

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION  
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 1<sup>st</sup> DAY OF JULY, 2024

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

Janice Joseph came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good afternoon, ma'am. Hi, yes. Good afternoon, everyone, the reason I am here today is to find out pretty much what is the Parish's requirements. We have, oh my apologies, Janice Joseph. I'm here today to find out what is the commission's, the Parish's requirements regarding obtaining noise permits for special events. I'm aware that the city of Shreveport has that. And for about two months now, I've been trying to pretty much going everywhere, looking into the matters as far as to obtain one for myself and realize that there us none within the Caddo Parish area. I've actually been told several different things, that there was one, that there's not one. And so, I'm so pretty much just here just trying to find out what the process is regarding that. The other issue that I have in conjunction with that is the noise requirement. As far as, like, music for events, I requested and was given the information regarding, like, the different decibel levels and stuff like that. And even with that, the ordinance states that the decibel requirement was like, no more than like 50 decibels, which according to Google and my research, 50 decibels is like the equivalent of a washing machine, the noise from a washing machine or two people talking in an office. So, I'm pretty much, I'm trying not to be a nuisance to my neighbors, but at the same time trying to enjoy my backyard during the summertime. And I just want to make sure that I'm going about everything the legal way, in the proper way, and that's why I'm here.

**VISITORS**

- Presentation of the Parks & Recreation Month Proclamation

The Clerk of the Commission read aloud the Parks & Recreation Month Proclamation as it was adopted during the Commission's last Regular Session.

Mr. Patrick Wesley, Parks & Recreation Director, thanked the Commission for recognizes his staff and department. He said that his staff is the dream team and thanked each and everyone of them for all of the hard work they provide to the citizens of the Parish.

Mr. Thomas, Mr. Burrell, Mr. Cothran, Mr. Kracman, and Mrs. Gage-Watts commended the Parks & Recreation department and staff for this recognition and their hard work for providing a better quality of life to the citizens of Caddo Parish.

Mrs. Bryant said that this department is a small, but extremely hardworking group. They provide programs for all citizens of the Parish and beyond. She thanked the department once again.

- Be the Match

Mrs. Gage-Watts would like to postpone this visit to a later meeting.

**ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

- Juvenile Detention

Parish Administrator, Erica Bryant, said that there are fourteen children in the Detention Center; three of which are OJJ. There are two 17-year olds, and twenty-one children at CCC. There are 625 children on probation.

- July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday

Mrs. Bryant said that Parish offices will be closed July 4 and July 5 in observance of Independence Day.

- Commissioner Requests

Mr. Kracman would like for there to be a flier or literature put out regarding the Constitutional Carry Law that will be in effect beginning July 1.

**COMMISSION REMARKS**

- Mr. Burrell announced that the Sickie Cell Tournament is scheduled for July 11, 2024. He invited everyone to join.
- Mr. G. Young announced that the Economic Development Committee will meet on July 3 at 2:00 p.m.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Mrs. Gage-Watts reminded everyone that today marks 53 years where the Voting Rights Act was implemented. She encouraged everyone to exercise their rights to vote.

There was no Old Business, so the Commission moved onto New Business.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that Ordinance No. 6437 of 2024, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Oil & Gas Fund to appropriate funds for VYJ* be moved to Wednesday's Regular Session for introduction.

**Substitute motion by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that that Ordinance No. 6440 of 2024, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Oil & Gas Fund to appropriate funds for VYJ* be moved to Wednesday's Regular Session for introduction with final passage and public hearing set for August 8, 2024 Regular Session. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, and G. Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner J. Young (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *to englobo and move the following items to Wednesday's Regular Session agenda:*

- *Introduction of Ordinance No. 6441 of 2024, an ordinance to amend and re-enact Section 2-209 et seq of Article VI of the Code of Ordinances relative to the Caddo Parish Living Wage, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Introduction of Ordinance No. 6442 of 2024, an ordinance to accept the streets in North Club West Unit No. 2 into the Parish of Caddo Road System, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Consideration of Resolution No. 46 of 2024, a resolution opposing Louisiana Act No. 676 of the 2024 Regular Legislative Session, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Proclamation July as Bone Marrow Awareness Month*
- *Special Resolution recognizing the Foster Family Reunion*
- *Special Resolution recognizing Sandra Bigham upon her retirement*
- *Discussion regarding Commission participation in the Governor's Conference on Juvenile Justice*

Mr. Atkins commented on the Living Wage Ordinance. He feels that it is appropriate for Caddo Parish to pay its employees a living wage, but does not feel that it is appropriate for the Commission to determine wages for other employers.

**Substitute motion by Mrs. Blake**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that Resolution No. 46 of 2024 be removed from the englobo.*

Mrs. Blake does not agree with this resolution.

At this time, Mrs. Blake's motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Kracman, and Lazarus (4). NAYS: Commissioners Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, Thomas, and G. Young (7). ABSENT: Commissioner J. Young (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Blake, Kracman, and Lazarus (3). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, Thomas, and G. Young (8). ABSENT: Commissioner J. Young (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

There being no additional Communiques/Committee Reports or Citizens Comments, the

Commission moved to Consent Agenda.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- *Ordinance No. 6425 of 2024, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinance 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 70th 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*
- *Ordinance No. 6437 of 2024, an ordinance to amend and re-enact "Chapter 8—Animals & Fowl", of the Code of Ordinance 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 to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

  
Assistant to the Commission Clerk