

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 3rd DAY OF MARCH, 2025

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Work Session, on the above date, at 3:35 p.m., in the Government Chambers, with Mrs. Gage-Watts, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cothran, Gage-Watts, Jones, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (10). ABSENT: Commissioners Blake and Epperson (2).

The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were given during a previous committee meeting. There were no Agenda Additions, so the Commission moved onto Citizens Comments.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Jon Glover came before the Commission and gave the following statement:

Good evening, Madam Chair and members of the Commission. I rise to ask a question with regards to—under New Business, legislation 11.2—where you are asking to advance Ordinance No. 6524 of 2025. My first question with regards to this is, who is or what is the Shreveport Classic? Number two, is it considered an NGO? And if it is an NGO, was it not governed by the same rules as the NGOs who were possibly approved for the 2025 budget? Are we going outside of our normal process to address this? Just questions I needed to have and consideration given to. Uh, two, I had mentioned—I believe it was at our last meeting—with regards to the Head Start Fund, and I think things had gotten to the point where they were taking the direction of—away from the question, asking what kind of funding was being addressed? Where was the funding coming from? Were they grants or whatever 14.2, Ordinance No. 6520 was going to address? If it is feasible, between today and Thursday, I'd like to have those questions answered. I really would like to know—these are—we're in critical times with regards to funding. Definitely, we want to know, since you do have a process in place for your NGOs—if you are walking outside of the scope of that, what is that warranted that walk outside of it? And, if we're not going to be good stewards in maintaining a process, you all agreed to. Thank you.

Jan Cora came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good afternoon to my fellow citizens and the leaders of this City. I'm here today to plant a seed, and I have such a passion for this project. It's called the Friendship Trees, an edible project. I'm 78, so I didn't try to memorize this, so if you'll bear with me, I'll just read it. [inaudible] England has been proving this concept for a number of years since their first seed were spread in 2008—we can see from the bountiful harvest of this growing movement, and what this can become. I don't know how many of you see Ted Talks, but I love them. This was done a few years back. I saw it, and it's just been in my heart ever since. One of those things that one of the founders said is that 'food is the one language that unites us all—whatever your age, income, culture, or ability—if you eat, you're in.' So, we all eat, so we're all in. I thank John-Paul for all of your hard work in this. I met with one of the Shreveport Green people the other day, and I actually feel like I'm hanging onto the back of the mobile van now on the bumper. Because they are doing so much to help our city grow with green. And what if we form a growing collaboration between all of the people that should be interested in this, which is really all of us? But the federal, city, state, neighborhoods, the neighborhood association, Shreveport Green, Keep Bossier Beautiful, on and on, schools, churches—in all of our park areas, we could have food trees, nut and fruit trees planted. Now, yes, they have to be maintained, but I feel like we can mobilize our people enough to get really interested and involved in this. They're certainly doing it in other places. I think we're doing a lot, but we can do a lot more. There's a lot of retired people; a lot of people that just spend their time on things that are not benefiting us or them. So, let's try to see if we can get a shift going here to really plant a lot more. Now, I put some dates on here that are coming up, including Love the Boot, which is a Louisiana initiative through the Tourist Bureau that they encourage us to—and many of you have been in projects like this before—encourage us to pick up litter and plan to make it a healthier environment for all of us. Earth Day, Day of Caring—what if we planted trees for our mom's and trees for Father's Day and new babies being born? There's so many occasions to plant trees. Hopefully, the Cities of Shreveport and Bossier, through our Parks Association, through all of the entities that are involved in our community, working will join together in an effort that is more than Head Start. Let's get busier this Spring, especially. I'm 78, and this is one of the things I'd like to see in my lifetime just blossom and bloom and keep on growing. There's another website. There's a big big group internationally that are planting a tree of trees. Welcome to a new greener word growing in friendships because friendships grow in gardens. Thank you for your time.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- Assistant Parish Attorney

Attorney Frazier introduced Attorney Jernigan as the new Assistant Parish Attorney. The Commissioners welcomed her aboard.

- Juvenile Detention

Mrs. Bryant said that there are nineteen children in the Juvenile Detention Center; three of which are OJJ. There are two 17-year-olds, twenty-five juveniles at CCC, and 453 children on probation.

- Love the Boot

Mrs. Bryant announced that Caddo Parish employees will participate in Love the Boot Week, during April 3 through April 7. This project is to help clean and beautify Louisiana.

COMMISSION REMARKS

- Mr. Cothran announced that the Southern Hills Homeowners Association will have a meeting today and invited all to attend. He also announced that the Southern Hills Business Association will host a bowling meetup on March 14.

He also said that the Personnel Policies & Procedures Committee met today and discussed a possible update to the By-Laws.

- Mr. G. Young said that the Economic Development Committee met today and filled four of the five slots on the Caddo Parish Entertainment Advisory Board.

Mr. G. Young also offered condolences to Mr. Daryl Ware, II, who was killed during an accident.

- Mr. Jones said that the Juvenile Justice Committee met today and updated the Committee on the Juvenile Services Department. He also said that truancy was a big topic of discussion. Fathers on the Move also attended the meeting and discussed their initiative to help fathers be present in their children's lives.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Gage-Watts wished all the women a Happy Women's Month. She said that the women's celebration event's details will be forthcoming.

Mrs. Gage-Watts offered condolences to Ms. Mary Walmsley and Ms. Angie Stone. Mr. Atkins thanked the president for speaking on Ms. Walmsley and offered his condolences as well.

She also talked about the Shreveport Classic, which is a college football game that will be held in Shreveport. Grambling State University and Langston will be the two contenders in the game.

She also mentioned that there is a lawsuit that is pending and wanted to ensure the public that this lawsuit is not reflective of the Caddo Parish Commission.

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

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that 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* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Thomas felt that the of this project were misrepresented to this body. He said that he is not in favor of carrying a balance across ten years. This ordinance would pay off that balance sooner and put the facility back on the tax rolls which will create more revenue to provide necessary services to the citizens of District 1, as well as the other districts, he said.

Mr. Cothran asked what TIF stands for. Mrs. Bryant explained that it is tax increment financing. In this case, the sales tax will be higher than other sales taxes in order to pay off the investment. Mr. Cothran understood, then asked what would happen if this were not approved. Mrs. Bryant said that approving this ordinance would allow the property to be back on the tax rolls quicker.

Mr. J. Young wanted to know if the Commission had an agreement with this company to have this sales tax in place. Attorney Frazier said that there was not a written agreement, but it was discussed that this would be how the return on investment would be funded. Mr. J. Young wanted to know if there was reliance on this matter. Attorney Frazier said that she believes that the company acted on reliance.

Mr. Kracman said that this ordinance was discussed previously. He said that it was voted down during the Work Session. He also said that this station has been in place for approximately three years and has been successful. Mr. Kracman also explained that this ordinance would put the property back on the tax rolls sooner "off the backs of the citizens of the Town of Hosston". He also said that this

station makes approximately \$2M per year. Mr. Kracman asked that the Commission vote this down because this is the only location that the citizens of Hosston can go that isn't thirty or so minutes away.

Mr. Thomas clarified that this station has been open for one year. He feels that this is "part of the misrepresentation of information". Mr. Thomas said that he would like to clear this debt sooner, so the property can get back on the tax rolls.

Call for the Question for Mr. G. Young, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cothran, Gage-Watts, Jones, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (9). NAYS: Commissioner Kracman (1). ABSENT: Commissioners Blake and Epperson (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Jones' original motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Cothran, Gage-Watts, Jones, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (7). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Kracman, and Lazarus (3). ABSENT: Commissioners Blake and Epperson (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that 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* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mrs. Gage-Watts said that the Shreveport Classic will be held in Shreveport on August and is slated to bring several economic dollars to this community.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know why this request is not going through the Economic Development Committee. Mrs. Bryant said that there was a request from the Sports Commission. She also explained that the Sports Commission needs to know if the Commission will be in support of this event. Mr. Atkins would like to see an economic impact study prior to making a vote.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if it is part of the process for an economic development request to go through the Economic Development Committee. He said that this has been a successful event in the past. Mr. Atkins stated that he would like to see the data.

Mr. G. Young made a friendly amendment *that this be advanced to Thursday's agenda for introduction and set an Economic Development prior to the final vote to receive the economic impact study*. Mrs. Gage-Watts agreed.

Call for the Question by Mr. Cothran, seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Cothran, Gage-Watts, Jones, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (7). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Kracman, and Lazarus (3). ABSENT: Commissioners Blake and Epperson (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Jones' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cothran, Gage-Watts, Jones, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (8). NAYS: Commissioners Kracman and Lazarus (2). ABSENT: Commissioners Blake and Epperson (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mr. Cothran, *that Resolution No. 10 of 2025, a resolution amending Resolution No. 42 of 2024 to extend Caddo Parish's War on Litter* be advanced to Thursday's agenda for consideration.

Mrs. Gage-Watts wanted to know if there was any reason for a sunset date. She asked if this could be indefinitely. Attorney Frazier said that she did not prepare this resolution, but does not see any reason for it not to be indefinitely.

Substitute motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Cothran, *that Resolution No. 15 of 2025, a resolution amending Resolution No. 9 of 2024 to allow for the possibility of a Caddo Parish Poet Laureate being considered for a consecutive appointment* be removed from the agenda *and the following items be englobed* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration:

- *Resolution No. 10 of 2025, a resolution amending Resolution No. 42 of 2024 to extend Caddo Parish's War on Litter*
- *Resolution No. 11 of 2025, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to direct and authorize the Louisiana State Mineral & Energy Board and the Office of Mineral Resources to accept nominations, advertise for, accept and award bids, and execute all oil, gas, and mineral leases on certain mineral interests owned by the Parish of Caddo, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*

- *Resolution No. 12 of 2025, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to approve the assignment, bill of sale and conveyance of State Agency Leases No. 15035 and No. 18798, and No. 20346 from Arapahoe SPV, LLC and ORX Resources, LLC, to Paloma Natural Gas, LLC, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 13 of 2025, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to approve the assignment, bill of sale and conveyance of State Agency Les No. 19480 from BPX Operating Company, to Paloma Natural Gas, LLC, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 14 of 2025, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to approve the assignment, bill of sale and conveyance of State Agency Leases No. 22029 and 22030 from Mammoth Minerals, LLC, and FPCC USA, Inc., to Paloma Natural Gas, LLC., and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Special Resolution of Remembrance for Judy Durham*
- *Special Resolution of Remembrance for Larry Ferdinand*

Mr. Burrell said that Mr. Ferdinand was a leader in the community and will be missed.

At this time, Mr. Jones' substitute motion carried unanimously of those Commission members present.

COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS

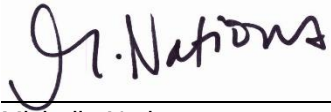
- Mr. Atkins spoke on the ordinance regarding the Shreveport Classic. He requested an economic impact study prior to the final vote.
- Mr. Kracman spoke on the ordinance regarding the I-49 North Corridor. He said that he was there with Mr. Todd Hopkins at the ribbon cutting for this gas station. Mr. Kracman feels slighted by the lack of communication between the author and him, being that this is in District 1. Mr. Kracman said that he called and reached out, without any communication returned. He explained that this will raise the taxes for his constituents, not any other Commissioner's constituents. Mr. Kracman said that this is issue was already visited and turned down.
- Mr. Thomas feels that the details in this situation have been misrepresented.
- Mr. Jones asked for the vote on the englobo. The Clerk of the Commission said that it was ten in support and none in opposition.

There were no Citizens Comments, late arrivals.

CONSENT AGENDA

- *Ordinance No. 6519 of 2025, an ordinance declaring certain adjudicated properties to be surplus and to authorize the Parish Administrator, or a designee, to sell the Parish of Caddo's tax interest in certain surplus adjudicated properties and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6520 of 2025, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Head Start Fund and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6521 of 2025, an ordinance amending the 2024 Budget to amend the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Housing Choice Voucher Program Fund and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6522 of 2025, an ordinance to authorize the transfer and acceptance of donation of a tract of land and temporary construction servitude in J.N. Howell's Subdivision, Unit No. 3, adjacent to the Parish Health Unit, from Solomon Rental, LLC, 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, LA, and adjacent parking lots, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Selection of Youth Advisory Council Members*

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "M. Nations". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The "M" is large and loops around the "Nations". The "Nations" is written in a similar cursive style.

Michelle Nations
Assistant to the Commission Clerk