

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION  
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 17th DAY OF JUNE, 2024

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Work Session, on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., in the Government Chambers, with Mr. John Paul Young, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Burrell, Blake, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (11). ABSENT: Commissioner Atkins (1).

The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were given during a previous committee meeting. There were no Agenda Additions, so the Commission moved onto Citizens Comments.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Candace Higginbottom, Jordan Young, Melissa Lambert, Kimberly Reagan came before the Commission in support of a permanent spay/neuter ordinance.

Jeremy Taylor came before the Commission regarding policies being put in place against squatters.

Lorraine Guerrero came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Um, I spoke to some of the Animal Services meeting. I am Lorraine Guerrero, I run a nonprofit called Nova's Heart. We help take care of the pets of veterans, low income, disabled and homeless. We give those pets food, shots, collars, harnesses. We have a once-a-month rabies clinic. We help them get spay, neuter and we've been doing that for over ten years. 95% of the people that we serve have no idea about any animal ordinances at all, so we have to educate them, which we are constantly doing. I also serve on the animal services committee that meets on bite and aggressive dog cases of animal control. 99% of the dogs and animals that we meet on those cases are not spay/neutered. That's a problem. You know, animal control needs the manpower to enforce the laws that we have. There are other shelters that I've talked to all over the state that not only do they have animal control officers they also have animal humane enforcement officers, who enforce the animal ordinance laws. We need that here because with 600 dogs that came into Caddo Parish Animal control in May alone, with the amount they already had, you know, we need somebody to enforce these laws we have in place. It's fine and dandy to have a law, but if you can't enforce it, if you don't have the manpower to enforce it, their end law is a problem. We need to get behind animal control. We need to quit being the people just sitting waiting for something to happen. We need to take action and we need to give animal control the manpower they need to enforce these laws that we are putting on the books. That's the only way we are ever going to stop the overpopulation in this area through mandatory spay/neuter. Thank you!

**VISITORS**

- Eat Right and Move Program  
Grace Anne Peterson  
Cookie Coleman  
Marie Vazquez Morgan

Ms. Peterson gave some statistics on the major health challenges in Louisiana. With regards to heart disease, 40% of residents have high blood pressure and 38% have high cholesterol. In Louisiana, 14.1% of its residents have been told they have diabetes, and 47.9% adults have obesity. All of these conditions can be prevented or managed with good nutrition and physical activity.

We Grow Together! provides community health hubs that help with community health screenings, mentor training, health and nutrition education, physical activity, nutritious foods, and community engagement activities. The key principle of a community health hubs are place-based, community-driven, and access to a variety of health-focused resources. Community members empower each other to make healthy lifestyle choices and are supported by a collaborative network of health educators, health providers, and community leaders.

The community health hub sites in Caddo Parish are: Stoner Hill—We Grow Together! Campus, Hollywood Heights—Bernstein Development, Allendale—St. Rest Baptist Church, Highland—Noel Methodist Church, and Mooretown—Mooretown Community Faith Garden.

We Grow Together! Coalition was established in 2012 as a 501c(3) with the mission statement "The We Grow Together! Coalition promotes an adaptable, place-based model for community that supports: health environment, food access, well-being, and a sense of belonging."

Ms. Coleman talked about Community Health Organizers (CHOs), who are people in the community that teach and model healthy lifestyle choices; provide ongoing community outreach and engagements for their Community Health Hub (CHH); organize health-focused programs and activities; and receive training and information from health professionals.

Ms. Morgan discussed the Eat Right and Move Program which promotes physical activity, nutrition education, community engagement, mentor training, and policy, system, and environment changes. The Eat Right and Move (ERM) Pilot was conducted at Bernstein Development and implemented in three phases from June 2021 through May 2024. A CHH leadership team received training and ongoing support to ensure program sustainability.

ERM Phase 1 (June 2021 through November 2021) provided three weekly exercise classes, monthly cooking classes, baseline measures for blood pressure, body mass index, lipid panels, etc. At the completion of the program, 80% of the participants completed it, 70.8% BMI reduction, 67% BP reduction, etc.

ERM Phase 2 (March 2022 through September 2022) evaluates if community health organizers (CHOs) training, physical activity, and nutritional training performed in a community setting can provide sustainability of an existing community-based program. Object 1—train four peer health mentors to become community health workers. Object 2—facilitate lifestyle modification within the community that is sustainable by training identified community peer health mentors. The Leadership Team lead classes, assist in community outreach, set goals for policy, system and environmental (PSE) changes that will make their site more conducive to health lifestyle choices for participants. At the completion of the program, the CHOs were able to sustain attendance and increase growth in participants throughout the six-month program. 97% felt better after participating in the program with increased stamina/flexibility, generalized sense of feeling better, decreased stress/increased social wellness, and weight loss. Participants also reported an increase in eating fruits and vegetables, decrease in drinking sugary drinks, increase in exercising, increase in reading nutrition fact on food labels, as well as, making a list before going grocery shopping.

ERM Phase 3 (June 2023 through May 2024) evaluates if establishing a community garden/marketplace, along with PA and nutritional education performed in a community setting can improve leadership skills in trained CHOs to facilitate policy, system, and environmental (PSE) changes and sustain an existing community-based wellness program. Objective 1—establish and maintain community garden. Objective 2—establish and maintain marketplace. Objective 3—provide education and facilitate enhanced leadership skills through CHO training focusing on PSE changes and long-term program sustainability. Objective 4—increase CHO program participant intake and evaluation skills. At the completion of the program, the attendance increased in twelve months.

Ms. Morgan said that their research shows the Community Health Hub model as an effective approach to addressing community health challenges. The ERM is effective in improving the health of residents in under-resourced communities. There are community members willing to be health resources and mentors for their peers. The Community Health Hub model and Eat Right and Move program are sustainable and replicable. Moving forward, they would like to identify and train more CHOs, identify and develop more Community Health Hubs, and secure funding to pay a CHO at each site to implement the three phases of the ERM program.

Mr. J. Young wanted to know how much funding was provided to this program. Ms. Morgan said that they received three different grants for the amount of \$50k, and it lasted three years. Mr. J. Young also mentioned that there is a huge fruit orchard that could be used for their programs. He also mentioned the Harbor on Knight Street, which provides a hub for families with all type of services, including food and nutrition. He would like to connect this group to the Harbor.

Mr. J. Young suggested that this group apply through the Commission's NGO process.

Mr. Thomas thanked this organization for coming forward and would like for them to speak to a few groups that he is connected with. Mr. G. Young asked that they provide their contact information to the Clerk of the Commission.

- Rex Moncrief  
The Outdoor News

Mr. Moncrief came before the Commission with concerns regarding closing the boat launches and boat ramps when the water rises. He suggested that there be a policy in place to determine when those ramps can be closed. Mr. Moncrief said that there are poles, concrete chunks, etc. on the ramps that need to be removed.

Mr. J. Young asked that Mr. Moncrief collaborate with Administration as to what a good level is to close the ramp for safety.

Mr. Kracman thanked Mr. Moncrief for coming to today's meeting and bringing this to the Commission's attention. He said that there were several fishing tournaments that had to be moved because of the ramps and launches being closed.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if Parks handles this issue. Mrs. Bryant said that they do and will work to determine if there are any changes or adjustments in policies that need to be made.

Mr. G. Young mentioned concerns with the wakes from the high water getting into the

homes that are along the lakes.

- William Bradford  
Industrial Development Board Update

Mr. Bradford said that there are several occupants at the former GM plant. The IDB has also begun a small business grant process.

Mr. J. Young asked that Mr. Bradford provide the Commission with a link for the grant process.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if the IDB has anything to do with the private toll road by the Port. Mr. Bradford said that roadway is a privately funded road and is progressing very well. He also said that Curtis Joseph is the new attorney for that project.

Mr. Epperson wanted to know if there are any ethics issues with his new position at SWEPCO and the IDB. Mr. Bradford said that there are not any issues.

### **ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

- Assistant Director, Public Works

Mrs. Erica Bryant announced that Mr. Josh Bedgood has been selected as the new Assistant Director for Public Works. Mrs. Gage-Watts, Mr. Burrell, Mr. Thomas, and Mr. Epperson all welcomed Mr. Bedgood to the organization.

- Juvenile Detention

Mrs. Bryant said that there are seventeen children in the Detention Center; three of which are OJJ. There are twenty children at CCC. There are 625 children on probation.

- Juneteenth Holiday

Mr. Walker announced that the Governor has declared Wednesday, June 19 as the Juneteenth holiday. Parish facilities will be closed in observation of this day.

- Parks & Recreation National Accreditation

Mrs. Bryant announced that the Parks & Recreation department has achieved a national accreditation through CAPRA (Commission for Accreditation for Parks & Recreation Agency), which lets the community know that the Caddo Parish Parks & Recreation has efficient operations to address the needs of the community and the department manages their operations and services to the community well. She thanked Parks & Recreation for all of their hard work and their commitment to seeing this through.

- May 2024 Financials

Mrs. Bryant advised that the May 2024 Financials have been placed at each Commissioner's station along with being attached to the agenda.

- CCC

Mrs. Bryant said that they have been meeting with the judges, Sheriff Whitehorn, and the District Attorney's Office to try and address the capacity situation. She also mentioned that there was a death at CCC, and the necessary steps are being taken to address this situation.

- Commissioner Requests

Mr. Epperson wanted to know if there will be meetings between the Parish and the Sheriff's Office. Mrs. Bryant said that they will start those meetings back up once the new Sheriff is in office.

Mrs. Gage-Watts requested that the courthouse be lit up in red, green, and black. She then asked about a sign on Buncombe Road regarding "No Large Trucks". She then talked about the lighting and infrastructure on 3132. The turn signal at Buncombe and Pines Road needs to be surveyed. Tires are also becoming an issue again. She then talked about a squatter issue, and will provide an address to Public Works. Mrs. Gage-Watts suggested that Parks & Recreation provide an ad regarding the current programs they are hosting. She also requested a total on how much rental assistance and relocation assistance has been allocated through the Parish.

Mr. Burrell said that something should be done about children riding motorbikes without lights.

Mr. Cothran said that there were concerns regarding litter and dumping cameras. He would

like the Commission to explore this option to get rid of the trash.

Mrs. Gage-Watts also said that the banners for the fracking sites are close to the roads. She can email those locations to Administration.

#### **COMMISSION REMARKS**

- Mr. Thomas said that the Animal Services Committee met today. He also announced that Animal Services will have a get your pets fixed for free day tomorrow between 10:00 a.m. through 12:00 noon. Mr. Thomas also said that Robinson's Rescue provides a low cost spay/neuter for pets.
- Mr. Kracman requested that a memo be sent out regarding constitutional carry that will be in effect July 1. He also said that the lawsuit against the Biden Administration regarding Title IX won last week.
- Mr. Cothran acknowledged the Shreveport-Bossier African American Chamber of Commerce and apologized for not attending the event.
- Mrs. Gage-Watts scheduled a Juvenile Justice for Thursday at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Cothran would like to discuss a mental health symposium for the children.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mr. Cothran** seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to englobe and move the following items to the June 20, 2024 Regular Session agenda for introduction/consideration:*

- *Ordinance No. 6437 of 2024, an ordinance to amend and re-enact "Chapter 8—Animals & Fowl" of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6438 of 2024, an ordinance to close and abandon two portions of street dedications in the Bremer Addition to Rodessa Subdivision, in Section 22, Township 23 North, Range 16 West, in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6439 of 2024, an ordinance declaring certain adjudicated properties to be surplus and to authorize the Parish Administrator, or a designee, to sell the Parish of Caddo's tax interest in certain surplus adjudicated properties, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 43 of 2024, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to request and authorize the Louisiana State Mineral & Energy Board and the Office of Mineral Resources to accept nominations and advertise for oil, gas, and mineral leases, accept bids, and award and execute oil, gas, and mineral leases on certain mineral interests owned by the Parish of Caddo, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 44 of 2024, a resolution to relocated the polling place for Precinct 9-10 from Ascension Classical School, 10540 Norris Ferry Road, Shreveport, LA 71106 to Norris Ferry Community Church, 10509 Norris Ferry Road, Shreveport, LA 71106, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 45 of 2024, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to request and authorize the Louisiana State Mineral & Energy Board and the Office of Mineral Resources to accept nominations and advertise for oil, gas, and mineral leases, accept bids, and award and execute oil, gas, and mineral leases on certain mineral interests owned by the Parish of Caddo, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Advance reappointments (Miles Turner, Jackie Tipton, Charles Merriman, Howard Clayton, and Alma Petterway) to the Sewerage District No. 8 Board. Terms to expire June 19, 2028*
- *Special Resolution recognizing Miss Caddo Parish Antoinette Van*
- *Special Resolution for World Sickle Cell Day*
- *Special Resolution recognizing the accomplishments of area hospitality and tourism professionals*
- *Special Resolution for Parks & Recreation Month*

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

### **COMMUNIQUES/ COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mr. Thomas said he was able to attend the Art-ish Music Festival, and it was a successful event. He also invited everyone to the Let the Good Times Roll Festival this weekend.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- *Ordinance No. 6417 of 2024, 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 on the east side of David Raines Road of Audrey Lane, approximately 530' north of 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, from R-A, Rural Agricultural Zoning District, to R-1-7, Single Family Residential Zoning District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6425 of 2024, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, relative to short-term rental property, with all their provisions included herein, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6434 of 2024, 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 on the north side of East 70<sup>th</sup> Street, approximately 2,525' east of Bert Kouns Industrial Loop, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, from C-1, Neighborhood Commercial Zoning District, to C-3, General Commercial Zoning District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6435 of 2024, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund to provide an appropriation for Compassion for Lives, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6436 of 2024, an ordinance outlining procedures for displaying flags at Caddo Parish facilities, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 38 of 2024, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to approve the assignment, bill of sale, and conveyance of State Agency Lease #19734 from BPX Operating Company to Cirrus Operating, LLC, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 39 of 2024, a resolution to relocate the polling place for Precinct 5-8 from Werner Park Elementary School, 2715 Corbitt Street, Shreveport, Louisiana 71108 to Caddo Heights Math/Science Elementary School, 1702 Corbitt Street, Shreveport, LA 71108, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 40 of 2024, a resolution to relocate the polling place for Precinct 7-8 from Sunset Acres Elementary School, 6514 West Canal Blvd, Shreveport, Louisiana 71108 to Westwood Elementary School, 7325 Jewella Avenue, Shreveport, Louisiana 71108, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 41 of 2024, a resolution honoring Flag Day in Caddo Parish and outlining procedures for displaying flags at Caddo Parish facilities, and otherwise providing with respect thereto.*
- *Resolution No. 42 of 2024, a resolution amending Resolution No. 35 of 2024 to extend Caddo Parish's War on Litter*
- *Special Resolution Recognizing the Northwood High School Track Team for their State Championship Relay*
- *Special Resolution for Juneteenth*
- *Special Resolution for the Let the Good Times Roll Festival*
- *Special Resolution for African American Music Month*
- *Special Resolution for Pride Month*
- *Selection of the Official Journal for the Parish of Caddo. Applications received*

*from: The Caddo Citizen & Focus SB/The Inquisitor*

- *Special Resolution for Art Heals Day*

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

  
Assistant to the Commission Clerk