

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S
LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 18TH DAY OF APRIL, 2024

The Caddo Parish Long Range Planning Committee met in legal session on the above date at 2:00 p.m., in the Government Plaza Chambers, with Mr. Kracman, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, and J. Young (4). ABSENT: G. Young (1).

The Pledge of Allegiance and invocation were given at an earlier Special Session. There being no Agenda Additions or Citizens Comments, the Committee moved to New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

- *Discussion of implementation of Ordinance No. 6353 related to litter ticketing and enforcement*

Mr. Kracman said that the Caddo Parish Commission adopted a litter and blight abatement ordinance last year, but only a few constables signed up for it. He called this meeting to have an open discussion with suggestions and concerns with regards to the legislation and the enforcement of such.

JP Johnny Hough, Ward 2, came before the Committee and said that there are two issues: the constables and the contract, then the law. He does not feel that these two should be "mixed together". Mr. Hough said that this ordinance was adopted by the Caddo Parish Commission with the State statutes tied in. The implementation provides different percentages going to different entities. Mr. Hough said that this does not work. He gave an example of a percentage going to the Constables' retirement system, but there is no retirement system. Mr. Hough feels that the Parish ordinance should be amended to clearly state what the fine is, who collects the fine, how much the JP gets, and where the rest of the fine goes. Mr. Hough said that there just needs to be more clarity on the ordinance.

Constable Jimmy Philipps, Ward 9, came before the Commission and said the limits on the hours worked needs to be amended as well. He said that there currently is a 10 hour caps, but he has spent well over 5 hours on one case and has about ten cases a month. Mr. Philipps said that they don't know how long an investigation last or when it happens. He also said that they aren't provided bags to pick up the litter. The stipend they receive every month is used on fuel and supplies for litter and patrolling.

Mr. Philipps also said that they would like to do a yearly contract, not a forever contract. He also mentioned the ticket books. He said that each Constable's office should have a stack of ticket books that are locked up, so they don't have to chase them down when they run out.

Constable Kevin McClure, Ward 6, does not feel that a contract is needed. He feels that each Constable and JP should be doing what they're supposed to be doing without a contract. Mr. McClure said that he requested signs several times, but has yet to receive them. Mr. McClure would like to have more signs saying, "No Littering" just like speed limit signs. He also said that the compactor sites need to stay open longer.

Attorney Frazier asked for clarity on what initiates an investigation. Mr. McClure said that they receive a call saying that someone has dumped trash, so they go out and pick up their trash to find out who the trash belongs to.

Mr. Thomas wanted to know if video surveillance would help. Mr. McClure said that it could help in frequent dumping areas, but they would need to hire someone to monitor that camera. Mr. Kracman suggested a game camera that is motion activated.

Mr. McClure also mentioned that the Constables have jurisdiction inside the city limits of Shreveport as well. He said that a common dumping ground is across the street from Juvenile Services, where tires, furniture, trash, etc. is dumped on a daily basis.

JP Brian Anderson, Mooringsport, came before the Committee and said that the process needs to be more streamlined. He also suggested to suspend driver's licenses as a form of punishment, along with the cost of cleaning up the mess.

Attorney Frazier said that it would take a change in State law in order to have the authority to suspend a person's driver's license, but she will look into it further.

Mr. Hough said that the Constables can write the tickets, but the JPs can't enforce. They also don't know where to send the money. Mr. Hough also said that they cannot incarcerate people because they don't have the budget for it. He asked that the current ordinance be "cleaned up".

Gene Pressly, Ward 3, came before the Commission said that writing tickets is wasting everyone's time because there's no teeth in the punishments.

Attorney Frazier said that the fines are listed in the ordinance under the state statute.

Mr. Hough said that the only thing the JP courts can adjudicate is simple littering. He would like these fines spelled out in the Parish ordinance. Attorney Frazier said that the fines would be sent to the Parish, then the Parish would send out the funds pursuant to the State statutes. Mr. Hough then wanted to know if the Parish would be collecting the fines. Attorney Frazier said that the JP courts would collect the monies. Mr. Hough said that he would like this to be stated in the Parish ordinance. More clarity is needed in the ordinance, he said.

Mrs. Barnett said that historically Finance would receive the payments, and the funds would be distributed appropriately, with the Parish keeping 5%. She also said that they haven't collected fines in several years.

It was **moved by Mr. J. Young**, seconded by Mr. Kracman, *that Legal draft an ordinance amending the current litter ordinance to address the issues that were discussed today, then follow up with another meeting to discuss this amended ordinance.*

Mr. J. Young said that there were a number of issues addressed today. He understands that there will be many more conversations.

Mr. Anderson wanted to know if this has to be sent to the Attorney General's Office for approval. Attorney Frazier said that it does not.

Attorney Frazier added that some of the issues will be addressed in the CEA, not the ordinance.

Mr. J. Young suggested that signs be made in the sign shop for litter signs.

At this time, Mr. J. Young's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, and J. Young (4). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: G. Young (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Mr. Kracman said that this has been a productive meeting and looks forward to future conversations to get this ordinance right. Mr. Lazarus thanked the Constables and JPs for coming today and talking about the issues and concerns with the current ordinance.

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 3:00 p.m.


Assistant to the Commission Clerk