

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S  
CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE  
HELD ON THE 2<sup>nd</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER, 2024

The Caddo Parish Charter Review Committee met in legal session on the above date at 1:00 p.m. in the Government Plaza Chambers Conference Room. The roll call was not conducted, but the Clerk of the Commission stated that there was a quorum.

The invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance were given, and Mrs. Bryant led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were no Agenda Additions nor any Public Comments, so the Committee moved onto New Business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- *Discussion of Charter Article I and II*

The Clerk of the Commission provided the Charter Review website for the Committee members. He also gave the committee members a copy of the Charter for their review.

Attorney Frazier talked about Article I. She explained that it is the basic declaration of rights of the individual, as well as the origin and purpose of government. She did not see anything that was questionable. Attorney Frazier asked for any recommendations from the Committee.

The Clerk of the Commission asked about the \$200 in Section 102. Attorney Frazier explained that the \$200 was passed by a two-thirds votes of the voting membership. She does not feel that is an issue.

Another question was raised regarding Section 106, Right of Assembly and Petition. He wanted to ensure that the government could not tell the churches that they could not assemble. Attorney Frazier said that the Charter reserves the rights to the Parish that are not left to other governor. In that State government supersedes and federal government will supersede. If higher government comes down with a restriction, they would need to follow it.

The Committee moved onto Article II.

Attorney Frazier explained that Article II is the incorporation in the form of government boundaries and powers. She asked the Committee if there were any questions about this.

Attorney Frazier talked about Section 202, an Administrator form of government. She explained that Caddo Parish is the only parish in the State of Louisiana with this form of government. The other parishes have police juries or city-parish governments with a Mayor/President and Council. Parish Presidents are normally elected; but in Caddo Parish, the President serves in ceremonial roles only. Caddo Parish's President does not have administrative duties; the Parish Administrator/CEO does.

The Clerk of the Commission agreed that the Parish President and Parish Administrative roles often get confused.

A committee member wanted to know if this form of government is more effective than the Police Jury. Parish Administrator, Mrs. Erica Bryant, explained that this form of government is preferred to cut down on the politics of administrative duties. She said that there really haven't been many complaints about this form of government. The main complaint they receive is "why are they not consolidated?". She explained that many of the rural citizens of the Parish do not want to be in the government of Shreveport because they feel that they get swallowed up in it.

Another committee member wanted to know if they would have a city property tax and parish property tax if they were consolidated. Mrs. Bryant said that they would. She also explained that there are some things, like animal and mosquito control, that the Parish is responsible for and not the city. Attorney Frazier also said that there are checks and balances in this form of government. For example, the parish Administrator cannot spend what the Commission has not budgeted for. Also, the Commission has the authority to remove the Parish Administrator from their position if they are not doing the job as expected.

Another committee member wanted to know about Bossier Parish. The Clerk of the Commission stated that Bossier Parish is a police jury with an appointed administrator.

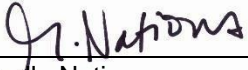
The Clerk of the Commission wanted to know if it would add value to elaborate more on some offices, such as the Constables or Justices of the Peace. Attorney Frazier said that those are state offices, and their duties and powers are spelled out by the State's general laws.

- *Next Meeting Goals*

Attorney Frazier suggested that the Committee review Article III before next week's meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned

at 1:32 p.m.



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Michelle Nations  
Assistant to the Commission Clerk