

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 20th DAY OF MARCH, 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, Kracman, Jones, Lazarus, Thomas, and J. Young (11). ABSENT: Commissioner G. Young (1).

Mr. Jones gave the invocation, and Mr. Lazarus led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were no Agenda Additions, so the Commission moved onto Citizens Comments.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Michael Williams came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good evening, Madam Chair, Members of the Horseshoe, to the outstanding State Champions, Huntington High School Girl Raiders and their coaches, Ms. Dottie Bell, and to our chairman. Look, you know why I'm here. I rise to speak in support of resolution--I think of 16, 17, 18, or 18, 19, and 20. I rise as a Former County Commission--Parish Commissioner, businessman, father, grandfather, preacher, former politician, community activist, and Civil Rights Activist in this community to ask that you would reconsider your conscience to vote for a particular ordinance that's good for all American people. I also rise to say that God has already signed the executive order of DEI, so don't need to change anything that Lord has already done. This is a very uncomfortable conversation to talk about the reality in America. We look at how division--how the Republican party is using the political playbook of 2025, which is your President's name is mention of 313 times about what's going on...about the barbaric and humane policies against poor people in America. So there's a ton of the analytical, philosophical, intellectual--there's not a time right now to be silent, because this is not about party or race of people or socio-economic backgrounds, it's about cutting the fundamental program for poor people that live in your district...that you asked to vote for you, your grandmother, your sister, your brother, your parishioner that you go to church with that you sit in front of. You got to dance in the book, but cut program that hurt poor people, middle class people, working people, white people, black people, Asian people, brown people. And you showed up with a low conscience attitude like it ain't nothing. But our vote matters, and our money matters. If you own a business, we are going to ask for peaceful protests against those that vote against policy that help people. All this propaganda and rhetoric is coming out of Congress. Now the Republican party is bad international global for America. It hurting us. It's gonna hurt the NGO, the FBO, and the CBOs. Faith-based organizations, [inaudible] organizations, and your non-governmental affairs, because most of the pain and the suffering going to fall on rural America, suburban America, and urban America. It's going to fall on the churches, Salvation Army; it is going to fall on Goodwill; it's going to fall on you! So I pray that you would reconsidered this propaganda that's going on in our community and our states and try to work together. Who made you superior to imperials over this country that God made. He don't make white privilege to be white supremacists in America. You're no better than everybody else. We bleed the same; we breathe the same; but we're not treated the same on the soil of America. Those that control the gold, makes the rules. This is wrong, bad policy. It is embarrassing to the next generation of children to be inclusive and work together for the best for all people in this country we call America. The American dream has become the American nightmare on the soil of America. Thank you.

Nancy Treadwell came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

I live in Broadmoor, and I came up to basically oppose what Mr. Williams just said. In my opinion, and everything I research and understand, the America first agenda is looking to get rid of fraud, waste, and abuse. It is not and has not cut \$1 to takeaway from an American in need. And I want to stress that, not \$1 it has come from with the hand or pocket of an American in need, no one has lost their home, no one will lose their home. The goal is to get rid of waste, fraud, and abuse. And in my opinion, everyone who says differently, is lying or intentionally causing fear. That includes everyone on this horseshoe, and everyone who stands up to speak. You are the ones creating division! More than 50% of the American people voted for this. And I'm coming up to oppose the Resolution 18.3 mass firings of federal employees. If their jobs aren't needed, they need to go. I don't oppose cutting national aid, because 95% of it is fraud, waste, or abuse, or kickbacks. And again, they haven't taken one bit of aid away from a person in another nation who needs help. I don't oppose these tariffs because there's a specific reason for them because we have not been on an even playing field with the rest of the world. And that's all these are for. I'm happy to talk and argue about these things, but to just make across-the-board statements that they're intended to hurt people in need is the opposite of the truth. If we can get rid of the waste and fraud, the people who need it the most can have more and every part of our communities can prosper. So when each of you talk about, 'Maybe you shouldn't call yourself a Christian if you support America first people or don't want higher taxes or believe that unnecessary federal wasted funds should not be corrected'. If you disagree with us great, but don't imply we shouldn't call ourselves Christians or should go to our churches and change our minds about how we think is best to make our nation more prosperous and our people have a better future. I stood up here a year and a 1/2 ago and had some of you call me a racist, tell me to shut my mouth until I understood better what I was talking about. And I'll tell you now, that's not a way to heal divisiveness.

Tony T. Williams came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

For the record, I work with the Veterans Celebration Committee, the Citizens Disaster Review Committee, and the Caddo Community Action Agency. I stand today to ask all the Commissioners to vote for Resolutions 18 and 19. We can all agree that our government is robust and needs cutting. But there's no doubt that there's areas that do need more efficiency. There are options to do this in an organized fashion. Our government should be looking at analytics, experience and research as they decision make. I say this as someone who's actually had to do this in the Army, when we have to close and merge units that affected thousands of people, soldiers, and family members. It's not something you do overnight or via a tweet or an email. It takes months if not years of actual planning, and you have to have people involved with ownership. People who actually have meat in the game, which I did, so I made those decisions in a smart way, because I had buy-in in the Army. What we see today in Washington--it's totally different. We see someone making decisions that doesn't actually have buy-in. Elon Musk has not been elected by the citizens; he has not passed any kind of congressional confirmation. The optics are even worse. We say that veteran concerns our priority, but we see veterans being fired and the gutting of the very departments that service them. It just doesn't make sense. We say that our skies are safe as they've always been, but we see all these issues with the aircrafts and their rumors of firing traffic controllers. We're in tax season, and there's rumors of fired IRS people. We even saw people in the energy department get fired only to be rehired when we realized we needed to, you know regain control of the functionality of our nuclear energy. This is horrible optics in a show chaos. It makes me wonder has the Department of Government Efficiency ever heard of a smart goal? Smart goals are specific, measurable achievable, realistic and time bound. Smart goals create carbon objectives, shared understanding, and it creates synergy. I'll tell you what I see today in Washington D.C. is not smart at all. Let us stand now and raise our voices in opposition of what I see as an ill-planned dissembling of my government. I am not against efficiency. I have helped do it in the Army, but I am against what I see being done today in the name of efficiency. So, let them be able to say Caddo Parish got it right. They understand so please support common sense and citizenship ideals, and vote to pass these resolutions. Thank you.

Emma Shepherd came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good Afternoon, Madam President and the Council...the Commissioners. I am speaking today as an individual. Today, I stand with the Caddo Commissioners, and I support the Resolutions 18.3 through 18.5. My first question is, where are the people we elected to represent our interests? Since they are nowhere to be found, it is time for us to become active. It does no good to just complain about what we are seeing happening to our country. If these senseless actions continue, and they dismantle the Department of Education, I am concerned that our children will suffer; that students with disabilities will lose critical support; classroom sizes will increase to the point where it will hinder them from getting one-on-one assistance that's necessary. Head Start has been a great source of getting children ready for kindergarten. Early childhood education is a key to children being successful in life. As these DOGE incidents are centered around getting funds that will give billionaires tax braces. How can they sleep at night when they are taking food from children at school where they at least get 2 meals a day; with many of our seniors who get Medicaid or Medicare will no longer get the medicine and care necessary for their well-being. How dare them! Our veterans may be denied the services that they need. Veterans have been the backbone of our state. And I leave you with and with this, we must fight for our children; we must fight for our most vulnerable population; and we must fight for our veterans. What I mean when I say--and let me be clear, we fight with our voices. And we fight with our votes, so in voting make sure we understand what we are voting for because some of the language is meant to be misleading. They get confusing so again. I thank you for your time, and I ask everyone to vote. Thank you.

Alvin Oliver came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

I'm the newly elected President of the Shreveport Branch of the NAACP 6078B, along with my first Vice President Lester Smith and one of our Executive Board Members, former Commissioner Michael Williams. So again, let me say thank you for having us here again. I'm your newly elected President, we'd like to consider ourselves the all new NAACP, unlike you've seen before and what we want to do today is invite you folks to mark your calendars, you folks in the audience, as well, to mark your calendars for Wednesday, April 9th, at 7 PM. We're going to have our official swearing in at the downtown Convention Center at 7PM. Some of you Commissioners will be speaking, along with some of our other city leaders. They will be there also, and so again, I want to say that the NAACP and our entire new team, we plan to uphold the great legacy of the NAACP. We plan to work in a collaborative effort and with our Parish, our leaders, our city leaders and our law enforcement partners. We plan to serve the people of Shreveport, the way that they should be served. We're going to make Shreveport proud and the NAACP proud. For those of you who want to join in this fight, you can go to naacp.org and join the Shreveport Branch 6078B. Let's roll up our sleeves and go to work. Thank you for having me.

Lester Smith came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

I'm first Vice President, and I'm elated to be a part of this team. I mean, we've been, there's a struggle going on and we meet people that are genuinely concerned about the issues that we're confronted with. We no longer fight the black and the white issues as prevalent as we used to fight. There's

still black and white issues to be fought, but we gotta fight people issues and human rights. And that's what we plan to do as your local NAACP is to fight human right issues, because we all got issues somewhere, somehow we got issues, so we all want to have to join together--not a black Shreveport, not a white Shreveport, but a Shreveport that's inclusive of all the people that are represented and living in Shreveport. We gotta join in this fight and fight equality for all. Thank you. Thank you.

Calvin Pressley came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Thank you for the opportunity to communicate very briefly. I am a retired Air Force veteran for 20 years; my wife is a retired Air Force Veterans for 24 years; my daughter is a retired Air Force veteran of 20 years; my son-in-law is a retired Air Force veteran for 20 years. I never had any intention of enlisting in the military until I didn't have any other choice. After I did the first 10 years and figured out I was closer to where I was going to where I was coming from, I stayed another 10. I don't regret anything anytime serving in the military, it was a good time. I didn't go on there looking for a father. I had a father who all I had to do was watch him and listen to him and I would have turned out to be a decent man. Military didn't provide that for me. The relationships that I establish in the military were across-the-board ethnically, socially, etc. It seems to me in this season of America, we don't do well, unless we have a foreign enemy. When we had 911 attacks on our country, we come together, we wave the flag. And it's not so much about ethnicity, social status, those things that people measure other people's value by or lack thereof. However, this season, it seems since we don't have many foreign enemies, we're fighting within. It's not a good thing. I particularly am concerned with veterans. Abraham Lincoln stated, To care for the ones who bond the battle and to care for his widows and his options. It's not an original statement. 1 Timothy: 5 also refers to the same methodology. I agree with that. I attempt to live that way every day. I would urge you as Commissioners to send a message to the United States of America Executive Branch to put the hacksaw chainsaw down and pick up the mantra of brotherly love, friendship, cooperation, particularly for the veteran. He has borne the battle; he has suffered and continues to suffer and will suffer and even the more if the VA is cut, diminished, money taken from them. I urge you from the bottom of my heart to send a message to Washington that Caddo Parish, United States of America is with what's right? It's not what feels good. I was able to witness to your vote on the Work Session, and I pray your vote today is not along ethnic lines, like it was on Monday.

Joyce Rogers came before the Commission and gave the comment:

I have come to speak in support of the Resolution 18 of 2025 and 19. I believe the three were sponsored by Commissioner Ken Epperson. I want to support those because it's difficult to just sit and listen to people who know better and don't do better. It's sad when we listen to people who say they know God and yet do un-Godly things. Now I don't know how we can afford to take food out of children's mouth. I can't see how we can afford to say children don't need to go to school. You yourselves are educated, otherwise, I hope you wouldn't be up there, because if we don't understand the importance of education we're dumbing down our nation. When our nation is dumbing down, we become weak to everyone who wants to come against us. We're weakening our military people who fought for us. The veterans you're sitting here today in a safe spot, because somebody fought for you. How many of you in the military? Or, ever been in the military? And I know some have, but too often we're giving people who have no knowledge of what it means to go to war. They think it's just a matter of telling people this is who I am. I refuse to just listen to foolishness when we know better. We are not stupid people, but we need to quit acting like we're stupid. You can probably play a game so long until that's who you become. You're stupid. Now, listen, if we get rid of education, our nation is dumbed down. If we get rid of the military, our nation is weak. If we get rid of the jobs, our people have no jobs, and so therefore, they have no health benefits. If there are no health benefits, no jobs, no food, what you might say no education--who do we expect to take care of us? We are becoming a prey for another country to take us over. If we don't stand up for what's right. And God, it's not sleep. Sometimes He holds us accountable. It's just like He holds us accountable for what we say; He holds us accountable for what we don't say when we know better. We know what's happening now is wrong, I pray that in the scriptures; I pray for people in the party; but it's not just praying so that we can do better. It's praying to keep your souls out of hell, because if you're wrong, that's where you're going. The script is that all liars will have their place in the Lake of Fire. And that doesn't mean you talk a lie, we all have told a lie, but LIARS--no one should be holding your soul accountable that they send you the hell. God bless.

There were no more Citizens Comments nor Visitors, so the Commission moved on.

REGULAR/SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to englobo and adopt the Regular Session Minutes from March 6, 2025 and the following Special Resolutions:*

- *Special Resolution of Recognition for the Huntington High School Lady Raiders*

Coach thanked the Commission for honoring the Lady Raiders today. He said that the team faced adversity on and off the court, but still persevered. This is the first state championship at Huntington

High School, so this creates a lasting historical record.

Several Commissioners congratulated and commended the team on their win, with an emphasis on their academic success. The Commissioners also encouraged the Lady Raiders to participate in the voting process.

School Board Member, Ms. Dottie Bell, announced that there will be a celebration honoring the Lady Raiders. She will also be reaching out to the Commissioners with help securing funds for rings for the champions.

- *Special Resolution of Recognition for 318 Day Festival and Billy Anderson*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition for Designer LaTasha V. Henderson*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition for Daytriona “Rich Auntie DaDa” Coleman*

At this time, Mr. J. Young’s motion unanimously, with Commissioner G. Young being absent (1).

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION
HUNTINGTON HIGH SCHOOL LADY RAIDERS**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission has observed with pride and satisfaction as the Lady Raiders of Huntington High School have worked all season to build an incredible dominance in girls’ basketball; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Raiders have emerged as Division 1 Select State Champions, being the first time in Huntington High School’s history to have won a basketball state championship. The win gave the Lady Raiders a 23-6 season record and 7-1 district record; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Raiders’ victory also provided other titles to reflect upon: Most Outstanding Player in LHSAA Division I Select Championship Game- Carley Hamilton with 27 points, 8 rebounds, and 4 steals; McDonalds All Americans Jamar’i Bell and Carley Hamilton; 1-5A 1st Team All District Carley Hamilton and Kyndal Graham; 1-5A 2nd Team All District Jamar’i Bell; 1-5A Honorable Mention Kaylie Dupree and Kendal Stevenson; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Raiders not only dominated on the court, but also in the classroom with an overall team GPA of 3.8. Jamar’i Bell and Carley Hamilton have worked hard to obtain their Associate’s Degree before graduating; and Jamar’i Bell, Carley Hamilton, and Jayla Phillips have been named on the LHSAA All-Academic Class List; and

WHEREAS, Coach Brian Shyne and Coach Rickey Evans are 218-44 in 8 years with two State Championships in two different divisions, as well as, two State Runner Ups in two different divisions; and

WHEREAS, under the steady leadership of Coaches Brian Shyne, Ricky Evans, and Kesha McClendon, the Lady Raiders developed a mature, determined approach to their game—an approach which was augmented by their innate athleticism, their focus, their commitment, and their pride. The result was a team that calmly and steadily did what they needed to do to win their games, and ultimately the Division I Select State Championship.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal and regular session this 20th day of March, 2025, that it does hereby heartily commend and congratulate Coaches Shyne, Evans, and McClendon and the team members of the HUNTINGTON HIGH SCHOOL LADY RAIDERS for the hard work and commitment to bring home to Caddo Parish the Division I Select State Championship.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Commission does wish for the Huntington High School Lady Raiders much continued success in the game of basketball, as well as in the business of life for which their teamwork experiences have so successfully helped to prepare them.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION
318 DAY FESTIVAL & BILLY ANDERSON**

WHEREAS, the 318 area code covers more square miles of Louisiana than any other area code, encompassing all of North and Central Louisiana, touching Texas, Arkansas and Mississippi, flowing with the Red River & Mississippi Rivers, featuring assets as diverse as Barksdale Air Force Base, Kisatchie National Forest, Poverty Point World Heritage Site, the Louisiana State Fairgrounds and over half a dozen major universities with beautiful and rich natural settings, and communities from the ArkLaTex to the Delta offer a variety of lifestyles from rural to urban with Caddo Parish being the largest population center in the 318 area code; and

WHEREAS, our 318 area deserves to be celebrated for its diverse communities, people, natural resources, beauty, and the resulting culture with its unique music, arts, fashion & food; and

WHEREAS, on March 15th from 1pm to 7pm at the Caddo Common Park surrounding area the 3rd annual 318 Day Festival will feature a celebration of the finest the 318 has to offer including live music, artists, vendors, and a celebratory atmosphere that welcomes, this year the festival will also feature films made in the 318 being played at Robinson Film Center on March 15th and the celebration will continue to March 16th with the 318 Food Festival at the Municipal Auditorium from 11am to 7pm featuring Rich Auntie Dada and the Purple Reign fashion show featuring Latasha V. Henderson from 7 to 9 pm; and

WHEREAS, event organizer Billy Anderson, a successful advocate for celebrating the culture and uniqueness of our 318 region has said, "Shreveport and our area have some of the most talented people in the world, and we must invest and celebrate that talent;" and

WHEREAS, Anderson's sentiments are echoed by Shreveport Bossier Convention and Tourism Bureau President Stacy Brown who has said, "The Shreveport-Bossier area has so many unique and diverse local attractions, and the 318 Day Festival brings us together to experience the music & art of our area," and her organization joins with Shreveport Common and the Shreveport Regional Arts Council as sponsors of 318 Day Festival.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal and regular session that it does hereby proclaim March 15-16, 2025 as 318 DAY Celebration Weekend commemorating 318 DAY (March 18th) in Caddo Parish, Louisiana and encourage all of our citizens to mark the occasion by partaking in something unique and joyful and sharing the best of what 318 offers with the world.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION
DESIGNER LATASHA V. HENDERSON**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission recognizes the outstanding achievements of local student-athletes and their contributions to our community through hard work, determination, and sportsmanship; and

WHEREAS, on March 8, 2025, the Huntington High School Lady Raiders made history by winning their first-ever Louisiana Division I Select Girls Basketball State Championship; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Raiders, ranked as the No. 4 seed, displayed resilience and skill in their championship game, securing a 61-51 victory over No. 3 Woodlawn-Baton Rouge to claim the coveted state title; and

WHEREAS, this monumental achievement was led by Head Coach Brian Shyne, a 2011 graduate of Huntington High School and a former player, whose leadership and dedication to the program made this victory even more meaningful; and

WHEREAS, the hard work, commitment, and teamwork of the Lady Raiders have brought immense pride to their school, families, and the entire Caddo Parish community; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission commends the players, coaching staff, and supporters of the Huntington Lady Raiders for their remarkable season and for demonstrating excellence both on and off the court;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby recognize and honor the Huntington High School Lady Raiders for their historic championship win and extends its heartfelt congratulations to Coach Brian Shyne, the team, and the entire Huntington High School community for their outstanding accomplishment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be spread upon the official minutes of the Caddo Parish Commission and that copies be provided to Huntington High School as a lasting tribute to their remarkable achievement.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION
DAYTRIONA "RICH AUNTIE DADA" COLEMAN'S 318 FOOD FEST**

WHEREAS, the 318 area code covers more square miles of Louisiana than any other area code, encompassing all of North and Central Louisiana, touching Texas, Arkansas and Mississippi, flowing with the Red River & Mississippi Rivers, featuring assets as diverse as Barksdale Air Force Base, Kisatchie National Forest, Poverty Point World Heritage Site, the Louisiana State Fairgrounds and over half a dozen major universities with beautiful and rich natural settings, and communities from the ArkLaTex to the Delta offer a variety of lifestyles from rural to urban with Caddo Parish being the largest population center in the 318 area code; and

WHEREAS, our 318 area also features a unique culinary tradition that blends styles and cultures from around the world culminating in a flavorful blend of Creole and Southern Soul food, Cowboy and

Cajun, Italian, Asian, Latin, Native American, French, Indian, African, and Modern American culinary practices that reflect the diverse, beautiful and blended nature of the 318; and

WHEREAS, on March 16th from 11am to 7pm, as part of the 3rd Annual 318 Celebration, the inaugural 318 Food Festival will be held at the Municipal Auditorium and will be hosted by culinary critic, travel writer, Louisiana Advocate & Caddo Parish social media personality Rich Auntie Da'da'; and

WHEREAS, event organizer Daytriona Coleman, a successful advocate for celebrating the culture and uniqueness of our 318 region has said, "The 318 Food Festival promises fun and excitement for the whole family, featuring a wide variety of food, outdoor activities for children, live local entertainment, retail merchandise, and culinary delights from local food truck vendors across the 318 area code;" and

WHEREAS, the 318 knows how to be a gracious and lively host, while also giving back and while 318 Food Fest invites all lovers of food, music, and Louisiana culture to come "pass a good time," it also collects resources to benefit back-to-school organizations in Caddo Parish; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal and regular session that it does hereby proclaim March 16th, 2025 as 318 FOOD FEST DAY in Caddo Parish, Louisiana and encourages all citizens to appreciate the culinary culture and hospital nature of our region

There was no Administration Report, so the Commission moved onto Communiques & Committee Reports.

COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Epperson talked about the antiquated system at the DMV. He said that there are issues with the system. He asked that the citizens treat the employees with respect.

He also mentioned that SUSLA-Aerospace & Technology was not included on the Airshow flyer. Mr. Epperson asked that Administration look in to this.

Mr. Epperson asked that George P. Hendrick's name be removed from the dilapidated structure.

- Mr. Cothran attended the Caddo-Bossier Domestic Violence Taskforce meeting today. He said that education and awareness is needed to alleviate domestic violence.

- Mr. Thomas talked about the Hearts On A Mission event. He said that the Arc provides services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They are looking for people with big hearts, he said.

- Mr. Jones announced that Coach Clarence Conway will have a street dedicated in his honor. Coach Conway led the 1965 Bethune Baseball Team to a State Championship, but because of segregation, they were not properly recognized as state champions. The street dedication will highlight and recognize his contributions to the community.

- Mr. Lazarus mentioned President Obama's 2011 initiative to reduce wasteful government spending and President Biden's tariff against China for \$18B. 44% of Americans, according to an NBC post, say the country is headed in the right direction under President Trump, this is up from 27% back in November under President Biden, he said.

- Mrs. Blake announced that today is the first day of Spring, and the Norton Art Gallery's Bloom is open. One of the featured artists is a stylist from her salon, Victoria Coates. She encouraged everyone to attend.

She also advised that Youree Drive is still under construction.

Mrs. Blake emphasized the importance of making rational decisions based on facts to benefit everyone. She thanked Mr. Lazarus for the statistics he provided.

- Mr. Atkins asked that everyone remember the numbers 5, 7, and 2. Five represents the \$5T in revenue that the country generated last year; seven represents the spending that the country spent last year; and two represents the \$2T annual deficit, which accumulates to a \$36T national debt. Significant risks, including insolvency, threaten the nation's prosperity, he said. Mr. Atkins said that he will be opposing the resolutions that are being proposed.

- Mr. Burrell called for citizens to stand up against the tyranny caused by the current President. He is concerned about the decline of democracy, despite the freedom of speech. Mr. Burrell understands that different sources of information relayed to citizens contributes to the varying perspectives on the issues. He also talked about autocratic governments, highlighting a lack of resistance to external pressures. Mr. Burrell said that the issue is not waste; he agrees with cutting waste, but not if it affects the

most vulnerable populations. Mr. Burrell is concerned about the potential dismantling of democratic institutions and focused on the threat to constitutional democracy.

- Mr. Epperson provided a slide show presentation regarding veterans and their contributions to Caddo Parish. He highlighted the importance of veterans and how Caddo Parish is 'Veteran Friendly'.
- Mr. Thomas said that as a veteran, he is eligible for educational benefits; however, due to the cuts, the program has been paused. This means that his education has not been paid for yet and could negatively affect his credit. Mr. Thomas said that there are concerns regarding the potential effects on benefits earned through service and sacrifice.
- Birthday wishes were given to the Assistant to the Commission Clerk, Michelle Nations.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Madam President gave the following statement:

I appreciate the dialogue that we've had on today, and I have some dialogue to share as well. As I was listening to Pastor Sherry Jake's sermon, she shared these words, 'James Trusslo Adams coined the phrase called the American Dream, a dream of social order in which each man and each woman shall be able to attain the fullest statute of which they are. Capable in being recognized by others, for what they are, regardless of the circumstances of birth or physical condition.' We didn't know necessarily that this was the full definition of the American dream. But we took from this, the reality that the American dream is ultimately about a few main principles and characters. Maybe that's marriage for some, a partnership, a part of the American dream could be educational. Perhaps a dog, maybe a part of your American dream. In the 30s, 40s, and 50s, coming off of the heels of the Great Depression—even in the 70s, it sounded really good, but the present conditions of our world, an economy has revealed to us that the American dream is not as excessive for some as it is for others. As we began to see the fluctuating prices in the housing market—at the affordability of housing—almost unattainable for some, if any, and the interest rates are even crazier. The cost of living is so extreme that the idea of saving up for a house for some that can't even begin to fathom. The meaning or questioning whether the American dream was actually an illusion or a figment of our imagination. So how is it possible that the American dream is available to all? Today, I pose that the American dream is on our agenda. While I watched over the weekend a little black or brown boy—whose giving cancer its best fight—is invited to the White House and honored as a final wish, is the same little boy whose healthcare is under fire. I share with Commissioner Cawthorne, as many others did over the weekend, did I hear about the young man in New York that was cured of Sickle Cell Disease. And I told him that I did, as I told a lot of other people who texted and called about it; however, I would like to pose a question to you, how many of those who are fighting Sickle Cell Disease do you think have \$3M stored for that type of treatment? I can answer that, as a mother, not very many. One of very many steps before you even allow to apply for the treatment. These are the type of people whose healthcare is under fire, along with senior citizens, our vulnerable population who depend on Social Security, Medicaid, extended long-term facilities. Our Veterans, I became passionate about our veterans because of Mr. Ken Epperson. His heart, it's not for anyone to give him accolades, but given to those who has given everything who sometimes often even lay in the trenches to fight for the democracy that we are so proud about. Around this horseshoe, every week, I watch a Commissioner wear a hat with MAGA on it. You're proud of that, whatever that means to you. It's worn right here, but that's what we don't stand up for. We don't stand up for something that is truly about making America great. Some of us are understandably concerned about how far this segregation and hate of black and brown people has gone, but thankfully, we aren't in the same boat as some of our ancestors were. We are entrepreneurs; we are innovators; we are athletes; we are millionaires; we are billionaires. However, this does not negate our responsibilities, because we are the prototype, we still love; we still breathe; and we still live unbothered, but our mandate as elected officials is a responsibility to fight for the voiceless, for the hungry, for the homeless, for the unemployed, for the uninsured, our senior citizens, our children. These are the ones who are not prepared to walk through this challenge unbothered. So I say today as a citizen, as a mother, as an elected representative for the people in full opposition of these orders to stop recruiting black people to serve in the military to [inaudible] names like Mega Evers and Jackie Robinson's service records from the DOD website. It's no way that we will take these assaults lying down. Some of you, who supported Black Lives Matter has opted out in silence today while this administration continuously signs executive orders. With the current state of this country in 2025, the focus is on removing a federal ban signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1965, on companies and contractors from having segregated waiting rooms, restaurants, and whomever is still drinking from water fountains. It's unreal that this is the DEI that you see nothing wrong with. As a public servant, we pray for the soldiers who fight for us. We respect them as we say our Pledge of Allegiance, but we're not willing to stand up for on a resolution. You should have something to say, as a woman, because I want you to know that there are certain things that affects and then there are opinions. Do you know that not a single woman was at the White House beating on women's health? Not one! It's proof they were not included and discussing women's health. Imagine that in 2025. So, though we celebrate Women's History Month, the achievements, how we've evolved, but we certainly have not arrived, cause we're still in a fight. We cannot afford to be silent. One hand you want transparency, on the other hand you approve of an alien act. Do you know if that Trump invoked the Aliens Act of 1798? A law written when black people were still enslaved to

kidnap and disappear people? This includes asylum seekers, legal residents, or even U.S. citizens. If this democracy dies in darkness, it is our responsibility to protect it and shine the light by raising awareness of the suffering that this country is enduring. I'll sleep well tonight, knowing that I've done my best to fight for human rights. And some of y'all really need to Google tariffs, and some of you need to wait the hell up. Thank you.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES

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

- *Ordinance No. 6523 of 2025, establishing a sales tax within the boundaries of the I-49 North Corridor Economic Development District in connection with the pilot agreement with Edgemont Holdings, LLC*

Jon Glover came before the Commission to speak about Ordinance No. 6523 of 2025:

I have been privy to a lot of information these last couple of weeks or so we recognize through research and then information being shared, but there were some mishaps, here some missteps. And those missteps, that's brought us to where we are, you know, I ask whether or not there were concrete documentation that we actually enter into an agreement with this pilot program? And we have seen minutes, they dictate that there were discussions, there was never really an agreement in writing that was done. Now we have gone back and we have seen other writings and other minutes in Now we're here. So what we're asking for us to do when I'm asking for us to do based on where we are with this discussion altogether, is that we do do what we say we're gone to do without me being more confused than I am, right now, because I really don't know what we're doing right now. And what are you doing? And speaking to the public hearing? Because I don't have my heart in mind convince there, I know where we are, then I need to understand where we are and definitely where we're going, thank you.

Jimmy Silvio came before the Commission in support of Ordinance No. 6523 of 2025:

I had submitted a proposed development map for everybody to look at I don't know if we can. So I thought I'd come down and kind of explain where all of our tax money is spent--our credit, tax credit money. That a way we can you know, dispense with any, you know, any misinformation or people who not able to follow along? Well, what we're doing here is did I have a that engineering drawing that covers approximately 62 acres around the facility at Highway 2 and I-49, known as the TA Express. So what we're proposing is a, that's it, right there, what we're proposing, is it's a development that's going to eventually with time--it is going to cost about \$13M in land purchase, engineering, Topo maps, geotech, and site prep. So we already have a traffic engineering study completed. We have, we have already approximately built around the facility all the utilities--so this is this is where the utilities become important--all the infrastructure. So if you notice at the top the Highway 2, we've already completed all the turn lanes, all the highway expansion, D cell lane, drainage, and the water pond right there in the middle. We cover all the low areas that were there was a flood problem before. So approximately Phase 3 and 4 we're thinking is going to be about \$25M investment to build up over the next few years. So we've already had discussions with various groups about an RV park, 18-wheeler repair service, possibly a Taco Bell or McDonald's. I've been talking to Sabarro, and the current owner has expressed interest, eventually the small hotel at some point. That's when Cracker Barrell shows up. So we are looking into a strip center right now at the at the west part of it at the facility. What that's gonna do is put a little retail there, and we're hoping to attract--we've been we've been talking to well, Curtis Joseph--I think a lot of you know, Curtis--but he has a contact with Oschners that may be interested in putting a medical facility there for quick care or something. So we'd actually provide some medical services in that area that's badly needed, especially for the seniors. So when you put all the infrastructure in this plan, so now this development could happen because everything's there. We've done the power upgrades. We've done the fiber optic. The water from the town we paid for. So, um, all the dirt work on the road is complete. So only thing we have to do is figure out is some sewer lift stations, and that's it. So this is ready to go. So this is built for the future. These kind of developments don't happen overnight; they take time. The Parish has not paid a dime for this. So we've actually been averaging about \$200000 a month, I think in taxes that we've been paying. The Parish hasn't spent any money on this. This is all out of our pocket. So, this is the reason we want our money back, so we can expand the facility. We think that Robert Nance Park, which is right on the other side of the on the west side of Hosston, needs to be refurbished. We think that that expansion at Black Bayou Lake, which is known for bass fishing, is hurt in attendance because of the parking area. It's kind of dilapidated and old and too small. So we propose going after the dollars across the state lines in Texas and Arkansas. So, we need to expand the parking, build an additional launch ramp. There'll be covered public gathering place and upgrade the restroom. We think that's going to be about a \$650000 investment. But we think, if our calculations are right, we think that'll return to the Village of Hosston, about \$26k to \$32k annually. So we also think that would be an attractive retiree community. So now I guess we need to address the issue of the attacks from Commissioner Kracman. With all the money we brought to Hosston, that was on the verge of going bankrupt, which includes all the monthly sales tax payments, new permit fees, uh, commercial water bills that we pay, and we even secured a \$100000 grant for the town's park and walking trails. So, the town supports us. As a matter of fact, Tuesday night at the town hall, the town rallied around us. So, they are in full support. So I mean, all the insults and the insinuations of this corruption thing has got to stop. It is really

ridiculous. I can't figure out why would anybody want to undermine a desperately needed business and fails to see that travelers on I-49 will spend their money in Arkansas or south of their district. It makes no sense. That's part of the problem, not the solution. So, it's really upsetting to be here because we've been under attack in the last few weeks over this. But um, the guys--I question his letter from Danny McCormick. The reason I do that is because this raid happened with no local law enforcement involved. All of a sudden, he comes up with a letter saying that, you know there's a raid conducted. And there is no level of law enforcement involved. So I mean, it just doesn't make any sense to me. I mean, they're doing raids in New York and Chicago and Denver, and now, Hosston? It just doesn't add up. I support immigration reform. Apparently the rules changed with the administration. We thought the guys were fully vetted by immigration naturalization; they have alien numbers. I talked to the attorney. He said they were undocumented workers and undocumented individuals. They were not arrested, they were detained. According to his letter, they were deported. Well, they were not. I visited with them a few days back. I went to see them. So they're waiting. They're waiting for their work permits to come through. They have a hearing in April, so we may actually get these guys back. It's just disheartening that all those controversies going on and ruin these guys' lives, it was just not necessary. I think we brought enough back to this to get that community up there, you know. I think we brought a lot of money. We've helped the help the town. I mean, there's not a lot more we can do except expand and go on and move forward to the bigger project. So when we calculated all this stuff, so you know if the Parish sees this, like we see it, as a vision, I mean, it's going to work. Todd Hopkins, you know, we absolutely wish he was here to see this. I mean, the road to the south, we want to name Todd Hopkins Boulevard in honor of him and his legacy. Of course, you know the road to the east will be Chris Kracman Road. That's a joke.

Answering a question from Mr. Burrell regarding the TIF boundaries and the 2% increase, Mr. Silvio said that it is only under the roof of the TA Express.

Mr. Silvio continued:

Okay, I'd like to say one thing, though, if I might. If anything comes of today, I mean you know I questioned myself, why would I even attempt to even come back up there and do anything and go just go somewhere else? Well when I look at her and the citizens there, and I see, you know, Commissioner Thomas has obviously taken a few hits on this. That's why I'm staying. That's why I think I'm gonna ride this out. We're going to fight for this. We're going to make this a reality. It may take a little while, but we can make it happen. If anything happens, I really wish you guys would at the end would shake hands, and let's get it on with regular business. This is ridiculous. We need to work together to get to get stuff done. This is not that hard. We can all work this out and be friends, I mean, really? I mean, let's just jump on the board and make this happen, because it's going to take us a while to build up the population to fill all these jobs, and this is where it starts. This isn't going to happen overnight. I mean, this is going to be good paying jobs, going to be better housing, and it's going to be more taxes. You know? So anyway, if anybody has any questions you know I'm here.

Mayor Kim James came before the Commission in support of Ordinance No. 6523 of 2025:

I want to say, first and foremost, Commissioner Kracman, this is not an attack on you. This is from my heart, and from what I have come to conclusion in my investigation and my homework that I have done. First I want to say thank you for allowing me to speak. And regarding his concerns surrounded the 2% sales tax at the TA Truckstop in Hosston. I'm here to present factual information, this backed by evidence, as you can see, I have all the evidence here, not just allegations. Public hearings have been held to discuss the TA Truckstop's development from its inception to its completion. These meetings involved the IDB Board, EDD board, the Caddo Commission Board, and the Village of Hosston's town meetings. Each of these meetings, were attorneys that represented each of the boards. The ordinances and the resolutions passed during these sessions demonstrate that this development was not done in a back room, and it was made with the people that had the authority to do it. Moving on to Webster's Dictionary definition of corporate welfare. Its definition states, 'as government assistance is provided to large companies'. However, this 2% sales tax, it's not a government funding. It is a tax on the products that are sold at this TA Truckstop, intended to reimburse the investor for his investment in the infrastructure cost. This clearly indicates that we are not dealing with corporate welfare. The revenue from this tax will solely be used to repay Edgemont Holdings for infrastructure expenses that could have been funded by the State, could have been funded by Caddo Parish, could have been funded by the Village of Hosston, but they weren't. Edgemont Holdings took their money, and they brought the infrastructure to this area not only for their benefit, but for any future businesses that may come. This money is not going to cover the cost of building the truck stop or the property in which it sits on, just the infrastructure in which was brought. Edgemont Holdings has invested in infrastructure for the entire TIF district, which includes electric, water, gas, fiber, and the road services along the I-49 Corridor. It is crucial to note that these utilities remain owned by their respective companies. SWEPCO still owns the electric; The Village of Hosston still owns the water; CenterPoint still owns the gas; and Lumen still owns its fiber. These contracts with these companies confirm that the maintenance of the infrastructure is there responsibility following is completion. So that means that Edgemont Holdings is not going to be in control of anything, the companies are going to be in control, which they are. How can Hosston grow without investors like Edgemont Holdings? Their investment in infrastructure not only benefits the TA Truckstop, but any future businesses that may come to this area, and as Mr. Silvio had said, we do have plans to extend the area. They also have plans to do some work

around the Black Bayou. This past weekend, we had a large bass tournament there. There was hardly any parking. So we definitely need parking, and that's something we're gonna be coming and asking money for--some parking for that area; however, potential investors may hesitate if they perceive that the district's leadership is opposed to growth. During the workshop meeting on March 17th, 2025, which was this past Monday, commissioner Chris Kracmsn referenced a letter from state representative Danny McCormick, suggesting that TA employees are primarily immigrants, and that's all they employ--that's all the employees that were there. I'll quote him saying that. Um, this claim is misleading. Several of the employees come from Hosston, Myra, Rodessa, Gillam, Blanchard, and other nearby communities. I know this first-hand because I assisted in insuring these people jobs at the TA. I let them know when the workshops were coming. Commissioners, I'll pose a question to you: were you elected to serve the best interests of your district, including the businesses or to advance your political career? I understand that this is Commissioner Krackman's district, and I understand that these were your constituents who helped vote you in office. Commissioner Krackman, this is my town, my residents, my friends, and my family that are negatively impacted by all of this that's going on. I ask you to please stop. I urge you to honor the commitment. I urge you to honor the commitment made by the previous board, specifically, the late Todd Hopkins. He was a strong advocate for this project, as well as, the commitments from several of the board members sitting here today that was on that board. You all shared that vision, if you hadn't, you wouldn't have voted for it. Lastly, I want to thank Commissioner Thomas for stepping up for the Village of Hosston, which we're not even in your district. You done what my Commissioner would not do. Because of you stepping up, Hosston has a chance. Thank you.

- *Ordinance No. 6524 of 2025, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Oil & Gas Fund and Economic Development Fund to provide an appropriation of \$100,000 for the Shreveport Classic, 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.

ORDINANCES (for final passage)

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *that Ordinance No. 6523 of 2025, an ordinance establishing a sales tax within the boundaries of the I-49 North Corridor Economic Development District in connection with the pilot agreement with Edgemont Holdings, LLC be removed from the agenda.*

Attorney Frazier advised that this item be pulled from the agenda, and the Commission act as the Governing Board of the Economic Development District because acting as that board, the Commission does not have any lawmaking authority.

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

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Cothran, *that Ordinance No. 6424 of 2025, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Oil & Gas Fund and Economic Development Fund to provide an appropriation of \$100,000 for the Shreveport Classic, and otherwise provide with respect thereto be adopted.*

Mrs. Gage-Watts said that this event will be a huge economic driver for this area. She said that the economic impact study does not include the ancillary events that will also take place during that time.

Mrs. Barnett said that she is confident that the people who provided the numbers have the information available to them.

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, Lazarus, Thomas, and J. Young (10). NAYS: Commissioner Krackman (1). ABSENT: Commissioner G. Young (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

ORDINANCE NO. 6524 OF 2025

BY CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE OIL AND GAS FUND AND THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND TO PROVIDE AN APPROPRIATION OF \$100,000 FOR THE SHREVEPORT BOSSIER KICKOFF CLASSIC, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, Grambling State University will play Langston University on August 30, 2025 at 7:00 pm; and

WHEREAS, the Shreveport Bossier Kickoff Classic will be played at Independence Stadium; and

WHEREAS, a number of ancillary events will be held parish-wide, many will be open to the public; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission desires to support leisure and cultural events which serve as a public purpose and render a public service; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission would like to appropriate \$100,000 to Shreveport Bossier Sports Commission to assist with this event; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend the 2025 Budget of the Economic Development Fund and the Oil and Gas Fund to provide an appropriation for the Shreveport Bossier Kickoff Classic; 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 Oil and Gas Fund for the year 2025 are hereby amended as follows:

	<u>Budget Increase (Decrease)</u>
Economic Development:	
Allocation to Other Entities	
Shreveport Bossier Sports Commission	\$ 100,000
Transfer From Oil and Gas	\$ 100,000
Oil and Gas Fund:	
Transfer to Economic Development	\$100,000

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 take effect upon adoption.

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. 6525 of 2025, an ordinance dedicating fifty percent (50%) of the income generated from the Parish's share of sports wagering receipts to the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund and amending the General Fund and the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund for sports wagering revenues, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

WORK SESSION MINUTES

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mr. J. Young, *that the Work Session Minutes from March 17, 2025 be ratified. Motion carried unanimously*, with Commissioner G. Young being absent (1).

RESOLUTIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *that the following resolutions be adopted:*

- *Resolution No. 16 of 2025, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to approve the assignment, bill of sale, and conveyance of State Agency Leases No. 22265 and No. 22266 from Cypress Energy Partners, LLC to Paloma Natural Gas, LLC, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*

- *Resolution No. 17 of 2025, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to execute the Subsurface Use Agreement with Paloma Natural Gas, LLC, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*

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

RESOLUTION NO. 16 OF 2025

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CADDO PARISH ADMINISTRATOR TO APPROVE THE ASSIGNMENT, BILL OF SALE AND CONVEYANCE OF STATE AGENCY LEASES NO. 22265 AND NO. 22266 FROM CYPRESS ENERGY PARTNERS, LLC., TO PALOMA NATURAL GAS, LLC., AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo is a Lessor in that certain oil, gas and mineral lease from the Caddo Parish Commission to Cypress Energy Partners, LLC., in State Agency Lease #22265, dated January 8, 2025, and recorded at Registry No. 2998489 of the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo is a Lessor in that certain oil, gas and mineral lease from the Caddo Parish Commission to Cypress Energy Partners, LLC., in State Agency Lease #22266, dated January 8, 2025, and recorded at Registry No. 2998490 of the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has received a written request from Cypress Energy Partners, LLC, seeking approval from the Parish of Caddo of an assignment, bill of sale and conveyance of State Agency Leases No. 22265 and No. 22266, from Cypress Energy Partners, LLC, to Paloma Natural Gas, LLC, and

WHEREAS, this approval is expressly granted and accepted subject to the requirement that all terms and conditions of the basic lease will be fulfilled, including but not limited to the full payment of rentals and royalties, regardless of the division of leasehold interests resulting from the instrument.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Parish of Caddo, in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Administrator is hereby authorized to approve the assignment, bill of sale and conveyance of State Agency Leases No. 22265 and No. 22266 from Cypress Energy Partners, LLC, to Paloma Natural Gas, LLC.

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.

RESOLUTION NO. 17 OF 2025

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CADDO PARISH ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE THE SUBSURFACE USE AGREEMENT WITH PALOMA NATURAL GAS, LLC., AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo is the owner of the following described property, (hereinafter referred to as the "Property"): 45.726 acres, more or less, out of the West Fifty-Nine and 5/10ths (59.5) acres of the North Half of the Northeast Quarter (N/2 of NE/4), of Section 4, Township 16 North, Range 15 West, Caddo Parish Louisiana, said 59.5 acres being also the West 59.5 acres of the Resubdivision of Country Manor, Unit 1, as per map recorded in Conveyance Book 1200 at Page 47 of the Records of Caddo Parish Louisiana, excluding Lot 11 of said Resubdivision of Country Manor, Unit 1 and being the same property described in that certain Cash Sale Deed, dated January 5, 1973, from Metro Investments, et al, as Grantors, to The Caddo Parish Police Jury, as Grantee, filed under Registry Number 582425 in the Conveyance Office Records of the Caddo Parish Clerk of Court; **LESS & EXCEPT** 13.774

acres, more or less, being the same lands described in that certain Act of Cash Sale dated March 11, 2003, from the Parish of Caddo to KRH-Wieland, LLC, filed under Registry Number 1845887 in the Conveyance Office Records of the Caddo Parish Clerk of Court, Leaving herein described 45.726 acres, more or less, out of the North Half of the Northeast Quarter (N/2 of NE/4), of Section 4, Township 16 North, Range 15 West, Caddo Parish Louisiana, Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Paloma Natural Gas, LLC, proposes to drill one or more directional wells through the subsurface of the "Property" to a bottomhole location(s) underlying lands near or in the vicinity of the "Property", hereinafter referred to as the "Subject Wells", and in order for Paloma Natural Gas, LLC, to directionally drill such wells it will be necessary to use the subsurface of a portion or portions of the "Property"; and

WHEREAS, for and in consideration of the sum of Ten Thousand and No/100 (\$10,000.00) Dollars, Paloma Natural Gas, LLC, agrees to Pay the Parish of Caddo for the Subsurface Use Agreement described above and said Subsurface Use Agreement shall remain in full force for a term or Three (3) years from the effective date and for so long thereafter as the rights granted are exercised without cessation of more than three (3) years; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission, in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Administrator is hereby authorized to execute the Subsurface Use Agreement for the purpose of drilling one or more directional wells through the subsurface of the "Property".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Agreement shall only be executed or entered into after being approved by the Parish Attorney both in form and substance;

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.

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that Resolution No. 18 of 2025, a resolution opposing the mass firings of federal employees, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. Epperson asked that a roll call vote be conducted when it is time for the vote.

Mr. Jones agreed that there does not need to be any unnecessary waste, but "it's how it's executed". He said that the current execution methods cause fear and discomfort among the population. Mr. Jones suggested that everyone listen to each other and focus on shared goals, rather than partisan divides, to overcome challenges. Mr. Jones also mentioned that an executive order was signed during this meeting to dismantle several departments, including the Department of Education. This impacts special education programs. Mr. Jones is concerned about the insufficient care for the vulnerable population due to the cuts. He discussed the negative consequences of reduced funding for essential programs, particularly special education. Mr. Jones also said that nothing has been planned out nor explained to the American citizens. He also pointed out that the Department of Education was created to help the states who are facing the greatest financial challenges in education, such as rural areas. Mr. Jones pointed out that significant disparities between the students in the South compared to the rest of the country. Mr. Jones called for collaboration and prioritizing practical solutions over political posturing.

Mr. Jones reflected on his childhood, and how unaware of how poor he was because his mother always provided. He described poverty as both a mindset and a harsh reality for many.

Mr. J. Young pointed out that these are all national issues, and Caddo Commissioners have special knowledge about their districts and Caddo Parish. He said that there are several local issues that need attention and prioritizing.

Mr. Epperson disagreed and said that national issues are issues to him because he votes for the President, Congressmen, State Representatives, etc.

Mr. Burrell reiterated that all politics are local and are fundamentally linked to national debates and policies. He said that these national issues affect his children, grandchildren, and constituents.

Mr. Atkins reminded the Commissioners of the numbers 5, 7, and 2--\$5T in revenue; \$7T in expenses; and \$2T deficit. He said that the country is unsustainable at this trajectory.

Call for the Question by Mr. Cothran, seconded by Mr. Atkins. Motion carried, as sown

by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, and J. Young (10). NAYS: Commissioner Jones (1). ABSENT: Commissioner G. Young (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Epperson's motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, and Thomas (6). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Kracman, Lazarus, and J. Young (5). ABSENT: Commissioner G. Young (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *that Resolution No. 19 of 2025, a resolution opposing cuts to national aid programs, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. Jones reminded the Commissioners that this body has discussed national issues, i.e. standing with Ukraine. He talked about a Commissioner who was passionate about issues in his district.

Mr. J. Young pointed out that he has voted across party lines frequently. He also talked about the issue with Ukraine. Mr. J. Young said that he made a motion, during that time, to amend the language in the resolution to include people from Ukraine living in Caddo Parish. He further stated that he will not support these resolutions because they are not Caddo Parish business.

Mr. Burrell said that these cuts are not made to reduce government, but to provide enough money to get tax breaks for the millionaires.

Mr. Cothran said that these resolutions are close to him because some of his constituents have called him and talked about losing their jobs, etc. He also requested that the Parish of Caddo host a job fair for those citizens who are getting fired.

Call for the Question by Mrs. Blake, seconded by Mr. Lazarus. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Cothran, Jones, Kracman, Lazarus, and J. Young (7). NAYS: Commissioners Burrell, Epperson, Gage-Watts, and Thomas (4). ABSENT: Commissioner G. Young (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Epperson's motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, and Thomas (6). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Kracman, Lazarus, and J. Young (5). ABSENT: Commissioner G. Young (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that Resolution No. 20 of 2025, a resolution opposing tariffs against trading partners, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be adopted. At this time, Motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, and Thomas (6). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Kracman, Lazarus, and J. Young (5). ABSENT: Commissioner G. Young (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

OLD BUSINESS

The Clerk of the Commission advised that there was no need to take any action on the *Selection of the Youth Advisory Council Members*. The Commission moved onto New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that Judge Stephen Callaway be reappointed to the Caddo-Bossier Port Commission (term to expire March 31, 2031)*. Motion carried unanimously, with Commissioner G. Young being absent (1).

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that the 2025 Audit Plan—Information Systems and Payroll & Benefits* be adopted.

Mr. Atkins said that the Audit & Finance Committee met and discussed the areas that they would like to audit. This recommendation came out of committee unanimously.

At this time, Mr. Jones' motion carried unanimously, with Commissioner G. Young being absent (1).

CADDO COMMISSION ACTING AS THE I-49 NORTH CORRIDOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT GOVERNING AUTHORITY

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that I-49 North Corridor Economic Development District Resolution No. 1 of 2025, a resolution providing notice of intention to levy and collect a two cent Sales & Use Tax upon the sale at retail, the use, the lease or rental, the consumption and storage for use or consumption, of tangible personal property and other property subject to Sales & Use Tax in the State of Louisiana either now or in the future and on sales of services within the boundaries of the I-49 North*

Corridor Economic Development District for a period commencing on May 1, 2025 and ending on May 31, 2032 in accordance with and as authorized by Part II, Chapter 27 of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended; and authorizing the publication of a notice of intention to levy and collect such Sales & Use Tax; and providing for other matters in connection therewith be adopted.

Mr. Thomas said that he did research and fact finding regarding this issue, but this is irrelevant to him. He asked that Mr. Kracman join him in growing North Caddo Parish. Mr. Thomas said that he will walk with Mr. Kracman door-to-door to educate the citizens of the economic growth that is happening. Mr. Thomas would like this to be done in honor of the late Todd Hopkins.

Mr. Burrell said that this 2% increase only applies to the TA Truckstop. Mr. Silvio said that was correct. Mr. Burrell then wanted to know if the lots surrounding this was commercial lots. Mr. Silvio said that was correct as well.

Mr. Kracman pointed out that he never said anything about the employment status of anyone working at the TA Truckstop. He also mentioned that he did not bring this to the table. On principle, I'm not going to vote for a tax increase, he said. Mr. Kracman also said that this is the people of Hosston's town. I am not doing the work of the Village of Hosston, I am doing the work of the villagers of Hosston, he said.

Mr. Kracman also provided a list of questions he would like answered to the Commissioners:

1. *Can the newly established tax pay for a past investment or future?*
2. *Shouldn't a tax be established before a project is started?*
3. *Is there a precedent on a TIF being established after a project has long been completed?*
4. *Are we promoting economic development or repaying for it?*
5. *Is the "road" public or private by definition?*
6. *Does the pilot require compliance with state and federal law?*
7. *What's the opinion of the IDB of the hiring of illegals?*
8. *Is being violation of U.S. Code 1324A a breach of any agreement of the IDB, Parish of Caddo, or otherwise?*

Mr. Kracman said that these questions have been read into the record. He reiterated that his position on this matter stands. Mr. Kracman also said that the ICE raid was just another event that he was only made aware of this. Mr. Kracman said that there is currently a 10% tax and does not want to increase it by 2% at the TA Truckstop.

Mrs. Gage-Watts wanted to know if these questions were presented to legal prior to today. Mr. Kracman said that he did.

Mr. J. Young said that it is really great when we are passionate about local issues under our own authority.

Mr. Cothran wanted to know the population of Hosston. Mayor James said that there are 318 people in the Village of Hosston. She also explained that before this truck stop, the Village of Hosston was in a financial bind. There was not enough money to run the town without the revenues from the truck stop.

Call for the Question by Mr. Lazarus, seconded by Mr. Atkins. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYE: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Kracman, Lazarus, and J. Young (8). NAYS: Commissioners Cothran, Jones, and Thomas (3). ABSENT: Commissioner G. Young (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Thomas' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, Thomas, and J. Young (7). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Kracman, and Lazarus (4). ABSENT: Commissioner G. Young (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

1-49 NORTH CORRIDOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RESOLUTION NO. 1 OF 2025

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING NOTICE OF INTENTION TO LEVY AND COLLECT A TWO CENT SALES AND USE TAX UPON THE SALE AT RETAIL, THE USE, THE LEASE OR RENTAL, THE CONSUMPTION

AND STORAGE FOR USE OR CONSUMPTION, OF TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY AND OTHER PROPERTY SUBJECT TO SALES AND USE TAX IN THE STATE OF LOUISIANA EITHER NOW OR IN THE FUTURE AND ON SALES OF SERVICES WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE I-49 NORTH CORRIDOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT FOR A PERIOD COMMENCING ON MAY 1, 2025 AND ENDING ON MAY 31, 2032 IN ACCORDANCE WITH AND AS AUTHORIZED BY PART II, CHAPTER 27 OF TITLE 33 OF THE LOUISIANA REVISED STATUTES OF 1950, AS AMENDED; AND AUTHORIZING THE PUBLICATION OF A NOTICE OF INTENTION TO LEVY AND COLLECT SUCH SALES AND USE TAX; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

WHEREAS, Part II, Chapter 27, Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended (La. R.S. 33:9038.31, *et seq.*) (the “*EDD Act*”) authorizes municipalities, parishes and certain other local governmental subdivisions to create economic development districts to carry out the purposes of the Act, which economic development districts are political subdivisions of the State of Louisiana and possess such power and authority and have such duties as provided by the EDD Act and other law; and

WHEREAS, the Section 33:9038.39 of the EDD Act permits economic development districts to levy sales taxes for authorized purposes in addition to any other sales taxes then in existence or permitted to be in existence therein, and provided that in the event there are no qualified electors in the district in question, as certified by the Registrar of Voters, no election shall be required prior to the levy of such sales taxes; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the EDD Act, the Caddo Parish Commission, acting as the governing authority of the Parish of Caddo (the “*Governing Authority*”), adopted Ordinance 6193 of 2022 ordinance on March 3, 2022 which created THE I-49 NORTH CORRIDOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (the “*District*”), in accordance with La. R.S. 33:9038.32; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission, acting as the governing authority of the District, intends to levy a two cent sales and use tax upon the sale at retail, the use, the lease or rental, the consumption and storage for use or consumption, of tangible personal property and any other property which may be subject to sales and use tax in the State of Louisiana now or in the future, and on sales of services in the District for a period commencing on May 1, 2025 and ending on May 31, 2032, all in the manner and subject to the provisions and terms of those portions of Title 47 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, applicable to sales and use taxes levied by the District (the “*District Tax*”) for the purposes of funding construction of, acquisition of, and upgrades to capital improvement and economic development projects within the District’s boundaries and any and all authorized purposes under the applicable provisions of Part II, Chapter 27, Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended (La. R.S. 33:9038.31, *et seq.*), all in accordance with La. R.S. 33:9038.39; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to La. R.S. 33:9038.39, the Caddo Parish Commission acting as the governing authority of the District, desires to give notice of intention relative to the aforesaid action;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission, acting as the governing authority of the Parish of Caddo and the District, that:

SECTION 1. Intention to Levy Sales and Use Tax. In accordance with the EDD Act, and particularly La. R.S. 33:9038.39, the Caddo Parish Commission, in its capacity as governing authority of the District, does hereby give notice of its intention to levy and collect the District Tax within the District.

SECTION 2. Notice of Intention. The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish a notice of intention, in substantially the following form, which notice shall be published in two consecutive weekly issues of the Caddo Citizen, official journal, starting at least fourteen (14) days before the date when the Caddo Parish Commission, acting as the governing authority of the District, will meet in open and public session to hear any objections to the aforesaid actions:

* * * * *

THE I-49 NORTH CORRIDOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
PURSUANT TO LA. R.S. 33:9038.39
NOTICE OF INTENTION TO LEVY SALES TAX

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Caddo Parish Commission, (the “*Governing Authority*”), acting as the governing authority of THE I-49 NORTH CORRIDOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (the “*District*”) will meet at its meeting place, Government Plaza in Shreveport, LA on April 17, 2025 at 3:30 pm, at which time the District intends to take action regarding the levy and collection of a two

cent sales and use tax upon the sale at retail, the use, the lease or rental, the consumption and storage for use or consumption, of tangible personal property and any other property which may be subject to sales and use tax in the State of Louisiana now or in the future and on sales of services in the District for a period commencing on May 1, 2025 and ending on May 31, 2032, all in the manner and subject to the provisions and terms of those portions of Title 47 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, applicable to sales and use taxes levied by the District for the purposes of funding construction of, acquisition of, and upgrades to capital improvement and economic development projects within the District's boundaries and any and all authorized purposes under the applicable provisions of Part II, Chapter 27, Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended (La. R.S. 33:9038.31, *et seq.*).

* * * * *

SECTION 3. Public Hearing. At the date, time, and place mentioned in the aforesaid Notice of Intention, or at such other time and place as may be determined by the Mayor and properly advertised, the Caddo Parish Commission, acting as the governing authority of the District, will meet in open and public session, to hear any objections to the levy and collection of the District Tax within the boundaries of the District, as described above.

SECTION 4. Authorization of Officers. The Parish Administrator, Parish Attorney, and the Clerk are hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to do any and all things necessary and incidental to carry out the provisions of this Resolution.

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.

**1-49 NORTH CORRIDOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RESOLUTIONS
(for introduction by title)**

- *I-49 North Corridor Economic Development Resolution No. 2 of 2025, a resolution establishing a sales tax within the boundaries of the I-49 North Corridor Economic Development District in connection with the pilot agreement with Edgemont Holdings, LLC, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
Final passage during April 17, 2025 Regular Session

COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS


- Mr. Epperson announced that PRABA will meet on Monday, March 24 at 6:00 p.m. with guest speaker, Parks & Recreation Director, Patrick Wesley. He also announced that there will be a job fair on May 1 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.
- Mr. Epperson offered condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Frank Taylor.
- Mr. Thomas thanked the Commissioners who stood with him on voting in favor of growing Caddo Parish.
- Mr. Cothran said that the Southern Hills Business Association hosted a successful bowling event.
- Mrs. Blake said that wealth is relative. She also said that it is important to make decisions to move this country, state, and parish forward. Decisions have to be made for the whole, not the few, she said.
- Mr. Thomas announced that early voting is happening right now. He encouraged all to go and vote.
- Mr. Burrell reiterated that all politics are local, even the national issues.
- Mr. Kracman invited anyone to come and visit District 1.
- Mr. Epperson said that every elected official has the responsibility to learn who their congressional delegates and local elected officials are.

- Mrs. Gage-Watts requested that a meeting be scheduled to host another expungement summit. She also reiterated that national issues affect local issues.

Mrs. Gage-Watts reminded the Commissioners that the Women's Celebration will be held on Monday before the Work Session. She encouraged all to wear purple.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.


Michelle Nations
Assistant to the Commission Clerk


Stormy Gage-Watts
President