

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 5th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2024

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Regular 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 Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (11). ABSENT: Commissioner Jones (1).

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Leslie Alexander came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Thank you, commissioners, regarding ordinance 6450 which would prohibit quote memorial's monuments statues etc. on Parish property are honoring quote "individuals, organizations, groups, entities that have declared war against the United States of America or have been found guilty of being traitors against the United States of America." Prohibition against future memorials to such individuals or groups would naturally require legal documentation of said declaration of war against the United States and documentation of the charge and conviction for treason. Both of these are serious charges which without proof could easily rise to the level of libel and defamation under existing Louisiana law. Which prohibits the quote malicious publication or expression in any manner of falsehoods which expose any person to hatred contempt or ridicule or exposes the memory of a deceased person to hatred contempt or ridicule. Of course, the legal defense to libel or slander is truth it is necessary to prove a public charge of treason and war against the United States related into an individual or group or the in violation of civil law. That would be impossible to do since there is no historical courtroom or legal evidence of such charges or convictions there's not even consensus among historians on the matter finally, I leave for your consideration the language of the US Code federal law as it stands now related to a charge of treason there are 2 methods for proof one of which must exist either a quote minimum of 2 eyewitnesses to such treason or confession in open court close quote. Since no one living since 1865 is alive today to testify and there was no confession offered proof is impossible and the charge manifestly defamatory. I caution you to think very carefully about the language of this ordinance and a possible civil liability implication for this body related to unproven charges against specific individuals or groups related to war or treason against the United States I urge you to vote against thank you.

Brenda O'Brock came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Ordinance 6450 has skewed therefore law cannot be based on fabricated falsehoods. Don't use company time to waste our money especially if you don't know the facts be careful with our money in the past some of you commissioners have told me in my husband that the parish has plenty of money. I don't have time and 3 minutes to tell you the many ways you have wasted our money but it would be a long list if I did. Concerning ordinance 6456 at 2024 citizens do not want this added to the tax roll for 2024 to pay principal and interest due to outstanding parish bond issues. The payment of the bond should have already been built into the tax base we want you to learn from your lack of prudence how about selling parish property to pay this debt the property would sell quickly with rich minerals of Caddo Parish don't use our money to cover your mistakes.

Laura Bellow came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Vanessa Smith came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

I am the co-founder and I'm the director programming from Compassion for Lives we were notified today that we may not be able to go back to the jail based off the MOU the reason I'm here is because we've been going in that jail faithfully for the last 10 years and I specifically worked with the women and I provide I provide a subsistence of usage education and we work on mindfulness. it's imperative because as you all have recognized we've discussed that crime prevention is very important in this community better practice of public health prices at this. You want me to understand that when people go into jail choosing for poor decision-making because they've experienced a trauma or a crisis when they're in jail it's a proven fact that they are based on mental health anguish which adds to them being traumatized additionally upon release they're traumatized from further going back to the original situation in crisis. I focus on post-incarceration syndrome. Post Incarceration Syndrome involves the whole entire community it involves healthy it involves shelter it involves jobs it involves education it involves mental health services. And, not being able to assist or even have people recognize what's going on while they're incarcerated and know that they have places to go when they're getting released outside within this community is disheartening to say the least. As a licensed clinical social worker I spent the majority of my career in social services I've worked at the criminal Justice level I teach a class for the department of corrections at cattle

correction I've just worked at She Shack which is Stephen Hoy's intensity of substance abuse program or doc I've worked for goodwill doing career readiness I've worked for Uncle Sam at the Social Security Administration so therefore individuals who do come out of jail and who do have mental health issues who do post-traumatic stress order and they do need assistance in applying for social security I can assist them with that. All I'm asking today is for the commission to take into consideration the importance of having people who understand going inside the jail to ripple people to reduce one your public health crisis of crime and adequately give people second chances because if you all could sit on this panel and recognize what a child needs their basic means you should understand your basic needs and these individuals desire and the same needs you have once been released.

Carla Buntyn came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

**COMMISSION SITS AS THE TAX BOARD OF REVIEW
FOR THE YEAR 2019**

At this time, in keeping with State law, the Commission would designate itself as a Board of Review to hear protest, if any, of the 2024 tax assessments. During the next two weeks, the Board would hear any protests received. He then asked Mr. Charles Henington, Assessor for Caddo Parish, to come forward.

Mr. Henington presented the following letter:

Dear Members of the Board of Review:

As Assessor in and for the Parish of Caddo, this is to certify that the assessments on property located in and/or assessable in Caddo Parish have been listed and assessed in accordance with Title 47; Section 1992.

It is further certified that the said assessments have been exposed for public review for 15 calendar days beginning August 15, 2024 and ending August 29, 2024.

Said certification of the above is hereby given to the Board of Review as required by Title 47; Section 1992.

Thus done and officially signed on this 5th day of September, 2024.

*/s/Charles R. Henington, Jr., C.L.A.
Assessor Caddo Parish*

Mr. Henington stated that there are a few personal property appeals, but they are working with them. He said that the majority of the appeals should withdraw. He also said that the Tax Board of Appeals is scheduled for Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

Mr. J. Young asked that the Tax Board of Appeals be further explained. The Clerk of the Commission said that the Commission sits as the Tax Board of Appeals once a year for property owners who wish to contest their assessment. Mr. Henington also mentioned that this year is a reassessment year.

Mr. Epperson asked for more clarity on the reassessment year that Mr. Henington mentioned. He explained that every four years is a re-evaluation year, so value notices are sent to all property owners for real estate. If anyone has any questions about their property value, they should contact the Tax Assessor's Office.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know how a property's assessment is determine. Mr. Henington said that they use income and expense reports to calculate that value.

Mr. G. Young wanted to know if there were tax exemptions for people older than 65 years old. Mr. Henington said that the assessment freeze is for people over the age of 65 who make less than \$100k per year. The assessment will not change, but the millage rate could change.

Mr. Henington also said that this year, property values have gone up.

Mr. Cothran wanted to know how this applies to the VA. He explained that if you are a disabled veteran of 75% or 50%, there is an extra exemption. If you are 100% disabled, you are exempt from taxes, city or parish.

Mr. Henington said that the Tax Board of Appeals will be held on September 11, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

Mr. J. Young thanked Mr. Henington for his many years of service as the Caddo Parish Tax Assessor.

ADOPT REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that the Regular Session Minutes from August 22, 2024 be adopted. Motion carried unanimously.*

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *to englobo and adopt the following Special Resolutions:*

- *Special Resolution of Remembrance for Willie J. Singleton*
- *Proclamation September as Sickle Cell Anemia Awareness Month in Caddo Parish*

Mrs. Gage-Watts encouraged her colleagues to wear red on September 19, 2024.

- *Proclamation Hunger Awareness Month in Caddo Parish*
- *Proclamation Hispanic Heritage Month in Caddo Parish*
- *Special Resolution of Remembrance for Mrs. Bobby T. Henderson*

Mr. Burrell asked that this be presented on September 19, 2024.

- *Special Resolution of Recognition 20th Anniversary of Greenwood's Chamber of Commerce Annual Pioneer Days Heritage Pancake Breakfast*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition 50th Anniversary of Greenwood's Annual Pioneer Heritage Days*

Ms. Stephanie Lawman invited everyone to attend the Pancake Breakfast and Pioneer Heritage Days. Mayor Justin Davis thanked the Commission for presenting them with this proclamation today. He said that they are trying to revitalize this event and asked everyone to attend.

- *Proclamation Suicide Awareness Month in Caddo Parish*

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

SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF REMEMBRANCE WILLIE J. SINGLETON

WHEREAS, Willie James Singleton was born in the small town of Frierson, Louisiana, and raised by his great-grandparents, who instilled in him the values of hard work, perseverance, and the importance of education; and

WHEREAS, Willie Singleton's early life on a cotton farm shaped his strong work ethic and determination, as he not only contributed to his family's income by picking cotton and repairing bicycles but also achieved perfect attendance throughout his 12 years of schooling, graduating from Second Ward High School at the age of 16; and

WHEREAS, Willie Singleton pursued higher education with the same determination, completing his undergraduate degree at Southern University in Baton Rouge in three years, followed by earning his law degree from Southern University School of Law in an additional three years, all while working at the Globe Shopping Center to support himself; and

WHEREAS, after completing law school, Willie Singleton served in the Louisiana National Guard as an infantryman before establishing his own solo legal practice, where he would go on to specialize in class-action cases, including a landmark \$591 million settlement against a major tobacco company; and

WHEREAS, Willie Singleton made history in 1974 as the first African-American to run for mayor of Shreveport, demonstrating his commitment to public service and the betterment of his community; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, Willie Singleton was elected to the Caddo Parish Police Jury, where he served with distinction for several years, helping to shape the future of Caddo Parish during a pivotal time in its history; and

WHEREAS, Willie Singleton's dedication to public service extended to the Louisiana State

Legislature, where he served from 1983 to 1996, including as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, during which time he played a critical role in increasing the number of African-American judges in the state from six to eighty, thereby advancing the cause of justice and equality in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Willie Singleton's legal and legislative careers were marked by his commitment to ethics and justice, as evidenced by his service on the Louisiana Law Institute, the Shreveport Bar Association's Ethics Committee, and the Executive Committee of the Louisiana Trial Lawyers, among other professional affiliations; and

WHEREAS, Willie Singleton was a devoted husband to Jacqueline Hurst Singleton, whom he married on November 22, 1990, and a loving father to his three children and grandfather to his one grandchild; and

WHEREAS, Willie Singleton's life and career stand as a testament to the power of perseverance, education, and public service, leaving a lasting legacy that will be remembered and honored by all who knew him and by the citizens of Caddo Parish and the State of Louisiana.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission hereby expresses its deepest condolences to the family of Willie James Singleton and honors his memory and legacy with this Special Resolution of Remembrance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the official minutes of the Caddo Parish Commission, and that a copy be presented to the family of Willie James Singleton as a token of the Commission's respect and admiration for his extraordinary contributions to the Parish and the State.

PROCLAMATION SICKLE CELL ANEMIA AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, September is National Sickle Cell Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, Sickle cell anemia is an inherited blood disorder that mostly affects people of African ancestry, but also occurs in other ethnic groups, including people who are of Mediterranean and Middle Eastern descent.; and

WHEREAS, More than 70,000 Americans have sickle cell anemia. And about 2 million Americans— 1 in 12 African Americans — have the sickle cell trait, which means they carry a single gene for the disease, but do not have the disease itself.; and

WHEREAS, sickle cell disease is a complex genetic disorder characterized by chronic anemia, episodes of debilitating pain and damage to vital organs; and

WHEREAS, early identification of a child with sickle cell disease coupled with antibiotic prophylaxis by 3 months of age and early intervention services, helps those with sickle cell disease while researchers continue to search for a cure; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana remains dedicated to the provision of sickle cell screening, education, and medical care for individuals and families living with sickle cell disease through its support of the Louisiana Department of Community Health's Newborn Screening Program and the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal and regular session this 5th day of September, 2024 that it does hereby proclaim September, 2024 as:

'NATIONAL SICKLE CELL AWARENESS MONTH'

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and urges all citizens to join with the Parish in recognition of this important month.

PROCLAMATION HUNGER AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, hunger and poverty are issues of vital concern in Caddo Parish where 16% of people face hunger in Louisiana and one in every 4 children do not know where their next meal will come from; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo of Louisiana is committed to taking steps to combat hunger in every part of our community and to provide additional resources that those in Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo of Louisiana is committed to working with the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana in educating people about the role and importance of food banks in addressing hunger and raising awareness of the need to devote more resources and attention to hunger issues; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana distributed more than 15,000,000 pounds of food in 2023 through its network of food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and other community organizations; and

WHEREAS, the month of September has been designated “Hunger Action Month” in order to bring attention to food insecurity in our communities and to enlist the public in the fight to end hunger by taking action – including volunteer shifts, social media shares, and donations – to ensure nobody has to make an impossible choice between food and other necessities like medicine, utilities or childcare; and

WHEREAS, food banks across the country, including the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana will host numerous events throughout the month of September to bring awareness and help end hunger in their local community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal and regular session this 5th day of September, 2024 that it does hereby proclaim September, 2024 as:

‘HUNGER ACTION MONTH’

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and urges all citizens to join with the Parish in recognition of this important month.

**PROCLAMATION
HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH**

WHEREAS, National Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the countless contributions of more than 60 million Hispanic Americans to our culture and society; and

WHEREAS, Hispanic Americans are the largest minority group in the United States today, and generations of Hispanic Americans have contributed to our nation’s strength, prosperity and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Hispanic Americans, including over 7,000 in Caddo Parish and another 9,000 in bordering parishes, embody the best of our American values, including commitment to faith, family, and community; and

WHEREAS, Hispanic Americans contribute in so many ways from protecting this nation through service in our military to tremendous economic contributions made through commitment, ingenuity and skill to the enrichment experienced as Hispanic culture, food, music, history and traditions are shared and celebrated. The Hispanic-American community has left an indelible mark on our government, culture, and economy; and

WHEREAS, Hispanic Americans lay claim to an undeniably important role in our country’s great years to come, and that Caddo Parish Commission proudly stands to honor them and their innumerable contributions to Caddo Parish’s prosperity, culture and way of life; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission meeting in legal and regular session convened during the month of October does hereby proclaim September 15th through October 15th, 2024 as

‘Hispanic Heritage Month’

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and urges all citizens to join with the Caddo Parish Commission to celebrate the Hispanic Heritage Month honoring the contributions of the Hispanic Community.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF REMEMBRANCE
MRS. BOBBY T. HENDERSON**

WHEREAS, Mrs. Bobby T. Henderson, affectionately known as Mother, Mo, Aunt Bobby, GG, and Grandy, has dedicated her life to the love, care, and nurturing of children and youth across Shreveport and the surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Henderson is a mother of four, Frederick Cartrail Henderson Sr., Larry Donnell Henderson, Tony Antroy Henderson, and Essie Jennell Henderson; grandmother of 30, great-grandmother of 17, and great-great-grandmother of 5, all of whom she has supported with the same love and guidance she extends to hundreds of children throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Henderson's unwavering commitment to the youth is demonstrated through her sponsorship of athletic teams, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and the Supernatural Marching Unit, providing mentorship and guidance to over 367 children, ranging from 2 years old to high school, as well as teaching financial literacy, including how to open a bank account, pay tithes, and give offerings; and

WHEREAS, she has been a beacon of support in the community, constantly surrounded by children and investing her time and energy into creating opportunities for them, from sewing uniforms, attending Parent Teacher Advisory Association meetings, to planning countless activities that keep them engaged and inspired; and

WHEREAS, during the summer, Mrs. Henderson has coached various youth teams in kickball, baseball, basketball, football, tennis, and softball, while also sponsoring adult softball teams, further showcasing her commitment to the physical and emotional development of children; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Henderson held leadership positions in several schools, including serving as Band Booster President at Lakeshore Junior High School, Booker T. Washington High School, and Parent Teacher Association President at Fair Park High School, where her children and other community children benefitted from her advocacy and dedication; and

WHEREAS, in 1979, Mrs. Henderson organized the Super Naturals Marching Unit, comprising 85 members, offering children another avenue for expression, discipline, and community involvement; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Henderson's contributions to the community extend beyond her work with youth, having been a member of the Foster Grandparent Program, a 1995 graduate of the Shreveport Fire Department Citizen Academy, a 12-year breast cancer survivor, and serving 11 years with the Shreveport Police Department and 10 years with the Caddo Parish School Board; and

WHEREAS, as a businesswoman, Mrs. Henderson owned and operated Bobby's and Jennell's Little Miss Muffett Day Care and Pre-Schools for 15 years, ensuring that even more children received care, education, and support during their formative years; and

WHEREAS, her dedication to her faith and community is further reflected in her membership at Sunrise Baptist Church, where she continues to serve as a pillar of strength, kindness, and leadership;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, in legal and regular session convened, that we do hereby extend our deepest appreciation and gratitude to Mrs. Bobby T. Henderson for her outstanding contributions to the children, families, and citizens of Caddo Parish, and for her tireless commitment to making a positive impact in the lives of so many.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission encourages all citizens to recognize and honor Mrs. Henderson for her selfless dedication, unwavering compassion, and her lasting legacy of service to the community.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION
20TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREENWOOD'S ANNUAL PIONEER DAYS HERITAGE
PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

WHEREAS, the Annual Pioneer Days Heritage Pancake Breakfast, a cherished tradition in Greenwood, was first held on September 17, 2004, in the Pioneer Building at William Peters Town Park, initiated by the founders Harvey and Rita Allen, along with Shelton and Wanda Simpson; and

WHEREAS, the founders of this event conceived the idea of a pancake breakfast as a fundraiser to support the Town of Greenwood, selflessly providing the food and supplies themselves, with the event initially operating as a pay-as-you-go gathering; and

WHEREAS, despite humble beginnings, including the use of cake mixers to prepare pancake batter and rented grills, the event has grown in size and significance, with the acquisition of three grills and necessary equipment marking its success and continued tradition over the past 20 years; and

WHEREAS, the event could not have flourished without the dedicated support of countless volunteers whose commitment to community service has made this event an enduring success; and

WHEREAS, Harvey Allen, one of the founding members, became President of the Greenwood Development Alliance in 2007 and played a pivotal role in establishing the Greenwood Chamber of Commerce, securing full membership in the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and achieving 501(c)(6) status, thereby fostering further growth and development of the Chamber; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of current Greenwood Chamber of Commerce President Mark Garner and the Executive Board of Directors, the Chamber continues to serve as an active and engaged entity, organizing events like the Annual Pioneer Days Heritage Pancake Breakfast and contributing to the town's prosperity and cultural vibrancy; and

WHEREAS, the 20th Anniversary celebration of this beloved tradition will commence on Friday, September 20, 2024, with a pre-breakfast kickoff event from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at William Peters Town

Park, and continue on Saturday, September 21, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., followed by Bingo and a full day of celebrations lasting until 8pm and providing an opportunity for the community to come together in celebration of Greenwood's rich heritage and enduring spirit;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, in legal and regular session convened, that we do hereby congratulate the Greenwood Chamber of Commerce and the founders, volunteers, and supporters of the Annual Pioneer Days Heritage Pancake Breakfast on the occasion of its 20th Anniversary, and extend our gratitude for their continued dedication to the Town of Greenwood.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission encourages all citizens to participate in the Pioneer Days Heritage Pancake Breakfast and to support the ongoing work of the Greenwood Chamber of Commerce as they continue to make valuable contributions to the growth and unity of the Greenwood community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be presented to representatives from the Greenwood Chamber of Commerce and all involved parties as a token of appreciation for their unwavering service and commitment.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREENWOOD'S ANNUAL PIONEER HERITAGE DAYS

WHEREAS, the Town of Greenwood, Louisiana, officially founded in 1839, has a rich and storied history, which it has celebrated through the Annual Pioneer Heritage Days Festival since its inception in September 1974; and

WHEREAS, September 21, 2024, will mark the 50th Anniversary of this beloved festival, a milestone representing 600 months, 2,609 weeks, 18,262 days, 438,291 hours, and 26,297,460 minutes since its beginning; and

WHEREAS, the Pioneer Club, made up of dedicated volunteers, played a pivotal role in preserving Greenwood's heritage by renovating the old fire station, naming it the Pioneer Building, and using it as a central gathering space for meetings, seasonal activities, and the annual pancake breakfast during the festival; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the organization of the Annual Pioneer Heritage Days Festival was entrusted to the Town of Greenwood, which has continued to present this event to the public, allowing the town's history to be showcased and celebrated each year, despite a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the festival offers residents and visitors alike the opportunity to reflect on Greenwood's historical roots, dating back to the 1860s, when the town was a bustling trading post, a stop for wagons, and later a key train stop for loading cattle and pulp wood; and

WHEREAS, Greenwood has since evolved into a growing community with an increase in residents, businesses, and opportunities, while maintaining a commitment to preserving its rich past and embracing a progressive future; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, in legal and regular session convened, that we do hereby join with the Town of Greenwood in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Annual Pioneer Heritage Days Festival and extend our appreciation to all volunteers, past and present, who have contributed to the success and longevity of this important event.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission encourages all citizens to participate in this historic celebration, to honor Greenwood's heritage, and to support the festival's continued growth and success in the years to come.

PROCLAMATION SUICIDE AWARENESS MONTH IN CADDO PARISH

WHEREAS, suicide is a national public health crisis that affects individuals from all walks of life, with over 45,000 Americans dying by suicide each year, making it one of the leading causes of death in the United States; and

WHEREAS, suicide and suicidal behavior can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status, causing deep and long-lasting impacts on families, friends, and communities; and

WHEREAS, the month of September is nationally recognized as Suicide Prevention Month, a time to raise awareness, offer support, and encourage proactive steps to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health and suicide prevention; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Caddo Parish are encouraged to recognize the signs of suicide risk, such as feelings of hopelessness, withdrawal, and significant changes in behavior, and to connect individuals in crisis with the necessary resources and support; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission is committed to working with health care providers, educators, law enforcement, and local organizations to promote mental wellness and to ensure that suicide prevention strategies are accessible to all residents; and

WHEREAS, raising awareness and educating the community on the resources available through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and local mental health services can help save lives and create a stronger, more resilient community in Caddo Parish;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, in legal and regular session convened, that September 2024 is hereby declared as Suicide Prevention Month in Caddo Parish, in conjunction with the National Suicide Prevention Month.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission urges all citizens, businesses, and institutions to work together to raise awareness about suicide prevention, promote mental health services, and offer support to individuals who may be at risk.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to local health care organizations, mental health professionals, and community partners engaged in suicide prevention efforts as a token of support and collaboration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- War on Litter Event
September 21, 2024

Mrs. Bryant placed a flyer at the Commissioners' stations detailing the event. She said that it will be held on September 21 from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Kracman asked about tires and hazardous waste. Mrs. Bryant said that they will be accepting tires. He wanted to know how many tires can one person bring. Mrs. Bryant said they will accept five tires.

Mr. Lazarus asked that the flyer be sent to the Commissioners so they can put it on their social media.

COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Atkins wanted to ensure the public that Caddo Parish has a conservative debt ratio. The principal interest payments that are made are a function of tying long-term debt to long-term capital projects, such as roads and bridges. Annual tax dollars are not being used to fund multi-year projects, he said.

- Mr. Epperson announced that the Public Safety Ad Hoc Committee will meet on September 19, 2024 to discuss various topics.

- Mrs. Gage-Watts said that she is aware of the pool parties on South Lakeshore Drive and has been in constant communication to receive updates. She said that this is still under investigation. Mr. Alan Clarke, MPC Executive Director, said that they are looking into these complaints and are building a case to prove that the property owner is operating a commercial facility within a residential area. He said that they might have to have a zoning inspector to go out and witness exactly what's happening.

Mrs. Gage-Watts wanted to know who enforces the law in Caddo Parish. Attorney Frazier said that the Commissioners are the legislators. She also explained that there is a permitting process for different uses that goes through an administrative process. Mr. Clarke said that the MPC is involved in this issue and are determined to solve this problem.

She also said that she responded to these complaints via email.

- Mrs. Blake talked about the same issue that Mrs. Gage-Watts spoke about. She said that this issue has become rather large because someone from her district alerted her to these happenings. Mrs. Blake also said that she has had some issues with zoning in her district, but it has been after hours. She asked what are people supposed to do to report issues such as this after hours. Mr. Clarke said that he is personally involved in the case on South Lakeshore Drive and is determined to find a resolution; although, it may not be the resolution they are wanting.

Mrs. Blake then talked about parking as it is associated with businesses. She wanted to know who is the person complaining to call after hours. Mr. Clarke said that commercial sites have parking requirements, but not residential sites. He also mentioned that the MPC has no authority on the right-of-ways.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ZONING ORDINANCES

President J. Young opened the public hearing on the following zoning ordinances:

- *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*

There being no one to speak in favor, or against, the ordinances, the President closed the public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES

President J. Young opened the public hearing on the following ordinances:

- *Ordinance No. 6450 of 2024, an ordinance prohibiting the placement of certain monuments on parish property, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *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*
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There being no one to speak in favor, or against, the ordinances, the President closed the public hearing.

ORDINANCES (for final passage)

It was moved by Mr. Epperson, seconded by Mr. Thomas, that Ordinance No. 6450 be

adopted with the following amendments: in Sec. 2-7.—*Prohibition of certain Monuments on Caddo Parish Property* (a.) *there shall be no memorials, monuments, statues, plaques, flags, etc., erected on Caddo Parish Property, or displayed in any buildings owned by the Parish of Caddo, of individuals, organizations, groups, or entities that advocate bigotry, division, hatred, and racism. Entities that have declared war against the United States of America, or have been found guilty of being traitors against the United States of America.* (b.) *There shall be no memorials, monuments, statues, plaques, flags, etc., erected on Caddo Parish Property, or displayed in any buildings owned by the Parish of Caddo, of individuals that have been found guilty of a felony of obstructing a constitutionally mandated process.*

Mr. Epperson said that this is the compromise to the feedback he received from the Commissioners. He also said that this is being proactive to establish a process prior to putting a monument, memorial, statue, plaque, or flag on Parish property.

Mr. Kracman wanted to know if the Commission has to vote to put a monument, statue, plaque, or flag on Parish property. Attorney Frazier said that the body does have vote on it. Mr. Kracman said that this ordinance is so vague, and “bigotry, division, hatred, and racism” is defined in many different ways by many different people. This is silly to me, and especially on something that we would have to vote on to begin with, he said.

Mr. J. Young wanted to know if the Parish Administrator is in charge of enforcing this ordinance. Mrs. Bryant said that she would. Mr. J. Young then asked if she was comfortable with the terms in the ordinance. She said that working with legal and the Commission, they could determine how this would be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Mr. J. Young then wanted to know if Legal could determine legal definitions as stated in the ordinance. Attorney Frazier said that they would have to research case law to determine this. Mr. J. Young then wanted to know if there is current case law with regards to this ordinance. Attorney Frazier said that they would need to research that further. Mr. J. Young suggested that this be discussed at great lengths in committee.

Mr. G. Young believes in the art of compromise, but never wants to compromise his integrity or core beliefs. He also said that this ordinance should be vague to allow for “wiggle room” for the Commission to decide on anything that is erected on Parish property.

Mrs. Blake thanked Mr. Epperson for this amendment. She said that this is an ordinance, so it is a law that would be put in place. She agreed with Mr. J. Young that this should be discussed further.

Substitute motion by Mr. Kracman, seconded by Mrs. Blake, *that Ordinance No. 6450 of 2025* be remanded to the Long Range Planning Committee.

Mr. Epperson said that this body has the vote. He said that Mrs. Bryant and the Administrative staff would carry out the majority vote of this body.

Mr. Cothran said that bigotry, division, hatred, and racism are defined. He further stated that this is a hard and uncomfortable decision, but it should be done.

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

At this time, Mr. Kracman's motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Kracman, Lazarus, and J. Young (5). NAYS: Commissioners Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Thomas, and G. Young (6). ABSENT: Commissioner Jones (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Epperson's motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Thomas, and G. Young (6). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Kracman, Lazarus, and J. Young (5). ABSENT: Commissioner Jones (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Mrs. Gage-Watts asked if it they needed to vote on the original ordinance. The Assistant to the Commission Clerk advised that the original motion was to adopt the ordinance as stated by Mr. Epperson. The Clerk of the Commission further explained that it would be appropriate at this time to make a motion and adopt the ordinance as presented on the agenda. Mr. Epperson stated that “he is ready to move on”.

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *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 adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Jones (1). ABSTAIN:

None (0).

ORDINANCE NO. 6452 OF 2024

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

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 171410-01 I-0031-00 AND DESCRIBED AS LOT 18 & WEST HALF OF LOT 19, BLOCK 10, QUEENSBOROUGH ANNEX, SHREVEPORT, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, Mr. Kevin Smith, representing Smith Positive Step, has applied under Section 19-31 of the Code of Ordinances to acquire a certain property adjudicated to the Parish for unpaid property taxes;

WHEREAS, Mr. Kevin Smith has met the requirements to acquire the property with a municipal address of 2808 Jackson Street based on his application;

WHEREAS, this property is adjudicated to the Parish for unpaid 2018 property taxes;

WHEREAS, under the Caddo Reinvest program the Parish is required to take full ownership interest in this property prior to transferring it to Smith Positive Step;

WHEREAS, taking full ownership interest under La. R.S. 47:2236 requires the Parish to duly adopt and record an ordinance declaring the Parish's intent to acquire full ownership of the subject property;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal, and regular session convened, that pursuant to La R.S. 47:2236, it does declare its intent to acquire full ownership interest in the following described property:

- a) Lot 18 & West Half of Lot 19, Block 10, Queensborough Annex, Shreveport (Geo. No. 171410- 011-0031-00)

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Parish Administrator, or her designee is directed to comply with the requirements of La R.S. 47:2236, including but not limited to recordation of this ordinance, giving of notice in accordance with the statutes, filing of the notice, and filing of the affidavit in accordance with the statutes.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any provision or item of this ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this ordinance shall take effect upon adoption.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that Ordinance No. 6453 of 2024, an ordinance adopting Article VI 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 adopted.

Mr. Cothran wanted to know if there would be any costs to the Parish. Mrs. Bryant said that the cost would be what the Parish pays the contractor to administer the program, which will be a portion of the fees that are received. There is no net cost to the Parish, she said.

Mr. Cothran then wanted to know how would this be enforced. Mrs. Bryant explained that the citations would be sent out through the organization that they contract with. She also said that they would work with the Sheriff's Office to review the citation, along with an appeals process.

Mrs. Bryant said that this would be an additional tool to slow people down and decrease the fatalities on Paris roadways.

Mr. Cothran then wanted to know where the cameras would be located. Mrs. Bryant said that they would work with the Sheriff's Office to determine those locations.

Answering a question from Mrs. Blake regarding the name of the organization, Mrs. Bryant said that they have not signed an actual contract yet. She further explained that this ordinance sets the fees, which would allow coordination with the contractor to determine what they would pay. Mrs. Bryant also said that they did go through the RFPs and scored them.

Mr. Burrell said that the Commission could rescind the contract at any point if it deemed undesirable.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 6453 OF 2024

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

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.

WHEREAS, excessive speed on public highways in the Parish has been and remains a serious problem;

WHEREAS, operating a vehicle at a speed in excess of posted speed limits poses a safety hazard to motorists, passengers, cyclists, and pedestrians;

WHEREAS, vehicles traveling over the posted speed limit damages the public by increasing the chances of serious motor vehicle accidents which in turn harm the public by injury and death of individuals and damage to property;

WHEREAS, vehicles traveling over the posted speed limit also impact public resources by increasing expenses of public safety agencies in responding to accidents and reducing the resources available for law enforcement efforts generally;

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission has established speed limits on parish roads under its home rule charter authority;

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission is also authorized to provide for the enforcement of speed limits on parish roads; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission desires to increase enforcement efforts regarding excessive speed on roads in the parish so as to protect motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians on those roads.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that Article VII of Chapter 26 of the Code of Ordinances is hereby adopted to read as follows:

ARTICLE VII. ELECTRONIC TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

Sec. 26- 201. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

- a) Administrative adjudication hearing shall mean an administrative hearing of violations conducted by the hearing officer.
- b) Administrator shall mean the Parish Administrator or her designee.
- c) Hearing officer/adjudicator shall mean a licensed attorney designated by the Commission who meets the qualifications contained within this section.
- d) Owner shall mean the owner of a vehicle as shown on the vehicle registration records of the Louisiana Office of Public Safety, Office of Motor Vehicles, or the analogous office or agency of another state or county.

- e) Parish shall mean the Parish of Caddo.
- f) Photographic vehicle speed enforcement system or system shall mean a system consisting of an electronic process which is capable of producing one or more recorded images depicting the license plate attached to the rear of a vehicle being operated at a speed in excess of the speed limit. The speed measurement component of the system shall be properly calibrated on a regular basis as determined by the Sheriff and the records of such calibration shall be maintained with the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Department.
- g) Recorded image means an image recorded by the system depicting the rear of a vehicle which is automatically recorded on a photograph or digital image, which also depicts the recorded speed, date, location, and time of the recorded image.
- h) Sheriff shall mean the Sheriff of Caddo Parish or his designee.
- i) Speed limit shall mean the established regulatory speed limit on the subject roadway.
- j) System location means the roadway location toward which a photographic vehicle speed enforcement system is directed and in operation or a segment of roadway on which a vehicle speed enforcement system is in operation.
- k) Total civil violation amount shall mean the original fine amount plus any applicable late fees for failure to pay original fine amount within 30 calendar days from the date of receipt of civil notice of violation.
- l) Violation shall mean the notice of civil violation for speeding for this chapter.

Sec. 26-202. Imposition of civil violation penalty for violations enforced by a photographic speed enforcement system.

- a) Except as provided in subsection (c) below, the owner of a vehicle is responsible for a civil violation penalty as shown in the following tables if the vehicle is traveling at a speed in miles per hour (mph) greater than the speed limit as shown when captured by the system in accordance with the vehicle's recorded speed and the corresponding speed limit of the roadway where the notice of civil violation was issued.

MPH Over Speed Limit	Fine
9 MPH to 10 MPH	\$100.00
11 MPH to 20 MPH	110.00
21 MPH to 30 MPH	130.00
31 MPH to 100+ MPH	150.00

Following the guidelines as established by LaDOTD, the following thresholds shall be established (\geq shall mean greater than or equal to):

Posted Speed Limit (Miles Per Hour)	Minimum Speed for Violation to Be Issued (Miles Per Hour)
15	≥ 21
20	≥ 26
25	≥ 31
30	≥ 36
35	≥ 43
40	≥ 48
45	≥ 55
50	≥ 60
55	≥ 65
60	≥ 70
65	≥ 75
70	≥ 80

- (b) Any photographic vehicle speed enforcement system which is hand-held, mounted in or on a trailer or in a fixed position shall be deployed at the discretion of the Sheriff, who shall deploy such systems in his discretion within the Parish. For each speed enforcement system which is hand-held, mounted in or on a trailer or is otherwise considered mobile, portable or easily transported to a different system location, the Parish or its designee shall clearly and conspicuously mark on the

outside of the apparatus that contains the speed enforcement system that the system is the property or under the control of the Parish.

Sec. 26-203. Late payments.

An owner who fails to pay a civil violation penalty beyond 30 calendar days from the date of mailing the civil notice of violation, inclusive of weekends and legal holidays, shall be subject to a late payment penalty of \$30.00 (e.g., original fine amount + 30 = total civil violation amount including late payment penalty). A notice of civil violation under this article is presumed to have been received on the tenth calendar day, inclusive of weekends and legal holidays, after the date the notice of civil violation is mailed.

Sec. 26-204. Enforcement; procedures.

- a) The Parish is responsible for the enforcement and administration of this article, or the Parish may enforce and administer this article in part or in whole, through one or more contractors selected in accordance with applicable law. The actions which can be used to enforce the payment of this civil penalty and related fees include, but are not limited to: referring the debt to collection agencies; and/or initiating actions through a court of competent jurisdiction, or any other lawful means, all in accordance with applicable authority, laws, and procedure.
- b) In the enforcement of this Article, the Parish shall comply with applicable provisions of pertinent state statutes, including without limitation,
 - 1) La.R.S. 32:45;
 - 2) La.R.S. 32:46;
 - 3) La.R.S. 32:47;
 - 4) La.R.S. 32:48;
 - 5) La.R.S. 32:49; and
 - 6) La.R.S. 32:365(B)(2)
- c) In order to impose a civil violation penalty under this article, the Parish and/or the contracted traffic safety company shall mail a notice of civil violation to the owner of the vehicle responsible for the civil violation penalty not later than the 30th calendar day, inclusive of weekends and legal holidays, after the date the department reviews and inspects the recorded images, and an alleged civil violation is determined by the department to have occurred.
- d) A notice of civil violation issued under this article shall comply with La.R.S. 32:48 and La.R.S. 32:49. It shall also contain the following, to the extent not in conflict with those state statutes:
 - (1) A description of the violation alleged;
 - (2) The date, time, and location of the violation;
 - (3) A copy of a recorded image of the vehicle involved in the violation;
 - (4) The amount of the civil violation penalty to be imposed for the violation;
 - (5) The date by which the civil violation penalty must be paid;
 - (6) A statement indicating the person named in the notice of civil violation may pay the civil violation penalty in lieu of appearing at an administrative adjudication hearing;
 - (7) Information informing the person named in the notice of civil violation:
 - a. Of the right to contest the imposition of the civil violation penalty in an administrative adjudication hearing;
 - b. Of the manner and time in which to contest the imposition of the civil violation penalty; and
 - c. Failure to pay the civil violation penalty or to contest liability within 30 calendar days from the date of receipt of the civil notice of

violation, inclusive of weekends and legal holidays, is a waiver of the right to appeal.

- (8) A statement that a recorded image is evidence in a proceeding for the imposition of a civil violation penalty; and
 - (9) A statement indicating failure to pay the civil violation penalty within the time allowed shall result in the imposition of an additional late penalty for each such violation.
- e) A notice of civil violation under this article is presumed to have been received on the tenth calendar day, inclusive of weekends and legal holidays, after the date the notice of civil violation is mailed.

Sec. 26-205. Administrative adjudication hearing.

- a) A person who receives a notice of civil violation may contest the imposition of the civil violation by making a request in writing for an administrative adjudication of the notice of civil violation within 30 calendar days, inclusive of weekends and holidays, after the notice of mailing of the notice of civil violation.
- b) Upon receipt of a request within the prescribed time period within this paragraph, the office and/or the contracted traffic safety company shall notify the person requesting such hearing of the date, time and/or manner of the administrative adjudication hearing.
- c) Administrative adjudications of violations shall be conducted by the hearing officer designated by the Administrator. In conducting administrative adjudications of violations, the hearing officer shall have the following functions, powers and duties:
 - (1) To administer oaths, to accept admissions to, and to hear and determine contests of, violations herein.
 - (2) To require the attendance of persons to give testimony at hearings, and to require the production of data and information, to the extent permitted by law.
 - (3) To adjudicate violations for which a notice of civil violation has been issued herein.
 - (4) To compile and maintain accurate records relating to notice of civil violations, violations and/or dispositions of violations and notice of civil violations.
 - (5) Upon request of the department or a person charged with a violation, or his attorney, to prepare or provide transcripts or audio records of hearings conducted by the hearing officer and to furnish such transcripts or audio records to the requesting person at a reasonable cost.
 - (6) To designate an individual or individuals with the responsibility to answer, within a reasonable period of time, relevant and reasonable inquiries made by a person charged with a violation, or his attorney, concerning the violation.
 - (7) The functions and duties in subsections (4), (5), and (6) identified herein may be performed by representatives of the Parish, as directed by the hearing officer.
 - (8) To prescribe regulations for the presentation and the conduct of hearings which need not necessarily be in strict conformity with the usual rules of evidence and technical rules of procedure, however, the fundamental principles governing a fair and impartial hearing or trial and due process of law must be reasonably and substantially adhered to.
- d) Except as provided in subsection (i), failure to pay a civil violation penalty or to contest liability beyond 30 calendar days from the date of mailing of the notice of civil violation, inclusive of weekends and legal holidays, constitutes a waiver of the right to contest under subsection (a).
- e) The civil violation penalty shall not be assessed if after a hearing, the hearing officer enters a finding of no liability.

- f) In an administrative adjudication hearing, the issues must be proved at the hearing by a preponderance of the evidence. The reliability of the system used to produce the recorded image of the violation may be attested to in an administrative adjudication hearing by affidavit of a law enforcement officer or a representative of the Sheriff, or by actual testimony by either of them. An affidavit of a sworn law enforcement officer or representative of the Sheriff, or actual testimony by either of them, that alleges a civil violation occurred based on an inspection of the pertinent recorded image is admissible in a proceeding under this article and is prima facie evidence of those facts contained in the affidavit or testified to. Testimony by any person shall be taken under oath or by affirmation, except to the extent such testimony is allowed by affidavit as provided above. The person charged with the ordinance violation may present any relevant evidence and testimony at such hearing.
- g) Adjudication by mail.
- (1) In cases where a person charged with a violation shows good cause for not attending a hearing, either personally or through a representative, the hearing officer may permit the matter to be adjudicated by mail which adjudication shall be made within 60 days of the date of the citation. Letters, memoranda, affidavits, photographs or other documentary materials shall be admissible as evidence for the purposes of adjudications by mail. The hearing officer may exclude from consideration any material which is not relevant to the adjudication of the alleged violation. Failure of the person charged to proceed with an adjudication by mail after requesting and receiving permission to adjudicate by mail shall constitute an admission by the person charged of liability of the violation and shall subject the person who requested the adjudication by mail to the appropriate fines and costs assessed by the adjudication bureau.
- (2) If a hearing examiner determines that an adjudication cannot proceed by mail, the person charged shall be notified by first class mail that he must appear to answer the charge at a hearing.
- h) It shall be an affirmative defense to the imposition of civil liability under this article, to be proven by a preponderance of the evidence, that:
- (1) The operator of the vehicle was acting in compliance with the lawful order direction of a law enforcement or public safety officer;
- (2) The operator of the vehicle violated the speed limit so as to move out of the way or an immediately approaching authorized emergency vehicle;
- (3) The vehicle was being operated as an authorized emergency vehicle under R.S. 32:24, and the operator was acting in compliance with R.S. 32:24;
- (4) The vehicle was being operated in accordance with R.S. 32:300.3—Funeral Processions; however, the operators are not exempt if they fail to comply with division 2, vehicle speed;
- (5) The vehicle was being operated by a commissioned law enforcement officer performing authorized/assigned tasks;
- (6) The vehicle was being operated during a bona fide medical emergency which is documented with adequate and sufficient evidence from a medical care facility, as determined by the department;
- (7) At the time of the violation, the vehicle was in the care, custody or control of another person:
- a. As set forth in the owner's signed affidavit identifying the name and correct mailing address of the person or entity who had the care, custody and control of the vehicle at the time of the violation.
- b. As set forth in the owner's signed affidavit stating that at the time of the violation the motor vehicle or the license plates of the motor vehicle involved were stolen or were in the care, custody, and control of some person who did not have the owner's permission to use the motor vehicle, or that the motor vehicle or license plates

of the motor vehicle were stolen before the violation occurred and were not under the control or possession of the owner at the time of the violation. In order to demonstrate that the motor vehicle or license plates were stolen before the violation occurred and were not under the control or possession of the vehicle owner at the time of the violation, the vehicle owner must submit proof that a police report, incident report/general offense report about the stolen motor vehicle or license plates was filed prior to the violation or within 48 hours after the violation occurred.

- c. As set forth in a document, or "transfer of liability," signed and dated by the person, or a representative of the entity, who had the care, custody and control of the vehicle at the time of the violation, indicating his/her responsibility for the violation and listing his/her name and mailing address. Responsibility for the violation shall in such a case be transferred to the person identified in the "transfer of liability."
 - d. The tender of a statement of "transfer of liability" shall be for the sole purpose of identifying the person who is assuming responsibility for the violation identified in the notice of civil violation, but all defenses that may be asserted by the person alleged to be responsible are reserved and are not waived by the tender of such document.
 - e. As set forth in a lease, rental contract or other agreement listing the name and mailing address of the person or entity who had the care, custody or control of the leased or rented vehicle at the time of the violation. Responsibility for the violation shall in such case be transferred to the lessee.
- i) Notwithstanding anything in this article to the contrary, a person who fails to pay the amount of a civil violation penalty or to contest liability is entitled to an administrative adjudication hearing on the violation if:
- (1) The person files an affidavit with the office stating the date on which the person received the notice of civil violation mailed to the person; and
 - (2) The person files a request for an administrative hearing within 30 days from the date of receipt of the notice of civil violation, as stated in the affidavit.
- j) The decision of the hearing officer shall be the final decision in the hearing.

Sec. 26-206. Appointment of hearing officers.

- a) Administrative adjudication proceedings under this article shall be conducted before hearing officers who have been licensed to practice law in Louisiana for at least two years.
- b) There shall be hearing officers appointed by the Administrator.
- c) Hearing officers shall be sworn before to uphold the Constitution, the laws and constitution of the State of Louisiana, and the Charter and ordinances of the City of Shreveport, and to abide by the provisions of the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics.

Sec. 26-207. Orders of the hearing officer.

- a) Hearing officers at administrative adjudication hearings under this article shall issue an order stating:
 - (1) Whether the person charged with the violation is responsible for the violation; and
 - (2) The amount of any civil violation penalty, late penalty, and administrative adjudication costs assessed against the person.
- b) The orders issued under subsection (a) may be filed with the department. The department shall maintain the hearing officers' orders/determinations.

Sec. 26-208. Effect of liability; exclusion of civil remedy.

- a) The imposition of a civil violation penalty under this article shall not be considered a criminal conviction.
- b) A civil violation penalty may not be imposed under this article upon the owner of a vehicle if the operator of the vehicle was arrested or was issued a speeding citation and notice to appear by a law enforcement or public safety officer as a violation of any of the provisions of Subpart A, Part IV, Chapter 1 of Title 32 of the Louisiana Revised States if such violation was captured by the system.
- c) Upon receipt of all documents supplied to the contractor, the hearing officer may enforce collection of all unpaid fines, fees, penalties, late payment penalties and administrative adjudication fees in a court of competent jurisdiction for vehicles registered through a filing with the Louisiana Office of Revenue and the Federal Offset Program.
- d) The Sheriff or contractor, as applicable, shall supply to the hearing officer, or outside counsel bringing suit, all materials and/or testimony necessary to support enforcement.
- e) Defendants in enforcement suits authorized by this section have, until rendition of final judgment, the option of settlement by payment of all outstanding fines, fees, penalties, late payment penalties and administrative adjudication fees, as well as court costs and filing fees incurred (whether prepaid or otherwise) in enforcement. No defendant in such suit shall be required to pay attorney's fees in connection with such settlement.
- f) Any money judgment obtained in a suit to enforce fines levied for violation of this division shall be recorded in the mortgage records of Caddo Parish, and/or any other parish, as a judicial mortgage against the property of the defendant.

Sec. 26-209. Collections fees and costs.

In the event a fine or penalty is assessed pursuant to any provision of this Code, a default in the payment of a fine, penalty or any installment of a fine or penalty may be collected by any means authorized for the collection of monetary judgments. The department may retain attorneys and private collection agents for the purpose of collecting any default in payment of any fine or penalty imposed by the Code, or any installment of a fine or penalty. The Parish shall add a 35 percent cost of collections to any outstanding balance that requires the Parish to retain the services of a collection agency. This 35 percent cost includes any default in a fine, penalty or any installment of a fine or penalty that was previously referred to an attorney or private agency and the payment of which remains outstanding.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any provision or item of this ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this ordinance shall take effect upon adoption.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *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 adopted. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Jones (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

ORDINANCE NO. 6454 OF 2024

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING THE INTENT OF THE PARISH OF CADDO, 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.

WHEREAS, on September 3, 1954, the Stovall Subdivision, Unit No. 3, was filed and recorded under Instrument No. 81421, in Book 700, Page 13, of the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, establishing various residential lots and public dedications for streets in Section 26 (T18N-R14W); and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works requests the Parish of Caddo take full ownership in the following seven properties for redevelopment and expansion of their maintenance facilities on Monty Avenue.

WHEREAS, these seven properties are adjudicated to the Parish of Caddo for un-paid property taxes.

WHEREAS, taking full ownership interest under La. R.S. 47:2236 requires the Parish to duly adopt and record an ordinance declaring the Parish's intent to acquire full ownership of the subject properties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that pursuant to La. R.S. 47:2236, it does declare its intent to acquire full ownership interest in the following described adjudicated property:

- 1) Lot 19, Stovall Subdivision, Unit No. 3 (Geo. No. 181426-055-0019-00)
- 2) Lot 21, Stovall Subdivision, Unit No. 3 (Geo. No. 181426-055-0021-00)
- 3) Lots 16, 17 & 18, Stovall Subdivision, Unit No. 3 (Geo. No. 181426-055-0046-00)
- 4) Lots 22, 23 & 24, Stovall Subdivision, Unit No. 3 (Geo. No. 181426-055-0047-00)
- 5) Lots 26, 27 & 28, Stovall Subdivision, Unit No. 3 (Geo. No. 181426-055-0048-00)
- 6) Lots 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, & 39, Stovall Subdivision, Unit No. 3 (Geo. No. 181426-055-0049-00)
- 7) Lots 29 & 30, Stovall Subdivision, Unit No. 3 (Geo. No. 181426-055-0051-00)

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Parish Administrator, or her designee is directed to comply with the requirements of La. R.S. 47:2236, including but not limited to recordation of this ordinance, giving notice in accordance with the statutes, filing of the notice, and filing of the affidavit in accordance with the statutes.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any provision or item of this ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this ordinance shall take effect upon adoption.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

It was **moved by Mr. Cothran**, seconded by Mr. J. Young, *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 adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Jones (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

ORDINANCE NO. 6455 OF 2024

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

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

WHEREAS, the Commission has received requests from citizens to lower the speed limit on Dixie Garden Drive.

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo finds that it is in the best interests of the Parish of Caddo to set the speed limit on Dixie Garden Drive, beginning at 70th Street (LA511) and extending to the Limits of the City of Shreveport, at thirty (30) miles per hour.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular

and legal session convened, that Chapter 26, Section 26-182 of the Code of Ordinances be and is hereby amended to add the following:

Dixie Garden Drive, beginning at the intersection of 70th Street (LA511) and extending to the Limits of the City of Shreveport, at thirty (30) miles per hour.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that if any provision or item of this ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this ordinance shall become effective upon ten (10) days after publication in the official journal.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

ORDINANCES (for introduction by title)

- *Ordinance 6456 of 2024, an ordinance setting the Parish Millage for the purpose of paying principal and interest, due in 2024 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 2024, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance 6457 of 2024, 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 2024, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance 6458 of 2024, an ordinance to set the General Purpose and Special Purpose Millages providing for an increase in the millage rates not in excess of the prior years maximum rates, 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 2024 on all the property subject to taxation in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance 6459 of 2024, 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 2024 on all the property subject to taxation in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto.*
- *Ordinance 6460 of 2024, an ordinance setting the assessment of property classified as timberlands and to instruct the Assessor to include said assessment on the tax roll of the Parish of Caddo for the year 2024, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance 6461 of 2024, an ordinance to sell surplus property under Chapter 19, Article II, Division 3 of the Code of Ordinances relative to donation of adjudicated property acquired by the Parish under La. R.S. 47:2236 et seq., to authorize the donation of property to Gods of Grind, LLC, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance 6462 of 2024, an ordinance to donate surplus property under Chapter 19, Article II, Division 3 of the Code of Ordinances relative to donation of adjudicated property acquired by the Parish under La. R.S. 47:2236 et seq., to authorize the donation of property to Caddo Parish Fire Protection District One, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

WORK SESSION MINUTES

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Cothran, *that the Work Session Minutes from September 3, 2024 be ratified. Motion carried.*

RESOLUTIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that the following resolutions be adopted:*

- *Resolution No. 56 of 2024, a resolution, relative to hazard mitigation, to adopt an updated Hazard Mitigation Plan, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 57 of 2024, a resolution amending Resolution No. 48 of 2023, which established a Citizens Disaster Response, Recovery, and Review Committee in Caddo Parish and to otherwise provide with respect thereto.*
- *Resolution No. 59 of 2024, a resolution requesting that the Louisiana Legislature adopt legislation authorizing the creation of land banks by local jurisdictions in Louisiana and establishing the structure and authority therefore, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 61 of 2024, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to approve the assignment, bill of sale, and conveyance of State Agency Lease #22227 from Cypress Energy Partners, LLC, to Paloma Natural Gas, LLC, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 62 of 2024, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to approve the assignment, bill of sale, and conveyance of State Agency Lease #22214 from Cypress Energy Partners, LLC, to Paloma Natural Gas, LLC, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 63 of 2024, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to approve the assignment, bill of sale, and conveyance of State Agency Lease #22215 from Cypress Energy Partners, LLC, to Paloma Natural Gas, LLC, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 64 of 2024, a resolution relative to citizen access to high-speed internet access, to urge the Louisiana Office of Broadband/Connect Louisiana to use available BEAD funding for improving broadband service in public housing and other multi-family dwellings, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*

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

RESOLUTION NO. 56 OF 2024

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION, RELATIVE TO HAZARD MITIGATION, TO ADOPT AN UPDATED HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has prepared a multi-hazard mitigation plan hereby known as the Caddo Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2024 in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000;

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has participated in the process to prepare a DMA compliant Hazard Mitigation Plan based in the FEMA guidance available in the How to Guides;

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo is participating in the Hazard Mitigation Plan prepared by the Caddo Parish governments under the oversight of a Steering Committee comprised of parish-wide representatives;

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo and local city representatives and governments have participated in the mitigation planning process;

WHEREAS, appropriate opportunity for input by public and community officials has been provided through meeting notices, open meetings and availability of draft documents;

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan 2024 has been recommended for adoption by the Steering Committee;

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan 2024 has been favorably reviewed by the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency; and

WHEREAS, adoption of the Plan is required prior to further consideration for FEMA funding under the following programs:

- a) Pre-Disaster Mitigation,
- b) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, and
- c) Flood Mitigation Assistance Program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby adopt the Caddo Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Parish Administrator is authorized to take any and all action to execute documents necessary to submit and effectuate the Caddo Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

RESOLUTION NO. 57 OF 2024

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 48 OF 2023, WHICH ESTABLISHED A CITIZENS DISASTER RESPONSE, RECOVERY AND REVIEW COMMITTEE IN CADDO PARISH, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Ad Hoc Committee has diligently reviewed various aspects of response to natural disasters which impacted Caddo Parish during the Summer of 2023;

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Ad Hoc Committee would like to have on going citizen input on matters related to disaster response and believes that the best mechanism for gaining such input is organizing a Citizen's Disaster Response, Recovery & Review Committee to make recommendations to the Caddo Parish Commission;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does amend resolution No. 48 of 2023 as follows:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this committee shall consist of ~~27~~ 39 members who shall reside in Caddo Parish and appointed by the Caddo Parish Commission with ~~two~~ three members from each Parish commission district to be nominated by the respective Parish Commissioner and 3 appointees from the Caddo Parish Administrator.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

RESOLUTION NO. 59 OF 2024 (need from Legal)

RESOLUTION NO. 61 OF 2024

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CADDO PARISH

ADMINISTRATOR TO APPROVE THE ASSIGNMENT, BILL OF SALE AND CONVEYANCE OF STATE AGENCY LEASE #22227 FROM CYPRESS ENERGY PARTNERS, LLC., TO PALOMA NATURAL GAS, LLC., AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo is a Lessor in that certain oil, gas and mineral lease from the Caddo Parish Commission to Cypress Energy Partners, LLC., in State Agency Lease #22227, dated July 10, 2024, and recorded at registry No. 2979598 of the conveyance records of Caddo Parish, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has received a written request from Cypress Energy Partners, LLC, seeking approval from the Parish of Caddo of an assignment, bill of sale and conveyance of State Agency Lease #22227, from Cypress Energy Partners, LLC, to Paloma Natural Gas, LLC, and

WHEREAS, this approval is expressly granted and accepted subject to the requirement that all terms and conditions of the basic lease will be fulfilled, including but not limited to the full payment of rentals and royalties, regardless of the division of leasehold interests resulting from the instrument.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Parish of Caddo, in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Administrator is hereby authorized to approve the assignment, bill of sale and conveyance of State Agency Lease #22227 from Cypress Energy Partners, LLC, to Paloma Natural Gas, LLC.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

RESOLUTION NO. 62 OF 2024

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CADDO PARISH ADMINISTRATOR TO APPROVE THE ASSIGNMENT, BILL OF SALE AND CONVEYANCE OF STATE AGENCY LEASE #22214 FROM CYPRESS ENERGY PARTNERS, LLC., TO PALOMA NATURAL GAS, LLC., AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo is a Lessor in that certain oil, gas and mineral lease from the Caddo Parish Commission to Cypress Energy Partners, LLC., in State Agency Lease #22214, dated June 12, 2024, and recorded at registry No. 2977353 of the conveyance records of Caddo Parish, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has received a written request from Cypress Energy Partners, LLC, seeking approval from the Parish of Caddo of an assignment, bill of sale and conveyance of State Agency Lease #22214, from Cypress Energy Partners, LLC, to Paloma Natural Gas, LLC, and

WHEREAS, this approval is expressly granted and accepted subject to the requirement that all terms and conditions of the basic lease will be fulfilled, including but not limited to the full payment of rentals and royalties, regardless of the division of leasehold interests resulting from the instrument.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Parish of Caddo, in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Administrator is hereby authorized to approve the assignment, bill of sale and conveyance of State Agency Lease #22214 from Cypress Energy Partners, LLC, to Paloma Natural Gas, LLC.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are

hereby repealed.

RESOLUTION NO. 63 OF 2024

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CADDO PARISH ADMINISTRATOR TO APPROVE THE ASSIGNMENT, BILL OF SALE AND CONVEYANCE OF STATE AGENCY LEASE #22215 FROM CYPRESS ENERGY PARTNERS, LLC., TO PALOMA NATURAL GAS, LLC., AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo is a Lessor in that certain oil, gas and mineral lease from the Caddo Parish Commission to Cypress Energy Partners, LLC., in State Agency Lease #22215, dated June 12, 2024, and recorded at registry No. 2977354 of the conveyance records of Caddo Parish, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has received a written request from Cypress Energy Partners, LLC, seeking approval from the Parish of Caddo of an assignment, bill of sale and conveyance of State Agency Lease #22215, from Cypress Energy Partners, LLC, to Paloma Natural Gas, LLC, and

WHEREAS, this approval is expressly granted and accepted subject to the requirement that all terms and conditions of the basic lease will be fulfilled, including but not limited to the full payment of rentals and royalties, regardless of the division of leasehold interests resulting from the instrument.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Parish of Caddo, in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Administrator is hereby authorized to approve the assignment, bill of sale and conveyance of State Agency Lease #22215 from Cypress Energy Partners, LLC, to Paloma Natural Gas, LLC.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

RESOLUTION NO. 64 OF 2024

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO CITIZEN ACCESS TO HIGH- SPEED INTERNET ACCESS, TO URGE THE LOUISIANA OFFICE OF BROADBAND/CONNECT LOUISIANA TO USE AVAILABLE BEAD FUNDING FOR IMPROVING BROADBAND SERVICE IN PUBLIC HOUSING AND OTHER MULTI-FAMILY DWELLINGS, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration is administering the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program;

WHEREAS, the BEAD program will expand high-speed internet access by funding planning, infrastructure deployment, and adoption programs across the country;

WHEREAS, the goal of BEAD is to expand internet access to unserved and underserved locations;

WHEREAS, one eligible use of BEAD funds is to install Internet and Wi-Fi in multi-unit residential buildings;

WHEREAS, many multi-unit residential buildings in Caddo Parish and throughout Louisiana do not have access to 100/20 Mbps Internet service and are therefore underserved locations under BEAD;

WHEREAS, BEAD funds are distributed through the Louisiana Office of Broadband Development and Connectivity; and

WHEREAS, current projections indicate that there will be substantial BEAD funds

remaining in Louisiana after maximizing high-speed fiber deployment in Louisiana.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Office of Broadband Development and Connectivity/ConnectLA to prioritize affordable connectivity solutions in low-income and public multi-family dwelling unit communities as a part of the implementation of the BEAD Program;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Caddo Parish Commission urges the Louisiana Office of Broadband Development and Connectivity/ConnectLA to dedicate a portion of BEAD Non-Deployment and Digital Equity Act funds toward affordable high-speed connectivity solutions that are building-wide in low-income and public multi-family dwelling unit communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

The Clerk of the Commission explained that *Resolution No. 58 of 2024, a resolution amending the Rules & By-Laws of the Caddo Parish Commission to provide a permanent Public Safety Committee, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* is a by-law change, so it would need to layover until the next Regular Session. He also mentioned that this resolution would need 8 votes to pass.

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Cothran, *that Resolution No. 60 of 2024, a resolution regarding Executive Order No. 24-132 directing schools to not teach Critical Race Theory, expressing the Caddo Parish's opposition to the order, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be adopted as amended.

Mr. Burrell said that the executive order issued by Louisiana's current Governor is a non-existent issue for K-12.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 60 OF 2024

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION REGARDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 24-132 DIRECTING SCHOOLS TO NOT TEACH CRITICAL RACE THEORY, EXPRESSING THE CADDO PARISH'S OPPOSITION TO THE ORDER, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Governor of Louisiana has issued Executive Order JML 24-132 directing the State Superintendent of Education to eliminate the teaching of critical race theory;

WHEREAS, critical race theory is about the teaching of history;

WHEREAS, it is important that we learn history to avoid repeating it; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission desires to express its opposition to the JML No. 24-132.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby express its opposition to the Governor of Louisiana's Executive Order JML 24-132 which prohibits the teaching of critical race theory.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Kracman**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *that the following items be adopted:*

- *Reappointment of Jennifer Fant to the North Caddo Medical Center Board*
- *Reappointment of Kenneth Cochran to the North Caddo Medical Center Board*
- *Reappointment of Phyllis Hart to the PZC*
- *Appointment of Henry Swearington as Interim Constable for Ward 2 (Oil City)*
- *Property Standards Case #1 – 9582 Mailhes, Shreveport, LA 71106*
- *Property Standards Case #2 – 0 Dansby (Anderson) Road, Shreveport, LA*
- *Property Standards Case #3 – 13929 Highway 1, Vivian, LA*
- *Property Standards Case #4 – 11020 General Patton Ave. Shreveport, LA*
- *Property Standards Case #5 – 3853 Dansby (Anderson) Road, Shreveport, LA*

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

COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Burrell said that a meeting was held regarding the demolition of Fairgrounds Field. There are several advocates in favor of saving the field. There is a lawsuit against the City's demolition due to the guano that is present in the facility. Mr. J. Young asked that the Clerk of the Commission invite the group to come to the next agenda.
- Mr. Cothran visited Robinson's Rescue spay/neuter, and was impressed by the operations of the facility.
- Mrs. Gage-Watts announced that the YWCA will host the Women's Vote Chat & Chew on September 11. She will be the facilitator of the event, and invited everyone to attend.

CITIZENS COMMENTS (late arrivals)

Damien Humphries came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

I serve as one of the Parish Planning Commissioners, and I wanted to let you all know that I am really honored to be able to serve in that position. I desire to do the best and to present myself in such a way that what is going to be presentable to Caddo Parish, as well as, those who I represent—my church. I am the pastor of St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church. As I began the duties of the Parish Planning Commission, I discovered that there was a neighbor of mine that was not in compliance with the rules that I've learned as being a Parish Commissioner. So, therefore, I took information that I knew about my neighbor, and I shared it with the Planning Commission. Until, therefore, from that point, Mr. Alan Clarke and those who work with him, went out to do an investigation to determine if the information that was shared with them was correct. As a result of that, they found that those neighbors of mine—of course, in District 1, Mr. Kracman is the Commissioner of that District—they found that they were not in compliance with the rules of the Parish. That where extended homes or dwellings that—excuse me—that was brought in place initially before the family moved in. There was only a barn and one small house there, which they were in compliance with the rules and directives of the Parish. So, after inspection went out to determine that they were not in compliance, letters were prepared and sent to the residents, my neighbors, and there was a court date. Now, as a Commissioner, like I've said—I enjoy doing what I'm doing and serving. I'm not getting paid to do the job, and I'm honored to be able to be a servant of the Parish, but we also have to know that the rules have been established for everyone of the Parish to comply. So, of course, I know that there's been a little bit of an issue. Of course, in the meetings as it pertains to me, I recuse myself because I did have direct involvement with the matter. So, I, of course with the direction of Mr. Alan Clarke as well, I recuse myself, but I'm understanding that there has been a motion to remove me from the Parish Planning Commission. I truly don't understand why because I have not done anything against the policy or the rules.

So I still wanted to and desire to continue to serve in that capacity. That's all I have to say if there's anyone else that have any questions of me?

Mr. G. Young expressed his appreciation for Reverend Humphrie's professionalism.

Mrs. Gage-Watts agreed and said that Reverend Humphries does wish to continue to serve.

Mr. Kracman said that it is his understanding that Mr. Humphries has not recused himself from a situation that he should. He feels that it is important that whenever he recuses himself, he should not continue to speak. Mr. Kracman agreed that Reverend Humphries did come before this Commission in a dignified manner, and he appreciates that; however, he should show this same respect during the PZC meeting.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know if there are times that a person can speak on an issue, but cannot vote on the issue. Attorney Frazier said that it is different for different boards—elected officials can recuse themselves and speak on the matter, but the appointed officials cannot speak nor vote on the matter that they recuse themselves from.


Mr. G. Young wanted to know if these rules are spelled out anywhere. Attorney Frazier said that they are a part of the Ethics Code. He requested that the Clerk of the Commission forward the Ethics Code to the Commissioners. Mr. J. Young pointed out that every elected official should take their Ethics training annually.

Anonymous came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Parking personal vehicles with campaign stuff on government property. I saw a Commissioner that did that. One was about the village—I'll let y'all read that. It was going on with the ballot box. That was the only two things I had.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.


Michelle Nations
Assistant to the Commission Clerk


John-Paul Young
President