MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSON
HELD ON THE 4th DAY OF AUGUST, 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, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (12). ABSENT: None (0).

The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were given during previous committee meetings, so the Commission moved onto Agenda Additions.

AGENDA ADDITIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson,** seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that the agenda be expanded and Special Resolution recognizing the 235th Anniversary of the United States Coast Guard* be added under New Business.

Madame President opened the floor for anyone to speak for or against the agenda addition. There being no one else to speak, so President Gage-Watts closed the public hearing.

At this time, Mr. Epperson's motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Burrell being absent (1).

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Frederick Hudson came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Frederick Henson, [address redacted], Shreveport, Louisiana 71101. I can go? Thank you okay. As a, let me first establish who I am. As a former chairman and vice chairman of the Shreveport-Bossier Convention and Tourist Bureau, under my chairmanship, we initiated the creation of the sports commission, bringing both mayors together and later, bringing the councils and parishes together in terms of forming the sports commission; a former chairman of the Shreveport Black Chamber of Commerce and former president of Booker T. Washington Alumni Foundation. And presently president of F&H Development, which we assist minority companies and churches in financing expansion for development and growth. I am honored to come before this leadership body, who's leading Caddo Parish into the future. I am also encouraged by the desire of the Shreveport-Bossier Convention and Tourist Bureau leadership again in stepping out on an initiative. There continues a pattern of questionable directives and a lack of vision that covers the whole community. I am not against a pickleball court development, but against the price tag in the name of economic development. For a very limited impact item, even at a reduced price, of 1/5 of 10 million in which many of us possibly could understand. And yet then we ask at what point does the whole parish feels the economic impact? Somehow, we have over the last number of years continued to miss the mark on marketing our area as a regional destination that would benefit the whole community. Sometimes the trees get in the way of seeing the forest. Because of our failure in that area, we neglect our assets, growth. And with 50 million people within a 5-hour drive of our area. As a regional destination, Independence Bowl would not be a 1-day event, with a dinner and luncheon, but a regional event that draws all people to enjoy what we had to offer here in Caddo and Bossier Parish, of entertainment and family fun. In failing in its mission to allure sponsors from the private sector such as members of the Committee of 100, in the face of the principle of corporate responsibility. In supporting our assets that touch economic development and entertainment. [The citizen's time was extended] Okay, I will cut it short. One, in failing the mission of sponsors for all economic impact items in our area. The failure Fit for Life is an event created from an event that Arnold Schwarzenegger has in Columbus, Ohio that draws 150000 people. And yet the first year of Fit for Life, 100 visitors came from England, first time in America, came to Shreveport and body builders from all across the country, and yet, we failed in creating sponsorship for events that could grow. Shreveport-Bossier assets and $3 million economic impact. We're in a region right smack-dab in the middle of the Ark-La-Tex. And yet, our failure is costing us over $400 million in economic impact and tax dollars to both parishes and cities. Because of this lack of vision, we are here debating on spending $10 million on a pickleball court, while changing currents in this country has our medical industry looking at $3 billion, a loss of $3 billion. And yet, our path is going to fear the effect of that loss and going to have some hard times and we're here talking about a $10 million pickleball court. Our assets of just $3 million, with matching dollars from the private sector, over a 3-year period we would grow our assets to over $400 million economic impact, and millions of dollars in tax revenue to both cities and parishes, and thousands of jobs. Our assets for our festivals. Our assets, Independence Bowl. The sports commission, which I started under my chairmanship, was designed not to be under the Tourist Bureau, but to be a singer entity. [The citizen was notified that his time had expired] Each one of you have been given a copy. And then, excuse me just one last thing. The Shreveport Regional Airport, which now houses a maintenance facility for a regional airline. This body and other public entities could be preparing a presentation to them in terms of interstate and airline service. Interstate, and directing dollars to support that kind of effort that expands the growth of our city. Thank you very much for your time.

VISITORS

- Registrar of Voters, Dale Sibley

Registrar Sibley: Well, I think I'm here for a couple of reasons, one I wanted to come visit the Commission this month anyhow, because as you guys know, we're moving—The State is moved to a closed primary system next year in terms of elections. We've just spent a lot of time in July with the state officials and commissioners and all the election polls really working through how that's gonna work so that we can come back and pass that information on. And if you guys have noticed the State has already started running advertisements about it; they're running ads in papers; people are updating their websites. I just wanted to make one note on that if I could, and that is, if you guys and ladies would encourage all of your constituents to please check their registration. Unlike in the past with this particular close primary system, if you are not a registered Republican or a registered Democrat or a no party person who chooses one of those parties, you cannot vote in the close primary. So I say that because what we find is many people, despite how they registered years ago, vote different ways. Sometimes they forget their original registration. We've had people come in and go, 'no, no, no, I'm a registered this or that.' No, you're not. 'I've always voted that way.' Okay, but no, you're not. So, it's very important this time. So we're encouraging people if you will just get the word out and to please, go on the Geaux Vote app. They can go to the Secretary of State's website or they can contact our office directly. And we can confirm what party they're in, what party they think they're in, there's still time to change. Again, if you are a no party person or no other party counts—Independent, Libertarian, Green, etc.--none of those parties count in the close primary. If you are no party person such as I, we have to choose which party that we want to vote in within that primary. So it's very important, and I just want to get that note out today and ask you to please pass it on to check now because it's still time to change. It's still time to get it all straight now, but one of the factors that may impact that I think you guys who are in an elected office know that at some point nominating petitions will come into effect. Those are coming to effect that's small for the spring. As it relates to those nominee petitions, if you're not a party member, you probably cannot sign that petition if you wanted to support someone. So, there are lots of reasons to go ahead and check that out, and we would encourage you to do so.

Gage-Watts: Do you currently have a campaign that you are orchestrating to let the citizens know?

Registrar Sibley: We are at our level. Everything's been driven by the State first of all, because they want to be sure that they're the uniform message that's out there. So, in addition to the information they're putting out we're updating our websites, I'm coming to you, I'll be going to other groups around the community. But they're really driving that. The other thing that's happening is they're sending out a mailing they said to every voter that talks about the close primary system, and the things they have to look at. So, there's a major effort on part of the State. We're going to be doing things at our level, but it's basically being State driven.

Gage-Watts: So, there's one collective message across the State of Louisiana.

Registrar Sibley: Yes, ma'am because of the uniqueness of it. I understand that there was a closed primary before and it operated a little bit differently. This one that's very tight—I mean the absence of any other party is somewhat unique. Well, the fact that you can choose between certain parts of the election that is fairly unique. The what the commissioners that they're going to receive additional training what they have to do in terms of people selecting. For example, someone like me, if I go up and I want to choose, there's a declaration form, I have to fill out. So there's some changes in the process and procedure that the State and we want everyone to be sure how it works. We want to make sure that because these offices operate differently in different parishes. You know, obviously those of us in larger parishes, we have different concerns and considerations than someone in a smaller parish, you know, I may have 15 to 28 employees. Those guys may have 20, so the State is interested in us all having that same message, because that same procedure has to be exactly the same everywhere. Otherwise, our system loses this integrity, and there's something that none of us want. One of the note got in that just a bit of information, a lot of you guys have probably heard it from your constituents, and we know we've had the discussions in the past, what about the security and integrity of the system, and there's a distrust amongst the citizens with the machines that are used. And you've heard people talk about wanting to go completely to paper ballots, etc. Well, one of the things the State has done that. We've just completed--they're completing that this week, we did ours last week—they're conducting a machine systems audit of the last election. Now, this is important because in the past we do post-election audits, but the question was how accurate are these machines? We just went through ours. I think in the last election. We had roughly, I'm gonna say, 7,000 mail-in voters, they chose a certain percentage that came up. They had us pull ballots from certain scan machines that the State selected at random at that scan box said that there

were 50 ballots in there, they had to be hand counted sure that there were 50 ballots in there. That's basically what the State did, and I'm proud to report here today that the Parish did very well. We had no exceptions. We had no issues. The audit was performed. We know that there are certain people whose simply not going to trust the machines, no matter what we do. But I think it's important for people to know that the State is taking that seriously. They are coming up with ways to try and say, Hey, the machines are working the way we say they're working. And at a certain point, hopefully folks can get some comfort in that.

Gage-Watts: I have a couple of Commissioners that are on the board. Mr. Sibley, do you already have the new systems the new machines that you talked about the last time?

Registrar Sibley: Oh no, you got 2 separate machines. I want to be sure. The early voting machines are the same. You know, those are not the same machines that are done at the precincts. The precinct machines are basically, I would say, mechanical. The state is in the process now, you know, with the new administration with the new Commissioner of Elections, the new secretary, they've outlined the process. That effort is going forward. They have committees and commissions set up. I think they're getting a lot of citizen input. I think the next step is to them as a state agreeing upon which system is going to be used. Right now, according to the Secretary, in our meetings 2 weeks ago, they're in the process of vetting potential vendors. They're asking for submissions from folks who are interested in procuring the machines or providing machines. They are in that process, I think at the same time, they're trying to get everyone to agree on how exactly that choice is going to be made. But right now, they're just in the process of identifying vendors for the new machines.

Gage-Watts: Alright. So at this point, we're still not going to get any new machines anything.

Registrar Sibley: It's probably even once the decision is made, it's going to be a couple of years before we get there.

Burrell: I think I'm still missing something in the explanation. If a person is no party which can be a Green Party, any non anything other than Democrat or a Republican—

Registrar Sibley: Well, they're all being switched under the state system, but if you're anything other than a registered Republican, a registered Democrat, or a no party registrant, you are made a no party registrant. If you are a libertarian, Green Party, independent party, you're now a no party.

Burrell: And you said they need to go back and see whether or not they voted?

Registrar Sibley: Oh no, not the no part people. The people who registered one way, perhaps over the year if they voted a different way, thinking they changed their registration, but they never did. for example, if I'm a registered Democrat, but I've been voting Republican. I want to vote in Republican primary, but I find out no, you still registered Dem, and you can't do it.

Burrell: But you’re no party—

Registrar Sibley: During the actual election, they get to select which primary they want to participate in.

Burrell: They don't have to go back and do anything?

Registrar Sibley: Exactly.

Thomas: Thank you, Madam President. How are you doing, Mr. Sibley? Thank you so much for the work that you're doing for our Parish. That was along my questions were along the no party lines as well. I did have a question from a constituent, I tried my best to explain, but if you could for the public, please explain the process of changing from a no party in choosing which primary. Kind of give them those timeframes, so they know that you can't just switch to Republican to vote in this primary, and then think you're going to be able to go switch it—

Registrar Sibley: You ask that, and I was afraid somebody was gonna ask that. Part of reason you haven't heard a lot because there's still a lot of things being worked out. You know, this hadn't been done before. Here's what I understand right now and I almost hate to say it because I don't want to be incorrect. As I understand it, if you are no party person, for example, in the in

the first round, because basically you're going to have 2 party rounds and then the election. So we're right now where we have like a 2 election cycle, it'll be a 3 election cycle. All right? So the first round in the primary, if I'm a no party voter, and when I go there, I can say, Hey, I want to vote for this particular party and I'll get a declaration former where I get to select at that party. The question is between the first round and the second round? Can I change? No, but between the second round and the general, I can. So it's a little weird. People or registered party people have no issue. No party people, its gonna be a little bit different. So we're gonna get more information on that and make sure. Again, the State has indicated they're actually going to send all of us a letter, explain it exactly how that works. But that's my understanding is you get to choose at the time that you go and vote, which is a little bit different than anything else we've done election-wise. But there's a very formal process, and there are forms that have to be done and have to be confirmed, and we're still working through some of that.

Thomas: Thank you so much as soon as y'all finished working. Please get that information to us.

Registrar Sibley: And I'll come back to the Commission. Normally, I get invited to certain groups. I get invited to Commissioner Epperson's radio show. We'll try to get all the information out. The good thing about it is we still have some time. This post-primary really won't take effect until the spring elections. Oh, but, you know, qualifying, all that stuff is going to start happening this Fall so people are going to be very interested in what's going on there.

Atkins: Thank you, Madam President. I thought one of the reasons you had come down today was to talk to us about the site for our voting location. Can you provide us--you know, that's been forwarded to a committee, so we'll pick that up in the committee of the future date. In the meantime, can you kind of enlighten us as to which sites might be available currently, and which ones might have to wait on. I don't know the answer to this. It is not a rigged question.

Registrar Sibley: That is the main reason I'm here. Over the past now, in a month or so I've just heard a lot of talk from a lot of different directions that to me was a little bit confusing, because I said, guys what I have--I have a resolution from the Parish Commission, that asked me to go look at a site in Oil City. I think that's the latest thing I have so that's what we've done. We've gone to look at the possibility of a sight in Oil City. The site that was mentioned in your resolution was the Oil City Community Center. So I and a couple of my staff really went up and looked at it. Well, your Clerk, Jeff, got me a point of contact because I don't know anything about Oil City and linked me with the mayor. I went up and visited with the mayor. We toured the site of the Oil City Community Center. I don't think it's viable is site for a lot of reasons, location and some other things. But, while we were there, I said, well, okay, I've been here and I've been hearing all of this talk about the Oil & Gas Museum. While I'm up here, let me go look at that even though that wasn't in your resolution. We went and looked at that and said, no, it's an impossibility there simply because of the layout, their exhibits. Met with the two ladies that worked there and she said, this is all we got. You know, they don't know where they have a staff, but it's not conducive to what we need to do just in terms of the layout because there's exhibits everywhere, and there's no way we can do it. Well in speaking with the mayor, she said, well, we got another site that may work. On their main highway, there's a new--what they call the new Oil City Community Center. Apparently there was a building shared with Willis Knighton, and they did a medical clinic on the front side. So we went up, look at that, let's say it basically physically looks like it could work. There's parking, there's ways to get in and out, there's restrooms, ADA, etc. I explained to the mayor said, this is part of our due diligence. A decision hasn't been made. We're just evaluating whether or not there's even an option. Uh, what I've sent her about 2 weeks ago was the actual technical requirements for a site. If you guys recall of you who were here, when did this before when we provide you a checklist that comes from the State and talks about how additional sites are selected. What's the criteria what that building has to be able to do. So I've sent all that to the mayor to ask her to please evaluate her building. The same thing we did with the library when we did the second site. We got with Mr. Tuggle and his staff and said, Hey, we're looking for a site. We've asked you to evaluate all your sites based on this criteria and the site that we have is the one that came back and it actually was a very good sight. It was the site that met everything that we needed done. So we're doing the same thing there. When I get that information back from the mayor then we'll do a technical analysis, I'll get with the folks from the State, they'll come up we'll look at it. And we can make a decision on whether or not that is a viable site and I have to be careful and say, just because we're evaluating the site doesn't mean that's where it's going to be. And some of you, some of you kind of know my position. Oh kind of like a, you know, a coach you want as many loose factors as possible. So when you say add a third slight to meet us more people, more possibilities, something going wrong. So you know, whether or not I want to do that, but it's not whether or not I want to do it personally. If it serves the citizens of the Parish, and I want to clarify that some of you who may have heard me say, no, I'll be honest with you. As the ROV, no. You know, because

that's additional stuff, it's additional people, that's additional machines, there's more things that can go wrong. You know, but if it serves the Parish, and if you guys reach an agreement to say, no, we'd like to have another one, we think it's justified to have another one, then that's something that we can look at. Now, I got an email one day from the Commissioner of Educations directing some folks that I really didn't know who they were but saying that, Hey, we were okay, and you got this site, y'all go forward and da da da da da. I think there was a little bit of confusion on the part of people at the State. I emailed them, I talked to them a couple of times trying to go, 'Okay, what is change?' And of course, these people that are talking, because I really don't know any of them, but I think we've got that clarified, and I had someone say, well, the State--no I think the State was operating on what they thought was community consensus. I think they may have believed that somehow, but the question I ask is as far as I know, the ROVs are still involved in process. As a matter of fact, you guys know, it's a three party agreement that's done. It's between the Secretary of State, the ROV, and the site provider. Those are the three parties to excite contract. I just want to be sure that you guys are straight on how that process works-- you guys will wear what we've been doing again. Our actions have been based upon the resolution that we got indicating that you guys wanted us to check out the Oil City Community Center. The other center, we think can work, but whether or not it will work that just yet to be determined. And I will say this, part of my rationale, just to be it's just complete disclosure, is when you look at the population distribution in this parish, most of the population is south. Most of the population is Shreveport down. When you look at the other Parishes that have multiple sites, these are Parishes that have multiple cities, or, they are Parishes that based on geography. The State statute allows you, based on geography, to do multiple sites, but all the criteria depends on the number of voters, distance and things like that. Early voting sites are not designed to be like precincts. We operate differently, we operate longer. We have different requirements. We have different logistics. So, early voting sites are not designed to be all over the Parish. They're not by nature, and I get that. Some of you guys were on my board or have talked to members on the board, you know the issues we have just with people. Yeah, rotating getting people to come and getting people trying getting them-- the only way we can ensure that these elections keep going is that we have to have people who can actually do those things, and that means we gotta get people in, we gotta train them, and we gotta try and keep them. And I've said it before, and I said, again, while I'm here, thank you guys for giving us a budget because without that budget, we would not be able to do. Without that budget, we'd have 5 people. Five people trying to do all this stuff that we do, but with that budget y'all will allow us to hire all these additional people that you see, that allow us to do these other sites, but I will tell you it's not an endingless supply of people out there. We can't say, Hey, let's add another site because we can add 3 or 4 more people. Yeah, I would ask you to please look back at that criteria. Look back at the equipment requirements. Look back at the personnel requirements and then let's have a conversation after we look at whatever sites you want us to look at. We can come back look at those sites and say, here here's what working here's what doesn't now, let's look at the nonlogistical and look at the reality, do we have enough people to make sure that it's done right and that is done well. Because once we open it, we can't just shut it down. On that note this election, this fall is a very small one. Our Parish only has one proposition. It doesn't even cover the whole parish, so there's a question right now that I'm working with with the State of Louisiana, in terms of whether or not we need to open the second site even for this election coming up in the fall. Oh, we think that if we're going to have any early voters, if any, they're going to come downtown, because you have to pass downtown to get south and the election, that's on the ballot is, as I appreciate it, is all basically NorthCaddo. So we are evaluating that and whatever decision is made, I'll be sure like you guys know, so we can let the public know whether or not we'll have the second site open on this particular election, but that's where we are. It's a process to get it done, you know, when we did the first, and it took us a year and a ½ to get everything that was necessary to make that happen. So I would ask you guys whatever the the beyond what y'all sent me, which was look at the Oil City, if there are other places that other options, you know, let us know. Let me know. Because one thing I won't do, I won't get involved in your discussions about it. That's, you know, I say from the very first meeting, even though the statute gives me the authority to do it, I wasn't going to make that decision without you guys because you represent the people out there, so we'll keep it there. Please look back in that process and if there are any questions about where we are, let me know. Where we are now it's evaluating the Oil City Community Center, the new one out on the highway, and once I get that wrapped up, you know, I'll be able to get with Jeff, you guys, and say, here's what we think. And if it's still in the interest of the Commission to go forward on that site, then we can start looking in that direction.

Atkins: So just to be clear, you've honored our request to look into a North Caddo location; you have not received any other requests from this body. So you've not looked into any other locations like that.

Registrar Sibley: Like I said, I looked in the Oil City Museum, because I'd heard it.

Atkins: That's fine.

Registrar Sibley: I've heard it so I'd say while I'm up here, let me look at that just yea, yeah, so I have a little advanced knowledge.

Gage-Watts: Thank you Commissioner. Just as a point of order, but there was a different resolution that was passed before that resolution. So my question is, has that resolution reached your desk?

Registrar Sibley: You've got to remind me, what was on that?

Gage-Watts: West Shreveport resolution. That one was passed first by this body.

Registrar Sibley: If you would resend it to me, I'd appreciate it, okay.

Gage-Watts: So the answer is no.

CEO Bryant: The letter that we sent, when we sent it to the state. We provided both resolutions were included, but we'll resend it. We'll provide the one for west Shreveport as well.

Registrar Sibley: It was in there as well? Ok, any particular site in West Shreveport?

CEO Bryant: It was the OMV.

Gage-Watts: The Office of Motor Vehicles.

Registrar Sibley: Okay, no, I have not seen that or focused on that, but we can look at that.

Cothran: Thank you, Madam President, and thank you, Mr. Sibley for coming. As Commissioner Atkins said earlier, I invited you here so we could primarily address this early voting site situation, and I have received the proper information, and I'm asked that the Clerk ensures that everybody get a copy of the process for the early voting site that we will all have in our hand going forward because we will be having a committee meeting on Thursday. In the meantime, you kind of answered some of my questions that is that you've gone up north, but the question was about out west. The short version for me right now for those that are listening as well, is that, you know, as the President said previously, the west was sent first, then the North came about, but what we received from the State the approval, and when I say approval, even though the State says, we can do—we can have an early voting site, it's your call, as I understand it. And I said your call, I don't mean, yes or no, but the thing is to ensure that everything is proper for a site going forward.

Registrar Sibley: The early voting is the responsibility of the ROV, not the Secretary of State and they're very clear on that. I think what happened was they were responding-- because everybody had said even though most of those guys have never been up here or seen the Oil City site. Most of those guys said, it's a state building, we already got a state line there, surely you can do it there. But again, we went and look at it and said, no, we probably won't work here. The State in itself, no, they can't make that decision. As I said, it's a three-part agreement between me as a registrar, the site that's chose, and the Secretary of State's Office. So, I think they were simply operating on if that's the site you got, that could work because there's already a dedicated state line there, but I don't see they had actually visited to see whether it would work on the ground. I think that's why the ROVs are involved because we're responsible for it. We have to get the results; we have to transmit it; so, certainly it needs to be something that we control.

Cothran: Now, I guess my other question would be in reference to an early voting site. What type of staff or additional staff would you say you actually need per voting site if we were able to get two additional early voting sites—what additional staff would you need? So we can know here at the local around this horseshoe, what needs to happen going forward.

Registrar Sibley: We've gone from 1 to 4—I don't know about that.

Cothran: I'm not saying that it would happen, but just in case.

Registrar Sibley: Because no within the information you have, it kind of gives a generic breakdown of I think a small site, they recommend an additional 4 to 6 people, and then as a breakout of the budget and all of that, but I will tell you that the bottom line becomes again, it's about what I feel we can control and maintain integrity of. Our Parish, in my opinion, doesn't need four early voting sites. To me, it's a stretch to do a third, but it makes sense depending on where it is. Keep in mind, St. Tammany has at least four towns that relatively equal. We don't. Most of the population is around Shreveport. So unless we're going to spread them out in and around Shreveport, but then we're becoming more like precincts, which I would be to be opposed to oh, but looking at a third I would say, let's look at some buildings. Give us some buildings. We'll the OMV. We'll get that information back. Let's sit around and make a decision. But, I can tell you now going from one to four, you know, maybe its you know, maybe it's the next guy. You know I think the third is doable within our resources. A fourth right now, that would scare me.

Greg Young: Thank you, Madam President, and I appreciate the admonishment as it relates to the time window that we're working with. I just have really two quick questions, number one, what authoritative does this body--this institution has in terms of the realization of an additional voting site?

Registrar Sibley: Funding.

Greg Young: Funding. Ok, and so, we're the ones that are responsible for staffing in those locations, paying for the machines, and paying for the staff—

Registrar Sibley: Yeah, when we did it the last time we thought the State was going to pay for some of the things, but no, it ended up all being paid for locally. That's a part of the process, you know, we present the budget, we lay out the numbers as I say, you guys have been very generous to the office so and finances probably wouldn't be a problem depending on the kind of budget that you give—

Greg Young: I've had people email me at nausea. I'm for this stuff in Oil City. I want this up there. I want this, why y'all not doing this, and all this kind of chatter. We live in the age of misinformation and disinformation. This body unanimously supported both places—the one up North, and the one in West Shreveport. It's unfortunate that you only got one of them. But my problem is that people don't realize that we don't, we don't have we're not the final arbiter, in terms of who gets these sites. As you say, it's a collaborative process between your office, on the site folks, and the Secretary of State, but we hold the money. Okay, I just want to make sure that's clear, you know, for everybody who's listening because we have the power of the purse, so we don't directly decide who guess what, right? But if it's an area that we don't want to have it, we don't have to pay for it, is that accurate?

Registrar Sibley: That would be difficult. The Parish—you're obligated to fund my office. The real decision-- And I personally, because I could sit and make the decision myself, but I said, no, that's not the way I'm going to operate. You guys represent citizens. You guys say what you want. So if we collectively make that decision, my expectation, is that our funding would what it takes for us to do that. But as far as the citizens are concerned, you guys can let them know that it is not your call alone, but you are working with me to get it done, because elections by nature, our office by nature supposed to be a non political office. That is why we're subject to anyone firing us or anything like that because we're not supposed to be subject to any kind of political influence. Because that's why their decision is strictly in the hands of the ROV and Secretary of State. I recognize that yeah, you guys got to pay for it, you fund it, you represent the citizens, so I want the commission involved in that process.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- Litter Grant

Administrator Bryant announced that the Parish has been awarded the litter grant.

- Parks & Recreation Month

Administrator Bryant recognized the Parks & Recreation Department for all of their hard work year round. Director Wesley highlighted the team's dedication to providing quality of life serves and their extensive programs across various communities. Several Commissioners expressed their appreciation for the department's impact, responsiveness, and creative initiatives.

- Juvenile Detention Center census

Administrator Bryant said that there are 18 children in the Detention Center, two of which are OJJ, and two 17 year olds. There are 436 children on probation. Twenty-one juveniles are at CCC.

There were no Commission Remarks, President's Report, nor Old Business, so the Commission moved onto New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Cothran,** seconded by Mr. Thomas, *to englobo and move the following items to the Regular Session:*

- *Ordinance No. 6554 of 2025, an ordinance amending and re-enacting Section 35-1 of the Caddo Parish Code of Ordinances pertaining to Schedule of Licenses and Fees, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*

- *Ordinance No. 6555 of 2025, an ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 6541 of 2025, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

- *Ordinance No. 6556 of 2025, an ordinance to close and abandon or release a portion of the15-foot wide utility servitude on Lot 22 of the Walden Ferry Subdivision, Unit No. 2, in Section 28, Township 17 North, Range 16 West, in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

- *Ordinance No. 6557 of 2025, an ordinance to authorize the lease of the flood acquisition property located at 7533 W. Lakeshore Drive, Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

- *Resolution No. 33 of 2025, a resolution urging and requesting that the State of Louisiana allocate appropriate attention and resources to repair and maintain I-49, I-220, I-20, and 3132 within Caddo Parish.*

- *Resolution No. 34 of 2025, a resolution approving the issuance, sale and delivery of not exceeding $5,500,000 of hospital revenue bonds of North Caddo Hospital Service District of the Parish of Caddo, State of Louisiana, and providing for other matters in connection therewith*

Brennan Blake, Foley & Judell, explained that this resolution is for the Commission to consider approving a request made to issue bonds for the North Caddo Hospital Service District to fund a permanent clinic in South Bossier. Mr. Blake explained the need for the facility and its role in bringing revenue to the rural community. It was clarified that the Parish has no liability associated with the bond issuance, which is solely secured by hospital revenues. Mr. Blake further explained that the Commission has to approve the bond issue because the Commission created the North Caddo Hospital Service District.

- *Resolution No. 35 of 2025, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to approve the assignment, bill of sale, and conveyance of State Agency Leases No. 19509, No. 20131, No. 20133, and No. 20134 from OCM Denali Holdings, LLC, to Sabine Oil & Gas Corporation, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*

- *Special Resolution of Remembrance Mrs. Lita Smith*

- *Special Resolution for Brady Blake, Sr.*

- *Special Resolution for Geneva Moore's 110th Birthday*

- *Special Resolution recognizing former Shreveport Mayor John Hussey*

- *Special Resolution commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Strand*

- *Special Resolution recognizing the 235th Anniversary of the United States Coast Guard*

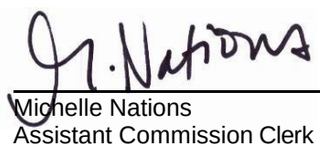
- *Advance a Visit from Dr. Kenneth Sanders relative to WOD Godz Competition*

- *Advance the approval of Approve Southern Hills Neighborhood Association to change its 2025 NGO appropriation purpose to "Family Fun Day."*

At this time, Mr. Cothran's motion to englobo and advance carried unanimously by all members with Commissioner Blake being absent (1).

There were no Communiques/Committee Reports, Citizens Comments, nor a Consent Agenda.

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 4:48 p.m.



Michelle Nations
Assistant Commission Clerk