

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S
PUBLIC SAFETY FUNDING AD HOC COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 3rd DAY OF APRIL, 2023

The Caddo Parish Public Safety Funding Ad Hoc Committee met in legal session on the above date, at 1:00 p.m., in the Government Plaza First Floor Conference Room, with Mr. Epperson, Chairman, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cothran, Chavez, Epperson, Jackson, and Young (7). ABSENT: Commissioner Gage-Watts (1).

The Chair forewent the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

The Chair acknowledged the following visitors in attendance: William Bradford, local attorney and partner in Springboard Land Development; Chantel Thomas, Field Administrator for North Florida State with the Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV); Tawana Everett, Office Manager of Shreveport OMV; and, Tandra Faust, Regional Manager for the Northern area.

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Young, *to consider agenda item 6.2. Motion carried unanimously.*

NEW BUSINESS

- Make Recommendation Regarding Ordinance 6320 Of 2023

Mr. Epperson explained the Commission passed a resolution recommending an Office of Motor Vehicle site in West Shreveport-Caddo Parish and the purpose of the ordinance.

Point of Information by Mr. Burrell, that there is an office on Normandy Drive. Mr. Epperson discussed the issues of that facility. Mr. Burrell discussed his experience with that facility during his tenure in the State Legislature.

Mrs. Thomas discussed the OMV's changes to appointment only and express line services. Mrs. Thomas explained covid caused the change and the customer's positive feedback on the low wait time.

Point of Information by Mr. Epperson, that the Normandy office will be closed.

Answering Mr. Atkins about the purpose of the proposal, Mrs. Thomas explained that the service fee is collected by the OMV and paid to the Parish to maintain the building. The OMV does not pay rent. Mrs. Thomas discussed online services are taxable but there are no processing fees. Mrs. Bryant explained that the Administration is in support of the ordinance and that the new facility would need some renovation. Mr. Epperson explained that the new facility is in Patterson Tower on Raspberry Lane and it is located in City Council District G and Commission District 12. Mr. Young enquired about the OMV locations in Caddo Parish, which Mrs. Thomas explained that there are many privately owned contractors that are public agencies in the area. Mrs. Thomas discussed that the Parish would have to go through the State Legislature to pass a bill to raise the fee. Mrs. Thomas reviewed how the fee amounts differ between Louisiana parishes. Mrs. Bryant and Mr. Young discussed the fee would be more than is needed to operate the new facility. Mrs. Bryant discussed that the Administration and Legal were reviewing how to determine the agreement of the building, and that the ordinance is for the Commission to establish a fee.

Mr. Bradford discussed his work to revitalize Shreveport and how his company is capable to redevelop the site at 6005 Raspberry Lane. Mr. Bradford explained the site renovation and seeking a bus stop site close to the facility. Mr. Epperson advised that Councilwoman Bowman proposed a resolution that passed at the City Council to support the new OMV facility. Attorney Frazier and Mrs. Thomas discussed the OMV's leasing process for the building.

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Young, *that Ordinance No. 6320 of 2023 be forwarded to the full body. Motion carried,* as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, and Young (5). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Chavez, Jackson, and Gage-Watts (3). ABSTAIN: None (0).

- Discuss and Make Recommendations Regarding Ordinance No. 6318 Of 2023

Mr. Epperson discussed the purpose of the ordinance and the concerns of trail rides and private events on private property. Mr. Chavez and Attorney Frazier clarified that the ordinance would have jurisdiction in the unincorporated areas of the Parish and not in the five-mile zone. Mr. Young suggested that the fee be refunded for denied applications. Answering Mr. Atkins, Attorney Frazier explained how the ordinance affects revenue generating activities. Answering Mr. Burrell about security, Attorney Frazier explained that the Commission could include security personnel as part of the consideration for the permit process. Mr. Young suggested that Legal consider loopholes of the permit process. Mr. Chavez requested to review an example of the application if the ordinance is passed. Mr. Epperson requested that staff receive

copies of the MPC's permit process and to provide the Commission with a proposed permit process before the ordinance is up for final vote. Attorney Frazier explained components of the drafted ordinance.

It was **moved by Mr. Cothran**, seconded by Mr. Young, *that Ordinance No. 6318 of 2023 be recommended to the full body. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Cothran, Epperson, Jackson, and Young (7). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Gage-Watts (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

There was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the meeting was adjourned at 1:43 p.m.



Linda J. Montgomery
Administrative Specialist I