

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 6th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2023

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Work Session, on the above date, at 3:33 p.m., in the Government Chambers, with Mr. Burrell, presiding, and the following members in attendance, constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Jackson, Lazarus and Young (11). ABSENT: Commissioner Jones (1).

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Public comment was given by Jon Glover related to opposition of Ordinance Nos. 6306 and 6307 of 2023.

Public comment was given by Adele Shafferman related to wrong voting district.

Public comment was given by Brenda O'Brock related to Commission redistricting as it relates to voting.

Public comment was given by Mona Proctor related to redistricting and disenfranchised.

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *to go out of order and consider the following agenda items:*

- *Authorize Introduction of Ordinance No. 6308 Of 2023, an ordinance amending and re-enacting Ordinance No. 5111 of 2011 and Ordinance No. 5935 of 2019, reapportioning Caddo Parish into twelve Commission Districts, enumerating the constituent precincts respectively comprising the Commission Districts, and otherwise providing with respect thereto.*
- *Authorize Introduction of Ordinance No. 6309 Of 2023, an ordinance amending and re-enacting Ordinance No. 5111 of 2011 and Ordinance No. 5935 of 2019, reapportioning Caddo Parish into twelve Commission Districts, enumerating the constituent precincts respectively comprising the Commission Districts, and otherwise providing with respect thereto.*
- *Authorize Introduction of Ordinance No. 6310 Of 2023, an ordinance amending and re-enacting Ordinance No. 5111 of 2011 and Ordinance No. 5935 of 2019, reapportioning Caddo Parish into twelve Commission Districts, enumerating the constituent precincts respectively comprising the Commission Districts, and otherwise providing with respect thereto.*

Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cothran, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, Cothran, and Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Johnson and Jones (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Mr. Floyd introduced the three redistricting ordinances and that the maps would be uploaded on the Parish of Caddo's website. He also announced a community engagement meeting scheduled Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Epperson requested that the maps be placed in the Government Plaza foyer.

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to move the following ordinances to Thursday's agenda for introduction:*

- *Ordinance No. 6308 Of 2023, an ordinance amending and re-enacting Ordinance No. 5111 of 2011 and Ordinance No. 5935 of 2019, reapportioning Caddo Parish into twelve Commission Districts, enumerating the constituent precincts respectively comprising the Commission Districts, and otherwise providing with respect thereto.*
- *Ordinance No. 6309 Of 2023, an ordinance amending and re-enacting Ordinance No. 5111 of 2011 and Ordinance No. 5935 of 2019, reapportioning Caddo Parish into twelve Commission Districts, enumerating the constituent precincts respectively comprising the Commission Districts, and otherwise providing with respect thereto.*
- *Ordinance No. 6310 Of 2023, an ordinance amending and re-enacting Ordinance No. 5111 of 2011 and Ordinance No. 5935 of 2019, reapportioning Caddo Parish*

into twelve Commission Districts, enumerating the constituent precincts respectively comprising the Commission Districts, and otherwise providing with respect thereto.

Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cothran, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, Cothran, and Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Johnson and Jones (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *to return to the work session agenda.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cothran, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, Cothran, and Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Johnson and Jones (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

REPORTS

- Administrative Report

Mrs. Erica Bryant provided the Administration Report on the new Walter B. Jacobs park, recognized Public Works regarding sand bags, and that housing RFPs are in process to be awarded. Mrs. Bryant disclosed there was one reported Covid case for the period. Mrs. Bryant provided an update on the capacity of the Juvenile Detention Center.

- Mr. Jackson enquired after the process for the Housing Trust Fund and the RFP process. Mrs. Bryant addressed his concerns.

- Mr. Young requested for an update on communicating with the Secretary of State and the Registrar of Voters regarding voting concerns. Mrs. Bryant will follow up with the Commission about the Secretary of State and the Registrar of Voters' communication regarding the voting concerns. Mr. Young discussed wild dogs, animal tranquilizer darts with Animal Services Director Travis Clark.

- Mrs. Gage-Watts suggested inviting a representative from the Secretary of State and the Clerk of Court to the Commission meeting to address the voting concerns of citizens. Mrs. Gage-Watts requested an update on an animal situation in their district. Mr. Travis Clark will research the situation and follow up with Mrs. Gage-Watts.

- Mr. Chavez suggested hiring a contract third-party to audit the voting issue. Mrs. Bryant advised that Administration would have to work with the Secretary of State Office regarding an audit and that the Administration will invite a representative to the Commission.

- Mr. Jackson addressed the recent amendments to the Housing Trust Fund relating to the process of an application and requested that Administration will review the RFP process.

- Master Plan Update

Mr. Clark discussed the next steps with the Unified Development Code. Mr. Chavez will follow up with Mr. Clark to call a Long Range Planning Committee meeting. Mr. Jackson suggested that the Long Range Planning Committee consider the urban commissioner districts vested interest in the City of Shreveport's master plan. Mr. Hopkins discussed the Caddo Parish and the City of Shreveport's master plans and the related discussion covered in the Long Range Planning Committee.

COMMISSION REMARKS

- Mr. Chavez addressed NGO rules regarding appropriating funds. Mr. Johnson addressed the reasons for Ordinances Nos. 6306 and 6307 of 2023.

- Mr. Young addressed the non-divisive purpose of community gardens.

- Mr. Burrell addressed food deserts and community gardens.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *Authorize Introduction of Ordinance No. 6305 Of 2023, an ordinance to close and abandon a portion of the drainage easement for one north place subdivision, and otherwise providing 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, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Jackson, Lazarus and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Jones (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that Ordinance No. 6306 Of 2023, ordinance amending the 2023 Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund to provide an appropriation for Charles Johnson Ministries, Inc. 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, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Jackson, Lazarus and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Jones (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Substitute motion by Mr. Atkins, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *to advance the introduction of Ordinance No. 6306 of 2023 and to award the rollover appropriation with no additional appropriation.*

Mr. Jackson enquired that his attached amendment would fund the appropriation through Juvenile. Mr. Clay Walker, Director of Juveniles Services, will review and follow up with Mr. Jackson. Mr. Jackson requested that the Clerk clarify the amendment.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Young, *that Ordinance No. 6307 Of 2023, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund to provide an appropriation of \$20,000 for Louisiana Urban Gardening 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, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Jones (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Resolution No. 6 of 2023, resolution urging and requesting the Louisiana Legislature to implement a social media campaign to educate the youth on the elements of and sentences for murder charges* be moved to Thursday's agenda.

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to englobo and advance the following ordinances to Thursday's agenda for introduction:*

- *Resolution No. 6 of 2023, resolution urging and requesting the Louisiana Legislature to implement a social media campaign to educate the youth on the elements of and sentences for murder charges*
- *Authorize Consideration of Resolution No. 7 Of 2023, RESOLUTION URGING AND REQUESTING THE LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE TO ADD A MANDATORY LIFE SENTENCE FOR KILLING CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 4*
- *Authorize Special Resolution Proclaiming Black History Month*
- *Authorize Special Resolution Proclaiming American Heart Month and Go Red Day*
- *Authorize Special Resolution of Recognition for Orlandeaux's Cafe*
- *Authorize Special Resolution of Recognition for The National Panhellenic Council/ The Divine Nine*
- *Authorize Special Resolution of Recognition for Bryant Keith Taylor Aka P2K*

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

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *to Advance Authorizing the Administration to Award Green Infrastructure Funds to Krewe Of Highland Projects* to Thursday's agenda. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Jones (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to Advance Authorizing the Administration to Alter the Scope of Work on Fire District 8'S American Rescue Plan Application* to Thursday's agenda. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Jones (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *to Advance Authorizing Administration to Change ARPA Projects* to Thursday's agenda. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Jones (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Substitute motion by Mr. Chavez, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Authorizing Administration to Change ARPA Projects* be remanded to a committee of the Commission President's choice.

Call for the Question by Mr. Johnson, seconded by 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, and Young (10). NAYS: Commissioner Cothran (1). ABSENT: Commissioner Jones (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Chavez's substitute motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Hopkins, Jackson, and Young (6). NAYS: Commissioners Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Lazarus (5). ABSENT: Commissioner Jones (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

The Commission President selected that the agenda item be remanded to the American Rescue Plan Committee.

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that Authorize Discussion on Juvenile Justice Millage for The Fall Ballot* be moved to Thursday's agenda.

Substitute motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that Authorize Discussion on Juvenile Justice Millage for The Fall Ballot* be remanded to the Juvenile Justice Committee. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Cothran, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, and Young (9). NAYS: Commissioners Gage-Watts, and Johnson (2). ABSENT: Commissioner Jones (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

COMMUNIQUES/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Epperson called a Crime Lab Ad Hoc meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 9, 2023 at 2:00 pm.

CONSENT AGENDA

- *Ordinance No. Ordinance No. 6301 Of 2022 Related To CTAP-22-4-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, to replace the terms "Metropolitan Planning Commission" and "Zoning Board of Appeals" with "Caddo Parish Planning and Zoning Commission," as applicable, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto.*
- *Ordinance No. 6302 Of 2023, an ordinance to amend Section 19-31 and 19-51 of the Code of Ordinances, relative to purchase of adjudicated property for economic development and housing, to delete the requirement that the purchaser's plan of work be supported by the City of Shreveport's Office of Community Development, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto.*
- *Resolution Ordinance No. 6304 Of 2023, An ordinance providing for the incurring of debt and issuance of Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000) of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2023, of Caddo Parish, Louisiana; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.*
- *Regular Session Minutes from January 5, 2023*

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

/s/ Linda J. Montgomery
Linda J. Montgomery
Administrative Specialist I