

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION  
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 19<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MAY, 2025

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Work Session, on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., in the Government Chambers, with Mrs. Gage-Watts, President, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, Lazarus, and Thomas (8). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell, Kracman, G. Young, and J. Young (4).

The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were given during previous committee meetings.

**AGENDA ADDITIONS**

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that the agenda be expanded and Proclamation Lupus Awareness Month* be placed under New Business.

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

At this time, Mr. Epperson's motion carried unanimously by those members who were present and Commissioners Burrell, Kracman, G. Young, and J. Young being absent (4).

There were no Citizens Comments, nor Visitors, so the Commission moved onto the Administration Report.

**ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

- Juvenile Detention

Parish Administrator, Erica Bryant, said that there are 21 children in the Detention Center. There are 461 children on probation. Twenty-nine juveniles are at CCC, with twenty-one of them being 17 years old.

- Early Voting Site—Update

Mrs. Bryant announced that the Oil City Early Voting Site has been approved. The one for west Shreveport has not been approved at this time.

Mrs. Gage-Watts would like this discussion to be held in a Public Safety Committee meeting.

- Walter B. Jacobs tour

Mrs. Bryant reminded the Commissioners that the Walter B. Jacobs tour will be held on Wednesday.

- 2025 April Financials

Mrs. Bryant said that the 2025 April Financials are attached to the agenda, as well as, being placed at each Commissioners' station.

- ALICE Report

Ms. Latoria Thomas came before the Commission and gave an update on the ALICE Report. ALICE stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. In Caddo Parish, 22% households are in poverty; 31% households are ALICE; and 53% total households are unable to afford the basics. Households most likely to struggle financially in Caddo Parish include: 63% African-American, 70% under 25 years old, and 76% single-headed with children. Oil City has the highest number of struggling households with 84%; the lowest is Blanchard with 35%.

Mrs. Gage-Watts thanked Ms. Thomas for coming and providing this update today. Ms. Thomas mentioned that citizens can go to the United Way website, and they are not income limited. She said that citizens can also call 211 for assistance.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if they've reached out to the State. Ms. Thomas said that they do have conversations with the State legislators, as well as all the way to the federal level.

Mrs. Gage-Watts thanked Ms. Thomas once again for coming and providing this information to the Commission.

**COMMISSION REMARKS**

- Mr. Atkins thanked the Commission staff for their new chairs.

- Mr. Thomas thanked Parks & Recreation for all of their efforts during the Bessie D. Smith's celebration of life.

He also said that Ms. Faith Montgomery was named a 2025 Gates Scholar.

- Mr. Jones reminded the Commissioners that the Juvenile Justice Committee will meet on Thursday at noon.

- Mr. Epperson reminded everyone to attend the Veterans Memorial program on Thursday, May 22 at 10:00 a.m. It will be held at Bill Cockrell Park.

He also announced that the Oasis Water Park is officially open.

- Mr. Cothran said that the Personnel Policy & Procedures Committee met today regarding the staff for the Commission Clerk's Office.

- Mr. Thomas announced that the NGO Appropriations Committee will be held on Thursday at 2:00 p.m.

He also announced that Mrs. Gage-Watts will be receiving an award at the Joyce Bowman & JD Huston Luncheon.

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

### **NEW BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *that the following items be englobed and moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration:*

- *Ordinance No. 6545 of 2025, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Oil & Gas Fund and the Economic Development Fund to appropriate funds for SkyWest Airlines*
- *Ordinance No. 6546 of 2025, an ordinance declaring certain adjudicated properties to be surplus and to authorize the Parish Administrator, or a designee, to sell the Parish of Caddo's tax interest in certain surplus adjudicated properties and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 31 of 2025, a resolution urging and requesting the federal government of the United States to grant federal recognition to the Adia Caddo Indian Nation, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Special Resolution declaring National Maritime Day in Caddo Parish*
- *Reappointment of Erica Bryant to the Port of Caddo-Bossier Board of Directors*
- *Proclamation Lupus Awareness Month*

Mr. Cothran asked that Ms. Angela Durham come before the Commission. Ms. Durham said that three of her daughters have lupus, one being deceased. Lupus is an autoimmune disease where the cells attack healthy cells in the body, and it affects people differently. Each year, Ms. Durham hosts a walk at Columbia Park to raise awareness for lupus. This year, it will be held on May 31<sup>st</sup>. She encouraged everyone to come out and join her and her daughters on this walk. Currently, there is no cure.

Mr. Atkins offered condolences for the loss of her daughter and prayers for her other two daughters who are fighting lupus. He wanted to know if this was hereditary. Ms. Durham said that they haven't really connected lupus genetically, but they are researching it.

At this time, Mr. Jones' motion carried unanimously by those members who were present and Commissioners Burrell, Kracman, G. Young, and J. Young being absent (4).

### **COMMUNIQES/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mr. Thomas announced that the 2025 Yazzy Celebration will be held from June 9 until July 26, Monday through Thursday. He encouraged all who are interested to participate.

- Mrs. Blake announced that the LSU-Shreveport Pilots Baseball Team are going to the World Series for their division.

- Mrs. Gage-Watts announced that SporTran invited the Commissioners to attend the

SporTran City grand opening on May 28 at 2:00 p.m. at 1253 Texas Street, Shreveport.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- *Ordinance No. 6443 of 2025, PZC Case No. 24-45-P, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, by amending the zoning of property located on the north end of David Raines Road and Audrey Lane, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, from R-A Rural Agricultural Zoning District to R-A PUD Rural Agricultural Planned Unit Development Zoning District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6444 of 2025, PZC Case No. 25-4-P, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, by amending the zoning of property located on the west side of Ellerbe Road, approximately 825 feet south of East Flournoy Road, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, from R-A Rural Agricultural, R-E Residential Estate, R-1-7 Single Family Residential Zoning District, to C-1 Neighborhood Commercial Zoning District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6541 of 2025, an ordinance to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to execute an easement and right-of-way agreement with Paloma Natural Gas, LLC, pertaining to the granting of an easement and right-of-way for the purpose of constructing and maintaining an oil and gas pipeline within the drainage easement parallel to Antoine Boulevard, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

  
Assistant to the Commission Clerk