

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 20th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2023

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Work 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, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (11). ABSENT: Commissioner Epperson (1).

The invocation was given by Mr. Jones, and Mr. Young led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ADDITIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *to expand the agenda and add the advancement of Special Resolution honoring Judge Pamela Lattier* under New Business.

The President opened the floor for anyone to speak in favor or against the agenda addition. There being no one to speak, the President closed the public hearing.

Mr. Burrell and Mr. Johnson would like to be added to the Special Resolution. The Clerk acknowledged this request.

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS

David Hackney came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

I spoke at the February 23, 2023 Caddo Parish Commission's Regular Session voicing concerns I had regarding the Tim James, Inc. proposed roadway and toll bridge. Caddo Parish signed a CEA with Tim James, Inc. in January 2022. I am here today, as I continue to have concerns. I am supportive of private investment into our community. A couple of guiding principle I've used over my career have been, get the right results in the right way and do no harm. From time to time, I have contacted my Caddo Parish Commissioner, John Atkins, for an update on the Tim James, Inc. project. Commissioner Atkins is typically quick to respond with whatever new information he has available. I've also been referred to Caddo Parish Attorney Henry Bernstein, and he too has been quick to reply. On October 16, 2023, representatives with Tim James, Inc. made a presentation to the Caddo Bossier Port Commission. Alternative routes were presented, and a potential federal government financing program was proposed. A CEA between the Port and "Red River Express, LLC" was also proposed. On November 9, 2023, I email Attorney Henry Bernstein to see if there were any updates on the Tim James, Inc. project and was told no. It appears that information sharing between the Port and the Caddo Parish Commission is lacking. On November 13, 2023, I attended the Caddo Bossier Port Commission meeting. A resolution was approved allowing the Port to enter into a CE with Red River Express, LLC (Resolution No. 19 of 2023). The purpose of the CEA is for the Port to apply for a federal loan under the "Community Facilities Direct Loan Program" to fund Red River Express, LLC. I encourage all of you to read the guidance book for applicants for this loan program. This course of actions seems to be in conflict with Tim James, Inc. statement that the project will be privately funded. Tim James, Inc. and the Caddo Parish Commission have said this project was going to be privately funded and the roadway would be on privately owned property. The originally proposed route has to cross Caddo Levee District land, located between Twelve Oaks and Esplanade Subdivisions. On July 1, 2022, Tim James, Inc. purchased multiple residential lots in Esplanade Subdivision "to construct a portion of the Roadway". Both the seller and buyer acknowledge a PUD modification from the MPC will be required. The purchase price was \$510,000. (Online instrument #2892332). James pays \$43.71 property taxes to Caddo and Shreveport. Commissioner Atkins, when you proposed the Tim James, Inc. CEA in early 2022, you stated that Tim James, Inc representatives met with Twelve Oaks homeowners and they were supportive. Tim James, Inc. representatives have not met with Esplanade homeowners. It would be helpful, for Esplanade residents, as well as Caddo Parish in general, if a public meeting was held. Together, let's get the right results in the right way. Thank you.

Denise Moss came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

I live here in Caddo Parish. I thank you for the work that you're doing for us here. I'm not here to discuss national politics, but rather, I'd like to discuss what's going on right here in Caddo Parish. From a safety standpoint, I'm concerned about the large number of undocumented immigrants coming through the Highland Center. I'm told they are newly released asylum seekers from ICE detention centers. I've been told by an ICE supervisor out of the Oakdale Detention Center that it is often difficult to do thorough background checks on these people, and that a credible fear test is not too difficult to pass. I'm concerned this is a safety issue for the Highland Center, in particular, as well as the surrounding community. There are community-based programs that coincide on their campus, as well as children's programs. There's nothing to keep them from walking out of the building and disappearing into the community. I'm addressing

you today because the organization, LA Aide, that organizes this has received grant money from Caddo Parish, and I'm sure you're aware of this. But in the grant guidelines, under No. 3, it specifies that the money must be used for economic development in Caddo Parish. No. 4 stipulates the money cannot be used to benefit non-Caddo citizens. That's not exactly how the money is being used right now. I would propose that we take our resources and correct the problems that we have here in Caddo Parish. There may be other options, but one proposal I have is to have ICE or LA Aide to take them directly—that's the uh, released immigrants—directly to the airport or the bus station and not have a stay at the Highland Center. This would alleviate the possibility of them disbursing out into the community and causing harm to others, especially children. That would allow the Highland Center to regain their initial focus on the needs of the immediate community for which they do a fabulous job. I've enjoyed visiting with Ms. Madison Poche and I invited her to come today to tell her side. We've been kind of brainstorming and working together so hopefully we'll come up with a good solution. Thank you.

Madison Poche came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Hi everyone! I'm Madison. I'm the Executive Director of the Highland Center, and I know there have been some new questions about one of the programs in our building, so I just wanted to address some of those things clearly and factually. I also just brought some information with me that I'll just pass around. So, first and foremost, all clients at the Highland Center must be supervised at all times by their programs. The only exception to that is when a neighbor comes into our library—we are open; we have receptionists there that are keeping an eye on them. The Highland Center is actually three separate physical buildings. We have receptionists on duty at entrances checking in and checking out every guest that comes through. We have an evening/overnight security guard who is able to respond to any issues or questions that come up. Any programs that involve children have their own separate entrance—private secured entrance. Then there is limited access between buildings. Actually recently, I'm proud to say, we were awarded about \$100,000 security grant from FEMA, so we'll also be continuing to upgrade some of our security processes and door access control things over the next year. Uh oh, I'm already out of time. Ok, so I'm sure you guys remember—I think it was two summers ago when there were a few dozen Haitian women that were just dropped at the SporTran terminal. So these women had actually been legally approved to travel to their sponsor to continue the asylum process as it stands now under the supervision of their financial sponsor; however, they had not been told where they were going. They had not been given the opportunity to contact their families, so it ended up being very chaotic for our public officials, for SporTran, for the women—and it doesn't have to be. Luckily there were a few church volunteers that showed up. They got a Haitian Creole translator out; they brought food for the women; they got in touch with their families; they had bus tickets and plane tickets booked; and they got the women—every single one of them safely to their family members and out of Shreveport/Bossier, which was the plan kind of all along. I think that people might be surprised to know that kind of chaotic issue wasn't isolated—that's actually been continuing to happen because we now have a few different U.S. immigration centers in rural Louisiana. So, there have been many church volunteers, including the Church for the Highlands, but we have Methodists and Episcopalians and people from the Jewish community and all of our different congregations have been working together to step up and provide humanitarian assistance when it is needed.

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to extend Ms. Poche's time by three minutes.* Motion carried by acclamation.

Ms. Poche continued with her comment:

Fast forward a little bit here. Over the past few years, the volunteers have really been working tirelessly and effectively to establish communication with the immigration centers; to establish protocols to make sure that every single person that's legally approved to go to their sponsors and that's legally approved to continue their case is able to do so safely and to leave our community to get to where they are trying to go. Now, the vast majority of times, immigration centers are bringing people directly to the Shreveport airport. So, they—I don't know why they can't do this themselves, but they give a list three days in advance to volunteers. The volunteers contact people's families; they buy bus tickets or their plane tickets. The volunteers meet people at the airport. They hand out snacks. They have their printed ticket. They have translators available. They make sure this process is as smooth as possible for every single human being that is in our community and has a legal travel plan. Of course, as you've heard, there are times when the immigration centers need extra help—they bring people right to the airport. Does it make sense? The office at the Highland Center has been able to continue to provide this support where people can—every single person is checked in. They are documented. They have gone through the legal process as our government says they have, and they have a place to go. At our center, we are able to make sure that human beings that are doing everything legally have a meal, are able to get on the internet and talk to their families, they are able to book the first bus or plane ticket out of town to where they're going. No one has wandered off into the community. No one has even missed a flight because of the volunteer effort that has been underway. Let me see if there's anything else. We have visited by members of Caddo Parish from the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office, from the Governor's Office for Human Trafficking—I think I've talked to—I'm trying to see who I haven't talked to—SPD Community Liaison Officer. We have been checked out and verified. Our tenants are ok; our neighbors are ok. You know it's probably not ideal, but it is the best thing that we can do. I'm just very impressed with the Christian humanitarian service that this team has been able to provide. So if there is any extra assistance that we can get to make it safer, more secure, make people feel more comfortable—we're very open to that. Thank you. Can I say one really fast thing? Ok, and

that is that—we know this is a complicated issue, but we have now had—occasionally people may have misunderstand the role that volunteers play waiting in a parking lot—uh, using racial slurs, kind of harassing—we'll just say intimidating the volunteers. So we've been trying to share correct information to not overblow what is happening here. Ok, that's all.

Susan Barensfeather came in and gave the following comment:

To help you all with how valid the information I would present to is, my working career has had thirty-five years of pharmaceutical industry while working out of my house. For twenty-five of those years, I've run my own business as a consultant of contractors to the pharmaceutical industry. And what I do for them is count—write programs that count what patients got what drug. So, Patient 1 got Drug A and how many patients got Drug A and how many patients got Drug B, how many patients got placebos. I am very accustomed to writing computer programs that count. What I would like to present to you is my research on the other—well, I should say, I have twelve years of experience in statistical and database programming for the pharmaceutical industry. The other twenty years is writing summary information when someone else does that same summary work, statistics and the database summaries. What I would like to say is that for our elections here in Caddo and across the state. Yes, it is a top-down state system. It is controlled from Baton Rouge. Presently, we are the only state in the union who cannot audit our elections. We are the only state. Why is that? Because we only have ballots at a separate system with which—we only use ballots for the absentee voting. What I would like for you to consider is that we cannot audit. The Louisiana Department of Secretary of State was audited itself in 2022 and that's exactly what it was decided for besides three or four other big items, which you will not hear from Mr. Adoin or another Secretary of State person. They were cited because they do not audit anything. What I would also extend to you is that I've also done research—not only into the voter rolls that I would be happy to present to you at another time because three minutes is not nearly enough time to explain it. But what would like to show you just briefly. I know you cannot see it from where you are. This is a screenshot of the election last fall, in 2022, District G, Precinct 71. Now, this is not there anymore, but this is a screenshot on a Sunday night after the election on Tuesday. This screenshot says that Precinct 71 in District G, the turnout rate was 592%. I ask you if everybody in a Precinct shows up to vote, isn't that 100%? How do you get a computed 592% turnout rate? I also have done analysis of our past primary just a month ago. These are the graphs for seven of the eight candidates.

At this time, Mr. Young advised Ms. Barensfeather that her time had expired and suggested that this information be forwarded to the Clerk of the Commission.

Candy Peavy came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good Afternoon. I live here in Caddo. My address is on the card. The last time I was here, I was testifying about election integrity issues. I sent an email to all of you last night. I don't know how many of you have had the opportunity to look at it. Ok, great. Now that we've had a very interesting Sheriff's race. I don't know how many of you have ever seen a race where it was only one vote difference, but that's really, really rare. I don't know what the process is going to be right now with the two candidates. I have no awareness of that, but I'm wondering have you asked yourself, "what would you do? or how would you feel if your race was lost by one vote?" Do you think its good governance that our elections cannot be audited except for those absentee paper ballots in this state. That's the only way that you can audit any election right now. I think, if I'm not mistaken, Commissioner Johnson, you know about that, correct? So, it is good governance that machine votes cannot be audited? Doesn't that disenfranchise tens of thousands of voters in Caddo Parish? If it comes to an audit or a recount that all those machine votes are worthless because they can't be counted. Its only those paper ballots. To me, that's a big problem. I also have something that I wanted to read. This is the election integrity Louisiana Department of State Performance Audit March 9, 2022. It was done by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor. I just want to read one sentence out of this cover letter. "Louisiana's current in-person voting systems do not produce a voter verified paper record, which prevents the Department of State Performance from conducting post-election tabulation audits." I mean, that's our Department of State that issued that. To me, its time to talk about—the last time I was here was when Commissioner Young had introduced that paper ballot resolution for you guys to consider. The vote was that they send it to Committee. To my knowledge, it has not been heard in Committee yet, and I really want to urge you—I think its time in our parish to start talking about that resolution. Local citizens here—Mrs. Barensfeather that you just heard, is a complete expert on the scientific part of it. We both attended meetings down in Baton Rouge, but we're willing and able to come to your committee meetings and help you. It's complicated, but that's all I have to say today. I think its worth considering all of my questions. Please read your email from me that I sent last night if you haven't already.

Frances Kelly came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Hi, my name is Frances Kelly, and I'm with Louisiana Advocates for Immigrants in Detention. I was mainly coming to hear if there were any questions. I did want to say that this Commission—I believe in January of 2022, did pass a resolution to send to the White House and DHS about the chaos that was happening with the release process. We have seen a lot of improvements since that time. There's obviously more work to be done, but I did want to ensure that to let you know that we are in communication with ICE, have been on calls with DHS and Border Patrol and FEMA in the past few weeks to make sure that we are coordinating everything as smoothly as possible. Every single person that we assist in this process, I keep track of their tickets. If somebody comes to pick them up, I have all that information. Right

now, I'm still looking at tickets that are coming in today. The idea of people wandering off into the neighborhoods, that's not happened. Most of them don't want to be here; they want to be wherever their family is anyway. They all have a place to go; they all have documents from immigration for their process so they are not undocumented. We've no incidents. Everything has been smoothly. If there are things like flight cancellations because of weather, we are in communication with TSA at the airport. We go and pick people up to make sure they have a place to stay. We make sure they are brought back for their flights. I'm just here if you guys have any questions about our program.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- Johnny Gray Jones Update

Mrs. Bryant said that this issue is ongoing, and they are currently working on it.

- Juvenile Detention

Mrs. Bryant said that there are twenty-one children in the Detention Center; nine of which are OJJ. There are nine 17-year olds, and thirteen children at CCC.

- October 2023 Financial Statements

Mrs. Bryant said that the October 2023 Financial Reports are attached to the agenda as well as a hard copy at each Commissioner's desk.

Mrs. Bryant also recognized Mr. Rusty Scarborough on his recent award for the 2023 Distinguished Interpretive Manager Award.

- Commission Remarks to Administration

Mr. Young talked about the Tim James, Inc project. He requested updated information be emailed to the Commissioners.

Mr. Young then asked Administration about the RFPs for the Opioid Fund. Mrs. Bryant said that they are hoping to issue those in December, and the responses will be due back next year. She said that this is due to the publication in the Official Journal

Mrs. Gage-Watts wanted to know if there was an update about the Sickle Cell doctor replacement. Mrs. Bryant said that they will work on getting that update.

She then talked about Pro Street and I-20. She said that trucks are still coming in and are too close to I-20.

Mr. Atkins thanked Administration and everyone involved in the food distribution. Mr. Johnson agreed and said that the food drive in the MLK area was well received.

COMMISSION REMARKS

- Mr. Johnson said that Love's Truckstop had their grand opening this past week.

He also said that he's had several complaints regarding lights being out on North Hearne from Hilry Huckaby to North Market. He asked that Administration follow up with DOTD to resolve that issue.

Mr. Johnson also expressed some concerns from the airport employees about people being dropped off at the airport and just sitting there. He suggested that there be some sort of communication with the employees at the airport. Mr. Johnson saw a strange person at Popeye's on Jewella—he said that one person was talking to a pole.

- It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Young, *to suspend the rules and allow a question and answer period with Madison Poche and Frances Kelly. Motion carried by acclamation.*

Answering a question from Mrs. Gage-Watts regarding if the immigrants are allowed to be off-site, Ms. Kelly stated that they are not allowed to leave the church unless the volunteers are taking them somewhere. She said that this is for their own protection. She also mentioned that TSA has her cell number, and there has not been any incidents. Mrs. Gage-Watts wanted to know if there have been any incidents with the immigrants, Ms. Kelly said that there has not been. Mrs. Gage-Watts then thanked the volunteers for all of their hard work in getting the immigrants to their prospective places.

Ms. Kelly mentioned that the immigrants who are coming through the area are in administrative detention and have not been convicted of any crime. She further explained that the sole purpose of immigration detention is so that they can show up for their court hearings. This is not an issue of public safety, she said. All of the immigrants have been thoroughly background checked. She suggested

that a representative from ICE come and explain the process. Mrs. Gage-Watts agreed.

Mr. Burrell asked if there any reports or any violations from the immigrants who were coming through. Ms. Kelly reiterated that they are not an issue of public safety. She said that some of the immigrants are only here for about 30 minutes until they get on their bus or plane to their destination.

Mr. Young wanted to know how long has the Highland Center been providing this service for immigrants. Ms. Kelly said that they started in Spring of 2021. He then wanted to know if they get paid for their work. Ms. Kelly said that she is part-time, along with another part-time and a host of volunteers, but she works over 100 hours a week. Mr. Young thanked her for her service. Mr. Young then wanted to know if there was another organization who provides this service. Ms. Kelly said that they are the only post-release organization in Louisiana and Mississippi. Mr. Young then asked what would happen if this organization did not exist. Ms. Kelly said that she does not know, and that ICE is heavily dependent upon their services.

Mr. Young then said that he lived two blocks from the Highland Center, and there have been no issues thus far.

Mr. Chavez also thanked the Highland Center. He is concerned, however, the conception of this. He wanted to know how did ICE deem Shreveport as a place to drop immigrants off. Ms. Kelly explained that they began with driving to the rural centers to pick people up, but they could not keep up with this. She also said that they have pushed for coordination and clear communication between their organization, the immigrants, and the Highland Center to get the immigrants moved to their prospective places.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know if Ms. Kelly works for the Highland Center. Ms. Kelly said that she works for the Louisiana Advocates for Immigration & Detention, but they are located in the Highland Center.

Ms. Poche explained that there are a few immigration centers in rural Louisiana. After the immigrants go through the process at the ICE centers, they are brought to the nearest hub. From there, LA AID helps the immigrants get to their financial sponsors and families. Mr. Chavez thanked Ms. Poche and Ms. Kelly for their work.

Mr. Chavez then wanted to know the time period in which a person comes to Shreveport and moved to their next location. Ms. Kelly said that there is not really a timeline, but 99% of the people leave either the same day or the following morning.

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded Mr. Chavez, *that this discussion be remanded to the appropriate committee.*

Mr. Jackson believes that this discussion should be vetted in Committee.

At this time, Mr. Jackson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Chavez, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (10). NAYS: Commissioner Gage-Watts (1). ABSENT: Commissioner Epperson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, it was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to go back into the Work Session. Motion carried by acclamation.*

- Mrs. Gage-Watts thanked Mr. Alan Clarke with regards to the issue on Pro Street. She also has concerns with the lighting on 3132, especially the curve that comes onto 3132 from I-20. She then thanked all the volunteers for helping during the food distribution sites. Mrs. Gage-Watts then announced that the Shreveport Regional Airport has surpass their passenger numbers since 2019.

- Mr. Jones also thanked everyone who helped out during the food distribution. He also announced that the Community Foundation Northwest Louisiana, Step Forward, Shreve Memorial Library, and LSU AgCenter is hosting an event tomorrow night to offer healthier options for Thanksgiving at A.B. Palmer Park.

- Mr. Young talked about the recount process for election. He suggested that if the recount produces a different result than the first count, then there ought to be another count confirming either the first or second count. Mr. Johnson mentioned that he could answer that question. He explained that the Clerk of Court, Registrar of Voters, Democrat Representative, Republican Representative, and a member from the Secretary of State's Office. He also explained that there could be a representative from the candidate present. Each person counts all the votes and tallies them up.

- Mr. Chavez wanted to know if the machine votes are recounted. Mr. Johnson said that they are not. Only the absentee votes are counted.

Mr. Chavez then talked about 3132. He said that 90% of the lights are out, along with the light poles. He would like something done about this.

- Mr. Jackson suggested that election information should come from the Registrar of Voters and the Clerk of Court. He also thanked everyone who showed up and helped out during the food distribution. Mr. Jackson also announced that there will be a food distribution to senior citizens in District 3.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Burrell thanked everyone who showed up to help out during the food distribution. He hopes that this can be done again for Christmas.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Young, *to englobo and moved the following items to Wednesday's agenda for introduction:*

- *Ordinance No. 6398 of 2023, an ordinance to accept the streets in Northwood Trace Subdivision, Unit 7, New Territory Unit IV-A, and New Territory Unit V into the Parish of Caddo System, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6399 of 2023, an ordinance to close and abandon a portion of the dedication for Laura Lea Lane located in Sections 28 and 29, Township 21 North, Range 16 West, in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

At this time, Mr. Hopkins' 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 (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Epperson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that Ordinance No. 6400 of 2023, an ordinance to deem property surplus and authorize the sale of surplus property owned by the Parish of Caddo and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be advanced to Wednesday's agenda for introduction.

Substitute motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that the ordinance be amended to donate surplus items to non-profit organizations in Caddo Parish.*

Mrs. Bryant said that there is a process, with regards to the substitute motion, that they would need to go through to value the surplus items. Mr. Johnson understood and suggested that some of these items could be used in lieu of dollars.

Answering a question from Mr. Atkins regarding the legality of the substitute motion, Attorney Frazier said that it is, but the items would need to be valued.

The Clerk of the Commission pointed out that this would need to be re-advertised with a new title due to the nature of the substitute motion. Mr. Jackson wanted to know if this would need to be re-introduced. The Clerk of the Commission stated that it would. Attorney Frazier suggested that this ordinance be forwarded as is, and pull anything off of it via a separate ordinance.

Mr. Jackson asked about the other entities, i.e. Clerk of Court. Mrs. Barnett said that they cannot donate those items.

At this time, Mr. Johnson's 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: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Epperson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Ordinance No. 6401 of 2023, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Oil & Gas Fund and the Capital Outlay Fund to provide an appropriation for the Food Desert Project in the MLK Community and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be advanced to Wednesday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Johnson explained that this came out of the Economic Development Committee. It has been determined that the MLK area is a food desert with no fresh produce or fresh meat. He said that this project will possibly raise property values and eliminate the food desert.

Mr. Atkins agreed that this came out of committee, but "this is not well thought out and not economically sound". He has not seen a budget, a projection, floor plan, etc. He believes that this project is premature and not well thought out.

Substitute motion by Mr. Chavez, seconded by Mr. Young, *that Ordinance No. 6401 of 2023, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Oil & Gas Fund and the Capital Outlay Fund to provide an appropriation for the Food Desert Project in the MLK Community and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be remanded back to the Economic Development Committee.

Mr. Chavez said that the Food Bank is currently working on setting up a monthly food distribution site at SUSLA. He would like this information to be presented to committee.

Mr. Johnson said that this would only be once a month. He also explained that the residents of the MLK area should have the opportunity to get fresh produce. Mr. Johnson said that there are floor plans available for this project. Mr. Johnson also mentioned that this project is contingent on the other entities before any funds are spent.

Mr. Atkins is empathetic to food insecurities, but he does have concerns. He does not feel that this project has been properly vetted nor is economically sustainable.

Mr. Jackson is concerned that this does not include Lakeside nor Allendale. He said that if a grocery stores should be built, it should be built on Hilry Huckabee and Hearne.

Mrs. Gage-Watts reminded the Commission that the body has made decisions based on the contingency of private dollars. She said that this project is to provide fresh fruits, fresh vegetables, and fresh meat to the residents of the Cooper Road area.

Call for the Question by Mr. Lazarus, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Hopkins, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (7). NAYS: Commissioners Blake, Gage-Watts, Jackson, and Johnson (4). ABSENT: Commissioner Epperson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Chavez's substitute motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Chavez, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, and Young (8). NAYS: Commissioners Burrell, Gage-Watts, and Jones (3). ABSENT: Commissioner Epperson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Young, *that Resolution No. 60 of 2023, a resolution to relocate the polling place for Precinct 9-10 (formerly precinct 128) from Norris Ferry Community Church, 10509 Norris Ferry Road, Shreveport, LA 71106 to Ascension Classical School, 10540 Norris Ferry Road, Shreveport, LA 71106, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be moved to Wednesday's agenda for consideration.

Substitute motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to englobo and move the following items to Wednesday's agenda for consideration:*

- *Resolution No. 60 of 2023, a resolution to relocate the polling place for Precinct 9-10 (formerly precinct 128) from Norris Ferry Community Church, 10509 Norris Ferry Road, Shreveport, LA 71106 to Ascension Classical School, 10540 Norris Ferry Road, Shreveport, LA 71106, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 62 of 2023, a resolution amending Resolution No. 57 of 2023, giving written public notice of the regularly scheduled meetings of the Caddo Parish Commission for the calendar year 2024, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 63 of 2023, a resolution to adopt a new Caddo Parish/ City of Shreveport Parks & Recreation Master Plan, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Special Resolution for Counselor of the Year, Lamesa Furlow Fleury*
- *Special Resolution for Honoring Judge Pamela Lattier*

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: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Epperson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Resolution No. 61 of 2023, a resolution submitting to Governor John Bel Edwards a name for appointment for membership on the Red River Waterway Commission* be moved to Wednesday's agenda for consideration.

Mr. Burrell said that there have been issues on Cross Bayou, and the Commission was trying to get information from the Red River Waterway Commission (RRWC), but the representative from the RRWC has not provided the information requested. Mr. Burrell said that if the Commission has a representative on a body, then that representative should provide the Commission with information if requested.

Mr. Johnson suggested that if this is going to be done to one appointee, then it should be consistent across the board and should be done to all Commission appointees.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know if this resolution removes the current representative and replaces him. Mr. Burrell said that this resolution would only be a recommendation to the Governor's Office. Mr. Chavez asked that a resume be attached.

The Clerk of the Commission explained that the RRWC is established by the State, but the members are appointed by the Governor.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if this person's term is expired. The Clerk of the Commission stated that Mr. Lattier's term does not expire until 2027. He said that he will not be supportive of a personal vendetta, but will be supportive if there is something problematic with the current appointee.

Substitute motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Resolution No. 61 of 2023, a resolution submitting to Governor John Bel Edwards a name for appointment for membership on the Red River Waterway Commission be delayed to the December 7, 2023 Regular Session.*

Amendment by Mrs. Gage-Watts, seconded by Mr. Jones, *that all Commission appointments who have not appeared before the Commission upon request be added to Resolution No. 61 of 2023.*

Attorney Frazier said that Mrs. Gage-Watts' amendment may not be appropriate for this resolution because some the appointments are direct appointments from the Commission, and this resolution is to be forwarded to the Governor.

Mrs. Gage-Watts understood, but still would like the list of all appointments who have not appeared before the Commission upon request.

Call for the Question by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Atkins. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Chavez, Hopkins, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (8). NAYS: Commissioners Gage-Watts, Jackson, and Johnson (3). ABSENT: Commissioner Epperson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

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

At this time, Mr. Hopkins' substitute motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Chavez, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, and Young (8). NAYS: Commissioners Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Jones (3). ABSENT: Commissioner Epperson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

CONSENT AGENDA

- *Ordinance No. 6390 of 2023, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund for the year 2023 to reduce revenues for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6391 of 2023, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Debt Service Fund for the year 2023 to appropriate bond proceeds*
- *Ordinance No. 6392 of 2023, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Capital Improvement III Fund and amending the Budget for the Debt Service Fund for the year 2023 to transfer 2023 bond proceeds to the Capital Improvement III Fund*
- *Ordinance No. 6393 of 2023, in regards to PZC Case No. 23-7-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 accessory structures, with all their provisions included herein, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6394 of 2023, in regards to PZC Case No. 23-15-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 at the northeast lot of South Lakeshore Drive and Page Landing Road, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, from R-A, Rural Agricultural Zoning District to O-S, Open Space Zoning District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6395 of 2023, in regards to PZC Case No. 23-31-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 on the north side of Old Mooringsport Road, approximately 930 feet west of Hwy 71, 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. 6396 of 2023, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Oil & Gas Fund and the Capital Outlay Fund in the amount of \$35,000 to provide an appropriation for an addition to the I-49 Welcome Sign, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6397 of 2023, an ordinance amending and re-enacting Ordinance No. 6342 of 2023, establishing and merging precincts consistent with the 2023 Caddo Parish Commission districts in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statutes 18:532 and 18:532.1, to amend certain precinct legal descriptions and otherwise providing with respect thereto*

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 5:48 p.m.


Assistant Commission Clerk