

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S
LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 14th DAY OF AUGUST 2023

The Caddo Parish Long Range Planning Committee met in legal session on the above date, at 12:06 p.m., in the Government Plaza First Floor Conference Room, with Mr. Chavez, Chairman, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Burrell, Chavez, Hopkins, Johnson and Young (5). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts, and Jackson (2).

The Chair extended the invocation and pledge of allegiance from an earlier Committee meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- Discuss and Make Recommendations Regarding Ordinance 6353 Regarding Litter Abatement and Enforcement

Attorney Bernstein supplied the Committee a breakdown of state law about littering, his draft of litter ordinance, and a proposed amendment for Mr. Young's request for a \$100 court cost to be distributed between the Justice of the Peace and the Constable. Mr. Young clarified that it is Attorney Bernstein's opinion on what the Commission may do. Attorney Bernstein discussed the compensation of justices of peace and Constables for expenses and that compensation may not be directly tied to convictions. The Committee reviewed the state law distribution of the \$100 court cost. Mr. Chavez discussed incentivizing Constables to enforce litter violations, which Mr. Hopkins explained the Committee's earlier discussion to pay Constables up to 10 hours per month on litter violations at \$40 per hour. Mr. Hopkins suggested that the Justice of the Peace give a case summary and ticket to the Parish. Mr. Hopkins indicated that Constables are writing litter tickets under state law and that Constables requests more power with influencing litter violator's driver license. Mr. Burrell inquired how to connect litter violators with the DMV, which Attorney Bernstein explained that driver's licenses could be suspended if a litter violator does not pay their fine or appear in court. Mr. Burrell suggested communicating the litter law on a billboard. Mr. Burrell inquired whether the City of Shreveport has a litter law in place. The Chair asked that the Administration develop a laminated card to accompany the ticket books to be used after the adoption of the new ordinance that would remind and clarify the State and local incentives for the Constable. This card would also detail penalties and would be reinforced by a public awareness campaign to include permanent public signage, advertising, and press releases/conferences to make the public aware of penalties and repercussions for littering. Mr. Young suggested increasing the fine amount to \$900 to be more threatening. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Hopkins clarified the regular compensation of a Constable and the compensation for litter enforcement. Mr. Johnson discussed Constable, understanding their position and doing their position without an incentive. Mr. Johnson suggested educating the public on a Constable and Justice of the Peace's job. Mr. Burrell indicated there is litter in the city that must be addressed. Mr. Chavez suggested a trial period of one year with litter abatement and enforcement. The Committee discussed the work of Constables across the parish, some Constables work outside of their districts, and that Constables were elected to do a job. The Clerk indicated that large municipalities may have a code enforcement department and that there is someone serving in that function. The Clerk suggested forming a taskforce to coordinate the code enforcement. Mr. Johnson suggested that the Public Works staff that manage overweight trucks also be incentivized to do litter enforcement. Mrs. Bryant clarified the job and compensation of that Public Works staff worker that writes overweight truck tickets and that the staff worker is not a law enforcement officer. Mr. Young requested that it be formally communicated to Constables of their compensation for litter enforcement under state law La.R.S. 30:2531 and the incentivized compensation of up to 10 hours per month for litter enforcement. Mr. Chavez discussed the task force with the City Marshalls and suggested the Constables and the City Marshalls permit Constables to enforce litter in the city limits. Mr. Hopkins indicated that there may be funds through Lt. Governor's office for the enforcement. Mr. Chavez suggested that the Committee move forward with their trial period on litter abatement and facilitate the meeting with the Constables and the City Marshall. Mr. Johnson recalled the history of the Justice of the Peace not wanting to hear cases that the Constables brought. Mr. Young discussed the initiative of cleaner city rules for single-use food service items such as Styrofoam that do not decompose.

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to amend and recommend to the full body Ordinance No. 6353 of 2023 with a change to the \$100 allocation.*

Mr. Hopkins requested to remove "split evenly" from Line B under Sec. 42-108, which Attorney Bernstein addressed.

Substitute motion by Mr. Chavez, *that the Administration would produce a PR statement of the ordinance.* Motion died due to the lack of a second.

Mr. Chavez indicated that he would work on the taskforce with the City Marshall and the Administration.

Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Chavez, Hopkins and Young (4). NAYS: Commissioner Johnson (1). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts, and Jackson (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

- Discuss and Make Recommendations Regarding the Recreation Paths Plan and Its Bayou Pierre Phase

Mr. Walker explained that State Representative Thomas Pressly received a planning grant from the State for the Parish and the City. Mr. Chris Elberson discussed his experience with recreation paths and that the last action the city made was bike paths. Mr. Elberson explained that recreation paths are trails that facilitate several types of recreation such as hiking, biking, and walking, and the paths would be connected throughout the City and Parish. Mr. Elberson discussed the tourist attraction of the recreation paths, the improved economic benefit and creating enhanced quality of life by building on the infrastructure that exists in the Parish and City. Mr. Elberson discussed his commitment to make the path plan a parish-wide benefit, his collaboration with Mr. Alan Clarke, Chair of the NLCOG, to receive funding for the project, and the City working to put the path plan into its bond issue. Mr. Elberson discussed the Parish participation in the funding of the plan, the involvement of federal funds towards the project, and the need to hire an experienced consultant to help plan and coordinate other entities involved with the path plan. Answering Mr. Johnson regarding a \$750,000 funding match, Mr. Walker explained that Representative Pressly would present the Parish with a formal request for \$250,000. Mr. Elberson explained that the state grant was for planning and the purpose of the grant. Mr. Johnson discussed the map and plan from the bike trail, which Mr. Elberson indicated that the study from the bike trail would be used in the recreation path plan. Answering Mr. Johnson, Mr. Elberson explained cross-country bike riding, recreational bike riding and determining the demand and location of the recreation path plan. Mr. Elberson and Mr. Young discussed the cost of recreation path projects. Mr. Young discussed the Jimmie Davis Bridge including a walk and bike path lane. Mr. Burrell discussed the use of existing studies. Mr. Chavez discussed including Clyde Fant Riverfront trail in the recreational path plan and encouraging the Red River Waterway to fund fixing the trail, which Mr. Elberson indicated the involvement of many entities in planning. Mr. Chavez discussed a rubberized track for the aging population. Mr. Johnson discussed quality of life improvement, path use organization, and the maintenance of paths. Mr. Chavez requested that the State Representative Pressly visit the Commission meeting and for the Commission to participate and receive a return on its investment in the recreation path project. Mr. Elberson indicated that the process includes reviewing former studies, involving bodies that fund the project, and then community outreach. Mr. Chavez requested that Mr. Walker retrieve the bike study, a map of trails in the Parish, and to guarantee that the consultant will use existing studies, which Mr. Walker acknowledged.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

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