

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION  
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 19<sup>th</sup> DAY OF AUGUST, 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. J. Young, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and Mr. J. Young (12). ABSENT: None (0).

Mr. Jones gave the invocation, and Mr. G Young led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA ADDITIONS**

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that the agenda be expanded and Special Resolution of Remembrance for Deacon Eddie Lee Savannah* be placed under New Business.

Mr. G. Young said that Mr. Savannah has been a long standing Shreveport citizen. His homegoing celebration will be bringing relatives from all over the country to Caddo Parish. He asked that his colleagues support this special resolution.

The President opened the floor for anyone to speak in favor or against this public hearing. There being no one to speak, the President closed the public hearing.

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts' motion carried unanimously. The Commission then moved onto Citizens Comments.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Jon Glover came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good evening commissioners, and thank you for this opportunity, Jon Glover, 9100 Walker Road Apartment 217 Shreveport 71118. I rise to speak to an item on your agenda for advanced for introduction that item number is 11.2. The item that is asking for you all consideration to have traffic cameras placed out in the parish. Now I can only assert or assume that this is in concert with what the city is doing where is the data that you all are relying on to even ask for such a consideration. I know that there is a saying that if those cameras are there it allows the deputies to go out and address more critical needs but if I don't have the data to say that the deputies are not addressing critical needs and yet they cannot write a citation at the same time. Then I need to understand why it is that we would even give such consideration I can assess that monetarily we would gain maybe depending on how many or issued but again two; I just want the data out in the parish that supports this legislation and there's another piece of legislation that you all have on the agenda 14.1. Now, this is an ask of the why excuse me VYJ and they're asking for quite a few things in this piece of legislation I'm trying to figure out what what is the impact of how beneficial for the recording studio be for children who are dealing with indiscretions that caused him to go to juvenile detention. You also had legislation that talked about and I think this is a part of it where you talked about the kits. I know that we have the health unit we have the hospital some other some other businesses that would provide these kits. So, I'm trying to figure out are we trying to duplicate an effort and definitely understand that we want to curtail infections are diseases but is this the place to have it at the harbor? I do appreciate your attention and I look forward to hearing some of you comments with regards to what I've asked. Thank you!

Kirsten Russell came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Kirsten Russell 7232 Whispering Pines Shreveport, Louisiana 71129 I'm speaking today on Election Integrity citizens are deeply concerned about the upcoming elections on Friday July 19th it was a massive cyber failure causing many people to be stranded in airports our Department of Motor Vehicles was hacked four times in 5 years Microsoft Facebook Twitter Comcast Capital One US military in the US cyber security and infrastructure security agencies and AT&T have all been recently breached in some manner. Given the evidence that cyber breakdowns have become increasingly frequent. We ask does Caddo Parish have a backup plan for our elections. Furthermore, can Caddo Parish protect us from further internet intrusion? Two brilliant scientists, Elon Musk and Dr Douglas Frank advise Americans not to use machines at all regarding elections, both men said, and a quote no machines at all. Since we are fast approaching November 5th we know that we will be using machines for election day the paper absentee ballots will be securely hand counted. Unfortunately, the votes that will have been cast early will go into cyberspace to be counted. There's no paper record at all of these early votes. Making them the most vulnerable but there is a paper record of sorts for the votes cast on Election Day that paper record is the phone number of votes counted on the machines this totals are in triplicate one copy is posted the precinct a second goes to the clerk's office and a third copy goes to the Secretary of State. Because there is a paper record of those boats the internet can be avoided in this case our old machines are better than the ballot marking devices that have been proposed just ask Clerk Spence, he feels confident that our old machines cannot be breached on the internet. So we can at least protect our election day votes you reminded that

voting is a parish operation run by Parish officials who are elected and appointed by the parish. Elections are paid for by Capital citizens in the Caddo Parish commissions is the overseeing body therefore even though none of you is the Secretary of State you're empowered with a recommendations to our clerk our register of Voters are board of election supervisors in yes Governor Landry and Secretary of State Landry. On behalf of the people of Caddo Parish please make your voice is heard there's no time to do nothing very soon we will be participating in the most important election of our time please do everything you can to assure how to Citizens that our votes are counted as we cast them.

Adele Shaverman came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Adele Shaufferman 346 Korean Circle 71106 in Shreveport how many of you have noticed sheets that are posted at the precincts on Election Day in the morning they show all zeros indicating that no one has voted on the machines and then when the poles close the machines emit another set of numbers which are the total number of votes cast on each machine for that day 36 precincts in Caddo if each Precinct has two machines there are 272 so bump that up to 300 to work in round numbers it would take 20 people 2 hours or less to count 300 tabulator seats process is important to consider as Plan B in case of electrical or cyber failure on July the 31st the FBI and saisa warned that there may be a cyber failure on Election Day November the 5th so anyway our clerk has experienced hand counting before and he wrote this election since 1978 to complete our job those days would last no longer earlier than 3:00 in the morning will none of us wants our elected officials to have to count votes until 3:00 in the morning but fortunately there have been some changes since 1978 first of all there was no early voting then last election nearly 25,000 people voted early 1978 absentee voting was more restricted and rare now many people vote absentee in the ROV and VOE counts the absentee votes. Since 1978 Caddo Parish has decreased in population by 11,000 those numbers should lighten the load on Election Day Plan B could be used in case of an emergency but it also could be used to protect our votes by keeping them off of the internet our votes would be counted in Louisiana whatever the internet out of state or even out of the country Plan B but also comply with Louisiana Constitution Title 11 section 2 it's " ballots shall be counted publicly. Now I will say this there are some ballots that are counted publicly and those are the absentee ballots but they comprised only about 13% of our vote in the last election so that's a pretty small percentage that's counted publicly. Although, the machines would count the initial votes. Although. the initial votes would be counted at the precincts all of those votes would be added together publicly. The math would be on paper not in cyberspace. I respectfully request that you consult with our Clerk and I have also, we've had a good email back and forth about this about having volunteers committed to counting tabulator totals. Photos in case of emergency or in order to keep our votes securely counted in Louisiana and thank you for the extra time.

There were no Visitors, so the Commission moved onto the Administration Report.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

- Juvenile Detention

Parish Administrator, Erica Bryant, said that there are sixteen children in the Detention Center; three of which are OJJ. There is one 17-year olds, and seventeen children at CCC. There are 528 children on probation.

- Intergovernmental Meeting

Mrs. Bryant said that the City of Shreveport will be hosting the next Intergovernmental Meeting. It is scheduled for September 20, 2024.

- War on Litter

Mrs. Bryant also said that the War on Litter event is scheduled for September 20-September 21. This event is aimed to clean up the Parish by providing dumpsters in strategic locations for citizens to use. Administration is working out the logistics of the event.

- 2024 July Financials

Mrs. Bryant said that the 2024 July Financials are attached to the agenda, as well as, being placed at each Commissioners' station.

- Gregory Kallenberg  
Film Prize

Mr. Gregory Kallenberg, founder of the Prize Foundation, introduced himself to the Commission and said that their focus has been to put economic development and workforce development within the community through a number of different programs.

The startup prize focus on health is one of the most impactful programs that the Prize Foundation has. They invite entrepreneurs from all over the country and connect them with resources and connect them with investment dollars. This year, there were over forty-three health focused startups that came to Shreveport.

Next year, there will be a startup prize focused on energy. This will bring a new crop of

entrepreneurs to the area, he said.

Mr. Kallenberg then talked about Film Prize Jr. He explained that this gives students in middle school and high school free education on how to create film. This provides an opportunity for these children to learn a skill that they may not have had otherwise.

Lastly, Mr. Kallenberg talked about Prize Fest, which is a nationally awarded film, music, food, and comedy festival here in Shreveport. Music Prize is set to reinvigorate the music industry in Caddo Parish. This year's Film Prize has the most diverse group of film makers, he said. Mr. Kallenberg also mentioned that the \$50k cash prize is the world's largest cash prize for a short narrative film. He also said that the film has to be made in Caddo Parish.

Since 2012, the Commission has supported the Prize Foundation in the amount of \$25k and Taco Wars in the amount of \$5k. Mr. Kallenberg said that he would like to attend an Economic Development Committee meeting and request a bigger ask.

Mr. G. Young asked for Mr. Kallenberg's contact information.

Mrs. Blake thanked Mr. Kallenberg for what he is doing for the community. She asked about the energy focused startup that he mentioned earlier. Mr. Kallenberg explained that the idea would be to bring people to Shreveport, connect with investors, and find a home in Caddo Parish.

Mr. Thomas thanked Mr. Kallenberg for coming and providing this update. He appreciates what the festival does for this area.

- Dr. Martha Whyte  
Health Update

Dr. Whyte came before the Commission and said that there is always a summer surge for COVID. Dr. Whyte also said that Louisiana has some of the highest waste water levels of COVID in the country. She also explained that this type of COVID does not always test positive and has symptoms of extreme headaches, diarrhea, muscle aches, etc.

Dr. Vancherrie said that they are seeing outbreaks in congregate living settings. Testing remains vital, he said. The new variant is called Flirt, and it is not any worse compared to the other strains that have come before us.

Dr. Whyte said that this area is very low on influenza and RSV. Dr. Vancherrie said that if someone has a respiratory infection, it is most likely COVID.

Mr. J. Young asked about the STI home testing kits. Dr. Vancherrie said that Louisiana rates in the top 3 in the nation for STDS and HIV cases. These germs are insidious and stay within the Parish. He said that they are gateway germs. People who are infected with STIs are more likely to contract HIV, if exposed. STI testing kits help people by swabbing at home and mailing in the tests to the labs. Long term STI infection can cause infertility problems and pelvic inflammatory disease.

These kits are most helpful to those who may not have insurance. He also said that people in small towns may not want others to know their business, so these home testing kits can be done in the privacy of their homes in complete discretion. If kits are provided at the Harbor, it is not a medical facility. The patients can bring the tests home and swab themselves. Once the results come in, they can over treatment, if needed.

Dr. Whyte said that there are DIS—disease intervention specialist—but they are only for syphilis. There is such a huge number of chlamydia and gonorrhea going around that there just isn't enough people to do case management for it. They are working to do some of the case management through telehealth. She also said that if they treat a person, they also need to treat their partner. The key is to test, test, test, then treat, treat, treat.

Dr. Whyte said that the Harbor sees so many people that it is a reasonable place to start putting these home kits. She also mentioned that they are allowed to see kids at the Health Unit at age 13 without parental consent, but they still push for parental involvement. Over 95% of the children who come in there, come with a parent or guardian.

She further explained that chlamydia and gonorrhea really are gateway infections because the person is more susceptible to syphilis and HIV. The problem with syphilis is congenital syphilis, which is babies born exposed to syphilis and can be devastating to them. Currently, Louisiana is number seven in the country for congenital syphilis.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know the age range for the highest infected people who come in the clinic. Dr. Vancherrie said that it is between teens to early 30s. Mr. Burrell suggested that these kits be available at the schools. Dr. Whyte said that Woodlawn does test and treat for STIs. She also explained that they've gone to several schools and taught about STIs—they do not teach sex education—after the presentation, they ask if anyone wants to be tested. If those students are positive, then they get them treated. This has been done in several schools, she said. They were working with Dr. Goree to figure out a plan to help combat this, but then he left Caddo Parish School Board. She hopes to continue that work with

the next Superintendent. Mr. Burrell said that this is such an epidemic and should be a priority.

Dr. Whyte also said that they are working on an expedited partner therapy program. If a person tests positive, then the health unit can give them the medicine for their partner as well. They don't want someone to get treated, then get re-infected. She also said that they are proposing some budgetary requests to expand some of these services.

Mr. Burrell then talked about COVID. He wanted to know if he was going to keep getting it. Dr. Vancherrie said that COVID is here to stay. None of our immune systems respond in a durable way that lasts. The vaccinations protect the person from severe disease and death. He also said that a booster is recommended every Fall for older people and immunocompromised people.

Mr. Burrell then asked about testing through wastewater for COVID, STIs, etc. Dr. Vancherrie said that they are working on being able to test for levels of gonorrhea and chlamydia in the wastewater, but it is tricky because those are bacteria, not viruses.

Mr. Epperson then wanted to know if the Philadelphia Center is still in operation. Dr. Whyte said that they are. He then wanted to know if the State is working with the Center. Dr. Whyte said that they are. Mr. Epperson then wanted to know if the State is paying for the kits. Dr. Vancherrie said that they are targeting the Medicaid population because they have the least access. The Medicaid Managed Care organizations within Medicaid are all on board to pay for the testing. If a person has Medicaid, then it is \$140, but if they do not, then it is \$55. Dr. Whyte said that they need more staff for case management for gonorrhea and chlamydia.

Mr. Epperson wanted to know how many clinics does David Raines operate. Dr. Whyte said that they run the school-based health clinics. Sister Sharon still works with them and runs the school-based health clinics. Mr. Epperson then wanted to know if they have gone before the School Board. Dr. Whyte said that they have. She hopes that they can continue their work with the School Board when a new Superintendent is appointed.

Mr. J. Young wanted to know if the clinic at the Harbor will be staffed by volunteer medical students. Dr. Whyte said that it is her understanding that there would not be a true full clinic, and the medical students would be there for instructional days. He then wanted to know who would be providing the tests for the children. Dr. Vancherrie said that it would be a counselor.

Mr. J. Young wanted to know if it would be better to do it now or delay it until 2025. Dr. Whyte said that it would be beneficial to do it now. Dr. Vancherrie suggested to do somewhat of a pilot program with regards to the test. Mr. J. Young wanted to know how much does a test cost. Dr. Vancherrie said that it is \$55 per test.

Mr. Cothran wanted to know if these tests are readily available. Dr. Whyte said that they are not, but several centers do test for STIs.

Mr. Burrell asked if the School Board was providing funding for the school-based health clinics. Dr. Whyte said that it is on their to-do lists to provide home test kits.

### **COMMISSION REMARKS**

- Mr. Burrell asked for legislation that was passed by the State on voter suppression. Mrs. Bryant said that they are researching this and will provide that information as soon as it is available.

There was not a President's Report or Old Business, so the Commission moved onto New Business.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *that Ordinance No. 6452 of 2024, an ordinance declaring the intent of the Parish under LA.R.S. 47:2236 to acquire full ownership interest in a parcel of property identified by Caddo Parish Tax Assessor's Geographic Number 171410-011-0031-00 and described as Lot 18, and west half of Lot 19, Block 10, Queensborough Annex, Shreveport, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction. Motion carried unanimously.

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that Ordinance No. 6453 of 2024, an ordinance adopting Article VII of Chapter 26 of the Code of Ordinances, relative to enforcement of speed limits by means of traffic cameras and other electronic devices, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mrs. Bryant said that this is only setting the fines, not identifying any locations.

Mr. Atkins asked for clarification on this ordinance. Attorney Frazier said that the Commission body requested that RFPs be put out, but there has to be a fee schedule set first. Mr. Atkins asked about the partnership between this legislation and the Sheriff's Office. Mrs. Bryant said that the Sheriff's Office is supportive of this.

Mr. Cothran wanted to know how this relates to SB 302. Mrs. Bryant explained that these

cameras will not be set in school zones; and the fines collected will be used for public safety.

Mr. Kracman asked to opt out of this. He does not want a damn camera in his district. Mrs. Bryant said that they will work with the Sheriff's Office to identify locations, then inform the Commissioner of that district. Attorney Frazier said that she will research it further.

Mr. Burrell said that this legislation complies with SB 302.

At this time, Mr. Jones' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (8). NAYS: Commissioners Blake, Cothran, Kracman, and Lazarus (4). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. G. Young, *that Ordinance No. 6454 of 2024, an ordinance declaring the intent of the Parish under LA.R.S. 47:2236 to acquire full ownership interest in seven parcels of property in the Stovall Subdivision, Unit No. 3, all within Section 26, Township 18 North, Range 14 West, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction. Motion carried unanimously.

It was **moved by Mr. J. Young**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that Ordinance No. 6455 of 2024, an ordinance to amend Article VI of Chapter 26 of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo relative to Section 26-182, Schedule A, Speed Limits, on Dixie Garden Drive, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction. Motion carried unanimously.

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Resolution No. 54 of 2024, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to direct and authorize the Louisiana State Mineral & Energy Board and the Office of Mineral Resources to accept nominations, advertise for, accept and award bids, and execute all oil, gas, and mineral leases on certain mineral interests owned by the Parish of Caddo, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration. Motion carried unanimously.

It was **moved by Mr. G. Young**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Resolution No. 55 of 2024, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to consent to the annexation by the Town of Blanchard of a tract of property and two portions of public road dedication within the parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration. Motion carried unanimously.

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

- *Special Resolution of Recognition Shreveport Farmer's Market*
- *Special Resolution of Remembrance Mr. Wali Amin*
- *Proclamation Southwood Homecoming Week*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition Shreveport City Court Judge Elect Brittany Bass Arvie*
- *Approval of Commissioner travel to 2025 Washington D.C. Mardi Gras*
- *Shreveport Farmer's Market as Visitors*
- *Robinson's Rescue as Visitors*
- *Special Resolution of Remembrance Eddie Lee Savannah*

Mr. Atkins asked for clarification on Commissioner travel. The Clerk of the Commission said that the Commissioners are allowed to travel to those conferences mentioned in the by-laws. Attorney Frazier also mentioned that the officers for the Commission are not appointed to the next year.

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts' motion to englobo carried unanimously.

#### **COMMUNIQES/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mrs. Blake wanted to know if there were provisions in place in case of power outages during the Presidential election. Mrs. Bryant said that they can only account for those types of outages in Parish-owned facilities. She will research it further and provide information to Mrs. Blake.
- Mr. Cothran announced that the NGO Committee will meet on Thursday. He also said that the Governor's Conference is scheduled during the same time as the Regular Session.

- Mr. Jones said that My Community Cares is having a neighborhood team meeting tomorrow. He encouraged all to attend.
- Mr. Kracman requested that Dale Sibley come before this body before the next election to answer any questions that the Commission may have.
- Mr. Burrell announced that the Rightway Foundation will have a march on August 24. He encouraged all to attend.
- Mr. Epperson said that he went before the State Legislature and brought legislation for a precinct to stay open in the event of a power outage. That committee shut it down.
- Mr. Thomas said that the Humor & Harmony Festival was a successful and safe event. He also said that he attended a disaster recovery exercise during NACo, and he is excited to use the information he learned with this Commission body.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- *Ordinance No. 6440 of 2024, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Oil & Gas Fund to appropriate funds for VYJ*
- *Ordinance No. 6452 of 2024, an ordinance declaring the intent of the Parish under LA.R.S. 47:2236 to acquire full ownership interest in a parcel of property identified by Caddo Parish Tax Assessor's Geographic Number 171410-011-0031-00 and described as Lot 18, and west half of Lot 19, Block 10, Queensborough Annex, Shreveport, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6453 of 2024, an ordinance adopting Article VII of Chapter 26 of the Code of Ordinances, relative to enforcement of speed limits by means of traffic cameras and other electronic devices, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6454 of 2024, an ordinance declaring the intent of the Parish under LA.R.S. 47:2236 to acquire full ownership interest in seven parcels of property in the Stovall Subdivision, Unit No. 3, all within Section 26, Township 18 North, Range 14 West, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6455 of 2024, an ordinance to amend Article VI of Chapter 26 of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo relative to Section 26-182, Schedule A, Speed Limits, on Dixie Garden Drive, 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 5:10 p.m.

  
 Assistant to the Commission Clerk