

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 8th DAY OF MAY, 2025

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Regular Session, on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., in the Government Chambers, with Mrs. Gage-Watts, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (10). ABSENT: Commissioners Kracman and Jones (2).

Mr. Cothran gave the invocation, and Mr. Epperson led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were no Agenda Additions, so the Commission moved to Citizens Comments.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Breeka Peoples came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

I'm here as a Shreveport community leader of FLIP—they advocate for our youth. I'm speaking today because our Children & Youth Planning Board mandate by Act 1225 of 2003 has been inactive in Caddo for some time now. Its not just that policy thing; its immoral failure. Act 1225 was created to prevent youth incarceration, not promote it. Act 1225 was passed to reform the juvenile justice system by making sure it catches early prevention, rehabilitation, and not incarceration. So, you are keeping the tools the State gave us to design a community-based alternatives to prison and reduce the prison pipeline from school to jail. Caddo CYPB [inaudible]. Caddo Parish has not functioned in about five to seven years, despite the rising youth arrests and school closures. Without a functioning CYPB, we are failing to corroborate the services our children need like housing, mental health support, mentorships, and divergence of programs. We are behind in every other Parish. I travel from Parish to Parish, and they have them at other parishes, but ours not—for some reason ours not active. We need action before more harm is done. Like Senate Bill 74—threatening to send 15 year olds to adult court. The CYPB is more important than ever. The CYPB were designed to prevent policies like SB 74 becoming necessary by offering community support. The community is ready to reveal CYPB, but we need the Commission's support. We call on the Commission to react, fund, and support the CYPB immediately. Appointment members from education, juvenile justice, public health, mental health, community leaders, and most important youth and families. We ask the Commission to move urgently. Bring the CYPB back to life. Give our youth the investment, protection, and opportunities they deserve before the system swallows another generation. We need help, y'all. We need y'all help because they're trying to take our kids. They don't care about our black kids knowing our kids can't afford lawyers, they can. So we need to put a move on them because I'm about to get loud because I'm anxious. I've been patient, but our kids our failing. We can't let them fall. Thank you.

There were no Visitors, so the Commission moved onto Regular Session Minutes.

ADOPT REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

It was **moved by Mr. Cothran**, seconded by Mr. Thomas *that the Regular Session Minutes from April 17, 2025 be adopted.* Motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Kracman being absent (1).

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mr. J. Young, *to englobo and adopt the following items:*

- *Special Resolution of Remembrance for Bessie D. Smith*
- *Proclamation May as Military Appreciation Month*

Mr. Epperson introduced Captain Hannah Wallbourn and Col Eric Lord to the Commission to receive copies of the proclamations.

Several Commissioners expressed appreciation for the military's service and support for their families. Mr. Epperson talked about the importance of supporting military families and the community's role in their well-being.

- *Special Resolution of Recognition for the 35th Anniversary of the Sigma Rho Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition for 100 years of the YWCA of NWLA*
- *Proclamation May as Mental Health Awareness Month*
- *Special Resolution of Remembrance for Doug Williams*

- *Presentation and Installation of Poet Laureate Crystalyn Whitaker*

Mr. Thomas introduced Caddo Parish's new Poet Laureate, Christalline Whitaker Nelson. Ms. Nelson expressed gratitude and shared her vision for promoting poetry and creativity in the Parish. Several Commissioners offered congratulations and shared their appreciation for Ms. Nelson's work.

At this time, Mr. Thomas' motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Kracman being absent (1).

SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF REMEMBRANCE BESSIE D. SMITH

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission pauses to acknowledge the passing and commemorate the extraordinary life of Bessie D. Smith, a pioneering educator, fearless advocate, and civic leader whose devotion to public service and her community shaped generations in the Stoner Hill neighborhood and across Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, born on October 2, 1940, Bessie D. Smith was a proud alumna of Booker T. Washington High School and a graduate of Grambling State University, where she earned her Bachelor of Science degree. She went on to earn a Master's Degree in Supervision and Special Education, and further pursued graduate studies at Wiley College, Northwestern State University, Centenary College, Santa Clara University, Southern University, and LSU-Shreveport, reflecting her lifelong passion for learning; and

WHEREAS, Bessie's love of education extended to her calling as a teacher, where her compassion, intellect, and commitment inspired countless students. Her leadership in the classroom was recognized nationally when she was named one of the Outstanding Elementary Teachers in America; and

WHEREAS, affectionately known as the unofficial "Mayor of Stoner Hill," Bessie D. Smith stood proudly alongside other community pillars as guiding lights in the Stoner Hill community. Her service on boards such as the Caddo Community Action Agency, the Metropolitan Planning Commission, Habitat for Humanity, & the Stoner Hill Action Council was driven by her enduring belief in equality, opportunity, and community-led progress; and

WHEREAS, Bessie's advocacy and leadership had many results, including a street and park being named in her honor, a testament to the high esteem in which she was held by her neighbors and civic leaders alike. Her deep love for her community was matched by the devotion of her beloved husband, Willie D. Smith, who was faithfully by her side until his passing; and

WHEREAS, her influence extended into the spheres of local government and civic engagement, most notably through her annual Professionals Day event hosted at Hopewell Baptist Church. This gathering brought together a "who's who" of government officials, small business owners, faith leaders, and medical professionals—assembled at Bessie's invitation in the spirit of unity, excellence, and service; and

WHEREAS, known for opening nearly every conversation with her signature phrase, "You know I love you." Bessie led with kindness, conviction, and authenticity. Her tenacity and determination were fierce, and her enthusiasm, pure heart, and genuine love for people struck a powerful balance between care and strength, earning her widespread respect and producing meaningful results for the people of Caddo Parish, the City of Shreveport, her church, her students, and especially her cherished Stoner Hill neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission, on behalf of the citizens of Caddo Parish, wishes to express its sincere appreciation for the legacy and contributions of Bessie D. Smith, whose life was a testament to leadership, resilience, and unconditional love.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby extend its deepest condolences upon the passing of Bessie D. Smith, and honors her remarkable legacy with this Special Resolution of Remembrance which shall be shared with the family of Bessie D. Smith as a lasting expression of respect, gratitude, and admiration from the people of Caddo Parish.

PROCLAMATION MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

WHEREAS, the United States Congress designated May as Military Appreciation Month in 1999 to ensure that the nation was given the opportunity to publicly demonstrate appreciation for the sacrifices and successes made by current and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, throughout the month of May, we honor the dedication, resilience, and heroism of our service members, including those in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Space Force, as well as members of the National Guard and Reserve; and

WHEREAS, Military Appreciation Month encompasses several significant observances, including Loyalty Day (May 1), Victory in Europe (VE) Day (May 8), Military Spouse Appreciation Day (second Friday in May), Armed Forces Day (third Saturday in May), and Memorial Day (last Monday in May); and

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish is home to many active-duty service members, veterans, and military families whose contributions have strengthened our community, safeguarded our freedoms, and embodied the highest ideals of patriotism and service; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission wishes to recognize and honor all who have worn the uniform of our Armed Forces and express our deepest gratitude to the men and women who have served and continue to serve our country with courage and distinction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal and regular session this ____ day of May, 2025, that it does hereby recognize May 2025 as Military Appreciation Month in Caddo Parish, and encourages all citizens to join in honoring and thanking our military personnel, veterans, and their families for their service and sacrifice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be provided to local military and veterans' organizations in honor of their continued commitment to our nation and community.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION
35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGMA RHO OMEGA
CHAPTER OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA**

WHEREAS, on January 10, 1990, six visionary and devoted members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®—Dr. Alma B. Petteway, Eursla D. Hardy, *Janie P. Wagner, Dr. Dorothy L. Holt, Lois P. Coleman, and Harriet N. Williams—answered the call to expand the Sorority's presence in Shreveport, Louisiana, forming the "Jewels for Humanity" interest group to lay the foundation for what would become a second graduate chapter; and

WHEREAS, with the dedicated support of the late Jewel McFarland Thomas, the 17th South Central Regional Director, and the addition of 21 dynamic Sorors, the Sigma Rho Omega Chapter was officially chartered on May 19, 1990, as the 111th chapter in the Sensational South Central Region; and

WHEREAS, for 35 years, Sigma Rho Omega Chapter has embodied the Alpha Kappa Alpha mission of "Service to All Mankind," growing to more than 200 accomplished members and leaving a lasting impact in Caddo Parish and surrounding communities through programs in education, health, youth development, and civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, the Chapter's renowned Debutante Program, now in its 32nd year, has guided over 650 high school seniors through leadership training, civic responsibility, and personal growth, while awarding over 288 scholarships and contributing more than 60,000 hours of service; and

WHEREAS, Sigma Rho Omega has deepened its service commitment through initiatives like the Pearls of Humanity Foundation and the Childhood Hunger Initiative Power Pack (AKA CHIPP™), providing more than 17,000 meals to local children, and continues to advance Alpha Kappa Alpha's International Program Initiatives in family empowerment, economic development, environmental stewardship, social justice, and community uplift;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal and regular session this ____ day of May 2025, that it does hereby recognize and commend the Sigma Rho Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® for 35 years of visionary leadership, transformative service, and unwavering commitment to the betterment of Caddo Parish and beyond.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be presented to Chapter President Dr. Markey W. Pierre and the members of the Sigma Rho Omega Chapter with sincere appreciation and congratulations on this milestone in their extraordinary legacy of service.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION
100 YEARS OF THE YWCA OF NWLA**

WHEREAS, the YWCA of Northwest Louisiana (YWCA NWLA), a pillar of service, advocacy, and empowerment, was established in 1925 by Margaret Hutchinson to meet the pressing need for a safe and supportive community space for women and girls in the Shreveport area; and

WHEREAS, beginning with a modest office in downtown Shreveport, the YWCA NWLA grew steadily in mission and impact, eventually relocating to a larger, custom-built facility on Travis Street,

where it served generations through shelter, resource assistance, skill-building, and educational programs; and

WHEREAS, for the past century, the YWCA NWLA has been a vital force in championing the rights and well-being of women and girls throughout Northwest Louisiana, helping them lead empowered, productive, and dignified lives; and

WHEREAS, the YWCA NWLA continues to uphold its mission in the present day, offering innovative programming and services that promote equity, safety, and opportunity for women and girls across the Shreveport-Bossier region and beyond; and

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, the YWCA NWLA will celebrate its 100th anniversary at Live! Casino & Hotel, hosting a commemorative event featuring a historical showcase highlighting the organization's century-long legacy of service and advocacy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, that it does hereby recognize and commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the YWCA of Northwest Louisiana, honoring a century of leadership, empowerment, and positive transformation in the lives of countless women and families throughout our region.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission extends its deepest appreciation to the leaders, staff, volunteers, and supporters of the YWCA NWLA—past and present—whose dedication has ensured the longevity and continued relevance of this essential institution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be presented to the YWCA of Northwest Louisiana in celebration of its 100 years of service to the community.

PROCLAMATION MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, Mental Health Awareness Month has been observed in the United States since 1949 to increase understanding of mental health conditions, reduce stigma, and promote access to mental health services and support; and

WHEREAS, mental health is essential to everyone's overall health and well-being, affecting how individuals think, feel, act, and relate to others in every stage of life; and

WHEREAS, millions of Americans face the daily reality of living with mental health conditions, and many more are affected as family members, friends, colleagues, and caregivers; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission recognizes the importance of supporting mental wellness in our community by advocating for resources, expanding access to care, and supporting public education and outreach; and

WHEREAS, local organizations, healthcare professionals, advocates, and volunteers in Caddo Parish are working tirelessly to provide life-saving mental health services, promote prevention, and foster a culture of openness and support for those living with mental health challenges;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal and regular session this ____ day of May, 2025, that it does hereby proclaim May 2025 as Mental Health Awareness Month in Caddo Parish, and encourages residents, community organizations, and institutions to join in raising awareness, fostering understanding, and supporting those affected by mental health conditions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Caddo Parish Commission reaffirms its commitment to prioritizing mental health and emotional well-being as essential components of a thriving, compassionate, and resilient community.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF REMEMBRANCE DOUG WILLIAMS

The Special Resolution of Remembrance for Mr. Doug Williams was presented at a function.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- Walter B. Jacobs tour

Administrator Bryant reminded the Commissioners that the Walter B. Jacobs walkthrough will be held on Wednesday, May 21. She asked that the Commissioners reach out to Administration if they

are interested in attending.

- Commissioner Requests

Mr. Cothran asked for additional information regarding the children who are sleeping at the State building. Administrator Bryant advised that she will reach out to DCFS.

COMMUNIQUE & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. J. Young announced that the Highland Community Lighthouse will have their grand opening on June 26 at 5:00 p.m. He invited everyone to attend.

- Mr. Cothran said that the Long Range Planning Committee met and discussed establishing a board for the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund.

He also mentioned that he attended a Spring Fling with elderly people enjoying themselves. He wished every mother a Happy Mother's Day.

- Mr. Epperson commended Mr. Steven Walker with the GIS Department for providing him information to help resolve an issue in his district. He also thanked the Parish for their participation in the PRABA job fair. Mr. Epperson said that the employees of Caddo Parish are second to none and thanked everyone for their hard work.

Mr. Epperson also showed a slideshow of small businesses that are popping up in his district.

He announced that the Citizens Disaster Committee will meet on May 19 at 2:00 p.m.

- Mr. Thomas said that the ArtBreak Festival was a successful, well-attended event. He gave a shout out to all of the Caddo Parish students who won awards, as well as the student who participated in the event.

Mr. Thomas announced that the Mrs. Bessie Smith's services will be held tomorrow at 9:00 a.m.

- Mr. G. Young said that the Economic Development Committee met and discussed a proposed pickleball facility located in southeast Shreveport. He is looking forward to this project. Mrs. Bryant said that they hope to break ground next year. Mr. G. Young said that there was 100% unanimous support for this project during committee.

- Mr. Jones announced that the 3rd Annual Earth Day Celebration will be held this Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. He said that the ladies who put this on, hand out seeds and plants to the community. Mr. Jones encouraged all to attend.

- Mr. Epperson mentioned that the Real ID deadline was May 7, 2025. He asked that citizens to be patient with the employees at the OMV. He said that the OMV employees are dealing with an antiquated system that they have to use.

- Mr. J. Young wanted to know how many plants he should bring to the Earth Day Celebration. It was mentioned that there should be about 50 people attending.

- Mrs. Blake mentioned that the Give for Good was held this past week. She said that the over \$2M was brought in to support the non-profits.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Gage-Watts thanked Ms. Peoples for coming before the Commission and expressing her concern regarding the Caddo Youth & Planning Board. She advised that Caddo Parish has completed their portion in appointing members to the board, but there are two other governmental entities who need to appoint board members. She said that this would be a great topic to be discussed at the next intergovernmental meeting.

She also thanked Mr. G. Young for his work on the pickleball facility. She requested that an ad hoc committee be established to vet this matter further.

Mrs. Gage-Watts then talked about Legislative Day and said that Caddo's voices are being heard. She said that it was a productive meeting.

She also announced that SkyWest will be moving to Shreveport/Caddo Parish. Mrs. Gage-Watts wished all of the graduates much success on their next chapters of their lives. She wished every

mom a Happy Mother's Day.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ZONING ORDINANCES

President Gage-Watts opened the public hearing on the following zoning ordinances:

- *Ordinance No. 6529 of 2025, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, relative to the manufactured homes, with all their provisions included herein, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6530 of 2025, PZC Case No. 25-2-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 west side of Linwood Avenue, approximately 770 feet south of Flournoy Lucas, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, from I-2, Heavy Industrial Zoning District, to C-3, General Commercial Zoning District, 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 Gage-Watts opened the public hearing on the following ordinances:

- *Ordinance No. 6531 of 2025, an ordinance to close and abandon the street dedications in the Merriwether Woods Subdivision, in Section 32, Township 17 North, Range 14 West, in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. No. 6532 of 2025, an ordinance authorized the lease of flood acquisition property located at 1014 Riding Club Lane, Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. No. 6533 of 2025, an ordinance authorize the lease of flood acquisition property located at 1020 Riding Club Lane, Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6534 of 2025, an ordinance authorize the lease of flood acquisition property located at 9794 Mustang Circle, Keithville, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6540 of 2025, an ordinance dedicating fifty percent (50%) of the income generated from the Parish share of the sports wagering receipts to the Economic Development Fund and amending the General Fund and the Economic Development Fund for sports wagering revenues, 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.

ZONING ORDINANCES (for final passage)

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that Ordinance No. 6529 of 2025, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, relative to the manufactured homes, with all their provisions included herein, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be remanded back to the PZC.

Mr. Epperson said that the reason for remanding this back to the PZC was due to concerns about compatibility of manufactured home with existing neighborhoods and a lack of understanding among some board members. Mr. Atkins agreed.

At this time, Mr. Epperson's motion carried unanimously of all Commission members.

It was **moved by Mr. Cothran**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *that Ordinance No. 6530 of 2025, PZC Case No. 25-2-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 west side of Linwood Avenue, approximately 770 feet south of Flournoy Lucas, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, from I-2, Heavy Industrial Zoning District, to C-3, General Commercial Zoning District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted. Motion carried unanimously of all Commission

members.

**ORDINANCE NO. 6530 OF 2025
PZC CASE NO. 25-2-P**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

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 WEST SIDE OF LINWOOD AVENUE, APPROXIMATELY 770 FEET SOUTH OF FLOURNOY LUCAS, CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA, FROM I-2 HEAVY INDUSTRIAL ZONING DISTRICT TO C-3 GENERAL COMMERCIAL ZONING DISTRICT, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

BE IT ORDAINED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, is hereby amended and re-enacted to read as follows, to wit:

The official Zoning Map of the Shreveport Metropolitan Planning Area of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, be amended by rezoning property located west side of Linwood Avenue, approximately 770 feet south of Flournoy Lucas, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, more particularly described below, be and the same is hereby amended **from I-2 Heavy Industrial Zoning District to C-3 General Commercial Zoning District:**

LOT 10 AND ALL THAT PART OF ADJ. A BON. GRACE STREET, LINWOOD PARK UN ITN0.1, 161411-2-54. Section 11, T16N, R14W, Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

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 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 final passage)

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

- *Ordinance No. 6531 of 2025, an ordinance to close and abandon the street dedications in the Merriwether Woods Subdivision, in Section 32, Township 17 North, Range 14 West, in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. No. 6532 of 2025, an ordinance authorized the lease of flood acquisition property located at 1014 Riding Club Lane, Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. No. 6533 of 2025, an ordinance authorize the lease of flood acquisition property located at 1020 Riding Club Lane, Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6534 of 2025, an ordinance authorize the lease of flood acquisition property located at 9794 Mustang Circle, Keithville, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6540 of 2025, an ordinance dedicating fifty percent (50%) of the income generated from the Parish share of the sports wagering receipts to the Economic Development Fund and amending the General Fund and the Economic Development Fund for sports wagering revenues, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

At this time, Mr. Epperson's motion carried unanimously of all Commission members.

ORDINANCE NO. 6531 OF 2025

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE TO CLOSE AND ABANDON THE STREET DEDICATIONS IN THE MERRIWETHER WOODS SUBDIVISION, LOCATED IN SECTION 32, TOWNSHIP 17 NORTH, RANGE 14 WEST, IN THE PARISH OF CADDO, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has received a request from Ms. Theresa A. Knight, representing American Credit Exchange, LLC, to close and abandon the 50-foot wide public street dedications that were established by the Merriwether Woods Subdivision. American Credit Exchange, LLC owns all of the adjacent property and is wanting to combine this subdivision area with adjacent property that they own; and

WHEREAS, on August 13, 1955, the Merriwether Woods Subdivision was filed and recorded under Instrument No. 108929, in Book 700, Page 321, of the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, Louisiana. This subdivision established a 50-foot wide public street dedications for Rosalee Drive, Carioca Place, and an area between Lots 4 and 5; and

WHEREAS, no streets were ever constructed within these public dedications and the subdivision lots were never sold and developed; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that the 50-foot wide public dedications for Rosalee Drive, Carioca Place and between Lots 4 & 5 of the Merriwether Woods Subdivision, located in Section 32, Township 17 North, Range 14 West, and as shown on Exhibit A, are hereby closed and abandoned and no longer for public use.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a copy of this ordinance and plat marked Exhibit "A", displaying the 50-foot wide public dedications to be closed and abandoned shall be filed in the conveyance records of the Parish of Caddo.

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 of 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 ten days after publication in the official journal.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 6532 OF 2025

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE LEASE OF FLOOD ACQUISITION PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1014 RIDING CLUB LANE, SHREVEPORT, CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo is the owner of certain property situated in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, described as follows:

One certain tract of land with legal description LOT 23, KINGSTON FARMS, UNIT #1 in the Northeast Quarter of Section 22, Township 16 North, Range 14 West, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, being more particularly described as follows: Geo number 161422-006-0029-00, having a municipal address of 1014 Riding Club Lane, Shreveport, Louisiana 71118.

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo purchased the aforesaid properties under the FEMA Flood Acquisition Program, and over three-fourths of them are not usable due to flooding, and they have no real market value; and

WHEREAS, the adjacent landowners have each expressed an interest in leasing the

properties for the purpose of providing upkeep and maintaining gardens and animals on said property; and

WHEREAS, the lease of said property prohibits any permanent improvements; however, it sets forth that the entire property will be maintained to present a neat appearance for the neighborhood and prevent any overgrowth; and

WHEREAS, Section 3-11(11) of the Charter of the Parish of Caddo requires the adoption of an ordinance for the conveyance or lease of any lands or property of the parish government.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby authorize the lease of property located at 1014 Riding Club Lane, Shreveport, Louisiana 71118, Caddo Parish, Louisiana to the adjacent land owners, Huey Michael McCoy, for a period of time as deemed necessary by the Caddo Parish Administrator.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Caddo Parish Administrator or his designee shall be authorized to do any and all things and to sign any and all contracts and other documents in a form acceptable to the Caddo Parish Attorney necessary to effectuate the purposes set forth herein.

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.

ORDINANCE NO. 6533 OF 2025

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE LEASE OF FLOOD ACQUISITION PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1020 RIDING CLUB LANE, SHREVEPORT, CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo is the owner of certain property situated in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, described as follows:

One certain tract of land with legal description 0.835 ACS. M/L-LOT 2, WILLIE VINES SUBDIVISION in the Northeast Quarter of Section 22, Township 16 North, Range 14 West, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, being more particularly described as follows: Geo number 161422-014-0002-00, having a municipal address of 1020 Riding Club Lane, Shreveport, Louisiana 71118.

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo purchased the aforesaid properties under the FEMA Flood Acquisition Program, and over three-fourths of them are not usable due to flooding, and they have no real market value; and

WHEREAS, the adjacent landowners have each expressed an interest in leasing the properties for the purpose of providing upkeep and maintaining gardens and animals on said property; and

WHEREAS, the lease of said property prohibits any permanent improvements; however, it sets forth that the entire property will be maintained to present a neat appearance for the neighborhood and prevent any overgrowth; and

WHEREAS, Section 3-11(11) of the Charter of the Parish of Caddo requires the adoption of an ordinance for the conveyance or lease of any lands or property of the parish government.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby authorize the lease of property located at 1020 Riding Club Lane, Shreveport, Louisiana 71118, Caddo Parish, Louisiana to the adjacent land owners, Huey Michael McCoy, for a period of time as deemed necessary by the Caddo Parish Administrator.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Caddo Parish Administrator or his designee shall be authorized to do any and all things and to sign any and all contracts and other documents in a form

acceptable to the Caddo Parish Attorney necessary to effectuate the purposes set forth herein.

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.

ORDINANCE NO. 6534 OF 2025

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE LEASE OF FLOOD ACQUISITION PROPERTY LOCATED AT 9794 MUSTANG CIRCLE, KEITHVILLE, CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo is the owner of certain property situated in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, described as follows:

One certain tract of land with legal description LOT 15, MEADOWLAKE FARMS SUB, UNIT #3 in the Northeast Quarter of Section 21, Township 16 North, Range 14 West, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, being more particularly described as follows: Geog. number 161421-006-0015-00, having a municipal address of 9794 Mustang Circle, Keithville, Louisiana 71049.

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo purchased the aforesaid properties under the FEMA Flood Acquisition Program, and over three-fourths of them are not usable due to flooding, and they have no real market value; and

WHEREAS, the adjacent landowners have each expressed an interest in leasing the properties for the purpose of providing upkeep and maintaining gardens and animals on said property; and

WHEREAS, the lease of said property prohibits any permanent improvements; however, it sets forth that the entire property will be maintained to present a neat appearance for the neighborhood and prevent any overgrowth; and

WHEREAS, Section 3-11(11) of the Charter of the Parish of Caddo requires the adoption of an ordinance for the conveyance or lease of any lands or property of the parish government.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby authorize the lease of property located at 9794 Mustang Circle, Keithville, Louisiana 71049, Caddo Parish, Louisiana to the adjacent land owners, Christopher Shane Rogers, for a period of time as deemed necessary by the Caddo Parish Administrator.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Caddo Parish Administrator or his designee shall be authorized to do any and all things and to sign any and all contracts and other documents in a form acceptable to the Caddo Parish Attorney necessary to effectuate the purposes set forth herein.

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.

ORDINANCE NO. 6540 OF 2025

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE DEDICATING FIFTY PERCENT (50%) OF THE INCOME GENERATED FROM THE PARISH SHARE OF SPORTS WAGERING RECEIPTS TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPOMENT FUND AND AMENDING THE GENERAL FUND AND THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR SPORTS WAGERING REVENUES, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo currently receives a share of the revenues from sports wagering operations; and

WHEREAS, fifty percent (50%) of the sports wagering revenue is dedicated to the General Fund and fifty percent (50%) is dedicated to the E Edwards Housing Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, effective January 1, 2025, the Parish of Caddo desires to dedicate fifty percent (50%) of the income generated from sports wagering gaming receipts to the Economic Development Fund.

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend the 2025 Budget of the Economic Development Fund and the General Fund for the sports wagering revenue allocation; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund and the General Fund for the year 2025 are hereby amended as follows:

	<u>Budget Increase (Decrease)</u>
Economic Development Fund:	
Revenue:	
Sports Wagering	\$ 75,000
General Fund:	
Revenue:	
Sports Wagering	(\$75,000)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, in due, legal, and regular session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby dedicate fifty percent (50%) of the income generated from sports wagering gaming receipts to the Economic Development Fund.

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 all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

ZONING ORDINANCES (for introduction by title)

- *Ordinance No. 6543 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. 6544 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 Lucas Road, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, from R-A, Rural Agricultural District, R-E, Residential Estate, R-1-7, Single Family Residential Zoning District, to C-1, Neighborhood Commercial Zoning District, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*

ORDINANCES (for introduction by title)

- *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

WORK SESSION MINUTES

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *that the Work Session Minutes from May 5, 2025 be ratified.* Motion carried unanimously by all Commission members.

RESOLUTIONS

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that Resolution No. 27 of 2025, a resolution opposing cuts to the Sickle Cell Data Collection (SCDC) Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and otherwise providing with respect thereto be adopted.*

Mrs. Gage-Watts said that this resolution highlights the program’s importance for data collection, treatment development, and cost reduction.

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts’ motion carried unanimously by all Commission members.

RESOLUTION NO. 27 OF 2025

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING CUTS TO THE SICKLE CELL DATA COLLECTION (SCDC) PROGRAM AT THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC), AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2025, the current presidential administration terminated all the staff that oversee the Sickle Cell Data Collection (SCDC) Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and

WHEREAS, Elimination of the SCDC Program would lead to:

- Poorer health outcomes for SCD warriors. Data can tell us what treatments work best and for whom, allowing health providers to tailor care.
- Increased costs to the health care system. The less we know about a disease, the harder it is to provide preventive care to stop complications from arising.
- Stalled progress on research and innovation. Data guides research which in turn leads to more and better treatment options.*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened that the Caddo Parish Commission hereby opposes cuts to the afore-mentioned programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution will be forwarded to the President of the United States and the Louisiana federal congressional delegation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution is effective immediately upon its passage.

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

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

MEMBERS:	YEAS:	NAYS:	ABSENT:	ABSTAIN:
Chris Kracman	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Greg Young	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Victor Thomas	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
John-Paul Young	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Roy A. Burrell	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Steffon D. Jones	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Stormy Gage-Watts	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Grace Anne Blake	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
John E. Atkins	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Ron Cothran	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Ed Lazarus	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Ken Epperson, Sr.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

And the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 8th day of May, 2025.

* Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc., April 9, 2025, Advocacy Alert: Save the Sickle Cell Data Collection Program, www.sicklecelldisease.org/2025/04/09/advocacy-alert-save-the-sickle-cell-data-collection-program/

It was **moved by Mr. Cothran**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that Resolution No. 28 of 2025, a resolution opposing House Bill 480 of the 2025 Regular Legislative Session of the Louisiana Legislature relating to the Caddo-Bossier Port Commission’s use of PILOT programs and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mrs. Bryant said that this bill would require the Port to get approval from Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish for issuing tax incentives for businesses that may look at moving to the Port. She said that the current process that the Port is using is advantageous for the Parish. The members of the Port believe that the current process should remain the same. Mrs. Gage-Watts agreed and said that this is critical for economic development in Caddo Parish.

Mr. Atkins said that it has been his practice to refrain from advising the State House and State Senate on what they should do. He will be maintaining that practice and will vote no on this resolution.

Mr. Epperson said that he was here at the inception of the Port. The current process has worked quite well. If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it, he said. Mr. Epperson will be supporting this resolution.

Mr. Kracman said that this is similar to what Gov. John Bel Edwards installed for ITEP. Mrs. Bryant said that it is not quite the same. She further explained that ITEP had a process where the local taxing bodies could provide information to the ITEP board on whether or not they supported that particular project. Mr. Kracman understood and said that all of the bodies worked together to determine the cost-benefit analysis of the projects. He also mentioned that it is currently being amended to remove the 45 day stipulation from the bill. Mr. Kracman does not see the point in opposing this bill if it hasn’t been completed yet. We don’t know what the end product is, he said.

Mr. Burrell said that all politics are local. As a former State Legislator, he looked toward local government for which direction they need to go on issues.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 28 OF 2025

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING HOUSE BILL 480 OF THE 2025 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION OF THE LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE RELATING TO THE CADDO-BOSSIER PORT COMMISSION’S USE OF PILOT PROGRAMS AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, LA R.S. 34:3160 lists the powers and authority of the Caddo-Bossier Port Commission (“Port”); and

WHEREAS, currently, the Port has the authority to “perform the functions of an economic and industrial development entity”; and

WHEREAS, the proposed law would limit the Port’s authority to perform such functions; and

WHEREAS, such limitations would impede the Port’s ability to compete with other economic and industrial development entities, thus impairing the Port’s ability to attract certain businesses to Caddo and Bossier parishes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission that it does hereby oppose House Bill 480 and urges the legislature not to adopt that legislation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent, following adoption, to the Louisiana Legislature and to the members of the legislative delegation of Caddo Parish.

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.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:				
MEMBERS:	YEAS:	NAYS:	ABSENT:	ABSTAIN:
Chris Kracman		X		
Greg Young	X			
Victor Thomas	X			
John-Paul Young	X			
Roy A. Burrell	X			
Steffon D. Jones	X			
Stormy Gage-Watts	X			
Grace Anne Blake		X		
John E. Atkins		X		
Ron Cothran	X			
Ed Lazarus		X		
Ken Epperson, Sr.	X			

And the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 8th day of May, 2025.

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *that Resolution No. 29 of 2025, a resolution of support for Senate Bill 218 of the 2025 Louisiana Regular Session regarding post-conviction relief for those convicted by non-unanimous jury verdicts, and otherwise providing with respect thereto be adopted.*

Mr. Burrell explained that this resolution addresses the historical injustice of non-unanimous jury verdicts, particularly affecting African Americans. He further stated that this resolution is personal to him because he has a nephew who has been fighting his innocence for twenty years. He said that this bill provides an opportunity for unconstitutional convictions to be retried.

At this time, Mr. Burrell’s motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (9). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, and Kracman (3). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

RESOLUTION NO. 29 OF 2025

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 218 OF THE 2025 LOUISIANA REGULAR SESSION REGARDING POST-CONVICTION RELIEF FOR THOSE CONVICTED BY NON-UNANIMOUS JURY VERDICTS, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana allowed felony convictions by non-unanimous jury verdicts until the United States Supreme Court declared the practice unconstitutional in 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court decision in *Ramos v. Louisiana* left it to the states to decide whether that decision would be applied retroactively; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has not yet allowed, non-unanimous jury verdicts to be reconsidered retroactively, thus, allowing persons unconstitutionally convicted to remain imprisoned without recourse; and

WHEREAS, non-unanimous jury verdicts have disproportionately affected African-Americans; and

WHEREAS, SB 218 proposes to give the unconstitutionally convicted in Louisiana the means to pursue new trials.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby support the passage of SB 218 of 2025, which provides post-conviction relief to those in Louisiana who were unconstitutionally

convicted by non-unanimous juries.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution is effective immediately upon its passage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution will be forwarded to the Speaker of the Louisiana House, the President of the Louisiana Senate, the Caddo Parish legislative delegation and Governor Jeff Landry.

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 all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

MEMBERS:	YEAS:	NAYS:	ABSENT:	ABSTAIN:
Chris Kracman		X		
Greg Young	X			
Victor Thomas	X			
John-Paul Young	X			
Roy A. Burrell	X			
Steffon D. Jones	X			
Stormy Gage-Watts	X			
Grace Anne Blake		X		
John E. Atkins		X		
Ron Cothran	X			
Ed Lazarus	X			
Ken Epperson, Sr.	X			

And the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 8th day of May, 2025.

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *that Resolution No. 30 of 2025, a resolution expressing support for Project Boneyard, and otherwise provide with respect thereto be adopted.*

Friendly amendment by Mr. J. Young *that the business company be mentioned in the resolution.* Mr. Epperson agreed.

At this time, Mr. Epperson’s motion carried unanimously by all Commission members.

RESOLUTION NO. 30 OF 2025 (as amended)

There was no Old Business, so the Commission moved onto New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

The installation and presentation from the Poet Laureate was taken out of order and done previously in the agenda.

The Commission moved onto the next New Business items, Caddo Parish Animal Services Board appeals. The Clerk of the Commission, Mr. Jeff Everson, administered the oath to the all individuals involved. Everyone responded affirmatively.

- Caddo Animal Services Board Appeal
Appellant Quinton Daniels
Case #C0008985659

Animal Services Director, Mr. Travis Clark, came before the Commission and stated that it was determined by the Animal Services Board to deem the dog dangerous. Mr. Clark said that the dog bite happened at a dog park, and contact was made with the bite victim. He also the owner was not able to provide current rabies vaccination information, so the animal was eventually seized and quarantined at the animal shelter. Mr. Clark also mentioned that the dog was vaccinated at the time. This is the alleged third bite within a year’s time, Mr. Clark said.

Mr. J. Young wanted to know if there was any evidence to see if the dog was provoked.

Mr. Clark stated that he was not at the dog park during this incident.

Assistant Parish Attorney, Cyntheria Jernigan, suggested that Mr. Clark provide all of the facts prior to hearing the other testimonies.

Mr. Clark said that Sunday, March 30 is when the bite occurred. An officer went out and contacted the victim who advised who the animal owner was.

Mr. J. Young wanted to know if there were any allegations if the dog was provoked. Mr. Travis said that there was not. With this being the third alleged bite from this dog, the situation was brought before the Animal Services Board, who then deemed the dog dangerous.

Mr. G. Young said that the previous dog bites are irrelevant to this particular case. He then wanted to know if there were any witnesses. Mr. Clark said that both the victim and the owner have witnesses.

Mr. Cothran wanted to know if there was any information regarding the first or second bite. Mr. Clark said that the first bite happened at the owner's residence with an insurance adjuster. The insurance adjuster went down to pet the dog, and the dog bit them. The dog did a vet quarantine and received an updated rabies vaccination. The second alleged dog bite occurred at his place of business. The dog was not quarantined for that bite.

Mr. Jones asked for a process of how a dog is deemed dangerous. Mr. Clark said that it is situational and circumstantial.

Mrs. Blake wanted to know what would happen if the dog is deemed dangerous. Mr. Clark said that the dog would be spayed/neutered, up to date on rabies vaccination, required to wear a red and yellow collar, and they have to put a sign up that says the dog has been dangerous. The dog also has to wear a muzzle when it is off of its property.

Mr. Stuart McMan, Attorney for Mr. Daniels, came before the Commission and said that Mr. Daniels has not alleged Ezekiel has three bites. The second bite is in a legal process right now.

Mr. Thomas wanted to know if this would technically be the second bite, as opposed to the third bite. He said that three bites are "alarming".

Mr. J. Young wanted to know if Mr. Daniels was present at the dog park. Mr. Daniels said that he was, and he's been going for years everyday for lunch. He also mentioned that he is not aggressive towards other dogs. Mr. Daniels said that he was sitting at the picnic bench eating lunch with his girlfriend, he heard a dog bark and looked back. The alleged victim was choking Ezekiel, so Mr. Daniels took off running towards them. He told the victim to put his dog down, but he would not.

Mr. Daniels also said that Jordan Young is his witness, a person whom he does not know at all. He said that she reached out to him via Facebook and watched the whole incident.

Mr. G. Young wanted to know if Ezekiel has any training. Mr. Daniels said that there has been no indication that he is a dangerous dog. He also said that he would not risk anyone's life for a dangerous dog. He mentioned that he has children and is always around children with no incidents. Mr. Daniels does not believe that Ezekiel bit the victim.

Mr. Daniels also said that he provided Ezekiel's rabies information to the police officer, who didn't provide that information to the Animal Control Officer. He also said that he was not made aware that Ezekiel was supposed to be quarantined at the shelter. Mr. Daniels also said that Jordan Young is the only unbiased witness to this incident.

Mr. Jones believes that this is showing some pattern of behavior, but he will yield for now.

Mrs. Blake wanted to know if the witness identified a different dog. Mr. Daniels said that they did.

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Cothran, *that this case be postponed until the previous case be settled in court.*

Mr. Clark mentioned that the dog is still in quarantine at the shelter, and he would like the dog to be removed from the shelter.

Mr. Epperson withdrew his motion.

Mr. Devin Salvaterra, victim, came before the Commission and gave his testimony of what happened at the dog park. On March 30 at approximately 2:45, they were at the dog park with their dog, Gizmo, who is a service dog. He said that Ezekiel attempted to bite Gizmo with no provocation. Mr.

Salvatero inserted himself between the two dogs, when he did so, Ezekiel bit him. He brought the dog over to Mr. Daniels. He admitted that he was irate. Mr. Salvatero said that it was a secondary bite after attempting to bite Gizmo.

Mr. J. Young said that to deem a dog dangerous, it does not have to bite; it only has to attack. Based on the testimonies given, Mr. J. Young said that the board's decision should be upheld and deem the dog dangerous.

Mr. Jones wanted to know how many dogs were in the park. Mr. Salvatero said that there was about three dogs in the area where the bite occurred. The other dogs were smaller. Mr. Jones wanted to know if it was possible that Ezekiel was trying to play with the frisbee. Mr. Salvatero said no due to the bite placement. He also said that he pulled his hand out of Ezekiel's mouth.

Mr. G. Young wanted to know what options the Commission has. Mr. Clark said that the Commission could uphold the Board's decision and deem the dog dangerous, or not.

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. J. Young, *to uphold the Board's decision and deem this dog dangerous*. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (8). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins and Blake (2). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell and Kracman (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

- Caddo Animal Services Board Appeal
Appellant John-Paul Young
Case #C0008974128

Mr. J. Young said that he is the appellant in this case, so he will not be voting on the matter. Mr. Brian Molitor, Animal Services Board member, asked that Mr. J. Young remove himself from the dais since he is involved in this case.

Mr. Clark said that this dog bite incident occurred on March 21st at a park. The bite victim was walking their dog and was charged by another dog. When he intervened and tried to separate the dogs, he was bit. The bite dog was apprehended and brought into Animal Services for quarantine. It was fixed, vaccinated, and microchipped. The Animal Services Board deemed the dog dangerous with stipulations. The stipulations included not having the placard on the house.

Mr. Jones wanted to know if there was a provision that allow for modified stipulations when deeming a dog dangerous. Attorney Jernigan said that once a dog is deemed dangerous, all of the provisions that restrict and govern his conduct have to be applied.

There were several concerns raised about the board's authority to modify stipulations related to dangerous dog designations.

Mrs. Sarrah McGovern came before the Commission on behalf of the Animal Services Board. She said that the board initially met and had a quorum with proxies. The board decided to not deem the dog dangerous. Mr. J. Young was not there for this meeting. The board was then asked to meet again, but they did not have a quorum. There were witnesses, but their stories did not match, she said. The board met again, with a quorum. The reason they deemed the dog dangerous with stipulations was due to a previous case that the Commission heard about two years ago, where a dog was deemed dangerous with stipulations. Ms. McGovern said that they wanted the dog to go home that day.

Mr. G. Young stated that he would like clarity on the process in which they had a decision.

Attorney Jernigan said that the first two meetings did not have a decision because they did not have quorums, and they used proxies which are not permitted. The only decision that emanated regarding this animal was from the third meeting, which deemed the dog dangerous. She also pointed out that the board cannot modify restrictions that flow from a dog being deemed dangerous. It's all or nothing, she said.

Mr. J. Young said that a dog pulled away from its owner when he saw his dogs in the park. Mr. J. Young ran over to them and separated them. He sustained a bite to his hand and had \$340 worth of medical care. The dog did everything in the dangerous dog definition, he said. Mr. J. Young said that he is not asking that this dog be euthanized, nor is he asking for compensation for his medical care. He is only asking that this dog be deemed dangerous without stipulations to keep his neighborhood safe.

Mrs. Blake wanted to know if this dog had a leash. Mr. J. Young said that it did have a leash, but he pulled away from its owner.

Ms. Kayla Byles, owner, said that her dog, Deuce, did not attack anyone. She also said that she does not believe it was Deuce who bit Mr. J. Young because there were five dogs. You don't know

who bit who, she said.

Mr. Jones wanted to know if she could confirm or deny which dog bit Mr. J. Young. She said she couldn't. Ms. Byles said that a person shouldn't put their hands on a dog that isn't theirs.

Ms. Byles also mentioned that her dog didn't have blood on its mouth or its teeth. She said that she left immediately following the incident due to another dog being off its leash. Ms. Byles wanted to de-escalate the situation.

Mr. J. Young said that he noticed Deuce gnashing at one of his friend's dogs, so he grabbed him and put him in a headlock. He screamed for the owner, and that's when he noticed his hand was bleeding.

Ms. Loraine Guerrero, Animal Services Board member, came before the Commission and said that she has decades of experience with dogs. She said that you are never supposed to put a dog in a headlock. She went into the bite room to visit the dog, and Deuce was not reacting to the other dogs barking. Ms. Guerrero said that Deuce was the only dog that she felt confident enough in his temperament to take him to the play yard.

Mr. Epperson wanted to know if she was present during the meeting where they deemed the dog dangerous. She said she was, and it was an unanimous vote.

Mr. Jones wanted to know why there were only two options: to deem the dog dangerous or deem the dog vicious. Mr. Clark said that there have been several occasions where dog cases have been sent to the board and have not been deemed dangerous or vicious.

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to reject the Board's decision to deem the dog dangerous with stipulations.*

Attorney Jernigan clarified should the Commission decide to reject the Board's decision to deem the dog dangerous, it will no longer be deemed dangerous. The victim has no rights to appeal under the ordinances.

Mrs. Blake said that they are hearing from board members that they made a mistake.

Mr. G. Young said that if Mr. J. Young had not appealed this, the dog would have been deemed dangerous. Mr. Everson explained that this appeal is for the stipulations. Mrs. Gage-Watts agreed and said that the board made a stipulation that they did not have the authority to make.

Mr. Epperson withdrew his motion.

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to uphold the Board's decision to deem the dog dangerous without stipulations. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, Lazarus, and G. Young (7). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell, Cothran, Kracman, and Thomas (4). ABSTAIN: Commissioner J. Young (1).

There were no Communiques & Committee Reports, nor Citizens Comments. There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.


Michelle Nations
Assistant to the Commission Clerk


Stormy Gage-Watts
President