

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 31st 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, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (10). ABSENT: Commissioners Jackson and Jones (2).

The invocation was given by Mrs. Gage-Watts, and Mr. Epperson led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

VISITORS

- United Way Representative
2-1-1 Program

Ms. LaToria W. Thomas, President & CEO of 2-1-1, introduced Ms. Rashida Dawson and Ms. Louise Drodgy to the Commission.

Ms. Thomas talked about ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed), who represent community members working in jobs that are needed, but don't always pay enough to afford the basics. These people are cashiers, nonprofit employees, childcare workers, landscapers, etc. 2-1-1 provides a pathway of services to help ALICE out, such as SingleCare Prescription Assistance Program, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, Shreveport Financial Empowerment Center, Bank On Northwest Louisiana, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, etc. 2-1-1 is statewide and can be accessed by dialing 211, txtting 898-211, or visiting LA211Help.org.

Mr. Taliaferro wanted to know the average income of Shreveport's zip code 71103. Ms. Dawson said that the median household income is \$9,990-\$14,000 annually.

Mr. Johnson thanked 2-1-1 for their services to the community. He also said that 2-1-1 is a one-stop shop for citizens to be guided to receive services in their time of need.

Mrs. Gage-Watts asked the team to elaborate on the number for mental health assistance 9-8-8. Ms. Drodgy explained that 9-8-8 is a relatively new number for mental health assistance, so if a citizen contacts 2-1-1, they will be soft-transferred to 9-8-8. She also said that when a citizen calls 2-1-1, they will be speaking to a live person, not a computer.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know how does 2-1-1 measure its success, and how does the organization market itself to the public. Ms. Thomas said that there are social media campaigns, ads in magazines, etc. She also said that a case manager calls the citizens back to ensure that they've received the services that they called about.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know how many employees from United Way are dedicated to 2-1-1. Ms. Thomas said that they have two employees dedicated to 2-1-1, the case manager and Ms. Drodgy. Mr. Atkins wanted to know if Ms. Drodgy answers the phone calls as well. Ms. Drodgy explained that the calls are answered out of Monroe.

Mr. Chavez suggested adding some literature to the citizens who are applying for rental assistance.

Mr. Darrin Dixon said that this is a vital service and requested leaving the funding request at its same level.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- *Juvenile Detention*

Dr. Wilson said that there are twelve children in the Detention Center; four of which are OJJ. There are four 17-year old, and eight children at CCC.

- *COVID*

Dr. Wilson also mentioned that there were zero exposures within the Caddo Parish Commission organization. He also said that there has been one positive case within the thirteen agencies in Caddo Parish. Dr. Wilson also reported zero cases of monkey pox.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Lazarus**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Resolution No. 48 of*

2022, a resolution approving the holding of an election in Caddo Parish Fire District No. 6, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, March 25, 2023, to authorize continuation of a special tax and the renewal of a service charge therein be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration.

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

- *Resolution No. 48 of 2022, a resolution approving the holding of an election in Caddo Parish Fire District No. 6, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, March 25, 2023, to authorize continuation of a special tax and the renewal of a service charge therein*
- *Special Resolution honoring Luther Cox and Inner City Modern Row Dance Company on their 40th Anniversary*
- *Special Resolution recognizing Veterans Celebration Week*
- *Special Resolution acknowledging National Diabetes Awareness Month*
- *Consideration of use of previously approved funding for TruFund for MLK CDC for \$25,000 for business entrepreneurial training.*

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, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Jackson and Jones (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that consideration of the use of previously approved funding for green infrastructure for a project to capture stormwater in the amount of \$121,179 be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration.*

Mr. Young said that Shreveport Green has gardens in almost every district. He also explained that they are constructing a large urban garden in District 3. This request is to purchase water tanks to capture storm water to help irrigate that garden and build in ground water gardens.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know where they would be capturing water. He also said that there are retaining ponds that hold water. He suggested that those be utilized as well so that the water does not sit there and breed mosquitos.

Mr. Johnson also wants to ensure that Shreveport Green is not the only organization that is being used. He said that there are several other organizations who do this type of work as well. Mr. Young agreed and said that he's reached out to other agencies with the application. Mr. Johnson then wanted to know who drafted the application. Mr. Young said that Administration finalized and approved it after talking with him. Mr. Johnson explained that the majority of applications are done through committee and approved by committee.

Mr. Epperson expressed a concern with vehicles leaking oil or gas and that draining in the retaining pond. Mr. Young explained that there is often oil and gas by-products in retaining ponds near large parking lots, but Shreveport Green is not planning to use storm run-off from large parking lots. He also said that they are planning to use stormwater from rooftops at schools, rather than run off near parking lots.

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

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

- *Consideration of the recommendations of the Alcoholic Beverage Committee*
- *Visitor from Life Share Blood Center for the Regular Session agenda*

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, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Jackson and Jones (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

COMMUNIQUES AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Epperson announced that there will be a joint proclamation signing this Friday, November 4 at 10:00 a.m. in Government Plaza lobby.
- Mrs. Gage-Watts announced that this week is #318BlackRestaurantWeek. She asked that

everyone to join in this endeavor.

- Mr. Young invited the Commissioners to participate in the green infrastructure funding.

CONSENT AGENDA

- *Zoning Case 22-20-P, in regards to 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*
- *Zoning Case 22-21-P, in regards to Ordinance No. 6263 of 2021, 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*
- *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*
- *Ordinance No. 6266 of 2022, an ordinance adopting the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Shreve Memorial Library for the year 2023*

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 4:15 p.m.


Assistant Commission Clerk