

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 5th DAY OF JUNE, 2023

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Work Session, on the above date, at 3:34 p.m., in the Government Chambers, with Mr. Burrell, presiding, and the following members in attendance, constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus and Young (11). ABSENT: Commissioner Cothran (1).

The invocation was given by Mrs. Gage-Watts, and Mr. Atkins led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ADDITIONS

- It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to expand the agenda to include special resolution for Bishop Trammel.*

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, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, and Young (9). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Cothran, Johnson, and Jones (3). ABSTAIN: None (0).

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Public comment by Henry Thomas III regarding funds for bayou. Public comment by Kenneth Russ regarding election integrity. Public comment by Jon Glover regarding Ordinance 6317 of 2023.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- Dr. Wilson reported on the population of the Juvenile Detention Center, the 2024 Budget Timetable and covid cases. Dr. Wilson announced that Mr. Mike Corbin from SWEPCO will attend Thursday's Regular Session to update the Commission regarding the new data center.

COMMISSION REMARKS

- Mr. Jackson requested that the Administration provide an update from Shreveport Green Donna Curtis. Dr. Wilson and Mr. Jackson discussed the cleaning out of debris.
- Mr. Johnson discussed the impact of the Shreveport City Council on non-smoking casino and the Caddo Parish Riverboat Fund.
- Mrs. Gage-Watts requested the link to the Homeland Security website to sign up for emergency alerts be provided on the caddo.org website and for a press release of the emergency alert system. Mrs. Gage-Watts requested that the Homeland Security Robert Jump report on the possible tornado. Assistant Animal Services Director Kelvin Samuels indicated that they would copy Mrs. Gage-Watts on an email following up on the animal carcasses issue. Mrs. Gage-Watts announced that the Shreveport Mavericks will be playing at Centenary Gold Dome on Thursday June 8th with a kickoff at 7 p.m.
- Mr. Epperson requested Attorney Frazier to research the parish lines of the casino locations.
- Mr. Atkins requested MPC Alan Clark to correspond on an email regarding Wallace Lake Road.
- Mrs. Gage-Watts requested that trash be cleaned up in areas affected by the storm.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Burrell discussed flooding in his district and requested The Administration to look into the pump station in that area and on the City of Shreveport's action regarding flooding.

Mr. Johnson discussed reasons for flooding.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Ordinance 6332 of 2023, an ordinance setting the parish millage for the purpose of paying principal and interest, due in 2023 on outstanding parish bond issues and to instruct the assessor to include said millage on the tax roll of the*

Parish of Caddo for the year 2023, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto be moved to Thursday's agenda.

Substitute motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to englobo and advance the following items:

- Ordinance No. 6332 of 2023, an ordinance setting the parish millage for the purpose of paying principal and interest, due in 2023 on outstanding parish bond issues and to instruct the assessor to include said millage on the tax roll of the Parish of Caddo for the year 2023, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto
- Ordinance No. 6333 Of 2023, an ordinance to adopt the values fixed, or to be fixed by the Louisiana Tax Commission on all assessments for railways and other public service corporations, and to instruct the assessor to extend such assessments and values on the tax roll of the Parish of Caddo for the year 2023, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto
- Ordinance 6334 Of 2023, an ordinance to set the general purpose and special purpose millages providing for millage rate adjustments, as allowed by Article VII, section 23 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 and La R.S. 47:1705 (b), levying and imposing taxes and assessments for 2023 on all the property subject to taxation in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto
- Ordinance No. 6335 Of 2023, Ordinance to set the 2023 assessment for property classified as timberlands at eight cents (\$.08) per acre. There is an annual tax of eight cents per acre on each acre of timberland in the State of Louisiana to be paid by the owners known as the forest protection tax. This tax is in addition to the assessment of timberland at its use value. The Commission must adopt an ordinance each year to set the forest protection tax at eight cents per acre. The revenue from this tax is remitted to the Louisiana Forestry Commission.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Jones, that Ordinance 6336 of 2023, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund and the Oil and Gas Fund to provide an appropriation for Shreveport Green and to otherwise provide with respect thereto be moved to Thursday's agenda.

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, to suspend the rules to allow Mrs. Donna Curtis to speak. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Curtis discussed the Shreveport Green's clean up the bayou at Cherokee Park, the issue with dumping into the bayou, litter, the time to clean up the bayou and the cost of cleanup twice per year. Mrs. Curtis addressed Mr. Jackson's enquiry about clearing up the sidewalk along a school. Mr. Jackson discussed recruiting youth to help with cleanup. Mr. Jackson indicated that a levy board maintained the bayou historically, but since they discontinued maintenance the responsibility was on the citizens. Mr. Chavez suggested releasing algae eating fish consume the algae growth issue of the bayou. Mrs. Gage-Watts suggested video surveillance to catch dumping perpetrators. Mr. Johnson requested the definition of emergency funding and suggested changing the appropriation funding source. **Point of Information by Mr. Hopkins** that the funding is transferred from the Oil and Gas Fund to the Riverboat Fund, which Mrs. Bryant explained that the funding source should be a transfer from the Oil and Gas Fund to the Parks Fund.

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Jones, to amend the title and the body of Ordinance No. 6336 of 2023 that the funding source be a transfer from Oil and Gas Fund to the Parks Fund and be reintroduced. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Cothran (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Mr. Burrell and Mrs. Curtis discussed litter in water behind his home. Mr. Burrell discussed that no party wants responsibility for the litter in the water and requested the Administration to look into a law regarding navigable screen.

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, that Resolution No. 26 of 2023, a resolution to authorize the Parish Administrator to seek proposals for an automated traffic enforcement system to be operated on roads in the unincorporated areas of the parish, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto be moved to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Johnson discussed the purpose of the resolution and announced that a speaker will attend Thursday's meeting to answer questions. Mrs. Gage-Watts indicated that the system provides video surveillance, lowers mortality rate from vehicle homicide, that there is no cost to the Parish and the mitigation of crime. Mr. Johnson indicated that there is an appeal process with the system. Mr. Johnson discussed providing a solution to traffic enforcement. Mrs. Gage-Watts requested to be added as a sponsor to Resolution No. 26 of 2023. Mr. Young reminded the Commission of the dozens of complaints he received due to the City of Shreveport's traffic enforcement in school zones.

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

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

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *to Advance Special Resolution for African American Music Month.*

Substitute motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Jones, *to englobe and advance the following items:*

- *Advance Special Resolution for African American Music Month*
- *Advance Special Resolution of Recognition for Chris Giordano*
- *Advance Special Resolution for MLK CDC*
- *Advance Special Resolution for Let the Good Times Roll Festival*
- *Advance Special Resolution for Juneteenth*
- *Advance Property Standards Actions*
- *Advance Special Resolution to Bishop Trammel*

Mrs. Gage-Watts requested to be a co-sponsor on agenda items 11.VIII and 11.XI. Mr. Jones requested to be a co-sponsor on agenda items 11.VII, 11.VIII, 11.X, and 11.XI. Mr. Epperson discussed the purpose of the resolutions that recognize the good things Caddo Parish citizens do. Mr. Jackson discussed recording the actions that the Commission does. Mr. Burrell discussed positive reinforcement. Mr. Burrell requested to be a co-sponsor on agenda items 11.VII, 11.VIII, 11.X, 11.XI, and 11.XII.

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

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

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Young, *to Advance Special Resolution for Pride Month.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Jones, and Young (11). NAYS: Commissioner Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Lazarus (3). ABSENT: Commissioner Cothran (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to Advance Selection of Official Journal for The Parish of Caddo.*

Mr. Jackson inquired about an official journal that affects the Commission's proceedings, which the Clerk addressed.

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

COMMUNIQUES/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mrs. Gage-Watts discussed the literacy walk\ and the autism walks. Mrs. Gage-Watts announced that the NGO applications are open and the deadline to submit applications is July 21, 2023. **Point of clarification by Mr. Johnson** that the deadline is the same for Economic Development NGOs. Mr. Johnson, which the Administration addressed.
- Mr. Jackson announced that the Juvenile Justice Committee meeting will occur in the Chambers immediately following the adjournment of the Work Session.
- Mr. Jones discussed the re-grand opening of the Greenbrook Park last week.
- Mr. Burrell discussed a youth entrepreneur program began and announced some of the Commissioners were invited to be judges. Mr. Burrell requested the Parish Attorney to research the navigable statute.

CONSENT AGENDA

- *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*
- *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*
- *Ordinance No. 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*

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

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

Roy Burrell
President