

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 17th DAY OF APRIL, 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, Jones, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, J. Young, and G. Young (12). ABSENT: None (0).

Student Commissioner, Marcello Sessum gave the invocation, and Student Commissioner McKenzie Jefferson led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ADDITIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that the agenda be expanded and Special Resolution of Remembrance for Billy Montgomery* be added under Special Resolutions.

Mr. Burrell offered condolences to Mr. Montgomery's family and friends. He highlighted his contributions to the community, especially his work during Hurricane Katrina. Mr. Burrell asked that the Commission support this agenda addition.

At this time, Madam President Gage-Watts opened the floor for anyone to speak in favor or against adding this item to the agenda. There being no one to speak, the public hearing was closed.

At this time, Mr. Epperson's motion carried unanimously.

Madam President recognized Mr. Thomas as presidential privilege. At this time, he introduced his Student Commissioners, Hannah Samuels and Marcello Sessum. Taylor Franklin, Landon Gibbs, Dawson Jones, Anmelia Kimble, Chariti Kirkendoll, Brandon Mays, Arnuf Mobley, Marcus Palmer, La'Ziya Taylor, Kolby Turner, Wellington Watts, Aleigha Brown, Chris Daniels II, Austin Grand, McKenzie Jefferson, and Ashleigh Mitchell were all introduced as Student Commissioners for A Day.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

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

You know, it is an exciting moment for me to go through the agendas to see exactly what is here to me, a citizen of Caddo Parish needs to gain knowledge about. I am ever grateful with that, and in doing my own homework, I gained an understanding matter of what's going on. I can even reach out to some you Commissioners when it is necessary to gain more information. Now, I do recognize that there's a concern for me here. There are two pieces of ordinances that you all are going to consider for introduction, 6538 and 6539. Now, the language of those legislations is what bothered me more than anything, particularly, the assessing for the whole year of 2025 from whomever these areas will affect when it is that you all will not adopt these pieces of legislation. And though it has been common practice that you go back to the beginning of the year, I'm trying to figure out why would you go back and assess me? Say for instance, if it is that you decide on June 5th to adopt this legislation—five months that you did not cover me or that I would not be covered. What is that all about? I just don't understand the integrity of that account, you know, practices may have been. It doesn't mean they have to be. It can be changed if there is something that's worthy of your attention and you're willing to look at what it is again, going back to the beginning of the year to assess me all the way to December when you've only adopted this legislation June 5th. If someone between now and June 5th can bring that logic to me, then it may help me to appreciate what is truly going on. Thank you.

VISITORS

- Leone Fitzgerald
Director of Victim Assistance Program
President of the Violent Taskforce

Ms. Fitzgerald said that April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Child Abuse & Prevention Month, etc. Several community events showcased a collaboration among public official and community leaders to support victims. She provided her contact information to the Clerk of the Commission.

Mrs. Blake thanked Ms. Fitzgerald for coming to the Commission today. She met her several years ago regarding a case with her daughter. She thanked Ms. Fitzgerald for all of her work with victims. She was my advocate for my family; and she is the voice for the voiceless, she said.

- Chief Wayne Smith

The Clerk of the Commission stated that Chief Smith sent his regrets, but will reschedule

for another time.

ADOPT REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that the Regular Session Minutes from April 3, 2025* be adopted. Motion carried unanimously.

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mr. J. Young, *to englobo and adopt the following Special Resolutions:*

- *Proclamation National Parish/County Government Month*

Mr. Epperson requested that this resolution be given to each Student Commissioner.

Mrs. Gage-Watts thanked the Student Commissioners for learning about Parish Government.

- *Proclamation Autism Awareness Month*
- *Proclamation Caddo Day at the Capitol*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition for NAACP Officers*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition for Top Ladies of Distinction*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition for HBCUAC's Track & Field Tournament*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition Jazz on the Red*
- *Special Resolution of Remembrance Billy Montgomery*

At this time, Mr. Jones' motion carried unanimously.

PROCLAMATION NATIONAL PARISH/COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH

WHEREAS, each spring the National Association of Counties calls attention to the role that the nation's 3,069 county and parish governments play in the lives of the citizens of this nation, declaring April as "National County/Parish Government Month" and staging activities and events that focus on county-level programs and services; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana, with its historic and singular 'parish' governmental structure serving as a unique yet functionally equivalent partner to the nation's counties, enthusiastically participates in the aims and objectives of the observance; and

WHEREAS, counties fulfill a vast range of responsibilities and deliver services that touch nearly every aspect of our residents' lives; and

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish also recognizes its role and responsibilities in addressing and meeting the needs of the community, and even the region, and to protect and enhance the health, well-being and safety of the citizens in efficient and cost-effective ways; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of National Association of Counties President James Gore, NACo is highlighting the role county/parish government and celebrating the role of county/parish governments in connecting, inspiring and leading; and

WHEREAS, counties as intergovernmental partners enact local, state and federal programs to address the needs of all resident; and

WHEREAS, each year since 1991 the National Association of Counties has encouraged counties/parishes across the country to actively promote programs and services to the public we serve.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby proclaim the month of April, 2025, as

'PARISH GOVERNMENT MONTH'

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, in an effort to focus public attention on the role and scope of Caddo Parish Government, in all its aspects, and urging all citizens to recognize and reflect upon the invaluable role that Parish government plays in their lives.

**PROCLAMATION
AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, every person deserves the chance to reach for their highest hopes and fulfill their greatest potential. On National Autism Awareness Month, we reaffirm our dedication to ensuring that belief is a reality for all those who live on the autism spectrum -- including 1 in 36 children, up from 1 in 68 just 5 years ago. And we uphold our obligation to help make sure every man, woman, and child, regardless of ability or background, is accepted for who they are and able to lead a life free from discrimination and filled with opportunity; and

WHEREAS, from home to school and in businesses and communities around the nation, people living with autism spectrum disorder contribute in immeasurable ways to our society. They remind us each day that every person is born with unique talents and should be treated with respect, play an active role in planning for their futures, and feel empowered to fully participate in and contribute to their communities. When those with autism have access to equal opportunities, we all do better, and that begins with making sure our country lives up to its commitment to ensure all things are possible for all people; and

WHEREAS, Americans with autism play an important role in our national story, and in their daily lives they embody the belief at the heart of our founding: that in America, with hard work and equal access, all people can realize their aspirations. Today, and every day, let us reach for a future in which no person living on the autism spectrum is limited by anything but the size of their dreams -- one in which all people have the opportunity to live a life filled with a sense of identity, purpose, and self-determination; and

WHEREAS, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that it does hereby proclaim April, 2025 as National Autism Awareness Month and urge citizens and organizations to participate in activities and demonstrations that provide a special opportunity to educate the community about autism.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that it does hereby proclaim April, 2025 as

‘AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH’

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and urges citizens and organizations to participate in activities and demonstrations that provide a special opportunity to educate the community about autism.

**PROCLAMATION
CADDO DAY AT THE CAPITOL**

This item was not attached to the agenda, nor is there a copy in the meeting file for it.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION
NAACP OFFICERS**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission proudly recognizes the significant contributions and ongoing commitment of the NAACP Shreveport Chapter in the pursuit of social justice, civil rights, and community empowerment in Caddo Parish and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP Shreveport Chapter has long served as a steadfast advocate for the advancement of equity, equality, and opportunity for all citizens, continuing a historic legacy of leadership and civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, April 9th, 2025, marks the date that a new page turns for the NAACP Shreveport Chapter as it holds an Officer Installation Ceremony at the Shreveport Hilton Hotel to formally install its newly elected officers, marking a new era of visionary leadership and dedication; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Alvin Oliver will be installed as President of the NAACP Shreveport Chapter, bringing with him a wealth of experience, a deep commitment to justice, and a passion for serving the community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lester Smith will be installed as First Vice President, whose leadership and dedication to the mission of the NAACP will continue to strengthen the chapter's impact and outreach; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Larry Ellis will be installed as Second Vice President, bringing dynamic energy, a powerful voice for progress, and unwavering dedication to the goals of the organization; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Golden Ellis will be installed as Treasurer, contributing her financial stewardship and commitment to transparency and accountability in service to the chapter's mission; and

WHEREAS, the installation of these officers represents a continued commitment to the

values of advocacy, inclusion, and progress for which the NAACP stands, and their leadership will undoubtedly inspire positive change within our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, that it does hereby extend its heartfelt congratulations to the NAACP Shreveport Chapter on the installation of its new officers, and offers best wishes for a successful term of leadership and continued service to the people of Caddo Parish.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be made a part of the official minutes of the Caddo Parish Commission, and that an official copy be presented to the NAACP Shreveport Chapter as a symbol of the Commission's respect and appreciation.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION TOP LADIES OF DISTINCTION

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission recognizes and celebrates organizations that have demonstrated unwavering commitment to uplifting the community and improving the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, the Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. (TLOD) is a national service organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of youth, improving the status of women, and strengthening communities through education, service, and mentorship; and

WHEREAS, for fifty years, the Shreveport Chapter of the Top Ladies of Distinction has been a beacon of leadership and service, promoting social betterment and civic engagement while fostering a spirit of sisterhood and excellence; and

WHEREAS, the chapter has made a profound impact through its signature programs and initiatives, including mentorship for youth, advocacy for senior citizens, beautification efforts, and support for educational and humanitarian causes; and

WHEREAS, in celebration of this milestone, the Shreveport Chapter will honor its esteemed past presidents: Lady Lueburda Jamison Myers, Lady Cheryl Garner Williams, Lady Stephanie Owens, Lady Sharon Penson, and Lady Dorthea Palmer Foster—whose leadership has been instrumental in shaping the chapter's legacy; and

WHEREAS, under the guidance of Co-Chairs Lady Anitra Kennedy Furlow and Lady Barbara Sneed, the chapter commemorates this golden anniversary with a renewed dedication to its mission of service, advocacy, and empowerment; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby recognize and commend the Shreveport Chapter of the Top Ladies of Distinction on the occasion of their 50th anniversary, expressing deep appreciation for their extraordinary contributions to the community and their enduring legacy of excellence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Shreveport Chapter of the Top Ladies of Distinction in recognition of this momentous occasion.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION HBCUAC'S TRACK & FIELD TOURNAMENT

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission is pleased to acknowledge events of significance that occur in the community, and to recognize the organizations and individuals who are now in the forefront of positive and worthy activities and deeds that accrue to the benefit of all; and

WHEREAS, such an organization is the Historically Black Colleges & Universities Athletic Conference, formerly the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference, which has undergone a transformative rebranding to reflect its commitment to strategic expansion and the advancement of HBCUs;

WHEREAS, the HBCUAC, under the leadership of Commissioner Dr. Kiki Baker Barnes and the Council of Presidents, has established itself as a premier collegiate athletic conference, dedicated to fostering excellence both on and off the field for student-athletes and standing as a proud symbol of athletic excellence, academic achievement, and cultural heritage, bringing together student-athletes from HBCUs across the region to compete at the highest levels; and

WHEREAS, the HBCUAC has long championed opportunities for student-athletes to excel both on the field and in the classroom, fostering leadership, sportsmanship, and unity among its member institutions living up to its tagline, "Where winners thrive;" and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo is proud to serve as the location for the HBCUAC Track and Field Competition, which will be held at the Lee Hedges Stadium, a premier venue for high school and collegiate athletics in Northwest Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the presence of the HBCUAC Track and Field Competition in Caddo Parish not only highlights the talent and determination of its student-athletes but also provides an opportunity for the community to celebrate the rich history and continued contributions of Historically Black Colleges and Universities 15 of which make up the conference across eight states and one U.S. territory, including Dillard University, Fisk University, Oakwood University, Philander Smith University, Rust College, Stillman College, Southern University at New Orleans, Talladega College, Tougaloo College, the University of the Virgin Islands, Voorhees University, Wilberforce University, and Wiley University and welcomes Huston-Tillotson University and Paul Quinn College; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission recognizes and appreciates the positive impact of this event on our local economy, cultural landscape, and the inspiration it provides to young aspiring athletes in our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in legal session convened, that it does hereby welcome and recognize April 10, 2025 as:

“HBCUAC TRACK AND FIELD DAY”

in Caddo Parish and it encourages all citizens to join in celebrating this outstanding event and to support the participating student-athletes as they showcase their talents and hard work at Lee Hedges Stadium.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION
JAZZ ON THE RED**

WHEREAS, the City of Shreveport is honored to welcome the HBCU Athletic Conference (HBCUAC) as it hosts its esteemed Track and Field Competition at Lee Hedges Stadium; and

WHEREAS, Shreveport, Louisiana, holds a deep and vibrant legacy as a cradle of American music, particularly jazz—a genre born of struggle, expression, innovation, and joy that has deeply influenced the cultural landscape of Louisiana and the world; and

WHEREAS, JazzFest On The Red, co-founded by Charity Moran and Ennis Gilbert, celebrates this rich musical tradition by bringing together local and national artists, cultural advocates, and the Shreveport-Bossier community to honor the enduring spirit and soulful sound of jazz along the beautiful backdrop of the Red River; and

WHEREAS, JazzFest On The Red is more than a music festival—it is a cultural beacon and a platform for education, economic opportunity, and artistic expression. The festival serves as a bridge between generations, amplifying the voices of local musicians while also honoring jazz pioneers who paved the way; and

WHEREAS, the festival has established a scholarship fund in honor of Dorsey Summerfield Jr., a renowned musician and educator whose legacy lives on through his dedication to music, mentorship, and the preservation of Shreveport’s cultural heritage. This fund provides resources for aspiring young musicians to pursue music education and further elevate the sound and soul of the region; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission recognizes JazzFest On The Red as a signature celebration of our cultural diversity and artistic excellence, contributing to the enrichment, pride, and economic vitality of our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal and regular session, that it does hereby proclaim April 12th, 2025 as:

JAZZ FEST ON THE RED DAY

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and encourages all citizens to attend the festivities and take pride in the unique cultural and musical traditions that define our region.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF REMEMBRANCE
BILLY MONTGOMERY**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission pauses to honor the life, service, and extraordinary legacy of the late Louisiana State Representative Billy Montgomery, a devoted public servant, educator, coach, and tireless advocate for athletics and youth development in Northwest Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Billy Montgomery served our state and region with distinction as a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives, where he earned the respect of colleagues across party lines for his principled leadership, passionate advocacy, and unwavering commitment to improving education and expanding athletic opportunities for all Louisianans; and

WHEREAS, his legacy includes elevating sports programs across the region, championing student-athletes, expanding post-secondary education opportunities in the region, and working to ensure that athletics remained a cornerstone of educational and community development throughout North Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, several present and former members of the Caddo Parish Commission were privileged to know and serve alongside Representative Montgomery in various capacities among them being Commissioner Roy Burrell serving with him in the Louisiana State Legislature and remembers him as a thoughtful legislator and dear friend, and Commissioner Stormy Gage-Watts served alongside Montgomery, affectionally know as “Coach” on the Shreveport-Bossier Sports Commission; and

WHEREAS, the people of Caddo Parish, and indeed the entire State of Louisiana, have benefitted from his dedication, leadership, and service — and we now mourn his loss while celebrating a life well lived in the service of others.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, that it does hereby honor and remember the late Representative Billy Montgomery for his distinguished service, and extend its deepest condolences to his family, friends, and all those who were blessed to know him.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be delivered to the family of Representative Montgomery as a token of the Caddo Parish Commission’s respect and gratitude.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mrs. Bryant confirmed that citizens who are attending Council Meetings or Commission Meetings will not have to go through the whole process of signing in and getting their photos taken.

She reminded the Commissioners of Caddo Day at the Capitol.

Mrs. Bryant wished everyone a Happy Easter.

COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Burrell encouraged any student who is at least 13 years old to enroll in the Summer Biz Camp. The camp will begin in June.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Mrs. Gage-Watts wished everyone a Happy Easter.

There were no Public Hearing for Zoning Ordinances, so the Commission moved to Public Hearing on Ordinances.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES

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

- *Ordinance No. 6526 of 2025, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Oil & Gas Fund and the Riverboat Fund to provide an appropriation of \$30,000 for Youth Outreach Services dba Jewell House, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

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

I’m here to speak to Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 6526. Not just Monday, but even when this piece of legislation will walk before you, the members of the Commission, questions were asked. A presentation was presented and answers were given, but I still have some questions that have not been asked. We do understand that these \$30k are to survive for 90 days, and that they’re supposed to be addressing six girls. Six girls. I’d like to know, as I did ask before, what are the specifics of those things that those \$30k for those six girls will address? Two, I saw that the funding is not readily available out of the Riverboat Fund—it has to be transferred from the Oil & Gas Fund. Why is that necessary? Is there not sufficient funding the Riverboat fund to address the \$30k versus going to the Oil & Gas Fund. It’s just some questions that I have that I’d like to have answers to. Though, you will be addressing this later in this setting is just something that I think requires some consideration. Thank you.

Ms. Fisher came before the Commission and spoke in favor of Ordinance No. 6526 of 2025 and gave the following comment:

Good afternoon, everyone. I’m sorry—I don’t have a voice today. I have a sinus infection, but I am certainly in favor of taking care of our most vulnerable population: our kids. And making sure they

have a safe, secure place to stay safe, and that they have food—three meals a day—if they have clothing, that they have the necessary things that they need for school, and that they have a sufficient amount of counseling and support services that are provided with these funds. We're open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This it to take care of our staff, and I pay my staff a very minimum. If you look at some other budgets of other staff persons, they are paid a little bit more, but because of the need, they have decided to take on this. This is not just a job for them; this is a ministry for them. Thank you.

- *Ordinance No. 6527 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. 6528 of 2025, an ordinance to donate surplus property under Chapter 19, Article II, Division 3 of the Code of Ordinances, relative to the donation of adjudicated property acquired by the Parish under LA.R.S. 47:2236 et seq., to authorize the donation of property to the City of Shreveport, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

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

ORDINANCES (for final passage)

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that Ordinance No. 6526 of 2025, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Oil & Gas Fund and the Riverboat Fund to provide an appropriation of \$30,000 for Youth Outreach Services dba Jewell House, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mrs. Gage-Watts mentioned that this is the only shelter that houses young women. It provides more than a shelter; it provides counseling, educational programs, and life skills training, she said. Due to the federal cuts, services like these are being disrupted. She requested that the Commissioners support this ordinance for emergency funds.

Mr. Atkins recognized that these are emergency funds, and that there are provisions in the NGO process that allows for emergency funds to be provided. He also recognized the importance of the services being provided. He asked Mrs. Bryant for a brief explanation of the flow of capital through the funds. Mrs. Bryant explained that they prefer to keep the fund balance at a certain level, so they are recommending a transfer to keep that fund balance.

At this time, Mr. Jones' motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 6526 OF 2025

BY CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE OIL AND GAS FUND AND THE RIVERBOAT FUND TO PROVIDE AN APPROPRIATION FOR YOUTH OUTREACH SERVICES D/B/A JEWELL HOUSE AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, Youth Outreach Services is a 501(3)c non-profit organization providing guidance and direction for youth in northwestern Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission appropriated \$10,000 to Youth Outreach Services in the 2025 budget; and

WHEREAS, Jewell House is a transitional living facility ran by Youth Outreach Services; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Juvenile Detention Center has limited capacity and partners with other agencies to provide temporary housing to juveniles as an alternative to detention; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission would like to appropriate an additional \$30,000 to Youth Outreach Services d/b/a Jewell House for temporary housing of juvenile girls on probation as an alternative to detention; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend the 2025 Budget of the Riverboat Fund and the Oil and Gas Fund to provide an appropriation for temporary housing of juveniles; 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 Riverboat Fund and Oil and Gas Fund for the year 2025 are hereby amended as follows:

	<u>Budget Increase (Decrease)</u>
Riverboat Fund:	
Youth Outreach Services	\$ 30,000
Transfer From Oil and Gas	\$ 30,000
Oil and Gas Fund:	
Transfer to Juvenile Justice	\$30,000

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.

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that the following ordinances be engloboed and adopted:*

- *Ordinance No. 6527 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. 6528 of 2025, an ordinance to donate surplus property under Chapter 19, Article II, Division 3, of the Code of Ordinances relative to donation of adjudicated property acquired by the Parish under LA. R.S. 47:2236 et seq., to authorize the donation of property to the City of Shreveport, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

At this time, Mr. Thomas’ motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 6527 OF 2025

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

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

WHEREAS, the hereinbelow described properties are no longer needed for public purposes and should be declared surplus properties; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has received offers to purchase its tax interest in the hereinbelow described properties as indicated below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that the hereinbelow described properties are no longer needed for public purposes and are surplus properties.

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has a tax interest in the hereinbelow described properties which have been adjudicated for the non-payment of Parish property taxes; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby authorize the sale of its tax interest in the hereinbelow described properties.

Property No. 1, West Half (W/2) of abandoned Thomas Street adjacent to Lot 43, Tacony Subdivision, in the City of Shreveport of Caddo Parish, Louisiana as per plat recorded in Book 250, Page 18, of the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, LA (GEO# 181423- 033-0134-00)

Property No. 2, Lot 35, J. B. Pickett Subdivision, TAL 14 Shreveport, in the City of Shreveport of Caddo Parish, Louisiana as per plat recorded in Book 38, Page 171, of the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, LA (GEO# 181437-037-0035-00)

Property No. 3, Lot 36, J. B. Pickett Subdivision, TAL 14 Shreveport, in the City of Shreveport of Caddo Parish, Louisiana as per plat recorded in Book 38, Page 171, of the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, LA (GEO# 181437-037-0036-00)

Property No. 4, Northwesterly Half of Lot 37, J. B. Pickett Subdivision, TAL 14 Shreveport, in the City of Shreveport of Caddo Parish, Louisiana as per plat recorded in Book 38, Page 171, of the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, LA (GEO# 181437- 037-0064-00)

Property No. 5, Lot 3, Western Park Subdivision, Unit No. 1, in the City of Shreveport of Caddo Parish, Louisiana as per plat recorded in Book 600, Page 415, of the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, LA (GEO# 181435-008-0003-00)

Property No. 6, South Half of Lots 1 & 2, Block 8, Marks Meyer Subdivision of Forest Park, in the City of Shreveport of Caddo Parish, Louisiana as per plat recorded in Book 50, Page 51, of the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, LA (GEO# 171305-083-0019-00)

Property No. 7, Lot 63 and West Half of Lot 62, Valencia Subdivision, in the City of Shreveport of Caddo Parish, Louisiana as per plat recorded in Book 150, Page 412, of the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, LA (GEO# 171317-006-00227-00)

Property No. 8, Lot 64 and East Half of Lot 65, Valencia Subdivision, in the City of Shreveport of Caddo Parish, Louisiana as per plat recorded in Book 150, Page 412, of the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, LA (GEO# 171317-006-0064-00)

Property No. 9, Lot 66 and Westerly Half of Lot 65, Valencia Subdivision, in the City of Shreveport of Caddo Parish, Louisiana as per plat recorded in Book 150, Page 412, of the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, LA (GEO# 171317-006-0241-00)

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Caddo Parish Administrator, or his designee, shall be authorized to do any and all things and to sign any and all documents, including Acts of Cash Sale, in a form acceptable to the Caddo Parish Attorney necessary to effectuate the purposes set forth herein.

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 become effective ten days after publication in the official journal.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

ORDINANCE NO. 6528 OF 2025

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE TO DONATE SURPLUS PROPERTY UNDER CHAPTER 19, ARTICLE II, DIVISION 3 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATIVE TO DONATION OF ADJUDICATED PROPERTY ACQUIRED BY THE PARISH UNDER LA. R.S. 47:2236 ET SEQ., TO AUTHORIZE THE DONATION OF PROPERTY TO THE CITY OF SHREVEPORT, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the City of Shreveport has requested the Parish of Caddo to acquire a certain property adjudicated to the Parish for unpaid property taxes;

WHEREAS, the City of Shreveport has requested that the Parish of Caddo donate the property to be incorporated into the C. C. Antoine Park facility;

WHEREAS, on Marcy 20, 2025, pursuant to La. R.S. 47:2236, the Parish of Caddo filed an Affidavit And Notice Of Acquisition of Full Ownership, under Instrument No. 3002467 in both the Conveyance and Mortgage Records of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and took full ownership of the property identified by Caddo Parish Tax Assessor's Geographic Number 181435-128-0054-00;

WHEREAS, under Section 19-51, this property has been deemed surplus and not needed for a public purpose;

WHEREAS, the City of Shreveport will redevelop this property and incorporate it into the C. C. Antoine Park facility;

WHEREAS, transferring this property by donation to the City of Shreveport will advance the Parish's goal to revitalize adjudicated property;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal, and regular session convened, that pursuant to La R.S. 47:2236, it does hereby donate for the purpose stated above to the City of Shreveport the following described property:

Lot 54 and One-Half adjacent abandoned alley, Boisseau Annex, a subdivision of the City of Shreveport, as per plat filed and recorded in Book 50, Page 243, of the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, Louisiana. 181435-128-0054-00

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Parish Administrator, or her designee is authorized to take all necessary actions to comply with the requirements of La. RS. 47:2236-37 and this donation, subject to approval of the Parish Attorney of any documents or transactions.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

ZONING ORDINANCES (for introduction by title)

- *Ordinance No. 6529 of 2025, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, relative to the manufactured homes, with all their provisions included herein, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6530 of 2025, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, by amending the zoning of property located west side of Linwood Avenue, approximately 770 feet south of Flournoy Lucas, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, from I-2, Heavy Industrial Zoning District, to C-3, General Commercial Zoning District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

ORDINANCE (for introduction by title)

- *Ordinance No. 6531 of 2025, an ordinance to close and abandon the street dedications in the Merriwether Woods Subdivision, in Section 32, Township 17 North, Range 14 West, in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6532 of 2025, an ordinance authorized the lease of flood acquisition property located at 1014 Riding Club Lane, Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6533 of 2025, an ordinance authorize the lease of flood acquisition property located at 1020 Riding Club Lane, Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6534 of 2025, an ordinance authorize the lease of flood acquisition property located at 9794 Mustang Circle, Keithville, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6535 of 2025, an ordinance to set the General Purpose and Special Purpose Millages providing for millage rate adjustments, as allowed by Article VII, Section 23 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 and LA R.S. 47:1705 (B), levying and imposing taxes and assessments for 2025 on all the property subject to taxation in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6536 of 2025, an ordinance to set the General Purpose and Special Purpose Millages providing for an increase in the millage rates not in excess of the prior years maximum rates, as allowed by Article VII, Section 23 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 and LA R.S. 47:1705 (B), levying and imposing taxes and assessments for 2025 on all the property subject to taxation in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6537 of 2025, an ordinance setting the Parish Millage for the*

purpose of paying principal and interest, due in 2025, on outstanding Parish bond issues and to instruct the Assessor to include said millage on the tax roll of the Parish of Caddo for the year 2025, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto

- *Ordinance No. 6538 of 2025, an ordinance setting the assessment of property classified as timberlands and to instruct the Assessor to include said assessment on the tax roll of the Parish of Caddo for the year 2025, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6539 of 2025, an ordinance to adopt the values fixed, or to be fixed, by the Louisiana Tax Commission on all assessment for railways and other public service corporations, and to instruct the Assessor to extend such assessments and values on the tax roll of the Parish of Caddo for the year 2025, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6540 of 2025, an ordinance dedicating fifty percent (50%) of the income generated from the Parish share of the sports wagering receipts to the Economic Development Fund and amending the General Fund and the Economic Development Fund for sports wagering revenues, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

WORK SESSION MINUTES

It was **moved by Mr. Cothran**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that the Work Session Minutes from April 14, 2025 be ratified. Motion carried unanimously by those members who were present with Commissioner J. Young being absent (1).*

RESOLUTIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Resolution No. 25 of 2025, a resolution opposing Senate Bill 74 of the 2025 Regular Legislative Session of the Louisiana Legislatures relating to the adult prosecution of juveniles and otherwise providing with respect thereto be adopted.*

Mrs. Gage-Watts said that this bill was pre-filed for this session. She mentioned that this failed during the March 29, 2025 election, and this bill is an attempt to bring it back. Mrs. Gage-Watts expressed her opposition to this bill and said that this is “another way to prosecute our juveniles as adults”.

Mr. Cothran said that this bill is attempting to prosecute 15 year olds as adults. He is in support of this resolution.

Mr. Burrell agreed and said that children at this age cannot make rational decisions. He is in support of this resolution.

Mr. Thomas applauded Mrs. Gage-Watts for bringing this resolution forward. He encouraged the Student Commissioners to let their peers know that they are “under attack”. He wished everyone much success.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 25 OF 2025

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING SENATE BILL 74 OF THE 2025 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION OF THE LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE RELATING TO THE ADULT PROSECUTION OF JUVENILES AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, Article 302 of the Louisiana Children’s Code provides that special juvenile courts created by law for Caddo, Orleans, Jefferson, and East Baton Rouge Parishes shall have exclusive original jurisdiction over juvenile proceedings; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 74 of the 2025 Regular Session of the Legislature proposes to divest the special juvenile courts of jurisdiction over any person that commits a crime before his **fifteenth** birthday and give that jurisdiction to district and city courts; and

WHEREAS, the proposed law effectively lowers the maximum age of persons to whom

juvenile procedures shall apply; and

WHEREAS, such lowering will increase the case loads in district courts as well as the jail populations in adult facilities; and

WHEREAS, studies show that juveniles housed in adult facilities face increased risk of physical and emotional harm; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana law already provides for the adult prosecution of juveniles for the most serious offenses; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission opposes lowering maximum age of persons to whom juvenile procedures shall apply.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission that it does hereby oppose Senate Bill 74 and urge the legislature to not adopt that legislation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent, following adoption, to the Louisiana Legislature and to the members of the legislative delegation of Caddo Parish.

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. Jones, *that Resolution No. 26 of 2025, a resolution to authorize the acceptance of the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire* be adopted. Motion carried unanimously by those members who were present with Commissioner J. Young being absent (1).

RESOLUTION NO. 26 OF 2025

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE LOUISIANA COMPLIANCE QUESTIONNAIRE

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission is required to complete the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire which addresses the Commission's compliance with various State and Federal laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, upon completion of the questionnaire, the questionnaire must be presented to and adopted by the Commission by means of a formal resolution in an open meeting; and

WHEREAS, the completed questionnaire and a copy of the adoption instrument must be presented to the Commission's auditor at the beginning of the audit which is anticipated to begin in April 2025; and

WHEREAS, the questionnaire has been completed and is now hereby presented for adoption; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, in due, legal and regular session convened, hereby accepts the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire as presented and accepts full responsibility for the Commission's compliance with the laws and regulations addressed by the questionnaire.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that 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 resolution or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

MEMBERS:	YEAS:	NAYS:	ABSENT:	ABSTAIN:
Chris Kracman	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Greg Young	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Victor Thomas	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
John-Paul Young	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Roy A. Burrell	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Steffon D. Jones	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Stormy Gage-Watts	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Grace Anne Blake	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
John E. Atkins	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Ron Cothran	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Ed Lazarus	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Ken Epperson, Sr.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

And the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 17th day of April, 2025.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Public Hearing for I-49 North Corridor Economic Development District 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*

Mayor Kim James came before the body in favor or I-49 North Corridor Economic Development District Resolution No. 2 of 2025 and gave the following comment:

I'm here today on behalf of, not only the people of Hosston, but many residents, business owners, and voters across District 1 who have signed a petition that I have here today in support of the 2% sales tax at the TA Express in Hosston. This isn't about a business; it's about a promise. Years ago, this very Commission made a commitment to support the development of the I-49 Corridor. That commitment helped incentivize Edgemont Holdings to take a chance on our community. They came in and invested private dollars to build infrastructure, which were water, fiber, electric, gas, and road access—things that many of us waited years to see in this part of the Parish. For too long, this part of the Parish has been overlooked when it comes to development. We've watched other areas grow while we've struggled with limited access, limited services, and limited opportunity. When Edgemont Holdings came in, they didn't just come to build a truck stop, they invested in us when no one else would. And, they did it with the understanding that there would be a path of reimbursement through the public partnership, one that wouldn't cost taxpayers a dime up front. That's what the 2% sales tax does, it keeps the promise. This tax applies only to the TA Express location. It's not a burden on our local residents. It's a way to repay the investment that brought real tangible improvements to the part of the Parish that has long been underserved. We all want growth; we all want jobs; we all want our kids to have a reason to stay here in our small towns, to build lives and start businesses of their own. That won't happen if we don't support people and companies who are willing to take the first step. I urge this Commission to vote in favor of the 2% sales tax, not just to reimburse Edgemont Holdings, but to show that Caddo Parish stands by its word, and that District 1 is not forgotten. Thank you for you time, and thank you for listening to the voice of the rural communities.

Alderman for Hosston came before the body in favor or I-49 North Corridor Economic Development District Resolution No. 2 of 2025 and gave the following comment:

We would like for you all to please consider voting for this tax. Our community needs this tax. We need growth in our community, we pray that you consider that when you're voting today. Thank you.

Hosston Chief of Police, Jessie Costum, came before the body in favor or I-49 North Corridor Economic Development District Resolution No. 2 of 2025 and gave the following comment:

I came there and ran for that position this past year after serving six years as Chief of Rodessa. The reason why I ran was because of the excitement and the growth that was looking toward Hosston. Hosston was on life support, and this TA Truck Stop came in and got them off life support, so they can do what they're doing today. Our Mayor is not—that is her people. She's lived in that community for 36 years. Those people shop together; they go to the store together; they go to church together. That is her people. That's where she's rooted. I know the word "political suicide" has been thrown around here and there, and I think its political suicide not to approve this in honor of—your words, our words—in honor of Todd Hopkins. He was a great man who put a lot of blood, sweat, and tears in making this happen.

There being no one to speak in favor or against, the President closed the public hearing.

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mr. Cothran, *that I-49 North Corridor Economic Development District 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* be adopted.

Mr. Thomas reminded that these funds received from this tax will only be used in that particular area to grow Hosston. He also reminded the Commission that the NGO funding comes from the revenues that are collected from riverboat casinos.

Mr. Jones talked about Mr. Thomas' character. He would like to keep things professional around the horseshoe without personal attacks on another Commissioners' character. Mr. Jones would like to work together in a positive manner.

Mr. Kracman pointed out that he has no control of what the local papers print; he has no control over what a PAC puts forward; and he has not said anything about another person's character. Mr. Kracman also mentioned that the majority of the signatures on the petition were from citizens of Vivian, not Hosston.

Mr. G. Young gave a historical perspective of District 1 and how it relates to his family. He also mentioned that everyone around this horseshoe is part of what Caddo Parish's future will look like.

Call for the Question by Mr. Cothran, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts. Motion carried unanimously by those members who were present with Commissioner J. Young being absent (1).

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 G. Young (7). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Kracman, Lazarus (4). ABSENT: Commissioner J. Young (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

I-49 NORTH CORRIDOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT 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 EDMONT HOLDINGS, LLC, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

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 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, when the district was created, certain improvements within the district were made by the sole occupant of the district, the Rocking R Truck Stop, who benefits from a PILOT agreement until the costs of those improvements are reimbursed; and

WHEREAS, a two-cent sales tax in the district would significantly shorten the period of time within which the reimbursement can be made, and bring the full taxable value of the Rocking R Truck Stop onto the Caddo Parish tax rolls.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission acting as the governing authority of the I-49 NORTH CORRIDOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission, acting as the governing authority of the I-49 NORTH CORRIDOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, does hereby authorize 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.*).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Administrator or his designee shall be authorized to do any and all things necessary to effectuate the purposes set forth herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that 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 ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall become effective immediately upon publication in the official Caddo Parish Journal.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that Crystalline Whitaker Nelson be appointed as the Caddo Parish Poet Laureate.*

Mr. Thomas said that she will be announced during ArtBreak.

Mrs. Gage-Watts wanted to know if there was an opportunity to add a nominee from the floor. The Clerk of the Commission explained that the process does not allow for a name to be submitted from the floor. Mrs. Gage-Watts understood.

At this time, Mr. Epperson's motion carried unanimously of those members present with Commissioner J. Young being absent (1).

It was **moved by Mr. Lazarus**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that the following items be englobed and approved:*

- *Appointment of Whitney Abner, R.S. to the Animal Services Board*
- *Appointment of Henry Brown to the Sewerage District No. 2 Board*
- *Commission travel to Caddo Day at the Capitol*

At this time, Mr. Lazarus' motion carried unanimously of those members present with Commissioner J. Young being absent (1).

COMMUNIQUE & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Clerk's Note: Notice is hereby given pursuant to Article 7, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B) that a public hearing the Caddo Parish Commission will be held at its regular meeting place in Chambers of Government Plaza, located at 505 Travis Street, Shreveport, LA on Thursday, June 5, 2025 at 3:30 p.m. to consider levying additional or increased millage rates without further voter approval or adopting the adjusted millage rates after reassessment and rolling forward to rates not to exceed the prior year's maximum. The estimated amount of tax revenues to be collected in the next year from the increased millage is \$27,020,360.87, and the amount of increase in taxes attributable to the millage increase is \$1,198,364.04.

- Mr. Epperson thanked the Public Works Department for providing him information with regards to a property within his district. He also announced that a Dollar General will be constructed on Pines Road and Jefferson Paige Road.

Mr. Epperson requested that the sidewalks into the VA Medical Center be cleaned up. He also requested that the savings from the hiring freeze be used to upgrade the computer systems at the OMV.

- Mr. Thomas invited everyone to attend the Stoner Hill Community Meeting, Taco Wars, and the other events around the community. Mr. Thomas also announced that ArtBreak will be held from April 28 through May 4. He invited everyone to check it out.

He also announced that the YWCA of North Louisiana is celebrating 100 years in Caddo

Parish.

Mr. Thomas also wished everyone a Happy Easter. He also reminded everyone that tomorrow is National Line Worker Appreciation Day.

There will also be a free rabies clinic on April 26.

- Mrs. Gage-Watts invited everyone to attend the Mooretown Community Fest that will be held this weekend. She wished everyone a Happy Easter.

She also mentioned that there will be a community outreach event on April 26 with three 350 nonperishable trailers full of food.

- Mr. G. Young gave a brief history of Herndon Elementary/Middle School. He said that his great great great grandfather, Noah Tyson, donated the land that Herndon sits on. Mr. Tyson also put up the money to build the school.

- Mr. Cothran reminded everyone that the Parish offices will be closed on Good Friday.

- Mr. Burrell said that his birthday is April 18 and will turn 73 years old.

- Mrs. Blake said that Youree Drive is now finished.

She also announced that when she travels to the Capitol, she will introduce the Maggie Grace Act. This bill will protect victims.

- Mr. Jones thanked Mr. Washington from SporTran for keeping the passengers on the bus safe. He explained that a bus caught fire, and luckily, there were no casualties.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.


Michelle Nations
Assistant to the Commission Clerk


Stormy Gage-Watts
President