

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 23rd DAY OF JANUARY, 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, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Kracman, Lazarus, G. Young, and J. Young (9). ABSENT: Commissioners Blake, Jones, and Thomas (3).

Mr. Cothran gave the invocation, and Mr. G. Young led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were no Agenda Additions, Citizens Comments, nor Visitors, so the Commission moved onto Regular/Special Session Minutes.

REGULAR/SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *that Special Session Minutes from December 3, 2024, Regular Session Minutes from January 9, 2025, and Special Session Minutes from January 14, 2025 be adopted.* Motion carried unanimously by those present.

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Cothran**, seconded by Mr. J. Young, *to englobo and adopt the following special resolutions:*

- *Special Resolution of Appreciation for MLK, Jr. Day of Service Resource Fair*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition for Bicentennial Anniversary of Centenary College*

Mr. Atkins pointed out that Centenary College was established in 1825, and predates time zones, Italy, and Germany. He said that this college is a great asset to our community.

- *Special Resolution for Larry and Joyce Coleman's 50th Anniversary*

At this time, Mr. Cothran's motion carried unanimously of those present.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION
MLK, JR. DAY OF SERVICE RESOURCE FAIR**

WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a towering figure in the history of civil rights and social justice who delivered his famous "Speech at Galilee" right here in Caddo Parish, dedicated his life to advocating for equality, service, and community unity, leaving behind a legacy that continues to inspire millions worldwide; and

WHEREAS, the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Resource Fair exemplifies Dr. King's enduring call to action for individuals to engage in meaningful acts of service to uplift their communities and foster collaboration; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Resource Fair will take place on Monday, January 20th, 2025, at the David Raines Center in Shreveport, Louisiana, from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM, offering free and inclusive opportunities for residents to connect with vital resources and services; and

WHEREAS, the resource fair will feature a diverse array of community vendors providing essential information on health, education, employment, and other critical areas, as well as an engaging and uplifting Kid Zone for children's entertainment, delicious food, and motivational messages from special guest speakers reflecting Dr. King's vision; and

WHEREAS, this event, organized with dedication and care by the Mystic Krewe of Imani and other community leaders, embodies the spirit of unity and service that Dr. King championed, empowering individuals and families to build stronger and more connected communities; and

WHEREAS, the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Resource Fair serves as a testament to the collective efforts of Caddo Parish residents to honor Dr. King's legacy by fostering engagement, understanding, and positive change;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in legal and regular session convened, that it does hereby recognize and commend the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Resource Fair for its outstanding contribution to the community, its commitment to honoring Dr. King's legacy, and its dedication to promoting service, equality, and unity among the citizens of Caddo Parish.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be a part of the official records of the Caddo Parish Commission, and that a copy be tendered to the Mystic Krewe of Imani, the event's organizers, as an expression of our gratitude and support for their impactful work.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION
BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF CENTENARY COLLEGE**

WHEREAS, in 1825, the College of Louisiana was established by the state legislature in Jackson, Louisiana. In the yet young state, it quickly established itself as one of the nation's leading colleges; and

WHEREAS, in 1841, Centenary College opened in Brandon Springs, Mississippi, under the auspices of the Mississippi Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, honoring the centennial of the ministry of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism; and

WHEREAS, in 1845, the merger of these two institutions created Centenary College of Louisiana, which is today the oldest institution of higher learning in the state; and

WHEREAS, Centenary College was debilitated by loss of property and life during the Civil War, and struggled to regain its prominence; and

WHEREAS, in the early 20th century, a group of forward-thinking church, civic, and philanthropic leaders proposed relocating Centenary College to Shreveport, a move that was completed in 1908; and

WHEREAS, throughout its history in Northwest Louisiana, Centenary College has been a leading educator in its region, truly establishing itself as Shreveport Bossier's college, and being consistently recognized as a nationally ranked liberal arts institution; and

Whereas Centenary College excels in providing its students a premier liberal arts education, within its mission to prepare global citizens to lead productive lives of vitality and purpose; and

WHEREAS, Centenary College generates significant economic benefit for the Northwest Louisiana region, and enriches the local population with its cultural, intellectual, and athletics activities available to the public; and

WHEREAS, Centenary College has grown markedly in enrollment, academic programming, and extracurricular offerings in its last decade and is committed to continued growth and excellence as it enters its third century in 2025;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission wholeheartedly commends and greatly appreciates Centenary College and its longstanding contributions to higher education and to the State of Louisiana and the Northwest Louisiana community; and

BE IT RESOLVED, this suggested draft resolution to be edited/personalized as deemed appropriate by the approving governance entities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission recognizes and enthusiastically celebrates the yearlong observance of the bicentennial of Centenary College of Louisiana, being officially launched on January 8, 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that January 8, 2025, be designated as Centenary College of Louisiana Day;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be permanently entered into the records of the Caddo Parish Commission.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION
LARRY AND JOYCE COLEMAN'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY**

WHEREAS, Pastor Larry W. Coleman Sr. and Prophetess Joyce A. Coleman are the founding Pastors of Love That Heals Outreach Ministry, a non-denominational church dedicated to spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ and addressing the spiritual and physical needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Larry W. Coleman Sr., a 1970 graduate of Eden Gardens/Captain Shreve High School and a 1974 graduate of Louisiana State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, has devoted over 50 years to preaching, inspiring others, and demonstrating unwavering commitment to his faith and congregation; and

WHEREAS, Prophetess Joyce A. Coleman, a 1973 graduate of Woodlawn High School, served as Food Service Manager for the Diocese of Shreveport for over 20 years and has passionately served the Lord for over 60 years, prophesying and empowering others through her ministry and her steadfast devotion to her community; and

WHEREAS, together, Pastor Larry and Prophetess Joyce Coleman are known for their integrity, wisdom, compassion, and unwavering dedication to serving the Lord, touching the lives of countless individuals as spiritual leaders, mentors, and role models; and

WHEREAS, the Colemans' extraordinary legacy includes their roles as loving parents to three children, proud grandparents to four grandchildren, and mentors to many spiritual sons and daughters who carry forward their teachings and example of faith; and

WHEREAS, beyond their ministry, Pastor Larry and Prophetess Joyce Coleman find joy in swing dancing, traveling, and therapeutic shopping, demonstrating a life enriched by love, shared purpose, and celebration of God's blessings; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission recognizes the immense impact of Pastor Larry and Prophetess Joyce Coleman's leadership and service over the past 50 years, which continues to inspire and uplift the citizens of Caddo Parish;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in legal and regular session convened, that it does hereby recognize and commend Pastor Larry W. Coleman Sr. and Prophetess Joyce A. Coleman on the occasion of their 50th anniversary, expressing heartfelt gratitude for their faithful service, leadership, and dedication to the spiritual and physical well-being of the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be made a part of the official records of the Caddo Parish Commission, and that a copy be tendered to Pastor Larry W. Coleman Sr. and Prophetess Joyce A. Coleman as a token of appreciation and in honor of this remarkable milestone.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- Assistant Parish Attorney, Henry Bernstein's retirement

Assistant Parish Administrator, Mr. Clay Walker, announced that this is the last Regular Session that Assistant Parish Attorney Bernstein will attend due to his retirement effective January 31, 2025. He thanked Mr. Bernstein for his wealth of knowledge and service to the citizens of Caddo Parish.

Mr. Epperson expressed gratitude for Attorney Bernstein. He praised his articulate service and attention to detail.

Mr. Atkins thanked Attorney Bernstein for his responsiveness, kindness, and ease of communication. He wished him well on his future endeavors.

Mr. G. Young acknowledged the difficulty in providing concrete solutions to abstract problems and thanked Attorney Bernstein for his expertise in this area.

Mr. Cothran thanked Attorney Bernstein for his assistance in navigating complex issues.

Mr. Burrell, Mr. J. Young, and Mrs. Gage-Watts wished Attorney Bernstein well on his future endeavors.

Attorney Bernstein provided a synopsis of his legal career in local government. He started as a staff attorney and lobbyist for the Louisiana Municipal Association, then served as the first Assistant City Attorney for the City of Shreveport. From there he held executive council positions in other state departments before becoming the Assistant Parish Attorney. Attorney Bernstein said that serving the community is a key aspect of this role by making legal processes easier to understand for the citizens.

COMMUNIQES & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Epperson showed a video regarding a relief valve. He said that condensation and freezing weather can cause liquid to accumulate in the relief valve, especially during this time of year. Methods for preventing freezing in oil and gas pipelines include electric heat tracing on non-combustible lines and hot steam on combustible materials. He further urged citizens to report any observed leaks or damage to state authorities.

Mr. Epperson said that the ignition of the escaping substance could pose a risk to the surrounding areas. Mrs. Gage-Watts said that the cold weather has created unfamiliar situations. She urged the public to utilize available resources and contact authorities when necessary.

Mr. J. Young said that when a relief valve goes off like the one in the video, it poses a potential safety concern. He requested Administration to look into this matter further. Mr. Epperson suggested that this be forwarded to the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. Epperson said that flammability and potential explosions are key concerns, especially regarding gas handling in refining processes.

There was no President's Report nor Public Hearing on Zoning Ordinances & Cases, so the Commission moved onto Public Hearing on Ordinances.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES

President Gage-Watts opened the public hearing on the following ordinance:

- *Ordinance No. 6512 of 2024, an ordinance to close and abandon a portion of the public dedication for Wells Island Road, located in Section 13, Township 18 North, Range 14 West, in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

There being no one to speak in favor, or against, this ordinance, the President closed the public hearing. There were no Zoning Ordinances for final passage, so the Commission moved onto Ordinances for final passage.

ORDINANCES (for final passage)

It was **moved by Mr. J. Young**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *that Ordinance No. 6512 of 2024, an ordinance to close and abandon a portion of the public dedication for Wells Island Road, located in Section 13, Township 18 North, Range 14 West, in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted. Motion carried unanimously of those present.

ORDINANCE NO. 6512 OF 2024

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE TO CLOSE AND ABANDON A PORTION OF THE PUBLIC DEDICATION FOR WELLS ISLAND ROAD, LOCATED IN SECTION 13, TOWNSHIP 18 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 Mr. Patrick Rosett, representing Rosett & Motes, Inc., to close and abandon a portion of the Wells Island Road public dedication, lying between their property and Red River; and

WHEREAS, on November 14, 1957, a Dedication to The Public was filed and recorded under Instrument No. 166260 of the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, Louisiana. This conveyance established a 100-foot wide strip of land extending across the East 187.7 feet of Lot 27, AND across Lots 25 & 26 of the Louisiana Land & Immigration Company Subdivision, as recorded in Book 100, Page 63, of the Clerk of Courts Records; and

WHEREAS, several years ago the paved area of Wells Island Road in this 100-foot wide strip was damaged or washed away by flood waters; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has no plans nor sees a purpose in re-establishing this portion of Wells Island Road and upon review of this request for the release or closure and abandonment of this public dedication finds that it is in the best interest of the Parish of Caddo; and

WHEREAS, this proposed closure and abandonment was approved by the Metropolitan Planning Commission; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that the public dedication of the 100-foot wide strip of land extending across the East 187.7 feet of Lot 27, AND across Lots 25 & 26 of the Louisiana Land & Immigration Company Subdivision, as recorded in Book 100, Page 63, of the Clerk of Courts Records and as shown on Exhibit A is hereby closed and abandoned and released for public use as a road.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a copy of this ordinance and plat marked Exhibit "A", displaying the public dedication of the 100-foot wide strip of land extending across the East 187.7 feet of Lot 27, AND across Lots 25 & 26 of the Louisiana Land & Immigration Company Subdivision, to be closed and abandoned and released shall be filed in the Conveyance Records of the Parish of Caddo.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Caddo Parish Commission directs the Caddo Parish Tax Assessor to assess the entire area of this closure and abandonment to the adjacent property, which is identified by Geographic Number 181413-001-0165-00 and currently owned by Rosett & Motes, Inc.

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.

There were no Zoning Ordinances for introduction by title, so the Commission moved onto Ordinances for introduction by title.

ORDINANCES (for introduction by title)

- *Ordinance No. 6513 of 2025, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Capital Outlay Fund to change an appropriation from the construction and improvement of Greenwood Water Lines to the construction of the Dawson Road Extension*

WORK SESSION MINUTES

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Cothran, *that the Work Session Minutes from January 21, 2025 be ratified. Motion carried unanimously of those present.*

There were no Resolutions, so the Commission moved onto Old Business.

OLD BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. J. Young**, seconded by Mr. Cothran, *that the appointment of Chris Davis to the Human Services District of Louisiana to replace the unexpired term of David Hoey (term to expire August 6, 2027) be adopted.*

Mr. J. Young said that Mr. Davis' letter of intent was submitted, along with an extensive resume.

At this time, Mr. J. Young's motion carried unanimously of those present.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Lazarus**, seconded by Mr. J. Young, *that following recommendations by the Property Standards Committee be adopted:*

- *Demolition of 0 Dansby Road, Shreveport, LA*
- *Demolition of 119 Barlow Road, Shreveport, LA*
- *Demolition of 129 Spilker Avenue, Shreveport, LA*
- *Postpone action on 8930 Lake End Road, Mooringsport, LA for six months*
- *Demolition of 6850 N. Colony Road, Shreveport, LA*
- *Demolition of 3404 Riviera, Shreveport, LA*
- *Demolition of RC Thompson Road, Shreveport, LA*
- *Demolition of 3404 West Dr. MLK, Jr. Drive, Shreveport, LA*
- *Demolition of 6678 Mira Scotts Slough Road, Ida, LA*
- *Postpone action on 8310 Hwy 1, Shreveport, LA for six months*

COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Atkins asked for more clarification regarding the Dawson Road project. It was his understanding that the ordinance mentions the construction of Dawson Road, but the previous discussion was to conduct a feasibility study. Attorney Frazier explained that this would be to change the project, which starts with a feasibility study to determine the optimal route and the necessary capital to complete the project. Mr. Atkins then wanted to know if a subsequent vote is need for additional funds if needed beyond the requested \$750k. Attorney Frazier agreed.

Mr. Atkins then wanted to know if this would be through the industrial park. Mr. Tim Weaver, Director of Public Works, said that it would not, but it would connect to Resilient Way, which is part of the Industrial Park. Mr. Atkins requested a map of the proposed road.

- Mr. Cothran raised questions about ARPA funds regarding the extension of Dawson Road. Attorney Frazier explained that there are no ARPA funds to be used on this project. She further stated that voting on the project will occur after the feasibility study is completed.

CITIZENS COMMENTS (late arrivals)

Lauren Anderson came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

I'm just here to speak about the loose dogs—I don't know if y'all know that it's a problem in the area. I guess, it depends on what part of town you're in, but some areas—its worse than others. I've had a problem with it. I like to go out walk around my neighborhood, things like that. I think it's a great way to get exercise, to get out and meet neighbors, and it kind of doubles as a sort of neighborhood watch. Its kind of difficult and impossible because of the loose dogs. Whenever I was very little, my sister and I watched our aunt be attacked by—I think it was a bull mastiff—it could have killed her, put her in the hospital. My Grandpa had to shoot it, so I've seen first-hand what a dog can do to a person. I've been chased by dogs around here. I've watched other people on my block being chased by dogs—mail carriers, small children, just any other pedestrians walking down the street. I live in the Highland/Stoner Hill area. But when I talk about it, I feel like I'm not being taken seriously. I feel like people aren't registering that this is a significant danger. Just last year—well, actually in 2023, in the City of San Antonio, an elderly man was walking—an 81 year old man was out running errands, and he was attacked. Him and his wife were attacked, and he was actually killed. The couple that owned the dogs, they were sentenced to significant prison time—between 15 to 20 years for their negligence and owning their pets. Very sadly, I saw a notification on my phone in Florida, just a week or two ago, a little boy—a little 8 year old boy was out playing in his neighborhood, and he was mauled by a couple of loosed dogs, and he was killed. So, I want for it to be on y'all's radar. I want y'all to know, and I want y'all to understand that it is a significant danger. I've called SPD; I've called Caddo Parish Animal Services about it; I've called the Sheriff's Office about it. SPD says its an animal control issue; the Commission says its an animal control issue; the Sheriff's Office says its an animal control issue; yet, whenever I call Animal Control, I get no relief. I don't know what the problem is, but I will say in 2017, whenever I moved back here. I did call Animal Control on loose dogs—this dog, in particular, was digging holes in my yard, and I didn't like that. They showed up. I didn't have a problem in 2017 and 2018 showing up, but they have a problem now showing up, so I don't know what the issue is. I don't know if its leadership over it—the Animal Control—but I want for y'all to know about it, and hopefully, do something about it.

Ms. Anderson continued after being granted an additional minute:

So the last time I called—it was actually on Christmas Eve, and I understand everybody was short-staffed—I get it, but Caddo Parish Animal Services told me very explicitly, they said, 'we are not sending anyone out unless someone has been bit'. So, they conveyed to me, on that day, that their current policy is someone has to be bit first, and then they will send someone out. I think that's a huge issue.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.


Michelle Nations
Assistant to the Commission Clerk


Stormy Gage-Watts
President