

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 21st DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2024

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Regular Session, on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., in the Government Chambers, with Mr. John Paul Young, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, Kracman, G. Young, and J. Young (10). ABSENT: Commissioners Lazarus and Thomas (2).

Pastor Collier gave the invocation, and Mr. Cothran led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ADDITIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Cothran**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that the agenda be expanded and Special Resolution of Recognition November as Prostate Cancer Awareness & Men's Health Month* be added under Special Resolutions.

At this time, the President opened the public hearing for anyone to speak in favor or against the agenda addition.

Mr. J. Young mentioned that everyone is wearing fake facial hair or grew out their facial hair to raise awareness for Prostate Cancer.

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

At this time, Mr. Cothran's motion carried unanimously of those present, and the agenda addition was added under Special Resolutions on the agenda.

At this time, it was **moved by Mr. J. Young**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to suspend the rules and move action item regarding the Community Lighthouse Project to the beginning of the agenda*.

Mr. J. Young said that he would like to move this item up on the agenda, so that the Commissioners can ask questions to the speakers.

Mr. J. Young's motion carried unanimously of those present.

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. J. Young, *to repurpose the Galilee ARPA project funds for the construction of the following two community lighthouses: \$250k for a Community Lighthouse to serve the Allendale Neighborhood to be constructed at Galilee Baptist Church; and \$250k for a Community Lighthouse to serve the MLK Neighborhood to be constructed at Willow Chute Baptist Church.*

Mr. Burrell said that this project has been discussed at length. He asked for favorable support among the Commissioners.

Amendment by Mr. G. Young, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that any extra funds be returned to the Parish. Motion carried unanimously by those present.*

Mr. G. Young wanted to ensure that the Parish is only paying for the matched amount that Interfaith is paying per project. Any residual funds from construction will only be met by 50% from the Parish, and any residual monies will be returned to the Parish.

Mr. Nathaniel Wells, Interfaith, came before the Commission and addressed the amendment to fund two community lighthouses. He said that there has been an effective collaboration between Interfaith, the Parish Administration, and the Caddo Parish Commission during disaster relief. They aim to enhance this collaboration with the construction of these lighthouses.

Mr. J. Young wanted to ensure water back up is included in the construction of both sites. Mrs. Bryant said that they will be applied for both sites.

Mr. Atkins said that Interfaith's mission is honorable, but does not feel that this is the most cost-effective way to build community lighthouses. He is not in support of this motion.

Mr. Cothran wanted to know actual costs for each project. Mr. Wells said that they have estimated costs of about \$350k-\$550k.

Mr. Cothran then wanted to know if they have secured the matching funding. Mr. Wells said that have leftover funds from the previous lighthouses that will be used to construct these two

lighthouses. He also mentioned that they could use bridge loan financing options, if needed.

Mr. Cothran then wanted to know if the two previous lighthouses have been completed. Mr. Wells said that Morning Star has been completed, and The Highland Center should start construction soon.

Mr. Cothran wanted to know how Interfaith would fund a total of twenty lighthouses in Caddo Parish. Mr. Wells explained that there is a State Heroes Program which has \$250M to fund projects like this. There is also a \$150M Clean Energy Fund that they could reach out to in order to fund the additional lighthouses.

Mr. Cothran then asked about maintaining the lighthouses. Mr. Wells said that solar panels guaranteed to have 80% capacity after 20 years. He also explained that Galilee and Willow Chute would not own these; they will sign a 20 year service agreement for maintenance. Savings from maintenance will be reinvested to ensure the longevity of the lighthouses.

Mr. Cothran also asked how locations are determined. Mr. Wells explained that they use a Social Vulnerability Index to identify vulnerable areas for disaster, and those are the main priorities. The index includes factors such as: lack of car access, medical device dependency, internet access, etc.

Mr. Cothran then wanted to know if these lighthouses are eligible for ARPA funds. Mrs. Bryant said that these would need to go through the vetting process.

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

Sitting here before you all this afternoon, Commissioners Administration. Uh, I learned a little bit more. But my question still remains. Not more than the last meetings we've had. The projects that you are asking for finding through the ARPA dollars, they do not meet federal guidelines. Now, if something has changed since our last meeting where that information was divulged, then I'd like to know what those criterias are guidelines that now makes these projects eligible for these ARPA dollars. And like we've said already the two lighthouses that didn't meet those guidelines. They were paid out of the oil and gas reserves. So we're not trying to go down that route into excuse me. Indeed. But we want to make sure that we're not putting ourselves in a position where we may be facing something legally down the road. See if you don't qualify, you don't qualify but if you're going to use something other than those arbor dollars, then we need to know what they want to be. Are you going to use taxpayer dollars as you did with the Morning Star project as well as the Highland project? We need to know these things. And we're not saying that these things are not good, we're saying you need to make sure that all the eyes are dotted and the teas are crossed. And right now, they are not unless something has changed. Since the last time we were informed that they did not meet Federal criteria. Thank you.

Mr. J. Young said that other projects similar to this in the State have used ARPA dollars to fund them. He also said that the Oil & Gas Fund belongs to the taxpayers, either federally or locally.

Mr. Cothran wanted to know if they are voting on ARPA money or Oil & Gas monies. Mrs. Bryant said that they are voting on ARPA funds.

Mr. Burrell pointed out that New Orleans was able to use ARPA dollars, so Caddo Parish should be able to use it as well.

Mrs. Blake said that there is not a clarification on whether or not this project is eligible for ARPA dollars. She also suggested providing generators for power access during emergencies. 166 locations could be outfitted with the same amount of money for generators. She also feels that this should have been dispersed differently and not clustered in the City.

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

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

The Commission then went back into regular order by acclamation. There being no Citizens Comments, the Commission moved onto Visitors.

VISITORS

- Visit Shreveport Bossier's 2025 Budget

Mrs. Stacy Brown came before the Commission and gave a brief update on the 2025 Budget for the Tourism Bureau.

The Tourism Bureau has received several awards and recognitions for the events, meetings, and conventions this area hosts. Conventions and meetings are recovering gradually post-COVID. The Sports Commission has completed its comprehensive strategic plan with the Huddle Up Group, and it highlights the Sports Commission as a nationally well-positioned destination and Commission.

Last year, the Tourism Bureau completed its Destination Master Plan and are committed to executing it. They've also restarted the Film Commission, and appreciates the Commission's assistance in this endeavor.

Mrs. Brown also said that they were able to secure a ten-year contract with ASA Archery.

She also talked about a research and data company that helps keep track of visitors. Geolocation is used to track where people are going. She said that key spending areas include food, retail, accommodations, and attractions. The visitors from Houston, New Orleans, Lafayette, and Dallas contribute significantly to the local economy.

Mrs. Brown pointed out that the Mardi Gras campaign yielded a return of \$32.20 for every \$1 spent, while the General Leisure Campaign brought back \$30. There has been an increase in visitors from Dallas and Memphis, but visitors from New Orleans spend more than those from Dallas.

With the Destination Development Plan, coalitions have been formed to address blight and litter in the area. There has also been a reboot of the Entertainment & Film Commission. In the first quarter of next year, the Tourism Pitch Competition will be announced.

Mrs. Brown said that this region boasts excellent outdoor areas for hiking, biking, horseback riding, canoeing, kayaking, etc.; however, the lack of rental equipment limits accessibility for those without their own gear. A Tourism Pitch Competition is being organized to attract entrepreneurs and businesses to provide rental services and enhance the outdoor experience.

Mrs. Brown said that they are utilizing community assets like the Entrepreneurial Accelerator Program for creative initiatives. They've engaged with AMI Kids to provide career guidance and showcase local job prospects.

The Film & Entertainment Commission, led by Mr. Wade Marshall, is actively supporting film projects. They are revamping the community website to provide comprehensive information for businesses in the film industry. They are also focusing on developing the film workforce without the need for a degree. This Commission will be collaborating with organizations, like the Robinson Film Center, to avoid duplication of efforts and enhance workforce development.

Mrs. Brown said that revenues are expected to be slightly lower this year, but should increase next year. Expenses were successfully kept low, resulting in a projected surplus for this year. There have been several new assets, including Live Casino and Chasing Aces, that are anticipated to contribute to a strong 2025.

The Boom or Bust Highway should have their gateway signs erected along the highway.

Mrs. Brown thanked the Commission for allowing her to come today and present this information.

ADOPT REGULAR SESSION MINUTES SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *to englobe and adopt the following items minutes and Special Resolutions:*

- *Regular Session Minutes from November 7, 2024*
- *Special Session Minutes from November 12, 2024*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition 110th Anniversary of Stoner Hill Baptist Church*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition November as Prostate Cancer Awareness & Men's Health Month*

Mr. Cothran recalled his experience with Prostate Cancer. Early detection is key until a cure is found.

Mr. J. Young thanked everyone who grew their facial hair out or wore fake mustaches in honor of Prostate Cancer Awareness. He said that it affects 1 in 8 men in America; and 1 in 6 African American men are affected by this disease. Mr. J. Young encouraged everyone to listen to their bodies. He also encouraged all to take turmeric every day to reduce the risks of getting Prostate Cancer.

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

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION
110th ANNIVERSARY OF STONER HILL BAPTIST CHURCH**

WHEREAS, STONER HILL BAPTIST CHURCH, established in 1914, is celebrating its 110th anniversary this year, marking over a century of faith, service, and dedication to the spiritual growth and well-being of the Stoner Hill community; and

WHEREAS, the church has been a steadfast pillar within Caddo Parish, offering a place of worship, guidance, and support for generations of parishioners and providing community outreach programs, spiritual leadership, and charitable initiatives that have had a profound impact on countless lives; and

WHEREAS, throughout its distinguished history, Stoner Hill Baptist Church has been led by a succession of devoted pastors, clergy, and church members, who have all played instrumental roles in sustaining and growing the church's ministries and outreach efforts, contributing to its longevity and continued relevance within the community; and

WHEREAS, the church has exemplified a commitment to enriching the lives of all who walk through its doors, fostering unity, resilience, and faith through times of challenge and change, and remaining true to its mission to serve and uplift others; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission wishes to recognize and celebrate the outstanding legacy and the ongoing positive contributions of the historic Stoner Hill Baptist Church, which continue to shape and uplift the community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby extend its heartfelt congratulations to Stoner Hill Baptist Church, with deepest appreciation for its enduring service, commitment to faith, and invaluable contributions to the people of Caddo Parish.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be presented to Stoner Hill Baptist Church Pastor Don Taylor on the occasion of its 110th anniversary, which will be marked in a special ceremony on November 17th at 11am featuring Guest Speaker Pastor DaVince Taylor from Zion Rest Baptist Church.

**PROCLAMATION
PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS & MEN'S HEALTH MONTH**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission acknowledges the importance of addressing critical health issues that impact the lives of its residents and promoting awareness to improve overall community well-being; and

WHEREAS, prostate cancer is one of the most common cancers among men, affecting approximately 1 in 8 men during their lifetimes, and early detection through regular screenings significantly increases survival rates; and

WHEREAS, Movember, a global movement taking place each November, encourages individuals to grow mustaches as a visible symbol to spark conversations and raise awareness of men's health issues, including prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and suicide prevention; and

WHEREAS, Movember has successfully raised millions of dollars for research, education, and support programs, empowering men to take action for their health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission seeks to recognize the vital role that awareness campaigns like Movember play in encouraging preventative health measures, early detection, and support for those affected by prostate cancer and other men's health challenges.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, in due, legal, and regular session convened, that it does hereby proclaim November 2024 as:

PROSTATE CANCER & MEN'S HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

in Caddo Parish, and further recognizes the contributions of the Movember movement in promoting men's health and encouraging the residents of Caddo Parish to participate in and support this critical cause.

COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- *Continued Discussion of Resilient Way*

Mr. Epperson thanked Administration for providing the information that he requested.

Mr. Atkins said that Resilient Way is a public road and is accessible by whomever wants to access it, but is primarily used by Resilient Technology Park.

There was no President Report, so the Commission moved onto Public Hearing on Zoning Ordinances.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ZONING ORDINANCES

President J. Young opened the public hearing on the following zoning ordinances:

- *Ordinance No. 6505 of 2024, 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 dwelling-manufactured home and the use matrix, with all their provisions included herein, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6506 of 2024, 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 northwest corner of Blanchard Furrh Road and Lucas Lane, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, from R-A, Rural Agricultural Zoning District, to R-A PUD, Rural Agricultural Planned Unit Development Zoning District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6507 of 2024, 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 northwest corner of Woolworth Road and Tanner Road, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, from I-1, Light Industrial Zoning District, to R-A, Rural Agricultural Zoning District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

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

PUBLIC HEARING ON BUDGET ORDINANCES

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

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES

President J. Young opened the public hearing on the following ordinances:

- *Ordinance No. 6508 of 2024, an ordinance to accept the streets in Simpson Acres Unit No. 4 into the Parish of Caddo Road System, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6509 of 2024, an ordinance to close and abandon a street dedication in the Happy Trails Subdivision, in Section 4, Township 14 North, Range 15 West, in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

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

**ZONING ORDINANCES (for final passage)
ORDINANCES (for final passage)**

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Cothran, *that the following ordinances be adopted:*

- *Ordinance No. 6505 of 2024, 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 dwelling-manufactured home and the use matrix, with all their provisions included herein, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

- *Ordinance No. 6506 of 2024, 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 northwest corner of Blanchard Furrh Road and Lucas Lane, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, from R-A, Rural Agricultural Zoning District, to R-A PUD, Rural Agricultural Planned Unit Development Zoning District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6507 of 2024, 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 northwest corner of Woolworth Road and Tanner Road, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, from I-1, Light Industrial Zoning District, to R-A, Rural Agricultural Zoning District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6508 of 2024, an ordinance to accept the streets in Simpson Acres Unit No. 4 into the Parish of Caddo Road System, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6509 of 2024, an ordinance to close and abandon a street dedication in the Happy Trails Subdivision, in Section 4, Township 14 North, Range 15 West, in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts' motion carried unanimously of those present.

ORDINANCE NO. 6505 OF 2024

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

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 DWELLING- MANUFACTURED HOME AND THE USE MATRIX, WITH ALL THEIR PROVISIONS INCLUDED HEREIN, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission, on recommendation of the Shreveport-Caddo Parish Metropolitan Planning Commission, adopted the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code;

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Planning and Zoning Commission has determined that certain provisions in that Code should be changed to address recent issues and improve the application and administration of that Code and land use within the Planning and Zoning Commission's jurisdiction within Caddo Parish;

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission, having considered the recommendations of the Caddo Parish Planning and Zoning Commission, agrees that such changes are desirable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that volume II of the code of ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, to add various new provisions and procedures relative to short-term rental property in Article 23. – Short-Term Rental Property, with all provisions included therein.

- I. **Article 5, Section 5.2 is amended by substituting Exhibit B hereto in place of the existing Table 5-1.**

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.

ORDINANCE NO. 6506 OF 2024

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

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 NORTHWEST CORNER OF BLANCHARD FURRH ROAD AND LUCAS LANE, CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA., FROM R-A RURAL AGRICULTURAL ZONING DISTRICT TO R-A PUD RURAL AGRICULTURAL PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT ZONING DISTRICT, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

BE IT ORDAINED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, is hereby amended and re-enacted to read as follows, to wit:

The official Zoning Map of the Shreveport Metropolitan Planning Area of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, be amended by rezoning property located Northwest Corner of Blanchard Furrh Road and Lucas Lane, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, more particularly described below, be and the same is hereby amended from R-A Rural Agricultural Zoning District To R-A PUD Rural Agricultural Planned Unit Development Zoning District:

5.041 ACS. M/L - LOT 2, LUCAS LANE SUBDIVISION, UNIT NO. 2, Section 12, T18N, R16W, Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the rezoning of the property described herein is approved subject to compliance with the following stipulations:

The applicant requests the following use to be allowed within the R-A zoning district.

- Dwelling- multi-family (Three dwellings on a single lot)

The applicant also requests the following ordinance relief.

- Article 7 – Single-Family Residential Districts can't have more than one principal building per lot.

Proposed site amenities in exchange for ordinance relief include the following:

- Preservation of existing landscaping features at the site currently.
- Preservation of open space currently existing at the site.

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 (10) 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. 6507 OF 2024

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

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 NORTHWEST CORNER OF WOOLWORTH ROAD AND TANNER ROAD, CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA., FROM I-1 LIGHT INDUSTRIAL ZONING DISTRICT TO R-A RURAL AGRICULTURAL ZONING DISTRICT, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

BE IT ORDAINED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, is hereby amended and re-enacted to read as follows, to wit:

The official Zoning Map of the Shreveport Metropolitan Planning Area of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, be amended by rezoning property located Northwest Corner of Woolworth Road and Tanner Road, Caddo Parish, LA, more particularly described below, be and the same is hereby amended **from I-1 Light Industrial Zoning District To R-A Rural Agricultural Zoning District:**

0.426 AC. M/L - A PORTION OF LOT 1, SAM & EMMA BYRD ESTATE PARTITION, LESS R/W, PER ASSR'S PLAT, SEC 33 T17N R15W, CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA.

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 (10) 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. 6508 OF 2024

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION

AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT THE STREETS IN SIMPSON ACRES UNIT NO.4 INTO THE PARISH OF CADDO ROAD SYSTEM, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has received a request to accept the streets in Simpson Acres Unit No. 4 into the Parish of Caddo road system;

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has received and reviewed the subdivision plats showing a dedication to the Parish of Caddo; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo finds that the acceptance of the subdivisions into the Parish of Caddo system is in the best interest of the Parish of Caddo.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Caddo Parish Commission, in due, legal and regular session convened, that the Parish of Caddo hereby accepts into the Parish of Caddo road system all of the streets in Simpson Acres Unit No. 4, Caddo Parish, Louisiana as shown on the attached subdivision plat marked as "Exhibit A".

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that a copy of this ordinance, with a subdivision plat of the Simpson Acres Unit No. 4 attached thereto as "Exhibit A", shall be filed in the conveyance records of the Parish of Caddo.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that if any provision or item of this ordinance or application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items, or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provision, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this ordinance shall be 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. 6509 OF 2024

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE TO CLOSE AND ABANDON A STREET DEDICATION IN THE HAPPY TRAILS SUBDIVISION, LOCATED IN SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 14 NORTH, RANGE 15 WEST, IN THE PARISH OF CADDO, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has received a request from Mr. Juan V. Durst, III, Ms.

Linda Durst Battaglia, and Ms. Deborah Durst West to close and abandon the 60-foot wide public street dedication that was established by the Happy Trails Subdivision. Mr. Durst and his sisters own all of the adjacent linear footage to this street dedication and a street has never been constructed within the dedication. Mr. Durst and his sisters own nine separate tracts of property in the immediate area and are wanting to combine all of their property into a single lot; and

WHEREAS, on July 10, 1985, the Happy Trails Subdivision was filed and recorded under Instrument No. 01050705, in Book 2050, Page 49, of the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, Louisiana. This subdivision established a 60-foot wide public street dedication between Lots 4 and 5; and

WHEREAS, no street was ever constructed within this public dedication and it does not serve any other property owner nor is it being maintained by the Parish of Caddo; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that the 60-foot wide public dedication between Lots 4 & 5 of the Happy Trails Subdivision, located in Section 4, Township 14 North, Range 15 West, and as shown on Exhibit A, is hereby closed and abandoned and no longer for public use.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a copy of this ordinance and plat marked Exhibit "A", displaying the 60-foot wide public dedication to be closed and abandoned shall be filed in the conveyance records of the Parish of Caddo.

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 of 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.

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. 6477 of 2024, an ordinance to adopt Chapter 2, Article V, Division 4 of the Parish Code of Ordinances relative to parish contracts, to provide for the payment of a living wage by contractors with the Parish, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6510 of 2024, an ordinance to close and abandon an 80- foot wide street dedication in Section 20, Township 21 North, Range 14 West, in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6511 of 2024, an ordinance to increase the Caddo Parish portion of the salaries of Constables and Justices of the Peace, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*

WORK SESSION MINUTES RESOLUTIONS

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *that the following items be englobed and adopted:*

- *Work Session Minutes November 18, 2024*
- *Resolution No. 77 of 2024, a resolution giving written public notice of the regularly scheduled meetings of the Caddo Parish Commission for the calendar year 2025, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts' motion carried unanimously of those present.

RESOLUTION NO. 77 OF 2024

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION GIVING WRITTEN PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS OF THE CADDO PARISH
COMMISSION FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2025, AND TO
OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission is hereby giving written public notice of its regularly scheduled meetings for the calendar year 2025 pursuant to R.S. 42:7; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission is required by law to fix the time, day, and place of its regular meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened that the Caddo Parish Commission shall meet on the Thursday following the first and third Tuesday of each month at 3:30 p.m. in the Government Chamber of the First Floor of the Government Plaza, 505 Travis Street, Shreveport, Louisiana, unless a holiday, and then on the business day immediately following, or on such other days as the Commission may set.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Caddo Parish Commission shall meet in work session on the Monday preceding the regular session, at 3:30 p.m. in the Government Chamber of the First Floor of the Government Plaza, 505 Travis Street, Shreveport, Louisiana, unless Monday is a legal holiday, and then on the business day following, or on such other day as the Commission may set.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Section 3-06. Commission Meetings and Rules of the Caddo Parish Home Rule Charter prescribes that the Commission shall meet regularly at least once in every month; therefore, the Commission will meet only once during the month of July, 2025 and that being on July 3rd, 2025, preceded by a Work Session on June 30th, 2025, and that the Commission will meet only once in a regular session during the month of December, 2025, and that being on December 4th, 2025, preceded by a work session on December 1, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Caddo Parish Commission may meet in duly called special session at other times of the year as may be necessary with proper notice to the public as prescribed by law.

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 declare severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution is effective immediately upon its passage.

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

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *to englobo and adopt the following resolutions:*

- *Resolution No. 78 of 2024, a resolution in support of Louisiana's Motion Picture Program, statutorily known as the Motion Picture Production Tax Credit, and otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 79 of 2024, a resolution opposing Senate Bill 2 of the 2024 Third Extraordinary Session of the Louisiana Legislature relating restrictions on adult prosecution of juveniles and otherwise providing with respect thereto*

Mr. Burrell said that the Motion Picture Tax Credit due to the number of jobs it created and its positive impact on the State. The tax credit also shifted the focus of the movie industry from California to Louisiana. Since then, Louisiana, Georgia, and other southern states have become hubs for the film industry due to the attractive tax incentives. Mr. Burrell said that he is in support of this resolution.

Mrs. Gage-Watts thanked Senator Sam Jenkins for taking the lead on a bipartisan decision to support the continuation of the film tax credit in Louisiana. She asked for the Commissioners' support.

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts' motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, G. Young, and J. Young (6). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, and Kracman (3). ABSENT: Commissioners Jones, Lazarus, and Thomas (3). ABSTAIN: None (0).

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- Mr. G. Young talked about the film tax credits. He said that the country is divided, but freedom of expression is important. He reflected on the lack of progress in the community and the need for

improved. He also emphasizes the importance of moving forward and embracing economic development for lawful activities. He expressed a hope for a better future and encouraged others to work together for positive changes.

- Mr. Cothran wanted to know if streets are dedicated to individuals in the Parish. Attorney Frazier said that it can be done by ordinance.
- Mrs. Gage-Watts said that this resolution aims to support economic development, including job creation, increased sales, and attracting major productions. She said that they need to find common ground and work together for the community's well-being.

Mrs. Gage-Watts also talked about Resolution No. 79 of 2024. She explained that this bill would allow juveniles to be tried as an adult for any crime. There are people who are forming coalitions to oppose this bill. She said that the juveniles who commit a small crime could be put in CCC where they are introduced to more criminals. She emphasized the importance of supporting children. Are we going to support the kids? Or are we going to throw them away? She said.

- Mr. Atkins said that he did not speak negatively against any industry. It is not uncivil to vote the way we want to vote, he said. Mr. Atkins also mentioned that there is ongoing work in the legislature on tax codes. He also has concerns about the transient nature of the movie industry and its reliance on financial incentives. If you back a large manufacturing facility, it's much harder to pack it up and move it, he said.
- Mrs. Blake agreed with Mr. Atkins. She also said that this is not a divide in belief. She also said that the Film Tax Credits have been in place, but people still left.
- Mr. Burrell said that Louisiana's economy is being diversified with the help of the motion picture industry. The State is trying to embrace oil and gas as its major industry, but that industry is declining and only accounts for 14% of Louisiana's GDP. The State needs to diversify its economy and find new ways to support its citizens.
- Mr. Kracman mentioned tax breaks given to self-sustaining industries like Amazon and solar farms. He emphasized the need to prioritize the concerns of local residents, especially those who are struggling financially, over the interests of the film industry. He acknowledged the importance of job creation, but said that the needs of people who are already employed should be prioritized. He is concerned about the high sales tax rates and their impact on the local residents. Supporting blue-collar workers is important, he said.

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *to reconsider Resolution No. 78 of 2024. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, G. Young, and J. Young (7). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins and Kracman (2). ABSENT: Commissioners Jones, Lazarus, and Thomas (3). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was then **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Cothran, *that a letter of support Louisiana's Motion Picture Program, statutorily known as the Motion Picture Production Tax Credit, be sent to the Legislature on behalf of the Commission.*


Point of Order from Mr. Atkins. He requested that the signatures be included in the letter.

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, G. Young, and J. Young (6). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, and Kracman (3). ABSENT: Commissioners Jones, Lazarus, and Thomas (3). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *to reconsider Resolution No. 79 of 2024 and that a letter opposing Senate Bill 2 of the 2024 Third Extraordinary Session of the Louisiana Legislature relating restrictions on adult prosecution of juveniles be sent to the Legislature on behalf of the Commission. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, G. Young, and J. Young (6). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, and Kracman (3). ABSENT: Commissioners Jones, Lazarus, and Thomas (3). ABSTAIN: None (0).

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.


Michelle Nations
Assistant to the Commission Clerk


John-Paul Young
President