

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S  
LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE  
HELD ON THE 5<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY, 2025

The Caddo Parish Long Range Planning Committee met in legal session on the above date at 12:00 noon, in the Government Plaza Chambers, with the following members were present constituting a quorum: Commissioners Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Lazarus, and Thomas (5). ABSENT: Commissioner Kracman (1).

Mr. Thomas gave the invocation, and Mr. Epperson led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were no Agenda Additions, so the Committee moved onto Public Comments.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- *Discuss 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*

Mr. Thomas said that the purpose of the continued discussion was to ensure that everything that this Committee wanted was included in the scope of this ordinance.

Mrs. Bryant asked for clarity on what this Committee would like Administration to do. Mr. Thomas said that he would like parameters, guidelines, or options of what this committee can do. He said that the main goal is to rehab the homes in the neighborhoods to make them marketable.

Mr. Thomas said that the goal is to rehabilitate and improve homes in neighborhoods and addressing issues like roof repairs and wheelchair ramps. Mrs. Bryant clarified that the repairs don't necessarily have to be weather related, and the individual has to meet an income requirement. Mr. Thomas agreed.

Mrs. Gage-Watts wanted to know if this would apply to all the asset limited individuals, or would this be the median based income as far as the State of Louisiana poverty line. Attorney Frazier said that they would need to establish what the income requirement would be. She said that it would have to be a low-income requirement, but they can use any requirement that's been established by a state program or a federal program.

Mr. Epperson wanted to ensure that there is not a duplication of services that the Parish of Caddo already provides. Mrs. Bryant said that there is already a wheelchair ramp program. She also explained that the roof repair program is limited on what the Parish can do due to the shape of the facility. It is not wise for us to put a new roof on a property that's in bad condition, she said.

Mrs. Bryant further explained that this funding would more so be for individuals and entities who are seeking assistance for housing. The funds would be very limited, but it would also depend on the collections per year. Mrs. Bryant also mentioned that the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund only has \$1M in it now, so those funds could be drawn down pretty quickly.

Attorney Frazier pointed out that currently, only a developer can come in and apply for a loan or a grant from this fund, not an individual.

Mr. Thomas said that this fund doesn't necessarily have to be a grant. He said that it could be a loan program for entities and individuals.

Mr. Lazarus pointed out that half of these funds are already dedicated to economic development. He suggested that this Committee really think about where these funds are going. Mr. Cothran asked for Mr. Lazarus' suggestion as to where these funds should go. Mr. Lazarus suggested postponing at this time, until the exact parameters are established.

Mr. Thomas said that the main purpose of this meeting was to determine what the funding could and could not be used for and to possibly expand the use to further benefit the citizens. As it stands right now, that loan is only available to corporations.

Mrs. Gage-Watts suggested someone make a motion to establish a board to oversee this fund. Attorney Frazier pointed out that the ordinance already establishes a board with seven members—Commission President, Long Range Planning Committee Chair, Economic Development Committee Chair, two members from the banking industry, Executive Director of the MPC, and a representative from United Way. Mrs. Gage-Watts wanted to know if there was room for a member from the community.

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to establish the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund Technical Committee and to expand it to include two community members and a member from the Parish Planning & Zoning Committee. Motion carried unanimously by all members present with Commissioner Kracman being absent (1).*

Mr. Cothran asked the Clerk of the Commission to get the word out to the Commissioners to fill these extra positions on the board.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned  
2:49 p.m.



Michelle Nations  
Assistant to the Commission Clerk