to issue bonds, and the renewal of the CEA with the Parish of Caddo. Attorney Bernstein explained the use of the bonds by CAFA.

Mr. Jackson withdrew his substitute motion.

Mr. Epperson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Blake, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, and Young (8). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Atkins, Gage-Watts, Johnson, Jones, (4). ABSTAIN: None (0).

RESOLUTION NO. 51 OF 2023 A RESOLUTION TO REAUTHORIZE THE PARISH ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH THE CAPITAL AREA FINANCE AUTHORITY; TO APPROVE THE CAPITAL AREA FINANCE AUTHORITY ISSUING BONDS TO FINANCE LOANS TO FIRSTTIME HOMEBUYERS IN CADDO PARISH, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO. WHEREAS, Capital Area Finance Authority (CAFA) has several home lending programs that would benefit the citizens of Caddo Parish; WHEREAS, for the citizens of Caddo Parish to take advantage of these Programs, the Parish must have a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with CAFA; WHEREAS, the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement provides that fees generated by the program are split on a 50-50 basis between CAFA and the Parish; WHEREAS, CAFA proposes to create additional home lending programs which will be funded by tax-free bonds issued by the Capital Area Finance Authority; WHEREAS, those bonds will only be issued on approval of the Louisiana State Bond Commission, and WHEREAS, federal tax law requires that the Parish, as a cooperating jurisdiction, indicate its approval as the "applicable elected representative" of this jurisdiction. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby authorize the Parish Administrator to enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement with the Capital Area Finance Authority; BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Caddo Parish Commission authorizes the Parish Administrator to execute a certificate evidencing public approval of bonds pursuant to Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code; BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above documents shall only be executed or entered into after being approved by the Parish Attorney both in form and substance; 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. 52 of 2023 BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION: A RESOLUTION OF FINAL ACCEPTANCE OF STATE PROJECT NO. H.013766, REGARDING LRSP SIGNS AND STRIPING, CADDO PARISH AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO. WHEREAS, a final inspection of the State Project No. H.013766, entitled LRSP Signs and Striping, Caddo Parish, Louisiana; and WHEREAS, all phases of work under the contract with State of Louisiana, Department of Transportation and Development concerning the State Project No. H.013766, LRSP Sign and Striping, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, is final. WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana requires a resolution of completion, satisfaction and acceptance of said work by the Caddo Parish Commission. WHEREAS, Caddo Parish will maintain the sign and striping improvements within Caddo Parish, Louisiana. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby accept the State Project No. H.013766, entitled LRSP Sign and Striping, Caddo Parish, Louisiana as satisfactorily completed in accordance with the contract with State of Louisiana, Department of Transportation and Development, sign and striping improvements within Caddo Parish, Louisiana. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Caddo Parish will now maintain the work of the project. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Parish Administrator and Chief Executive Officer or his designated representative for the Parish of Caddo is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents pertaining to the final acceptance of this project. 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 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 repeated.

RESOLUTION NO. 53 OF 2023 BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING OPERATION GREEN LIGHT FOR VETERANS IN CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA WHEREAS, Caddo Parish citizens appreciate and respect the men and women who have served our country and this community in the Armed Forces; and WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and WHEREAS, Veterans continue to serve our community in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, religious groups, civil service, and by functioning as Veteran Service Officers in all 50 states to help fellow former service members access more than \$272 billion in federal health, disability and compensation benefits each year; and WHEREAS, approximately 250,000 service members transition to

civilian communities annually, and an estimated 20 percent increase of service members will transition to civilian life in the near future; and WHEREAS, studies indicate that 44-72 percent of service members experience high levels of stress during transition from military to civilian life; and WHEREAS, Active Military Service Members transitioning from military service are at a high risk for suicide during their first year after military service; and WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties encourages all counties, parishes and boroughs to recognize Operation Green Light for Veterans; and NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with designation as a Green Light for Veterans, Caddo Parish hereby declares from October 6th through October 12th , including Veterans Day on November 11th , 2023 a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform transitioning from Active Service; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in observance of Operation Green Light, Caddo Parish encourages its citizens in patriotic tradition to recognize the importance of honoring all those who made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve freedom by displaying green lights in a window of their place of business or residence from November 6th through the 12th, 2023. BE IT RUTHER 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 of this resolution 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.

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission joins the Citizens of Caddo Parish in great respect, admiration, and the utmost gratitude for all of the men and women who have selflessly served our country and this community in the Armed Forces; and WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens and the Caddo Parish Commission seeks to honor these individuals who have paid the high price for freedom by placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and WHEREAS, Caddo Parish, is designated an Operation Green Light participant with the National Association of Counties and in keeping with our longstanding tradition of encouraging local governments, businesses and public entities to post 'Thank You' and 'Welcome Veterans' signs during the week of November 5th through November 12th, we are also asking that a green light be displayed on all municipal and public facilities, as well as residential and commercial windows that are visible to the public in recognition of the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who served and who are still active in the Armed Forces; and WHEREAS, public and private school systems, primary, secondary and higher education institutions are asked to schedule educational programs, whereby veterans and military personnel may serve as guest speakers. Special recognition to our veterans at all religious institutions during religious services is also encouraged; and WHEREAS, all citizens of Caddo Parish and the Northwest Louisiana region are asked to honor our veterans, for protecting our American freedoms. Among the ways that local Veterans will be honored include the public facilities such as the Bakowski Bridge of Lights and the Caddo Parish Courthouse being illuminated in green, an Honor Ceremony to be held at the historic Municipal Auditorium on November 11th and a Veterans Appreciation Day at the State Fair on November 12th where admission and parking will be free for all Veterans, active military and their families with the Veteran's Parade beginning at 2pm; and NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission meeting in legal and regular session convened during the month of November does hereby proclaim November 5th through November 12th , 2023 as 'Veterans Celebration Week' in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and urges all citizens in the region to celebrate the 13th Anniversary of 'Veterans Celebration Week' honoring our veterans and their families.

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

- *Regular Session Minutes From October 5, 2023*
- *Work Session Minutes From October 17, 2023*

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

The Chair gave the presiding of the meeting to Vice President Mr. Young.

- Discussion Of Blue Dome Operating, LLC, Noise Waiver Letter To District 12 Residents

Mr. Epperson discussed District 12 resident received a noise waiver letter from Blue Dome Operating, LLC and citizens had concerned about the offer amounts, term liabilities and shorter dates. Mr. Epperson explained the lengthy history of Blue Dome Operating in District 12 that affected his household personally. Mr. Epperson wanted to know from Legal whether Blue Dome Operating was compliant with the Parish's noise ordinance, and whether compliance officers related to complaints were doing all they could do, and to be provided a public phone number for the Parish personnel that enforces the Parish noise ordinance. Mr. Epperson discussed how complaints would be addressed when fracking had been quieted down, which would affect the response for a compliance check. Mr. Epperson requested that the GIS department to create a map that includes in high definition all of the active drilling areas of Blue Dome Operating LLC and Chesapeake Energy and a highlight of roads and residences.

- Discussion Of Chesapeake Meeting With Residents

Mr. Epperson discussed how offensive the meeting was to him and the residents. MR. Epperson explained that the meeting provided refreshments but the meeting was serious business that affects residential investment. Mr. Epperson explained that he wants to work with the industry and the in that he aggressively works with the Administration and appropriate departments to retrieve the information he requested. Mr. Epperson called a community meeting on November 16<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm and the location would be announced. Mr. Epperson explained that the data he requested would be present and the noise enforcement would be invited to attend.

**It was moved** by Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *to suspend the rules and allow a presentation by Mr. Blount.* Motion carried by acclamation.

Mr. Blount played a video showcasing the Fit For Life event that brought economic value to Shreveport-Caddo Parish. Mr. Young discussed Fit For Life's positive impact on the community and the Parish's support of the program.

Mr. Jackson asked for an update from an animal situation at School Park, which Assistant Kelvin Samuel addressed that the officer picked up all three pit bulls and that the situation at School Park was being resolved. Mr. Samuel discussed the situation at Cherokee Park and the delay due to approval of Wildlife licensing.

**It was moved** by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Young, *to return to the Regular Session agenda.* Motion carried by acclamation.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda J. Montgomery  
Office Specialist I