

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 7th DAY OF AUGUST, 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, G. Young, and J. Young (12). ABSENT: None (0).

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Edward Best came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Edward Best, 637 Rock Hollow Drive, Shreveport, 71115. Thank you, commissioners, for giving us this opportunity to speak to you guys. I am not against pickleball, okay? I'm pro-sports. I'm pro-pickleball, pro-baseball, pro-football, okay? I came down and spoke to you guys a few weeks ago about this same project. I am, like some of the others said, I'm against this project, how it is structured. And I really feel like the commission does a very good job of being stewards of our money, the taxpayers' money. This is a revenue bond. I get that. We understand that, okay? The revenue generated from the pickleball court is going to pay that bond back. Our biggest concern is, has there been enough thought going into this about it being just a pickleball court? Have we thought more about other ways to spend that \$10 million? I'm not against spending the \$10 million to better our community, okay? I'm from the area. I own a home in the area that the pickleball court would be in, so you think I would be for it. What I want to see is, I want to see y'all really put an emphasis on thinking about something besides a pickleball court, okay? The average pickleball player, and everybody here, I've heard everybody talk about this throughout the entire process that this is about the youth in Caddo Parish, you know, bring in the youth, it's all about the youth and the health movement. The average pickle ball player is over 30 years old. I mean, tell me what, I mean, how that's going to affect the youth in Caddo Parish. It doesn't, okay? This more about trying to draw in people from outside of the area, and I totally get that. Okay, youth sports are a \$50 billion a year industry. \$50 billion a year industry. Compare that to pickleball, okay? Look at youth volleyball, basketball, baseball, football. There's all kinds of indoor and outdoor sports that we could be looking to spend. We have baseball fields that we could be spending. I know the City of Shreveport has Southern Hills. We could be looking at turfing those baseball fields. Alright, going in and doing it with the City of Shreveport and turfing Cargill and making it a multi-use facility for baseball, for football, for soccer, for multiple sports. That's all we're asking, is to send this back and really think about what, you know, where this \$10 million is going, okay? That's all I ask. So, thank you guys for always being able to listen to us and being willing to open up, and thank you very much.

Sloan Hall came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good afternoon. My name is Sloan Hall. I'm at 131 Chelsea Drive, 71105 here in Shreveport. So, I was born and raised here in Shreveport where I currently own a home and live with my, also Shreveport native, boyfriend. Both of us were athletes through high school and, by virtue of that, engaged with many sports as both participants and fans. Pickleball is no exception, as both of us are very excited about this project and what it could mean for our community and personal lives. My whole life, my hometown has been a passthrough city. It has been unknown to non-locals and also a place the majority of my peers could not wait to leave behind. Now, I'm surrounded daily by friends and clients of all ages, a great many of whom are pickleball fanatics who chose to stay in or return to Shreveport because it's home. But that doesn't mean the city should stay stagnant. I've been learning about the pickleball park development at the Camp Forbing YMCA and came to this meeting today to voice my support as a lifetime citizen of Caddo Parish. This project seems designed to invite tourism, create revenue for the city, the parish, the whole region, and enrich the lives of local citizens. To my knowledge, the PPA and the YMCA have agreed to support this project and are ready to move forward. The school board is also in support, as it will give each student in the parish access to learn about and engage with the sport they otherwise might not be able to, while supporting the sport in each district. It is my understanding that the funding would come from a \$10 million loan which cannot be used elsewhere or to support any other city projects. As a near-monthly traveler, I've seen the growth that tourism can generate in other cities, and we've missed the boat before, but we don't have to this time. I've heard a lot of misunderstanding regarding the availability and usage of the money, like that it's taxpayer money or can be used towards other public projects. And while I'm sure this committee would love to solve those problems, I would like to stress that this money would not come out of taxpayers' pockets, cannot go towards things like roads or police funding and essentially does not exist for our community unless it is approved for this project. At the meeting on Monday, the biggest and most repeated argument against this project was, "will people play sports in Louisiana when it's hot?" The answer to that question is definitively yes. Most of our local sports are not only played outdoors uncovered, but also played regardless of weather conditions and already have facilities in use. The pickleball park would turn a profit operating at just 40% capacity and the court designs have shade covers built in. I've also heard some concerns over the proposed location, but not one of the addressed the fact

that the Camp Forbing YMCA provides the necessary space as well as an already built facility that would cost much more to build from scratch, not to mention the cost of developing that much more land. This park would not only enhance this district, but would lead to growth across all districts. Something so amazing about it is the fact that, in addition to 19 pickleball courts, enough to host a whole tournament, there will also be park space and walking trails for everyone of all ages to enjoy. SporTran is behind this endeavor and will ensure public access. So, if the reason you're against this is because it's not in your district, please remember there are other districts in this city. Additionally, this part of the parish does not have a park at all. And, while every other district does, some even have multiple with programs for families. Thus, the pickleball park would meet a focused, unmet district need in addition to providing city-wide benefits. If the biggest obstacles to bettering our city and the lives of our citizens is southern heat and misunderstanding over the reasons for the choice of location, then what reason is there to deny the parish such an improvement? Thank you.

Belinda Rose came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

I want to say good afternoon. Belinda Rose, 810 East 70th Street, and I stand today in opposition. I am represented by an inner-city commissioner who is very limited as to what he can provide or help Cedar Grove area with as far as any type of investment. So, I stand in opposition of \$10 million, as to what else you can do with \$10 million. I can understand a million dollars to help start up the project, but being asked to put a pickle court in one area of the parish, are you willing to spend that same amount in other areas of the parish? If this opportunity was so great and beneficial to all of Caddo Parish, I really believe private investors would have had an interest in it right after the building of the YWCA. I encourage all of you to be good stewards over the finances you have been elected to oversee. Thank you for your time.

Kenneth Krefft came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good afternoon. Kenneth Krefft, 157 Archer Avenue, Shreveport, 71105. I have seen seven commercially sold drugs, whether it's arthritis, heart disease, eczema, diabetes, and the people in the ad are playing pickleball. And of course, they want you to focus on the pickleball players and not hear all the side effects from the drug. I ran the numbers. It's easy as pie. If every court out of 19 were fully occupied 10 hours a day for 365 days a year, that revenue covers almost half of the \$10 million in bond debt and interest. Of course, they won't be occupied 10 hours a day every day. There will be holidays. There will be rain. I drove over here and went by Querbes, where it's \$3.50 per player per hour. My neighbors play there because in two hours it cost them \$14, whereas the new place they'd have to drive eight miles instead of two blocks from Coldwell, and they would spend a lot more. But, it's just, the numbers don't add up, and I've done the math and I'm a numbers geek. I have Asperger's. Okay, I do believe it's a good idea, but I think we need far fewer courts. The numbers just don't make it. You're not going to have every court occupied all day every day. Realistically, the proponents are far overselling the revenues. Thank you.

Craig Lee came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Craig Lee, 1112 Prospect Street, Shreveport, Louisiana. I always like going behind Ken Krefft, because he and I are numbers guys. Want to start off, I did some analysis on pickleball which is advanced badminton. You know, it's a stepchild of tennis and ping pong. The current market value of pickleball globally, they say is between 2.2 billion and 2.5 billion. That's global. Unidentified sources predict the market will reach 4.4 billion by 2033. I think those are just inflated numbers just like Ken just said, reflecting a 11.3 compound annual growth rate. North America accounted for 42.9% of the participant market share, which is roughly 900 million. It's actually a little bit less than that. And then North America accounted for 55.5% of the apparel and equipment sales. But here's the question I want to ask you guys. What do Devin White, Tradavious "Shaq" White, Greedy Williams, Lee Lee Williams, Donovan Wilson, Morris Claiborne all have in common? All of them, with the exception of Devin White, all played in the NFL and they all came through this wonderful sports program called Express Sports, which is the number one youth athletic sports program in the state of Louisiana, run by Warren Brown and Lonnie Bryant. We have several big-time major league youth athletic programs in the City of Shreveport and the Parish of Caddo and they get no funding, no real funding. The reason I said I'm neutral is because, although I really could care less about pickleball, if southeast Shreveport wants 10 million and you want to stand behind that, okay, cool. But we're going to come with a proposal for 15 million that we want to do a multi-purpose sports plex for basketball, volleyball, cheering, just a multitude of different things, as the initial speaker said, in terms of also astroturfing Cargill Park and other facilities that we can now actually go at this whole process of bringing young men and young women in the inner-city into the realm. And lastly, we're going to be conducting a survey over the next one and a half weeks to ask the people of Caddo, "Would you prefer pickleball, 10 million, or a sports plex that will really get at the heart of generating revenue, tourism dollars, and also reducing crime?" And lastly, the YMCA has no credibility in this situation because the YMCA pimped youth by saying that they were going to be bussing students, inner-city students out to their new sports plex and that has yet to happen. So, from that standpoint, that's where we stand. Thank you.

David Rogers came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

I wanted to come up and just say I support the project. Sure. David Rogers, 317 Unadilla, Shreveport, 71106. So, I just wanted to say that I'm in support of the pickleball project. I think it will be great for sports tourism areas and I just think it's going to be great for the city and the parish.

Mona Proctor came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good afternoon. My name is Mona Proctor. I live at 102 Tooke Drive, Shreveport, Louisiana. I live one quarter of a mile from Kroger on Ellerbe, so I'm very involved in this, and less than a week and a half ago, we had a drive-by shooting a quarter of a mile the other way. So, and I've listened, I've been here through every bit of it. I've heard everything every one of you have had to say. And I think great, fantastic, but does it have to cost \$10 million? Because I'm like the lady in red. You take \$10 million and you spread it throughout this city, we can, you can really, you guys can really do something. You can really accomplish something. I got a daughter that went to Centenary and got a fabulous education. She's in California and every time she comes here, she says, "I cannot find a motel that's worth staying at." She says, "every time we go to a restaurant that had a good reputation, it's no longer open." So, when y'all tell me this is for tourism, I say "what are they coming for?" I'm embarrassed to say what they're coming to see when they get here. Don't sell that. I talk to people that I know that play pickleball. They say, "Oh we've been playing. We got courts." And right now, today, we're seeing that the boardwalk is down. SO, they're looking to invest in a closed arena, pickleball courts. So, this is not going to help you. This is going to hurt you guys in selling this venture. And the lady told us, "We already got approval to get the 10 million. We're going to do it whether we do pickleball or not." So that makes me think, you're spending this money unwisely because I'm like this guy over here. That's too much money to put in this kind of venture, because you can do it for a lot less and spend the money to make Shreveport look better. I'm not going to say no pickleball. I'm going to say, "is this the best thing for Shreveport?" And only you guys can make that decision because you guys are the one that have that authority, not me, not us. It's up to you guys.

Quinton Aught came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

How y'all doing? My name's Quinton Aught. I stay on 9371 Mansfield Road. I work for Congressman Cleo Fields as liaison. We have a listening tour coming up next week, August the 11th at 6:00 at Morning Star Baptist Church. If you guys would like to come out, not only you guys, but to the public. So we would love to have everybody come out to be aware of what's coming on the federal level, to become educated on so many ways. So, if you guys want to be there, again, we'll be at Morning Star Baptist Church, August the 11th at 6:00. So, that's pretty much it. Appreciate y'all.

Irma Rogers came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Irma Rogers, 1920 Michoud Street, Shreveport, Louisiana, 71107. To Madam Chair Stormy Gage-Watts, Vice President Ken Epperson, to CEO Erica Bryant and your staff, and to all of the other commissioners, I did not have an opportunity to finish my report last time I was here, July 3rd. So, I did want to finish the report. Basically, we've work with about three main focuses from the funding that we get from this commission, and that's going to be with the children, with the senior citizens, and our general public. I did report on the children. I did not finish all of the scores because we didn't have them at that time. But for our senior socialization, which has grown, we've had 11 regular meeting and 2 special meetings. The special meeting are winter weather safety and our fall forum last year, which focus on responding to manmade and other extreme weather and natural disasters, because Haynesville shale is once again in our neighborhood. For our students, since 2021, we have one school that has come up 17 points. We're very, very proud of this. This school started in like the 30s and now they're over, they're above the F. So, we have no schools that are F in our area, MLK, Cooper Road. However, every time we meet the targets, and I should add to this post-script, education is longitudinal. It doesn't happen overnight. We have been doing this since 2021, when we started with summer basics with a \$100,000 grant from another institution. But, from what we received, which is less than 100,000, from this commission, 20, 16,000, 20, and 20, we have done the work in putting tutors in six of the schools, not just our schools, too. We included other schools withing District A and 2 for our commission. So, just to let you know, now that they've come to this point, it is going to move. They always move the pencil on you. So, new requirements include, DIBELS are going to be included in school performance scores. You have to grow the lowest 25% of your school up at least 25% in English language arts and in math. So, basics and approaching basics doesn't count anymore. They're talking about mastery and above, when you're talking about A and B students. So, think about that, when your regular bell-shaped curve gives you C's, but they want A's and B's from children who started with a struggle. [The citizen's time was extended] Thank you so much. If you look at the bell-shaped curve, you're going to have your high percentage of you're a and B students on this end, everybody else in the middle. You go to the next plot, slope down to D, and then F. So, basically, what Baton Rouge is asking our teachers to do with limited resources that we have right now, 25%. If you got 400 students, that's 100 students that you have to bring up by 25% in order to say that you've had gains on your school performance score. And that's what they look at. Now, we had double-digit gains for Pine Grove and Green Oaks. Green Oaks is now B, just to let you know. So, this means we've been fighting, and now we're fighting with one hand tied behind our backs, because what the state is asking for, and I said this a long time ago when Dr. White was there, that your scale was skewed. It's skewed because you asked students to achieve 19 on the ACT, when the requirement at LSU, Southern, and all of our other state schools was only about 18, but the state required 19. Why? So, that question, perhaps we should pose it to Baton Rouge. I'll talk to my

senator and my representative. But, just to let you know, now we're asked to fight like this. And I'll give you one comment on the pickleball. Give us 10 million. You've given us less than 100,000. It's taken four years, but look at the results. Give us 1 million, and let's show you some results of the resources that are needed with some of our babies who do not have all the resources that they have in other schools. But we, the community, will provide. It doesn't matter what school it is. It matters who's that teacher and the resources they have in front of your child. Thank you so much.

Revah Howard came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

My name is Revah Howard. My address is 5578 Winder Circle East, Shreveport, Louisiana. Okay. So, my husband and I, along with our children, relocated from Fort Worth to Shreveport to raise our family with closer family members. During that time, we made several weekend trips to Shreveport, searching for the land, and eventually, we were able to find and purchase the land that we loved. Unfortunately, during the process, I had lost my husband, and it's taken some time, but now I'm in a position to begin what we started. We already completed the slab and the framing, but was asked to stop due to a utility servitude and setback issues. We've been in communication with Mr. William Talton and others and we contacted him immediately, and he advised that we needed to do a release and abandonment, and since then that has been completed. I appeared at the July 23rd meeting where it was approved to move to this next level for review, which brings me here today. I'm simply trying to see this process through so we can resume the build. The structure has now been exposed to weather for a little, like a month and a half now, and I'm doing everything to protect the integrity of the work and move forward.

VISITORS

- Dr. Kenneth Sanders
WOD Godz Competition

Dr. Sanders gave a presentation regarding the WOD Godz competition, highlighting its economic impact and the involvement of local businesses. The competition, organized by Competition Planning Partners, aims to provide a better experience for athletes and spectators compared to other profit-driven events. The request for funding aims to expand the reach of the competition, attracting more athletes and spectators to Shreveport.

Dr. Sanders continued and said that Crossfit is a high-intensity functional fitness sport involving various exercises like Olympic lifting, running, and gymnastics. It emphasizes short, high-intensity workouts that push individuals to their limits, promoting muscle growth and overall fitness. The scalability of Crossfit allows people of all fitness levels to participate and receive the same stimulus.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if WOD Godz was a non-profit. Dr. Sanders said that it is not a non-profit organization, and board members do not receive salaries or take money from the program. The program generates revenue through commission funding and athlete registration fees, with any surplus reinvested into the event. The competition has a significant economic impact on the city, attracting out-of-town visitors who spend money at local businesses.

Mr. Atkins asked about the previous years' participation and the "bang for the buck". Dr. Sanders explained past attendance fluctuations were attributed to scheduling conflicts with major Crossfit events, but recent registration numbers indicate improvement. There is a desire to maintain the freshness of the program and explore potential collaborations with other organizations. The organization is primarily focused on economic development through the attraction of visitors to the area.

Mrs. Gage-Watts suggested partnering with Superman Blount and his Fit For Life event. Dr. Sanders said that he is open to those conversations.

**ADOPT REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS**

It as **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *to englobo and adopt the following items:*

- *Adopt minutes from the July 3, 2025 Regular Session*
- *Special Resolution of Remembrance Mrs. Lita Smith*

Mr. Randy Shouse and other neighbors shared memories of Ms. Smith's kindness, community involvement, and her love for books.

Mr. G. Young thanked the Commission for honoring Ms. Smith's legacy and talked about her commitment to people and serving people. She always invited me over for a cup of coffee, he said.

- *Special Resolution for Brady Blade, Sr.*

- *Special Resolution for Geneva Moore’s 110th Birthday*
- *Special Resolution recognizing former Shreveport Mayor John Hussey*
- *Special Resolution commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Strand*
- *Special Resolution recognizing the 235th Anniversary of the United States Coast Guard*

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts’ motion carried unanimously with all members present.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF REMEMBRANCE
MRS. LITA SMITH**

WHEREAS, on July 22, 2025, Caddo Parish lost a beloved and unforgettable soul with the passing of Ms. Lita Lorene Clanton Smith, a lifelong resident of Shreveport, Louisiana, who embodied love, loyalty, and laughter throughout her 82 remarkable years; and

WHEREAS, born on December 16, 1942, Lita graduated from Fair Park High School in 1960 and went on to build a life steeped in devotion to her family, her community, and her country; and

WHEREAS, from 1967 until her final day, Lita held the eternal flame of love for her husband, Gale Smith, faithfully awaiting the day they would be reunited in the hereafter; and

WHEREAS, a true patriot and civic steward, Ms. Smith served on the Lakeview Water Works Board for many years, tirelessly advocating for the rights and needs of local residents; and

WHEREAS, for countless elections, she dutifully served as a poll worker, fiercely committed to preserving the democratic process—believing, with passion and principle, that her presence helped uphold the very foundation of our republic; and

WHEREAS, Lita was a woman of many talents and great humor—an artist with a love for painting and woodworking, a spirited TV watcher who relished dramatic cliffhangers and phone calls with her closest friends, and a source of joy and mischief whose laughter never aged; and

WHEREAS, she leaves behind a large and loving extended family stretching across Louisiana, North Dakota, and Minnesota, as well as her beloved brother Bob Clanton and his wife Sharon; and

WHEREAS, MeeMaw, as she was affectionately known, will forever be remembered for her legendary fish fry’s, her wit and wisdom, her generosity of spirit, and the warmth that made every person feel like family; and

WHEREAS, Lita was also a devoted animal lover who cherished the memory of her dear cats, Cowboy and Spot, and in her honor, the family requests donations be made to Mother’s Grace Animal Sanctuary;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, does hereby offer this Special Resolution of Remembrance & Respect in honor of Ms. Lita Lorene Clanton Smith, recognizing her profound impact on her family, friends, and community. May her legacy of love, humor, service, and strength be cherished always, and may her memory be a blessing and inspiration to all who knew her.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION
BRADY BLADE, SR.**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission desires to give special recognition to individuals who have made outstanding and enduring contributions to the spiritual, cultural, and historical life of our community; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Dr. Brady L. Blade, Sr., a native of Shreveport, Louisiana, was called to the ministry as a young teenager and preached his first sermon at age fifteen; and

WHEREAS, following years of study at Wayland Baptist University and Wiley College, and early pastoral service in Texas, Dr. Blade returned to Shreveport in 1961—initially on his way to Chicago—only to be called to Zion Missionary Baptist Church, a call that would become a life’s work; and

WHEREAS, on September 10, 1961, Dr. Blade became Pastor of Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Shreveport, Louisiana, and has now served 64 continuous years, making him the longest-serving

pastor of the same church in the State of Louisiana, a distinction verified by member and researcher Curtis Hooks and exceeding the previous record of 35 years held by the late Pastor J.D. Grey of First Baptist Church in New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Blade has shepherded generations of congregants through times of profound social change, spiritual awakening, and personal transformation—his ministry marked by passionate preaching, national revival tours, gospel radio and television programming, and a deep love for scripture, especially Romans 8:28 and John 17:8; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Blade is not only a spiritual leader but also a historic witness of the Civil Rights Movement in Shreveport and a powerful example of forgiveness, resilience, and faith in action during one of the most turbulent eras in American history; and

WHEREAS, his ministry and music have reached far beyond Shreveport, including his "Hallelujah Train" gospel project, now preserved in a full-length documentary and concert film; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission joins with the members of Zion Missionary Baptist Church and citizens across Louisiana in expressing deep admiration and appreciation for Pastor Blade’s lifetime of service, leadership, and unwavering faith;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal and regular session this 14th day of September, 2025, that it does hereby extend its highest commendation to Pastor Dr. Brady L. Blade, Sr. for his 64 years of continuous pastoral leadership at Zion Missionary Baptist Church and for his distinction as the longest-serving pastor of the same church in the State of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be presented to Pastor Blade during the 10:00 a.m. worship service at Zion Missionary Baptist Church on Sunday, September 14, 2025, by Commissioner Roy Burrell, and that a copy be entered into the official records of the Caddo Parish Commission as a lasting expression of gratitude and honor.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION
GENEVA MOORE’S 110TH BIRTHDAY**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission takes great pride in recognizing and commemorating the lives of citizens who have reached extraordinary milestones and whose lives have positively impacted the greater Caddo Parish community through their love, leadership, and lifelong dedication to service; and

WHEREAS, it is with immense joy and admiration that we celebrate the 110th birthday of Ms. Geneva Moore, a distinguished resident of Shreveport and a treasured member of the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc.—Beta Alpha Chapter, where she continues to inspire as the chapter’s oldest and most revered member; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Moore was born on August 15, 1915, and over the past eleven decades has served as a beacon of wisdom, resilience, and grace, shaping countless lives through her vocation as an educator and her unwavering commitment to community; and

WHEREAS, after earning her degrees from Southern University A&M College and Howard University, Ms. Moore returned home to serve in the Caddo Parish School System, retiring in 1972 as a beloved Home Economics teacher at J.S. Clark High School, where she left an enduring legacy of empowerment and excellence; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Moore is cherished by generations of students, colleagues, family members, and friends as a woman of warm heart, sharp intellect, and compassionate spirit, and continues to be an active and celebrated figure in her community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission on this 7th day of August, 2025, that it does hereby recognize and congratulate Ms. Geneva Moore on the occasion of her 110th birthday which will take place on August 15, 2025, and expresses its deep appreciation for her life of service, inspiration, and unwavering dedication to the people of Caddo Parish.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission prays Ms. Moore’s celebration is filled with love and joy, and that she continues to be blessed with good health, peace, and happiness in the days to come. Happy 110th Birthday, Ms. Moore!

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION
FORMER MAYOR JOHN HUSSEY**

WHEREAS, the undersigned members of the Caddo Parish Commission proudly

acknowledge and honor the civic contributions of individuals whose leadership has helped shape the cultural and historical identity of our region; and

WHEREAS, John B. Hussey served as Mayor of the City of Shreveport from 1982 to 1990, during which time he demonstrated visionary leadership, dedication to public service, and a strong commitment to preserving and celebrating Shreveport’s rich history; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, under the direction and stewardship of Mayor Hussey, the City of Shreveport commemorated its Sesquicentennial, marking 150 years since the city’s founding in 1835; and

WHEREAS, the Sesquicentennial Celebration, organized and hosted by Mayor Hussey, brought together citizens, civic groups, and institutions to reflect on Shreveport’s historical legacy, honor its diverse communities, and envision its future—leaving a lasting impact on the cultural fabric of the city; and

WHEREAS, as the City of Shreveport now prepares to launch the countdown to its Bicentennial Celebration in 2035, it is fitting and proper to recognize those whose leadership helped lay the foundation for this historic milestone; and

WHEREAS, John Hussey’s efforts in 1985 exemplify the values of service, pride, and civic engagement that continue to inspire current and future generations of Shreveport and Caddo Parish residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by members of the Caddo Parish that it does hereby honor and recognize former Shreveport Mayor John B. Hussey for his exemplary leadership during the City’s Sesquicentennial Celebration, and expresses its gratitude for his lasting contributions to the heritage and spirit of the City of Shreveport and Caddo Parish.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mr. Hussey as a symbol of the Commissioner’s respect, admiration, and appreciation.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION
100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STRAND**

WHEREAS, the Strand Theater, located in downtown Shreveport. Louisiana, opened its doors to the public in July 192S and quickly earned the nickname "The Million Dollar Theater," showcasing world-class Vaudeville acts, films, and stage productions; and

WHEREAS, the Strand was designed by renowned architect Emile Weil and commissioned by the Saenger brothers as part of their chain of luxurious theaters across the South, making it one of the finest examples of Beaux-Arts architecture in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, for decades, the Strand served as a cultural centerpiece for Shreveport and Northwest Louisiana, offering entertainment and artistic enrichment to generations of residents and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, following a period of decline and closure in the 1970s, the Strand Theater was rescued and lovingly restored through the efforts of a dedicated community of preservationists, civic leaders, and arts advocates, leading to its reopening in 1984; and

WHEREAS, today, the Strand Theater stands as a symbol of Shreveport's cultural heritage and architectural legacy, hosting Broadway touring productions, concerts, dance performances, and community events that continue to inspire and unite audiences; and

WHEREAS, in its 100th year, the Strand Theater remains a beacon of the arts and a beloved landmark in Caddo Parish, and its centennial marks a significant milestone in the preservation of Louisiana's artistic and historic treasures;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the undersigned Caddo Parish Commissioners, that they do hereby recognize and celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Strand Theater and commends the Strand's leadership, staff, volunteers, patrons, and supporters for a century of artistic excellence and community enrichment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Strand Theater in honor of its historic centennial celebration and enduring legacy in the life of Caddo Parish.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION
235TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COAST GUARD**

WHEREAS, the United States Coast Guard, founded on August 4, 1790, by order of the first Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, originally served as the Revenue Cutter Service and

has since evolved into one of the five armed forces of the United States; and

WHEREAS, for 235 years, the United States Coast Guard has safeguarded the nation's maritime interests in peacetime and war, serving as a symbol of strength, vigilance, and selfless dedication; and

WHEREAS, the Coast Guard's responsibilities have grown to include search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, environmental protection, port security, drug interdiction, and homeland defense—missions vital to national security and public safety; and

WHEREAS, the Coast Guard has responded courageously to natural disasters, terrorist attacks, and emergencies at sea, and has done so with valor, professionalism, and a steadfast commitment to saving lives and protecting the American homeland; and

WHEREAS, the brave men and women of the Coast Guard—active duty, reserve, civilian, and auxiliary—exemplify honor, respect, and devotion to duty, and are deserving of the utmost appreciation and recognition; and

WHEREAS, as we mark the 235th anniversary of its founding, the Caddo Parish Commission wishes to express its gratitude for the continued service and sacrifice of all Coast Guard personnel, past and present;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular, and legal session convened, that it does hereby recognize the 235th Anniversary of the United States Coast Guard and commemorate August 4th as

'UNITED STATES COAST GUARD DAY'

in Caddo Parish and invites all citizens to join in extending heartfelt appreciation to all members of the Coast Guard and their families for their enduring dedication to the safety and security of our nation.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Parish Administrator Erica Bryant thanked the student workers for participating in the Summer Worker program and showed a short video recapping their time at the Parish. The summer intern program had 58 participants who gained valuable professional and interpersonal skills. Interns worked in various departments, providing customer service and gaining hands-on experience in their fields. The program benefits the youth and the organization, and the Commissioners express their support.

COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Jones discussed the importance of investing in youth sports and ensuring consistency in supporting various sports initiatives. He also expressed the need to address crime and create opportunities for youth through sports and entertainment.

- Several Commissioners discussed the funding of a pickleball facility using revenue bonds, which are repaid by revenue generated by the facility. The facility is expected to attract tournaments and sponsorships, generating revenue and boosting the local economy. Concerns were raised about the size and scope of the project, as well as the need to engage a broader segment of the community.

- Mr. Thomas announced that the YWCA is celebrating 100 years of empowering women, and the City of Shreveport is hosting a block sweep. The Film Prize will announce its 20 finalists, and citizens are encouraged to participate in the decision-making process.

- Mr. Jones announced that Demonstration Church will be providing free haircuts/styles and free meals this weekend.

He also announced that the Juvenile Justice Committee will meet on Monday, August 18 at 12:00 noon.

- Mr. Cothran talked about the efforts to reduce suicide among veterans and their families.

- Mr. Cothran said that the Long-Range Planning Committee met today to discuss early voting locations in Caddo Parish. Those discussions will be ongoing after ROV Sibley's due diligence has been completed.

- Mr. J. Young also mentioned that people are fleeing Caddo Parish. He said that regional thinking and collaboration is essential for driving economic growth and improving the quality of life for residents. He also mentioned that people are fleeing Caddo Parish, and this could be an opportunity for people to stay in Caddo Parish.

- Mr. G. Young said that the Film & Entertainment Advisory Committee met today and is working to develop and making Caddo Parish as a premier film and entertainment hub. He said that there is tremendous talent in this Parish and would like that talent to be showcased.
- Mr. Epperson talked about the War on Litter truck and asked that it be displayed. He also mentioned that there is an issue with the filler material at the park in Greenwood. Mr. Patrick Wesley, Parks & Recreation Director, advised that he will look into it. Mr. Epperson also mentioned that he did a ride-along with SWEPCO and pointed out several trouble areas. He said that he received a few calls regarding the Disaster Response booklet. He thanked the Parish for participating in the Back to School Bash. Mr. Epperson would also like to schedule a Public Safety Committee on August 18 with LADOTD as the guest to discuss I-49, I-20, I-220, and 3132. He also showed the Commission the unveiling of a mural at the American Rose Center with Poetic X.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Mrs. Gage-Watts discussed the importance of addressing domestic violence and supporting victims, including streamlining the process for protective custody. Efforts are being made to promote community safety through safe havens and increased awareness of available resources. The need to protect children and address the root causes of violence was emphasized.

There were no Public Hearing on Zoning Ordinances, no Public Hearing on Ordinances, no Zoning Ordinances for final passage, no Ordinances for final passage, and no Zoning Ordinances for introduction by title, so the Commission moved onto Ordinances for introduction by title.

ORDINANCES (for introduction by title)

- *Ordinance No. 6554 of 2025, an ordinance amending and re-enacting Section 35-1 of the Caddo Parish Code of Ordinances pertaining to Schedule of Licenses and Fees, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6555 of 2025, an ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 6541 of 2025, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6556 of 2025, an ordinance to close and abandon or release a portion of the 15-foot wide utility servitude on Lot 22 of the Walden Ferry Subdivision, Unit No. 2, in Section 28, Township 17 North, Range 16 West, in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6557 of 2025, an ordinance to authorize the lease of the flood acquisition property located at 7533 W. Lakeshore Drive, Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

WORK SESSION MINUTES RESOLUTIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mr. Cothran, to englobe and adopt the following items and to postpone Resolution No. 33 of 2025, a resolution urging and requesting that the State of Louisiana allocate appropriate attention and resources to repair and maintain I-49, I-220, I-20, and 3132 within Caddo Parish to the next Work Session agenda:

- *Work Session Minutes August 4, 2025*
- *Resolution No. 34 of 2025, a resolution approving the issuance, sale and delivery of not exceeding \$5,500,000 of hospital revenue bonds of North Caddo Hospital Service District of the Parish of Caddo, State of Louisiana, and providing for other matters in connection therewith*
- *Resolution No. 35 of 2025, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to approve the assignment, bill of sale, and conveyance of State Agency Leases No. 19509, No. 20131, No. 20133, and No. 20134 from OCM Denali Holdings, LLC to Sabine Oil & Gas Corporation, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*

At this time, Mr. Jones’ motion carried unanimously with all members present.

RESOLUTION NO. 34 OF 2025

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ISSUANCE, SALE AND DELIVERY OF NOT EXCEEDING \$5,500,000 OF HOSPITAL REVENUE BONDS OF NORTH CADDO HOSPITAL SERVICE DISTRICT OF THE PARISH OF CADDO, STATE OF LOUISIANA, AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of North Caddo Hospital Service District of the Parish of Caddo, State of Louisiana (the "District"), by resolution adopted on July 29, 2025, proposes to issue not exceeding Five Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$5,500,000) of Hospital Revenue Bonds of the District (the "Bonds"); and

WHEREAS, the Bonds will be issued under the authority of Section 1430 of Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, and other constitutional and statutory authority, for the purpose of (i) acquiring, constructing, improving, and equipping hospital and related facilities of the District, including construction of a new rural health clinic, and (ii) paying the costs of issuance of the Bonds, will bear interest at a rate or rates not exceeding 7% per annum, and shall mature not later than 30 years from the date thereof; and

WHEREAS, it is now the desire of the Caddo Parish Commission to approve the issuance, sale and delivery of the Bonds;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission (the "Commission"), acting as the governing authority of Caddo Parish, Louisiana (the "Parish"), meeting in legal and regular session, that:

SECTION 1. In compliance with the provisions of Article VI, Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974 and other authority supplemental thereto, and in accordance with the request of the Board of Commissioners of the District, the Commission hereby approves the issuance, sale and delivery of not exceeding \$5,500,000 of Hospital Revenue Bonds of the District, said Bonds to be issued under the authority and for the purposes stated in the preamble hereto.

SECTION 2. Neither the Parish nor the Commission shall in any way be liable for the payment of the principal of and/or interest on the Bonds.

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

- YEAS: Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (12).
- NAYS: None (0).
- ABSENT: None (0).
- ABSTAINING: None (0).

And the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 7th day of August, 2025.

/s/ Jeff Everson
Clerk of the Commission

/s/ Stormy Gage-Watts
President

RESOLUTION NO. 35 OF 2025

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CADDO PARISH ADMINISTRATOR TO APPROVE THE ASSIGNMENT, BILL OF SALE AND CONVEYANCE OF STATE AGENCY LEASES NO. 19509, NO. 20131, NO. 20133 AND NO. 20134 FROM OCM DENALI HOLDINGS, LLC, TO SABINE OIL & GAS CORPORATION, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo is a Lessor in that certain oil, gas and mineral lease from the Caddo Parish Commission to Classic Petroleum, Inc., in State Agency Lease #19509, dated October 10, 2007, and recorded at Registry No. 2136375 of the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo is a Lessor in that certain oil, gas and mineral lease from the Caddo Parish Commission to Classic Petroleum, Inc., in State Agency Lease #20131, dated August 12, 2009, and recorded at Registry No. 2248285 of the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo is a Lessor in that certain oil, gas and mineral lease from the Caddo Parish Commission to Merit Energy Services. LLC, in State Agency Lease #20133, dated August 12, 2009, and recorded at Registry No. 2248623 of the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo is a Lessor in that certain oil, gas and mineral lease from the Caddo Parish Commission to Classic Petroleum, Inc., in State Agency Lease #20134, dated August 12, 2009, and recorded at Registry No. 2248287 of the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has received a written request from Diversified Production, LLC, which is an affiliate of OCM Denali Holdings, LLC, seeking approval from the Parish of Caddo of an assignment, bill of sale and conveyance of State Agency Leases No. 19509, No. 20131, No. 20133 and No. 20134, from OCM Denali Holdings, LLC, to Sabine Oil & Gas Corporation, and

WHEREAS, this approval is expressly granted and accepted subject to the requirement that all terms and conditions of the basic lease will be fulfilled, including but not limited to the full payment of rentals and royalties, regardless of the division of leasehold interests resulting from the instrument.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Parish of Caddo, in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Administrator is hereby authorized to approve the assignment, bill of sale and conveyance of State Agency Leases No. 19509, No. 20131, No. 20133 and No. 20134, from OCM Denali Holdings, LLC, to Sabine Oil & Gas Corporation.

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.

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

NEW BUSINESS

- *Approve Southern Hills Neighborhood Association to change its 2025 NGO appropriation purpose to "Family Fun Day".*

It was **moved by Mr. Cothran**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *to change the Southern Hills Neighborhood Association NGO appropriation purpose to "Family Fun Day".*

Mr. J. Young wanted to know the original purpose. Mr. Cothran said that it was Music In the Park, but there was change in the dates and the scope of the project.

Mr. Epperson asked for the dollar amount. Attorney Frazier said that it was \$20,000.

Attorney Frazier explained that there was an economic impact justification for this event. She further explained that there were several events in the application at different times, but this was not one of the events that was in application that was brought before the Committee. This was needed in order to put this in the contract.

At this time, Mr. Cothran's motion carried unanimously with all members present.

COMMUNIQUE & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Atkins commended Mr. Kracman's daughter and Mrs. Nations' son for their exemplary behavior.

There were no Citizens Comments for late arrivals. There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.


Michelle Nations
Assistant Commission Clerk


Stormy Gage-Watts
President