

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE  
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 15th DAY OF MAY, 2023

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Work Session, on the above date, at 3:38 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, and Young (10). ABSENT: Commissioners Jones, and Lazarus (2).

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

**ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

- Mrs. Bryant reported that the visit by Mr. Johnny Moyer with Altice USA was delayed. Mrs. Bryant reported receipt of the first payment from the opioid settlement, the payment schedule and restrictions of use of the opioid settlement funds. Mrs. Bryant provided a COVID-19 update, the current population in Juvenile Detention, the calendar of Caddo Parish Parks & Recreation's Summer Programs, and the April 2023 Financial Report.
- Mrs. Gage-Watts and Mrs. Bryant discussed the amount of the opioid settlement and the suggested plan of the opioid settlement funds. Mrs. Bryant provided an update on the tornado sirens. Mrs. Gage-Watts requested to schedule a meeting to progress the tornado sirens within the next week, which Mrs. Bryant acknowledged that the Administration would work continue to work on.
- Mr. Chavez requested more information on the summer work program, which Mrs. Bryant addressed.
- Mr. Epperson and Mrs. Bryant discussed homelessness and mental health and its correlation to crime and drug use. Mr. Epperson suggested devising an encapsulated solution to all of the issues.
- Answering Mr. Cothran's enquiry about opening another facility like the Harbor, Juvenile Services Director Clay Walker addressed that The Harbor is for juveniles and their families and had conversations about expanding its services. Mr. Cothran and Mrs. Bryant discussed the start date of the summer work program, which Mrs. Bryant would provide the start dates on Thursday's meeting.
- Mr. Jackson requested that the Administration correspond with Judge Erin Lee Wardell regarding human trafficking/drug court. Mr. Jackson requested that Mr. Clay Walker provide data on crisis intervention at the next Juvenile Services Committee meeting in June. Mr. Clay Walker also suggested mobilizing the Juvenile Services Citizen's Advisory Committee and the Community Committee.
- Mr. Atkins requested that Dr. Ken Ward and MPC Director Mr. Clark schedule a meeting with him to discuss an issue on Tammy Lane.
- Mr. Burrell discussed opioid funding uses for methamphetamine, which Mrs. Bryant addressed. Mr. Burrell suggested that Administration seek means to address methamphetamine, fentanyl, employment, and juvenile issues.

**COMMISSION REMARKS**

- Mr. Young discussed The Highland Center's current services and their expansion of services
- The Clerk reminded the Commission that May 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to submit their personal financial reports.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Burrell discussed the Stuffed Shrimp Festival.

**OLD BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Young, *that Ordinance No. 6317 Of 2023, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures to appropriate funds for a Caddo Community Lighthouse Pilot Project and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday for introduction.

**Substitute motion by Mr. Cothran**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Ordinance No. 6317 of 2023 be remanded to the Long Range Planning Committee.*

Mr. Epperson suggested that the project be in a designated public facility instead of a non-profit facility and that the funding be sourced from FEMA or Homeland Security. Mr. Chavez enquired whether the Parish would be able to fund other entities for solar panels, which Mr. Young addressed. Mr. Chavez requested more information on the budget of the project.

**Amendment by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to amend the substitute motion to advance Ordinance No. 6317 of 2023 and to remand to the American Rescue Plan Committee.*

**Substitute motion by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Young, *to suspend the rules.*

Mrs. Gage-Watts requested that Caddo Community Lighthouse Pilot Project representatives to address the Commission's questions.

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

**Point of clarification by Mr. Jackson**, that ARPA funds and the Inflation Act funds are federal funds.

Mrs. Gage-Watts requested the representatives to discuss a breakdown of the project expenditure line items. Mr. Chavez requested to know about the individuals that would be helped, the costs of the project, and alternative methods to the project. Mr. Nathaniel Wills, Mrs. Madison Poche from the Highland Center and Mr. Broderick Bagert from Together New Orleans addressed the Commission about the project, its funding sources, and the need for the project. Mr. Jackson clarified for the American Rescue Plan Committee meet before final passage of Ordinance No. 6317 of 2023.

Mr. Jackson's amendment carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, and Young (6). NAYS: Atkins, Chavez, Cothran, and Epperson (4). ABSENT: Commissioners Jones, and Lazarus (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Ordinance No. 6329 Of 2023, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Capital Outlay and the Oil and Gas Fund in the amount of \$140,000 to provide an appropriation for the rehabilitation of the Village of Hosston's water stand pipe, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Johnson suggested the project be funded through the Capital Outlay Fund, which Mrs. Bryant addressed.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Ordinance No. 6330 Of 2023, an ordinance placing a moratorium on the building approval or permitting of all solar panel farms, commercial solar power plants, or similar operations that have not currently obtained approval from the Louisiana Public Service Commission, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction and be remanded to Long Range Planning Committee.

Mr. Jackson requested that the Administration research revenue generation from solar farms.

**Substitute motion by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to remand Ordinance No. 6330 of 2023 to the Long Range Planning Committee.*

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

Substitute motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Chavez, Cothran, Hopkins, Jackson, and Young (5). NAYS: Atkins, Burrell, Epperson, Gage-Watts, and Johnson (5). ABSENT: Commissioners Jones, and Lazarus (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Mr. Hopkins' motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Hopkins, and Young (3). NAYS: Atkins, Chavez, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, and Johnson (7). ABSENT: Commissioners Jones, and Lazarus (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Ordinance 6331 Of 2023, an ordinance to authorize the purchase of property located at 4862 Dixie Garden Loop Rd, Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Public Works Assistant Director Dr. Ken Ward discussed the purpose of the ordinance. Mr. Young requested that the Administration stipulate that the Parish level the property to mitigate the flooding of the property, which the Administration acknowledged there is an action plan for the property.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to *advance Resolution 23 Of 2023, a resolution urging and requesting the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to select a location north of exit 245 on I-49 near Ida as the location of the proposed visitor information center, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto.*

**Substitute moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Gage-Watts, *to englobe and advance the following items:*

- *Resolution 23 Of 2023*
- *Resolution 24 Of 2023*
- *Resolution 25 Of 2023*
- *Special Resolution Proclaiming Memorial Day in Caddo Parish*
- *Special Resolution Recognizing National Maritime Day*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition Upon the Retirement of Judge David Matlock*

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

#### **COMMUNIQUES/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mr. Young announced a Broadmoor Association meeting held at Broadmoor Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm regarding the renovation of Corby's park, golf course and tennis courts. Mr. Young announced a ceremony for regional law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty held at the Bossier Parish Courthouse Benton on Wednesday May 17<sup>th</sup> at 9 am.
- Mr. Hopkins requested the Administration to follow up with Comcast regarding Comcast's maps of work locations.
- Mr. Burrell indicated that he reminded Dr. Wilson about Comcast's presentation to be shared with the Broadband Committee.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- *Ordinance No. Ordinance 6328 Of 2023, an ordinance amending and reenacting chapter 32, Article VI of the Caddo Parish Code of Ordinances, repealing Section 32-52 and Section 34-22 of the code of the Caddo Parish Code of Ordinances, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

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