

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 4th DAY OF DECEMBER, 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, Jones, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (11). ABSENT: Commissioner Gage-Watts (1).

Mr. G. Young gave the invocation, and Mr. Atkins led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ADDITIONS

There were no agenda additions so the Commission moved to Citizens Comments.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Dorita Grigsby came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Dorita Grisby. Today I'm here to to ask the commissioners that we want to be able to come when we come up with New Year of 2025. Are that we want to ask you to change times. The reason why because a lot of our working families are at work and not able to attend the meetings and we want you guys always say that you want to hear from the public and that's the way you going to be able to hear from the public. You've changed your times to at least the five 5:30 when people start getting off work and then they can come and voice their opinion and I appreciate it and you guys have a happy new year and hopefully get baby get this changed. Thank you, thank you and Happy New Year to you.

Kimberley Jones came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good afternoon. And it's Kimberley and a lot of people on the board know how to pronounce my name, Kimberly. My address is 11893 Providence Rd, Shreveport 71129. I'm piggy backing on what Mr. Rita has stated about the town, the change in time so that we can have more other people from the community here and if you do change the times, trust we will get them here. And not only here, but we want them to be able to voice their concerns with the Caddo Parish commissioner and we want to make sure our communities are educated and engaged in what's going on with the community. So that is something that we are asking again, if the time can be changed or. And then later so that we have more people in the community able to attend the meetings on a regular basis and not just the 10, but also to be engaged. Thank you. Ohh. And again, happy holiday.

There were no Visitors, so the Commission moved onto adopting the Regular Session Minutes.

ADOPT REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mr. Cothran, *adopt the Regular Session Minutes from November 21, 2024. Motion carried unanimously by those present.*

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mr. Cothran, englobo, and adopt the following special resolutions:

- *Special Resolution of Recognition for Incoming Caddo Tax Assessor Regina Webb*
- *Special Resolution of Remembrance for Lynn Nelson Stevens*
- *Special Resolution for Shreveport Funeral Home and Cremation Tribute Center*

At this time, Mr. Jones' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Jones, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Gage-Watts (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION
CADDO PARISH TAX ASSESSOR REGINA WEBB**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission recognizes the importance of public service and the exceptional contributions of leaders who dedicate themselves to serving the citizens of Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, Regina Webb has been elected to serve as the next Tax Assessor for Caddo Parish, and will take office on January 1, 2025, marking the beginning of a new chapter of service and leadership for Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, Regina Webb has demonstrated a commitment to excellence, integrity, and transparency in public service, qualities that will guide her in fulfilling the responsibilities of the Tax Assessor's Office with diligence and fairness; and

WHEREAS, the role of Tax Assessor is vital to ensuring the equitable assessment of property values, the maintenance of accurate public records, and the support of essential local services that benefit all citizens of Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, Regina Webb brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and a strong vision for the future of the Tax Assessor's Office, pledging to uphold the trust placed in her by the residents of Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission expresses its confidence in Regina Webb's ability to lead with distinction and its appreciation for her dedication to serving the community and acknowledges her history making as the first Female and the first person of color to hold the office of Caddo Parish Tax Assessor;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, that it does hereby formally recognize and congratulate Regina Webb on her election as Caddo Parish Tax Assessor, and extend its best wishes for her success as she assumes office on January 1, 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be made a part of the official minutes of the Caddo Parish Commission as a lasting expression of support and recognition of Regina Webb's leadership and service.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF REMEMBRANCE LYNN NELSON STEVENS

WHEREAS, it is with profound sadness that the Caddo Parish Commission records the passing of Lynn Amber Nelson Stevens, a tireless advocate, community leader, and devoted wife, mother, sister, and friend, whose impact on Northwest Louisiana will endure as a testament to her remarkable life of service and her extraordinary heart for helping others, dedication to serving her community and those in need, and embodying the values of compassion, resilience, and determination; and

WHEREAS, Lynn was a devoted wife to Aaron Stevens for 33 years, a loving mother to Kaitlyn and Colin Stevens, and a cherished family member and friend, whose love extended to her service dog Leisel, and her rescue pets Chewy and Panda; and

WHEREAS, after moving to the Shreveport-Bossier area in 2007, Lynn immersed herself in the community, contributing her time and talents to countless organizations including Norwela Boy Scout Troop 64, SUSLA Roy Griggs School of Business, the Caddo Parish School Board's Family and Community Advisory Council, the Quota Club of Shreveport, Rotary Club of Bossier City, Hope for the Homeless, and the Bossier Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, as a leader in the nonprofit sector, Lynn raised over \$55 million to support critical programs and initiatives, and her leadership was instrumental in expanding services for domestic violence survivors, restoring 2-1-1 services in Northwest Louisiana, and supporting successful reentry programs for high-risk individuals through her role at Goodwill Industries of North Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Lynn's advocacy extended to addressing systemic issues such as racial injustice and poverty, and her dedication to the ALICE Report inspired important dialogues with public officials and community leaders on how to better serve working families in need; and

WHEREAS, despite living with FSH Muscular Dystrophy and facing immense personal challenges, Lynn became a powerful advocate for disability rights, serving on the Louisiana Rehabilitation Council, where she was appointed by Governor John Bel Edwards and later named president of the board by Governor Jeff Landry; and

WHEREAS, Lynn's zest for life, passion for hockey, and adventurous spirit inspired everyone around her, and her contributions to special project like the North Webster Community Center stand as enduring legacies of her vision and determination; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, that it does hereby extend its deepest condolences to Lynn's family, friends, and countless community members whose lives were enriched by her compassion and selflessness and it honors and celebrates the life and legacy of Lynn Nelson Stevens, expressing its profound gratitude for her extraordinary service to the community, and acknowledging the lasting impact of her work on the lives of countless individuals

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION
SHREVEPORT FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATION TRIBUTE CENTER**

WHEREAS, the Shreveport Funeral Home and Cremation Tribute Center, located at 5307 Alex Lane, Shreveport, Louisiana, officially began operations on January 1, 2021, under the leadership of longtime death care professional Brandon Leroy Patterson, Sr., and as part of the Houston-based Allen Dave Funeral Directors and Cremation Tribute Center's network; and

WHEREAS, Brandon L. Patterson, Sr., a Shreveport native, returned to his roots as the face of the Shreveport Funeral Home and Cremation Tribute Center, bringing with him decades of invaluable experience gained under the tutelage of his father in the highly competitive death care industry; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Patterson has achieved significant milestones in his career, including national certification by the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards, licensure as a Funeral Director and Embalmer in Louisiana (2007) and Texas (2021), and serving alongside longtime businessman Allen Dave as a stakeholder in the Center; and

WHEREAS, the Shreveport Funeral Home and Cremation Tribute Center has continuously provided sympathetic, compassionate, and professional care for families, offering solace and hope to those in times of grief and becoming a trusted partner in communal healing through its services; and

WHEREAS, in response to the needs of northern Caddo Parish, the Shreveport Funeral Home and Cremation Tribute Center has expanded its operations to Vivian, Louisiana, at 611 South Pine Street, where it will continue its vital mission of providing a sanctuary for healing, comfort, and support to families and the community; and

WHEREAS, the new Vivian location is poised to play a critical role in fostering empathy, reducing isolation during loss, and offering essential services such as counseling and memorial events that support emotional well-being, all while maintaining its distinction as the only funeral home of color in the area operating a crematory;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, that it does hereby recognize and commend the Shreveport Funeral Home and Cremation Tribute Center for its significant contributions to the community and its expansion to Vivian, Louisiana, a move that will undoubtedly enrich and strengthen the bonds of support within Caddo Parish;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby declare Sunday, December 1, 2024 as:

"Shreveport Funeral Home and Cremation Tribute Center Day"

in the Parish of Caddo, and urges all citizens to celebrate this wonderful occasion.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- Opioid Funds
Administrator Bryant advised the commission received the funding of 1.7 million for opioid treatment.

COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Epperson reminded everyone about the war on litter he referenced pictures and inquired if the constables would continue to site for the litter.

Mr. Epperson also spoke on the Holidome and requested a plan of action for it to be demolished.

He also talked about the possibility of providing meals during the holiday season. Mrs. Bryant advised that she could look into it.

Mr. Epperson also wanted to remind people about the 83rd Anniversary of Pearl Harbor.

He also spoke about the new businesses that have opened in West Caddo Parish and invited people to move to that area.

Mr. Epperson congratulated his son for all of his military achievements.

- Mr. Jones encouraged people to attend the Common Ground event and for people to donate to the upcoming AB Palmer toy drive. Mr. Jones mentioned a 5k walk in honor of Lukia Rawls.

- Mrs. Hurst, from the Alzheimer's Association presented an award to the Parish Commission for going above and beyond and raising \$5,200 in 48 hours.
- Mr. Thomas mentioned 40 under 40, as well as other upcoming events in the community.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President J. Young advised that this will be his last president's report in 2024. He commended everyone for all of their hard work and wished everyone well during the holidays.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES

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

- *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*

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

Having been in the midst of the conversations with regards to the public hearing you all have to consider today, I can attest and affirm that I am in agreement with them. I know that they have been some tweaking on some of the items making it just what it needs to be. Not leaving anything for us to not understand what your purpose and intent is today. I, too, thank you the authors of those legislations. I want to extend to you all to have a Happy New Year. In God's will, we will see each other at the next meeting.

There being no one else to speak in favor, or against, the ordinances, the President closed the public hearings. 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. G Young**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that 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* be adopted.

Mr. G. Young said that the ordinance aims to ensure a living wage of \$15 per hour as a minimum for contractors to pay their employees while they are doing work for the Parish. He said that this would go into effect January 1, 2025.

Mr. Atkins opposed this proposal. He feels that the Commission should not impose their views on what they should pay their employees.

Mr. J. Young said that the cost of everything has gone up. He discussed the necessity of either bringing costs down or increase wages for survival.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 6477 OF 2024

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND RE-ENACT SECTIONS 2-209 ET SEQ OF ARTICLE VI OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATIVE TO THE CADDO PARISH LIVING WAGE, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish has an interest in protecting the public health, safety and welfare of its residents by establishing certain compensation requirements for its own classified employees; and

WHEREAS the poverty rate in Caddo Parish exceeds the national average according to U.S. Census data; and

WHEREAS, payment of higher wages is associated with greater business investment in employee training, higher productivity, and lower employee absenteeism and turnover; and

WHEREAS, this Article is intended to promote better quality and increase the reliability of Caddo Parish employees, promote higher productivity and retention of parish employees, and thus increase the quality of services rendered by the Parish to its citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened that the Caddo Parish Commission amends Chapter Two, Article I of the Caddo Parish Code of Ordinances to add the following:

CHAPTER 2-ADMINISTRATION

ARTICLE V.

DIVISION 4.-LIVING WAGE ORDINANCE

Section 2-225. POLICY STATEMENT

In accordance with all applicable state and federal laws, the Parish of Caddo has adopted the following Living Wage Ordinance to comply with the Parish's policy of providing and ensuring that its employees earn a living wage to increase the reliability and productivity of Parish employees. The further purpose of this division is to ensure that when taxpayer-funded benefits are extended by the parish to private business, they are used in a way that benefits the parish as a whole, by creating jobs that keep workers and their families out of poverty.

Section 2-226 LIVING WAGE

Starting in fiscal year 2025, the Parish of Caddo's minimum classified pay rate shall be \$15.00 per hour.

Section 2-227 LIVING WAGE AS APPLIED TO PARISH CONTRACTORS

Starting in fiscal year 2025, every covered employer shall pay covered employees no less than \$15.00 per hour for all hours worked as a covered employee.

Section 2-228 DEFINITIONS

(a) A parish contractor is a "covered employer" for any parish contract, not required by Louisiana law to be publicly bid, where the value is or is projected to be \$25,000.00 or more. A parish contractor ceases to be a covered employer for a parish contract upon termination of that contract.

(b) A "covered employee" is an employee of a covered employers are" for all hours he or she performs work: (a) pursuant to a parish contract.

(c) Exceptions to covered employers and covered employees:

1. unpaid volunteers
2. student workers
3. student interns
4. individuals receiving job-skills preparation in connection with a program of study at an educational institution
5. organizations receiving parish funds through the NGO process
6. Businesses with less than sixteen employees

Section 2-229 MONITORING

(a) Every covered employer shall be deemed to have agreed to the payment of a living wage, as defined in Section 2-227, as a condition of entering into or renewing a parish contract, and shall: (a) post a notice in a prominent place regarding the applicability of this article in every workplace in which covered employees are working that is within employer's custody and control; and (b) provide payroll records or any other documentation deemed necessary to ensure compliance with this article within ten business days from the parish's request.

(b) Prior to entering into a parish contract, a covered employer shall submit all required documentation to the designated department indicating compliance with this article.

(c) Any person may submit a complaint or report of a violation of this article to the designated department. Upon receipt of such a complaint or report, the designated department shall investigate to determine if there has been a violation. The investigation shall be resolved within 90 days.

(d) A contractor's failure to comply with the requirements of this article shall be deemed a material breach of the parish contract.

(e) Annually, the administration shall present a report to the parish commission detailing its efforts to monitor compliance with this article. This report shall identify each parish contract involving a covered employer the number of covered employees that have worked on parish contracts over the last calendar year.

Section 2-230 PENALTY

(a) The parish shall have the right to modify, terminate, and/or seek specific performance of any parish contract with a covered employer or to cancel, terminate or suspend the parish contract in whole or in part and/or to refuse any further payments under the parish contract. The parish may also debar the covered employer from receipt of parish contracts for a period not to exceed two years.

(b) Nothing contained in this article shall be construed to limit in any way the remedies, legal or equitable, which are available to the parish or any other person for the correction of violations of this article.

Section 2-231 MULTI-YEAR AGREEMENTS

Any parish contract covered by this section, with a term of longer than one year, inclusive of any renewal terms or extensions, shall provide that the living wage is enforceable in each year the contract is in force.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this ordinance is effective January 1, 2025.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that the following items be englobed and adopted:*

- *Ordinance No. 6510 of 2024, an ordinance to close and abandon an 80 foot wide s*
- *Ordinance No. 6467 of 2024, an ordinance to authorize the purchase of the surface parking lot, located at Texas at McNeill Streets, Shreveport, Louisiana, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

Mr. Cothran asked for more clarification on this. Mrs. Bryant said that the employees park two blocks away, and there are concerns for the employees' safety. She explained that this would provide 30 spaces for Caddo Parish employees.

- *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 December 2, 2024*
- *Resolution No. 80 of 2024, a resolution urging and requesting Congress to seek viable alternatives to clinical trials for determining market readiness of Sickle Cell Disease treatments, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *End of the Year Appointments*

Mr. Burrell requested that they take up each item separately. Mr. Jones withdrew his motion to englobo.

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that Ordinance No. 5410 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* be adopted. Motion carried unanimously of those present.

ORDINANCE NO. 6510 OF 2024

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE VI OF CHAPTER 26 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE PARISH OF CADDO RELATIVE TO SECTION 26-189, SCHEDULE I, NO TRUCK ZONES, ON BROWN STREET AND COLEY ROAD AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, Public Works has received requests from citizens to establish Brown St and Coley Rd as no truck zones.

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo finds that it is in the best interests of the Parish of Caddo to designate Brown St and Coley Rd as "no truck zones" and install appropriate signage, beginning at LA169 and extending to LA538.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that Chapter 26, Section 26-189 of the Code of Ordinances be and is hereby amended to add the following:

Brown Street and Coley Road, beginning at the intersection of LA169 and extending to the intersection of LA538, be designated as No Truck Zones.

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 upon 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.

It was **moved by Mr. Kracman**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that 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* be adopted.

Mr. Cothran said that this would increase their monthly salary by \$100. They would be receiving \$345 per month from the Caddo Parish Commission.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if the existing salary constitutes a living wage. Mrs. Bryant said that it does not, but these are elected positions, so the Constables and JOPs know their salary before choosing to run for that office.

Mr. Atkins made the distinction between internal employees and paying them a living versus requiring contractors to pay their employees a living wage. He said that he will voting in support of this particular ordinance.

Mr. Kracman pointed out that this proposed raise is the first raise they would receive in sixteen years.

Mr. G. Young said that he will support this measure.

ORDINANCE NO. 6511 OF 2024

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE TO INCREASE THE CADDO PARISH PORTION OF THE SALARIES OF CONSTABLES AND JUSTICES OF THE PEACE, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo is required to pay minimum salaries for Justices of the Peace and Constables; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo is currently paying a salary of \$345.00 per month to each Constable and Justice of the Peace of which \$225.00 is the Parish's portion and \$120.00 is the State of Louisiana's portion; and

WHEREAS, the portion of that salary reimbursed to the Parish from the State has increased from one hundred dollars (\$100.00) to one hundred twenty dollars (\$120.00); and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo would like to increase its portion of the Constables and Justices of the Peace salary from \$225.00 to \$325.00; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that Chapter 28 of the Code of Ordinances is hereby amended and re-enacted to read as follows to-wit:

Sec. 28-1. Salaries of Justices of the Peace and Constables

(a) Justices of the peace and constables shall receive no fees in criminal matters or in peace bond cases, but in lieu thereof they shall receive a salary of three hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$325.00) per month.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this ordinance is effective January 1, 2025.

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. 6512 of 2024, an ordinance to close and abandon a portion of the public dedication for Wells Island Road, located in Section 13, Township 18 North, Range 14 West, in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

**WORK SESSION MINUTES
RESOLUTIONS**

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that the Work Session Minutes from December 2, 2024 be ratified and that Resolution No. 80 of 2024, a resolution urging and requesting Congress to seek viable alternatives to clinical trials for determining market readiness of Sickle Cell Disease treatments, and otherwise providing with respect thereto be adopted. Motion carried unanimously.*

RESOLUTION NO. 80 OF 2024

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION URGING AND REQUESTING CONGRESS TO SEEK VIABLE ALTERNATIVES TO CLINICAL TRIALS FOR DETERMINING MARKET READINESS OF SICKLE CELL DISEASE TREATMENTS, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, sickle cell disease (SCD) is a genetic blood disorder that disproportionately affects individuals of African descent and other minority populations, causing severe pain, organ damage, and reduced life expectancy; and

WHEREAS, advancements in medical research have yielded promising treatments and potential cures for SCD, yet the reliance on traditional clinical trials as the primary means of determining market readiness delays access to these life-saving therapies for millions of patients; and

WHEREAS, the unique characteristics of SCD and the relatively small patient population pose significant challenges to traditional clinical trial methodologies, including recruitment, retention, and representation, which can hinder the timely development and approval of new treatments; and

WHEREAS, the need for urgent action is underscored by the suffering of patients currently living with SCD, who face limited treatment options and the disproportionate impacts of health inequities; and

WHEREAS, innovative approaches such as adaptive trial designs, real-world evidence, and expanded access programs can provide more inclusive, efficient, and ethical pathways for assessing the safety and efficacy of SCD treatments, while accelerating their availability to those in need; and

WHEREAS, federal action to explore and implement viable alternatives to traditional clinical trials is essential to advancing health equity and improving outcomes for individuals with SCD;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission, in due, regular, and legal session convened, that it does hereby urge and request the Congress of the United States to prioritize the health and well-being of individuals affected by sickle cell disease by exploring and implementing viable alternatives to traditional clinical trials for determining market readiness of SCD treatments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Caddo Parish Commission supports collaboration among federal agencies, researchers, healthcare providers, and patient advocacy groups to identify and adopt innovative methodologies for treatment evaluation and approval.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Louisiana Congressional Delegation, the United States Department of Health and Human Services, and other relevant stakeholders to express the urgent need for action on this critical issue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *that Resolution No. 81 of 2024, a resolution strongly urging and requesting AEP/SWEPCO to allow an extension through its property of the public road giving access to its property in Resilient Technology Park, and otherwise providing with respect thereto be postponed until January 23, 2025 Regular Session.*

Mr. Corbin explained that a letter was sent on November 21, 2024 regarding the AEP/SWEPCO facility. He clarified that the street is a public road, not a private one. Mr. Corbin also provided the Commissioners with a copy of the CEA, which outlines the funding roles from the various entities.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if the road was public. Mr. Corbin reiterated that it is a dedicated public street. He also explained that Resilient Way was purposely designed to provide access to the facility. Mr. Burrell argued that this is not a secure site. He asked if this facility was a secured facility. Mr. Corbin said that it is and there are multiple checkpoints to the facility.

Mr. G. Young wanted to know if the Parish waived any rights that would forbid the Parish from using the road to connect to another road. Attorney Frazier said that there are concerns regarding potential violations of the agreement related to the property. Mr. G. Young also pointed out that "an attorney and a lawyer are different".

Mr. Kracman wanted to know if AEP/SWEPCO requested any tax abatements. Mr. Corbin said that they did not. He then asked how many employees are at the facility. Mr. Corbin said that there are currently 30 employees, but will have more in the future. Mr. Kracman said that if they decide to relocate, District 1 would love to have them.

Call for the Question by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Lazarus. Motion carried unanimously.

At this time, Mr. Epperson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Jones, Lazarus, Thomas, and G. Young (9). NAYS: Commissioners Kracman and J. Young (2). ABSENT: Commissioner Gage-Watts (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that the End of the Year appointments be adopted as the following:*

Board Member	Board Term	Expire Date
Lendell Davidson	Fire District No. 1	12/4/2024
Joseph Distefano	Fire District No. 1	12/4/2024
Susan Tuberville	Fire District No. 3	12/4/2024
Steve Opbroek	Fire District No. 4	12/4/2024
Greg Sims	Fire District No. 4	12/4/2024
Kevin McClure	Fire District No. 4	12/4/2024
Jake Majors	Fire District No. 5	12/4/2024
Lennis Elston	Fire District No. 5	12/4/2024
John Lorick	Fire District No. 5	12/4/2024
Stacy Pierce	Fire District No. 5	12/4/2024
Patrick Micciotto	Fire District No. 6	12/4/2024
Marilyn Smith	Fire District No. 6	12/4/2024
Don Razinsky	Fire District No. 6	12/4/2024
James R. Alexander	Fire District No. 7	12/4/2024

David Houston	Fire District No. 7	12/1/2024
David Austin, Jr.	Fire District No. 8	12/4/2024
Billy Woods	Sewerage District No. 7	12/4/2024
Lonnie Dunn	Waterworks District No. 7	12/4/2024
Vacant	Sewerage District No. 8	6/19/2028
Roy C. Murry	Shreve Memorial Library Board	12/31/2024
Kenny Fedd	Sewerage District No. 7	11/1/2028
Georgia Blow	Sewerage District No. 7	11/6/2028

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


COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mrs. Blake announced that there is an all-inclusive gym for children with sensory need that opened up in District 8. She also welcomed Silver Star into her district.
- Mr. Epperson encouraged all to volunteer during the holiday season.
- Mr. Kracman invited everyone to attend the Christmas on Caddo event on Saturday. The event begins at 1:00 p.m.
- Mr. G. Young wished all his colleagues well during the holiday season.
- Mr. J. Young commended Mr. G. Young on all of his hard work as chair of the Economic Development Committee, as well as, Mr. Thomas on his hard work as chair of the Animal Services Committee. He, too, wished everyone well during the holiday season.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.


Ashlyn King
Office Specialist


Michelle Nations
Assistant to the Commission Clerk


John-Paul Young
President