

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 18th DAY OF FEBRAURY, 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, 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: (0).

The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were given during a previous committee meeting, the commission moved to agenda additions.

AGENDA ADDITIONS

There was one agenda from the Long Range Planning Committee to add a resolution of support for House Bill number six. A public hearing was open and closed with no citizens having comments for or against the addition.

There were no Citizens Comments the commission moved to Visitors.

VISTORS

Poetic X visited the commission and made the following comments:

Hello everybody, hello, uh, first I just want to say to everybody thank you for selecting me as Caddo Parish inaudible term. I wanted to give you all an update on the (inaudible) on it project that you all. Voted for me to put poems in each district. I've completed 8 and I've recently had a meeting Commissioner Young was somewhat I had spoke with about making sure we put the mural up on the in the Cooper Rd. area. David Raines. So that's the first area I'm looking to have that solidified before March. First because I've been given to March the 14th to complete the project totally for those four murals. The the remainder 4 murals also want to speak on the Caddo Parish poor Laura terms. They I have been told once I mentioned that I was interested in going for the (inaudible) position again. That they're standing (inaudible) could not run again, but I didn't see that in the paperwork. So I was just wanting to verify that with you all before I submitted an application for the next term for (inaudible) because I didn't see it. I wanted to also suggest. Recommend that there be a youth (inaudible) position in Caddo Parish because I work with a lot of the youth in Caddo Parish over the years and with Amanda Gorman, you know, and I know that she is one that's been spearheading the poetry movement and inspiring a lot of the youth. But when I see the children in Caddo Parish participate in their poetry. And our program in a different high school than I would like some type of way where there could be a position appointed for you (inaudible) and Caddo Parish. And I've been doing Speak Poetry Fest, which is a fest for performances, events, helping artists record their music or register their music. The performing rights organizations, but with Speak portraits in the future, I would like to have some type of proclamation for Speak Poetry Fest. I've been doing it out of pocket for six years and. I would like to just see Speak Poetry Fest, you know, recognize more in the series where I'm working on getting established as a nonprofit so that they can go under that nonprofit to speak poetry face and then perhaps come back and then speak with you all about having that established. And besides that, then I wanted to present love Shreveport poem just in case I couldn't. Submit for the position again. Then I just wanted to recite a poem for you all that I had initially wrote for the mayor. I was commissioned for the mayor for the state of Shreveport, state of the city, and that was my reason for coming. So I want to read that poem if that's OK. It's called Love Shreveport. When I think of Shreveport, I think of the greatest city on earth. Every one of our contributions, contrary to unpopular confusion, keeps drawing us upon a new birth. Since the Great Rav, we've never stopped building the city. We've labored. We've delivered dozens of roses to our neighbors. We've all sung gospel songs. Overseas us, their poetry is what we have in common, the composition just. For the people we have succeeded though that Shreveport has to keep turning the wheel. Together we raise waters to fertile soil. I ambitious growing to fruition the more we teal we So as we grow, we grow together. Every department is a trendsetter. Every bone in the body, every office on the yard, We all play a Pacific role to keep Shreveport. Connected to God ohh God I love this city, including the shape of the state is in look the Shreveport for educators and coaches that practice specific approaches for students to win prayer warriors who know the power of Amen. We thank you for the city lights. SWEPCO kept us on autopilot through those dark Knights. These houses were made for love. We focus on center point energy to keep us warm in the winter. Physicians speak about life saving decisions in the barbershop. Judges and pastors marched to the streets for the violence to stop. Like it or not, we call Shreveport home. Backyard boogie where our families were grown. Trials and tribulations pushed us into the arts. School buses brought us to spar. To watch poets recite poetry in the parks. We're proud of the city we live in. Small investments can turn \$0.50 into rich men, multi cultural opportunities, a Community Foundation, f used and small business into creative communities. The tourist Bureau gives the city the greatest introductions, communications about bug proposals and the cities. Infrastructure going under construction, new crews and parade routes being added to our Royal Courts. So come at Mardi Gras with Shreveport. Great music, great food, a film industry, Shreveport Common, great attitudes. Here we're focused on the greater good, delivering pubic works directly to our neighborhoods. Skyline. Never seen it looking flawless, National Night Out, brother helping hands from the Marshall's office. Just as we don't like to see loved ones on , we extend our prayers to men and women in uniform to our social service organizations and city administrators. Thank you for your time and thank you for Shreveport for having the Shreveport state of mind. Moving Shreveport forward on Godspeed helping the mayor. Your greatest report with the baton

he 's received, Love Shreveport. I wanted to thank Jeff Everson for sending me the official letter and If I could be of service to any commissioners, I am available.

Mr. Epperson made a comment that he needs to write a poem for Caddo Parish and introduced Poetic X's wife. He also asked the Parish Attorney if Poetic X could be reappointed.

Mr. Thomas congratulated and thanked Mr. X and all his great alcaldes. Mr. Atkins thanked him for the positive message and thanked him as well.

Mr Cothran also thanked Poetic X for his attributes to young people and how e uses positive words. He mentioned a book can take you all around the world. He too thanked Poetic X's wife.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mrs. Bryant spoke on the update from broadband and they are willing to come back to another Work Session. The anticipate project completion November 2025. Mrs. Bryant also spoke on the wheelchair ramp program, it will began on Monday ad citizens can contact the Commission for request.

- Juvenile Detention

Parish Administrator, Erica Bryant, said that there are twenty-four children in the Detention Center; five of which are OJJ. There are zero 17-year-olds. There are 452 children on probation.

That concluded the admin report, Mr. Burrell wanted to follow up on the broadband report. He wanted to request a map to see what has been covered to assist constituents. Mrs. Bryant advised she will get the report out by this evening and that report does include a map. Many will be completed by May this year 154miles between Holston, Gillam, and Belcher.

Mr. Burrell also spoke on left over money from a program, any monies left over how it could be used to help us. Mrs. Bryant advised that money is part of the of the government freeze at this time, and clear communication hasn't been set on the support of the program.

Mr. Epperson asked Mrs. Bryant about the speed control cameras as far as signs. She advised signs and cameras are being worked on and an update can be provided Thursday. Mr. j. Young asked about the arrest of another child and a full facility.

Mrs. Bryant advised they have a process in those cases and numbers have been down, they are able to manage. Mrs. Gage-Watts asked about the programs and how much is allocated. Mr. Cothran wanted to know what's going on with the Providence house. He says there are ore homeless people because apartments are being shut down. Mrs. Bryant mentioned hope connections, who provide immediate housing. Providence house works on long term housing. \$350 K is what is being budgeted.

Mr. G. Young asked when the appropriation money will began to flow, he advised we are two weeks into February. Mrs. Bryant advised there is a process. Attorney Frazier advised that there is a 30-day process between Legal and Finance. It was suggested for further questions to contact either Finance or Legal.

Mr. Atkins asked about the allocation of funds as well. Mrs. Bryant advised there is a vetting process. Those expenses have to be in accordance. Mid years have to be submitted to receive the second portion of the funds.

COMMISSION REMARKS

Mr. Cothran spoke about the Long-Range Planning meeting that happened earlier that day. The Police Chief, City of Shreveport and others came in support of the meeting. He said the meeting went well and mentioned going forward we want to get the right verbiage as we continue to go forward and represent each district.

Mr. J. Young spoke on the meeting as well. He says this is a serious matter, his neighborhood is being burned down by meth heads. He expressed the protocol of the Chief of police and how they will not get those squatters out of the homes. He says things have got to change quickly.

Mrs. Gage-Watts thanked Mr. Young for his passion on the subject and they do want to help, but they have to follow protocol, the city provided the information that can be found to assist the public when trespassers are caught on the property.

Mr. Cothran stressed once more what they can and can't do per the law.

There was no President's Report and no Old Business, so the Commission moved onto New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mr. Cothran, *to englobo and advance the following*:

- *Advance the Introduction of Ordinance No. 6519 of 2025*
- *Advance the Introduction of Ordinance No. 6520 of 2025*
- *Advance the Introduction of Ordinance No. 6521 of 2025*
- *Advance the Introduction of Ordinance No. 6522 of 2025*

At this time, Mr. Thomas' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (12). NAYS:(0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *to postpone indefinitely Resolution 6:*

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (7). NAYS:(5). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Kracman**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *to advance Resolution 7.*

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (12). NAYS:(0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to advance Resolution 8.*

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (12). NAYS:(0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to englobo and advance the following*:

- *Advance Special Resolution of Remembrance for Sgt. Robert Henry Lewis*
- *Advance Special Resolution of Remembrance for Antonio Washington*

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (12). NAYS:(0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jones** seconded by Mr. Cothran, *to englobo and advance the following*

- *Advance action item requesting and approving relocation assistance for residents impacted by non-payment of Master Meters at Apartments complexes, to include Village Green and Southern Oaks who are scheduled to lose access to water on 2/27/25.*
- *Advance a Visit from Rep Cleo Fields's District Manager, Lindora Baker*
- *Advance a Visit from Dr. Jimmy Jones and the Charter Review Committee*
- *Advance to add a resolution of support for House Bill number six.*

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (12). NAYS:(0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Cothran spoke on the apartments and better management tonot leave the people without living homes.
- Mr. G. Young spoke on the Chinese and their inventions. Mr. Jones spoke on the children with 504 plans and ding the right thing.
- Mrs. Gage-Watts congratulated Ashlyn King on our new move within the Parish. Several Commissioners congratulated Ms. King

There were no late arrivals or citizen's comments so the Commission moved to the Consent Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

- *Ordinance No. 6514 of 2025 Re: Case 24-39-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 dean road, approximately 800 feet south of green terrace road, caddo parish, louisiana, from r-a rural-agricultural zoning district to r-1-7 single-family residential zoning district, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance no.6515 of 2025 re: case 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 ruralagricultural zoning district to r-1-7 single family residential zoning district, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance no. 6516 of 2025,an ordinance to close and abandon an un-named public dedication in the northwood hills subdivision, located in section 35, township 19 north, range 15 west, in the parish of caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance no. 6517 of 2025, an ordinance relative to the sale of parish property, to authorize the sale of the regional lab building located at 533 vine street, shreveport, louisiana, and adjacent parking lots and otherwise providing with respect thereto.*
- *Ordinance no.6518 of 2025, an ordinance amending the budget of estimated revenues and expenditures for the solid waste fund and the riverboat fund to provide an additional appropriation for property standards and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance no. 6513 of 2025, an ordinance amending the budget of estimated revenues and expenditures for the capital outlay fund to change an appropriation from the construction and improvement of greenwood water lines to construction of the dawson road extension.*
- *Resolution 4 of 2025, a resolution approving the amended 2024 and proposed 2025 budgets of the north louisiana criminalistics laboratory commission and to otherwise provide with respect thereto.*

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 5:00 p.m.



Office Specialist