

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

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Work Session, on the above date, at 3:32 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, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus and Young (11). ABSENT: Commissioner Jones (1).

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

REPORTS

- **Administrative Report**

Dr. Wilson invited Mr. Russell Sarpy, Emergent Enforcement Solutions Company, to provide information on their services. Mr. Sarpy discussed the services that the Emergent Enforcement Solutions Company provides and how their company operates under a Parish ordinance. Mr. Sarpy explained citation responsibility of the car owner and how the handling of citations would be dictated in the Parish's ordinance. Mr. Sarpy discussed the crime fighting tool of the camera system and the system's connection to the State law enforcement database. Mr. Sarpy explained that there were not any barriers for the system except the decision of the local government to use the system. Mr. Sarpy explained the data of a speed study in Bethany, LA. Mr. Sarpy discussed the company's employees, how their company hires law enforcers, how the system is operated and recommended the Parish hold a 90-day period to pilot their services before moving forward with a contract.

Point of order by Mr. Jackson about the discussion during Reports.

Dr. Wilson reported the first forum date of the Community Housing Forums, the opening of the summer employment applications, updated the population in the Juvenile Detention Center, the OJJ and the CCC. Dr. Wilson suggested the Commission to submit recommended applicants for the summer employment program to the Administration. Dr. Wilson reported on covid cases and the February financials.

Mr. Jackson requested that the April 13th Forum at Valencia Park include other interest groups and areas such as Lakeside, Allendale, Cherokee Park, and Stoner Hill on the forum list. Mr. Jackson received clarity from Dr. Wilson on the juvenile population and which individual groups the Sheriff or Parish are responsible for.

Mr. Andrew Randall, Assistant Director of Juvenile Services, responded to Mr. Atkins' enquiry about the twenty five individuals in a twenty-four bed facility.

Mrs. Gage-Watts enquired about the procedure of commission discussion during reports, which Attorney Frazier addressed. Dr. Wilson provided an update on the tornado sirens and the need to complete a feasibility study, receive input from all players involved and the need for a meeting with Homeland Security and the 911 center. Mrs. Gage-Watts requested that the progress occurs soon as possible.

Mr. Young requested that the Administration invite the Highland area to the event for the April 13th Valencia Park forum in Community Housing Forums. Dr. Wilson provided an update on the courthouse garden.

Dr. Wilson would provide Mr. Johnson more information on the courthouse garden tomorrow. Mr. Johnson requested that the Administration move forward with the garden and the plaque. The Administration explained the summer program application process, budget and number of students to be hired.

Mr. Burrell requested an update on broadband and correspondence from companies involved, which Dr. Wilson explained that grant recipients were invited to speak before the Commission.

COMMISSION REMARKS

- Mr. Epperson discussed the cost of wars and requested that the P.A.C.T. Act be researched and shared to all veterans and military. Mr. Epperson invited everyone to attend the Veterans Affairs and Services Committee will host Rear Admiral English on March 21, 2023 at 10 a.m. in the Chambers. Mr. Epperson requested that Dr. Wilson render the invocation and that pledge of allegiance be rendered by Mr. Cothran during that committee meeting. Mr. Epperson announced that the Police Jury Association of Louisiana amended and unanimously approved the resolution regarding the funding of the Northwest Louisiana Crime Lab. Mr. Epperson requested that the Clerk add Admiral Davis to the agenda.

- Mrs. Gage-Watts announced that Ochsner LSU Health is hosting a second annual STEM Pathfinder Summer Program and requested that anyone interested can get an application from her. She

explained that the program is for 8th - 10th grade students who would be at least age 14 by the beginning of the program.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Burrell updated the Commission about the Queensborough Community Clean Up that was held on Saturday March 18th, which had nearly 100 volunteers, food tucks, and sponsors. Mr. Burrell discussed the two broadband grant recipients.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Ordinance No. 6317 of 2023* be advanced to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Jackson enquired about the funds coming from the Reserve Trust Fund. Mr. Jackson requested the Clerk to provide a copy of the recording from the Long Range Planning Committee meeting where his recommendation originated. Mrs. Bryant addressed Mr. Epperson's enquiry about the use of Reserve Trust Fund funds and criteria to use those funds.

Substitute motion by Mr. Chavez, seconded by Mr. Cothran, *to remand Ordinance No. 6317 of 2023 to the Long Range Planning Committee.*

Mr. Jackson discussed funding the Community Lighthouse Project from the Reserve Trust Fund. Mrs. Gage-Watts and Mrs. Bryant discussed the criteria and use of the Reserve Trust Fund for an immediate emergency. Mrs. Bryant addressed the Administration determination that the Oil and Gas Fund was a better fit for the Community Lighthouse Project.

Call for the Question by Mr. Epperson, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts. 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).

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

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Resolution No. 11 of 2023* be advanced to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Johnson discussed the purpose of Resolution No. 11 of 2023. Mr. Chavez requested Dr. Wilson invite the Caddo Parish Sherriff to speak on Resolution No. 11 of 2023. Mr. Atkins discussed the Parish's expansion into law enforcement and agreed to receive the Sherriff's opinion on Resolution No. 11 of 2023. Mr. Hopkins discussed law enforcement by the Sherriff in the Parish. Mrs. Gage-Watts discussed the benefits of the traffic camera system. Mr. Johnson and the Public Works Director Tim Weaver discussed existing Parish enforcement regarding over load weight citations. Mr. Johnson discussed the benefit of the traffic camera system by providing Parish revenue without increasing taxes and public safety. Mr. Jackson requested for Mr. Sarpy's contact info for clarity on citing the offender instead of the owner of the vehicle. Mr. Jackson and Attorney Frazier discussed the process of the RFP and drafting the ordinance. Mr. Cothran enquired about the Parish's liability of implementing the system, which Mrs. Bryant explained the Mr. Sarpy's company would provide liability insurance. Mr. Cothran enquired about the frequency of tickets, which the Administration and Legal would look into.

Call for the Question by Mr. Epperson, seconded by Mr. Jackson. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, and Lazarus (10). NAYS: Commissioner Young (1). ABSENT: Commissioner Jones (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

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

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Resolution No. 12 of 2023* be advanced to Thursday's agenda.

Attorney Bernstein provided an explanation on Resolution No. 12 of 2023 and Resolution No. 13 of 2023.

Substitute motion by Mr. Atkins, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *to englobo and advance Resolution No. 12 of 2023 and Resolution No. 13 of 2023.*

Mr. Chavez enquired about the lease of the water, which Attorney Bernstein explained that the Parish is gaining rights to build the park and that the area would continue to be State property.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *that Resolution No. 14 of 2023* be advanced to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Johnson discussed the purpose of the resolution.

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

- *Resolution No. 14 of 2023*
- *Authorize Special Resolution Proclaiming Navy Week*

Mrs. Gage-Watts and Mr. Burrell requested to be added as a sponsor for Resolution No. 14 of 2023. Mr. Cothran requested to be added as a sponsor for the Special Resolution Proclaiming Navy Week.

Point of information by Mr. Epperson, that the Special Resolution Proclaiming Navy Week would be contingent on approval on Thursday. The Clerk addressed that the special resolution would be presented at the Veteran's Affairs Committee meeting on tomorrow for final adoption on Thursday's Commission meeting.

Mr. Epperson's 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: Commissioners Jones (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

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

- *Advance the Removal of Ed Angel from The Caddo Fire District #1*
- *Advance Consideration of Appointment of Roderick T. Casey To the Caddo Fire District #1 Board*

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: Commissioners Jones (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

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

- Advance Authorization of Administration to Transfer \$50,000 In ARPA Funds from Vaccine Incentive to Summer Employment Program
- Advance Authorization of Administration to Award Grant Funds Up To \$1,000,000 For Each Project from The E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund
- Advance Women's Month Presentation

Mr. Jackson requested to discuss including interns in the Summer Employment Program with Mrs. Bryant.

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: Commissioners Jones (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

COMMUNIQUES/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Dr. Wilson addressed the difference between the summer employment program and the intern program per Mr. Atkins' enquiry.

- Mrs. Gage-Watts requested each Commissioner to wear something purple and to locate two women to honor on the Commission's Regular Session meeting on Thursday.
- Mr. Young recommended that the traffic camera system be discussed in a committee to reach a consensus.
- Mr. Epperson announced the Public Safety Funding Ad Hoc Committee meeting is scheduled on April 3rd at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Epperson requested that Mrs. Gage-Watts read Mr. Epperson's "From the Commissioner's Desk" article during the Women's Month presentation, which Mrs. Gage-Watts agreed.
- Mr. Burrell discussed the Queensborough clean up leaders and active community individuals. Mr. Epperson suggested that Mr. Burrell invite the women leaders to the Commission's Regular Session meeting for recognition.

CONSENT AGENDA

- *Ordinance No. 6314 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, by amending the zoning of property located north side of Highway Seventy One North, approximately three hundred feet north west of Regmar Drive, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, from R-1-7 Single family Residential Zoning District to R-1-7 Single-Family Residential Zoning District (SPUD), and to otherwise provide with respect thereto
- *Ordinance No. 6315 of 2023*, an ordinance amending and re-enacting Ordinance No. 5111 of 2011 and Ordinance No. 5935 of 2019, and 6310 of 2023 reapportioning Caddo Parish into Twelve Commission Districts, enumerating the constituent precincts respectively comprising the Commission Districts, and otherwise providing with respect thereto.
- *Ordinance No. 6316 of 2023*, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Oil and Gas Fund for the year 2023 to provide an appropriation for relocation assistance and to otherwise provide with respect thereto

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

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