

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE  
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 3rd DAY OF APRIL, 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, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus and Young (11). ABSENT: Commissioner Gage-Watts (1).

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

**AGENDA ADDITIONS**

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to expand the agenda to include the Property Standards Hearing Committee's recommendations regarding Case #1- 8310 Highway 1, Shreveport, LA 71107, Case #2- 3532 West Dr. Martin Luther King, Shreveport, LA 71107, and Case #3- 0 West Martin Luther King Dr., Shreveport, LA 71107.*

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

Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Cothran, Epperson, Hopkins, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (9). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts, Jackson, and Johnson (3). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Young, *to advance The Introduction of Ordinance 6320 Of 2023 to the top of New Business.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Cothran, Epperson, Hopkins, Lazarus, and Young (9). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts, Jackson, Johnson, and Jones (4). ABSTAIN: None (0).

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Public comment was given by Brian McNew regarding support for Ordinance No. 6321 of 2023.

**ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

- Dr. Wilson reported that the summer work program applications are open, and that animal services' hours have changed due to facility renovations. Mr. Kevin Lawrence, Director Facilities and Maintenance, explained the process of the repair and the time frame of the repair. Dr. Wilson advised that the services will continue as normal. Mr. Cothran enquired about the impact of the renovations to the animals and Mr. Kelvin Samuels, Assistant Director Animal Services, explained there would be no impact to the animals.
- Dr. Wilson reported about the Parish's celebration of the National County Government Month and invited Commissioner to invite a youth to be a Commissioner for A Day. Mr. Epperson suggested that Commissioner for A Day be hosted on April 20<sup>th</sup>, have students meet at 9 am, tour the Administrator building, tour Animal Services, tour Juvenile Services, tour the Courthouse, Lunch and then sit in the Commission Meeting. Mr. Epperson suggested that the youth be a junior or senior in high school.
- Dr. Wilson discussed the Parish provide trash bins to cleanup activities throughout the Parish for Commissioners. Mr. Burrell discussed his Queensborough clean up and about supporting Shreveport Green and local organizers for cleanup activities. Mr. Johnson discussed the MLK, Shreveport division and the Lakeview area won recognition for the Great American Clean Up in District 2. Mr. Hopkins discussed Volunteers of Blanchard meet on the first Saturday of each month to clean up State, Parish or City road and encouraged other communities to get involved and do the same thing. Mr. Jones clarified that the Parish needs a couple of days advance notice to receive a trash dumpster from the Parish.
- Dr. Wilson reported on the population in the Juvenile Department and the recent covid cases. Dr. Wilson announced his retirement on July 14th.
- Mr. Epperson discussed clean up in his district. Dr. Wilson advised that Public Works teams are cleaning up debris throughout the parish. Dr. Ken Ward, Assistant Public Works Director, discussed clearing trees in the right of way but the Parish and that Public Works is not able to clear downed trees on private property.

**COMMISSION REMARKS**

- Mr. Atkins suggested that Commissioners work with the Commission Clerk regarding special resolutions. Mr. Atkins and Dr. Ward discussed an auto bumper on the side of Wallace Lake Road in his district and Dr. Ward acknowledged that he will send someone to pick it up.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that Recognition of Col. (Ret.) Paris Davis , U S Army* be advanced to Thursday's agenda. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Cothran, Epperson, Hopkins, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts, and Jackson (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Cothran, *that Ordinance 6320 Of 2023* be advanced to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Hopkins enquired about the Vivian Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV) having the same fee schedule. Mrs. Shantel Thomas, Administrator for the North Part of the State OMV, advised that the Vivian office does charge \$4.50 and advised that some parishes charge different fee amounts. Mr. Epperson discussed the Public Safety Ad Hoc Committee's decision to recommend Ordinance 6320 of 2023 to the full body. Mrs. Thomas introduced the other OMV guests in attendance.

Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cothran, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Johnson, Jones, and Young (9). NAYS: Commissioner Lazarus (1). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts, and Jackson (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *that Ordinance 6318 Of 2023* be advanced to Thursday's agenda. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Cothran, Hopkins, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (9). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson, Gage-Watts, and Jackson (3). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Young, *that Ordinance 6319 Of 2023* be advanced to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Cothran enquired about the number of children the program would assist, which Mr. Patrick Wesley, Parks and Recreation Director, explained about 7,000 registered campers and participants are fed every summer. Mr. Chavez enquired about supporting local businesses instead of chain businesses. Mr. Wesley responded that he is open to recommendations and discussed the importance of timeliness of businesses.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *that Ordinance 6321 Of 2023* be advanced to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Epperson discussed the issues of the Greenwood water system and the importance of the water system for the Fire District No. 3 Board and the citizens.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Resolution No. 15 of 2023* be advanced to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Young discussed the purpose of the resolution. Mr. Atkins announced a Natural Resources Committee Meeting would be held on Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. and that the Department of Natural Resources would be in attendance. Mr. Jackson discussed the Commission being courteous to other district's issues. Mr. Epperson requested that the chair of the Natural Resources Committee include Commission approved resolutions regarding oil and gas to its meeting agenda. Mr. Johnson discussed reviewing the Commission guidelines for oil and gas fracking in the Parish, the noise and inconsistencies at oil fracking sites and to visit all sites in the Parish. Mr. Johnson discussed the Commission supporting each other. Mr. Atkins requested the Clerk to attach the relevant resolutions regarding oil and gas to the Natural Resources Committee agenda.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Resolution No. 16 of 2023* be advanced to Thursday's agenda. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Cothran, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (11). NAYS: Commissioner Epperson (1). ABSENT: Commissioner Gage-Watts (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Resolution No. 17 of 2023* be advanced to Thursday's agenda.

**Substitute motion by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *to englobe and advance the following items to Thursday's agenda:*

- *Resolution No. 17 of 2023, a resolution opposing the passage of House Bill 25 relative to Library Board appointments and otherwise providing with respect thereto.*
- *Resolution No. 18 of 2023, a resolution opposing the passage of Senate Bill 7 relative to Library Board policies and otherwise providing with respect thereto.*

Mr. Epperson discussed his life experience of education. Mr. Epperson explained the purpose of Resolutions No. 17 and 18 of 2023, who funds the local library and the Commission's role of appointments to the Shreve Memorial Library Board.

**Substitute motion by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to englobe and delay Resolutions No. 17 and 18 of 2023* be advanced to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Hopkins explained that he preferred to hear the Police Jury Association's stance on the bills and to review the library policy before a vote. Mr. Jackson discussed how the resolutions are a local issue and the state encroach on local control. Mr. Chavez requested Attorney Frazier to draft a memo by Thursday of the Attorney's opinion on the current law, what is present and how the proposed bills affect the local library. Attorney Frazier clarified that Mr. Chavez wanted the memo regarding House Bill 25 and Senate Bill 7.

Mr. Epperson requested the Commission to review the meeting minutes and recording of the Shreve Memorial Library's Executive Director discussing their position on the bills. Mr. Johnson discussed supporting what the Parish wants at the Capital in May.

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

**Amendment by Mr. Jackson**, to send a copy of Resolutions No. 17 and 18 of 2023 to both State houses. Attorney Frazier clarified that Resolutions No. 17 and 18 of 2023 includes that.

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

**Motion by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *that Resolutions No. 19 of 2023* be advanced to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Jackson discussed the purpose of the resolution. Mr. Chavez discussed the benefit of the resolution.

**Substitute motion by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *to englobe and advance the following items to Thursday's agenda:*

- *Resolution No. 19 of 2023*
- *Advance the Consideration of a Special Resolution for The Crew of The USS Louisiana*
- *Advance the Consideration of a Special Resolution for The Foster Grandparents Program*
- *Advance Consideration of a Special Resolution for National County Government Month*
- *Advance the Consideration of a Vietnam Veterans Honor Day Proclamation*

- *Advance Consideration of a Special Resolution for The Shreveport Chapter of The Links Inc.*
- *Advance Consideration of a Special Resolution for Northwood Powerlifting Team*
- *Advance the Consideration of a Special Resolution for the 100th Anniversary of The Boy Scouts NORWELA Council*
- *Advance A Special Resolution for National Autism Awareness Month*
- *Advance Consideration of a Special Resolution for Perfect Fit Autism Foundation*
- *Advance the Consideration of a Special Resolution for Little Light in City Parks*
- *Advance the Consideration of a Special Resolution for Middle School Basketball Event at Doug Williams Park*
- *Advance the Approval of the 2023 Audit Plan*
- *Advance the Authorization of An RFP For A Small Business Development Program*
- *Advance an Announcement of Public Meeting*
- *Advance A Discussion Item Related to The Network Safety of Certain Mobile Apps on Caddo Parish Equipment.*

Mr. Jones withdrew their motion.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to englobo and advance the following items to Thursday's agenda:*

- *Advance the Consideration of a Special Resolution for The Crew of The USS Louisiana*
- *Advance the Consideration of a Special Resolution for The Foster Grandparents Program*
- *Advance Consideration of a Special Resolution for National County Government Month*
- *Advance the Consideration of a Vietnam Veterans Honor Day Proclamation*
- *Advance Consideration of a Special Resolution for The Shreveport Chapter of The Links Inc.*
- *Advance Consideration of a Special Resolution for Northwood Powerlifting Team*
- *Advance the Consideration of a Special Resolution for the 100th Anniversary of The Boy Scouts NORWELA Council*
- *Advance A Special Resolution for National Autism Awareness Month*
- *Advance Consideration of a Special Resolution for Perfect Fit Autism Foundation*
- *Advance the Consideration of a Special Resolution for Little Light in City Parks*
- *Advance the Consideration of a Special Resolution for Middle School Basketball Event at Doug Williams Park*
- *Advance the Approval of the 2023 Audit Plan*

- *Advance the Authorization of An RFP For A Small Business Development Program*
- *Advance an Announcement of Public Meeting*
- *Advance A Discussion Item Related to The Network Safety of Certain Mobile Apps on Caddo Parish Equipment.*
- *Advance an Executive Session Pursuant To LA-R.S. 42:16 And LA-R.S. 42:17 Regarding the Commission Clerk.*

Mr. Jackson clarified that the Authorization of An RFP For A Small Business Development Program is not for True Fund as listed on the agenda and requested that the description under the agenda item be removed from the agenda. Mr. Atkins clarified that the RFP is required for a small business development program and discussed that there is room for improvement in the Commission Clerk's Office. Mr. Epperson requested the Administration to identify any military veterans that are employees of the Commission so that Mr. Epperson could send a Vietnam Honor Service medal to them.

**Substitute motion by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Young, *to englobo and advance the following items to Thursday's agenda:*

- *Advance the Consideration of a Special Resolution for The Crew of The USS Louisiana*
- *Advance the Consideration of a Special Resolution for The Foster Grandparents Program*
- *Advance Consideration of a Special Resolution for National County Government Month*
- *Advance the Consideration of a Vietnam Veterans Honor Day Proclamation*
- *Advance Consideration of a Special Resolution for The Shreveport Chapter of The Links Inc.*
- *Advance Consideration of a Special Resolution for Northwood Powerlifting Team*
- *Advance the Consideration of a Special Resolution for the 100th Anniversary of The Boy Scouts NORWELA Council*
- *Advance A Special Resolution for National Autism Awareness Month*
- *Advance Consideration of a Special Resolution for Perfect Fit Autism Foundation*
- *Advance the Consideration of a Special Resolution for Little Light in City Parks*
- *Advance the Consideration of a Special Resolution for Middle School Basketball Event at Doug Williams Park*
- *Advance the Approval of the 2023 Audit Plan*
- *Advance the Authorization of An RFP For A Small Business Development Program*

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

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to Advance an Announcement of Public Meeting* to Thursday's agenda.

**Point of Information by Mr. Hopkins**, that An Announcement of Public Meeting is not a voting item. Mr. Johnson explained that the item came from a committee that the Commission had to vote to put it on the agenda for Thursday. Mr. Jackson explained that the item is just an announcement and does not authorize anything. Mr. Jackson requested that the Juvenile Justice Citizens Advisory Committee be included as a sponsor to the agenda item.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that A Discussion Item Related to The Network Safety of Certain Mobile Apps on Caddo Parish* be advanced to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Chavez discussed receiving a scan of the Parish network from a company Mr. Chavez met at the NACo conference. M. Chavez requested that Tracy Calloway, Information Systems Director, attend the commission meeting to address the Parish's network security on Thursday. Mr. Burrell discussed cyber security at churches and suggested hosting a joint meeting with a U.S. Attorney to address cyber security issues. Mr. Chavez, Dr. Wilson, Mr. Burrell, and Mr. Jackson addressed what the network security assessment means for the Parish. Dr. Wilson announced that Mr. Calloway will be in attendance on Thursday to discuss network security.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that An Executive Session Pursuant To LA-R.S. 42:16 And LA-R.S. 42:17 Regarding the Commission Clerk* be advanced to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Epperson discussed the purpose of an executive session.

**Point of Information by Mr. Jones**, that the executive session will be held on Thursday during the regular session. Mr. Epperson explained that during the regular session the body will convene into an executive session.

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: Commissioner Jones (1). ABSENT: Commissioner Gage-Watts (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Accept the Recommendations of The Property Standards Hearing Board* be advanced to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Young discussed the Property Standards Hearing Committee's meeting discussion and the purpose of the recommendations of each case. Mr. Johnson requested to hear a breakdown of Cases 2 and 3 which were located in District 2. Mr. Young explained the cases. Mr. Jones discussed support for the committee's recommendations.

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

### **COMMUNIQUES/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mr. Epperson requested Staff and Commission Clerk to make available the resolutions regarding oil and gas to the Natural Resources Committee meeting on Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.
- Mr. Johnson discussed media attention for the summer work program. Mrs. Krystle Beauchamp, Communications Director, discussed the media plan regarding the summer work program and addressed Mr. Johnson's enquiries about advertisement on the news and the County Government Day and the summer work program.
- Mr. Cothran announced that the Clerk shared the summer work program with school counselors.
- Mr. Epperson requested Mrs. Beauchamp, Dr. Wilson and the Administration to do a press conference regarding student workers.
- Mr. Johnson discussed a system called Evolve, a metal weapons detector that scans a full body to detect objects and suggested that Staff look into the system.
- Mr. Burrell discussed parking for the commissioners.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

/s/ Linda J. Montgomery  
Linda J. Montgomery

Administrative Specialist I