

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 15th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2025

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Work Session, on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., in the Government Chambers, with Mrs. Gage-Watts, President, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (11). ABSENT: Commissioner Blake (1).

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS

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

[The recording began partway through Mr. Krefft's comment.] Finally, I'm here to invite anyone who would like to come tomorrow night, Broadmoor Baptist, Broadmoor Neighborhood Association meeting. 6:00 for coffee and cookies and bottled water. 6:30's the meeting, and the featured speaker is Caddo Superintendent of schools, Keith Burton. He'll do a presentation and we'd like to ask, we're trying to get a lot of folks to come out and hear Mr. Burton speak and do a Q&A after his prepared remarks. Thank you.

Kenny Gordon came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Okay, good evening, everyone, thanks so very much for giving me the opportunity to speak. My name is Kenny Gordon. I live at 630 Hendrix Place, Shreveport, Louisiana, 71106. I just want to express my disdain for the pickleball court that the gentleman just mentioned. I have two things about it and then I'll be done. Number one, it's not going to serve everyone in the city, not going to serve everyone in the parish, not going to serve everyone but that particular area that's going to have the pickleball. And I think that's a disdain toward the citizens of this city, of this parish, the people that pay taxes for this thing. They're not going to benefit from it. Secondly, it's too much. \$10 million for a pickleball court is a lot. I can take \$10 million and build a city as opposed to one court. So, I think it's very, very high. If you vote for it, I think it'll be a grave mistake, because, again, a lot of people are not going to benefit from it. I would like to know after the vote Thursday who voted for it. It's not a threat, I just want to know who voted for it. Then I can let my constituents know who voted for it. Again, it's not a threat, I just want to make sure that they understand who we have on our board, and let them know that, hey, maybe we need to do something else. So, again, I would like for you to reconsider building that pickleball, especially for the price, because it's really outrageous. Thank you for letting me speak.

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

Good evening, Commissioners. Jon Glover, 9110 Walker Road, Apartment 217, Shreveport, Louisiana, 71118. Thank you. I stand to, not so much in opposition, but opposition nonetheless, for this endeavor you all are about to meet on Thursday. Whether you will approve or not, considerations have to be made beyond the surface. We understand that this effort is being funded by revenue bonds, bonds that will have to be sold. We are anticipating that we will receive sufficient revenue to be able to address the payments on a month-to-month basis. But if such isn't, then that means you'll have to use taxpayer dollars. Regardless of what fund they come out of, they're taxpayer dollars. I don't see that being a good thing with regards to taxpayer dollars. Now, the 19 courts built on YMCA property, \$10 million, yet, you have to pay a lease. I think I've said this more than once to you all. I just don't see this. I just can't get it. Can't wrap my head around you all investing those kinds of funds on something you don't own aside from the courts, which sits on a property that you have to lease. You know, I know we're at the sort of ninth hour and we've been fighting this and we're going back and forth with these conversations for more than a year, and each time we come forth there's new things brought to the table. I guess what could have happened from the onset was the plan itself in its entirety should have been given to us. No adding to, definitely you didn't take anything away, but you added the fact that what, we're having walking trails, soccer fields, and whatever other amenities, picnic tables. And that lease, that lease is what gets me, the lease. If there were a guarantee that we would get a return on those revenues, that would be sufficient, but there's no guarantee. And we know in life there's no guarantees. But the guarantee will be, if you can't make the payments, the taxpayers get to make that payment. Thank you.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- Intergovernmental Meeting—October 24, 2025 at 11:30 a.m.

Administrator Bryant announced that Intergovernmental Meeting is scheduled for October 24, 2025 at 11:30 a.m.

- Juvenile Detention Center census

Administrator Bryant said that there are 18 children in the Detention Center, seven of which are OJJ, and one 17 year olds. There are 423 children on probation and sixteen juveniles are at CCC.

- August 2025 Financials

Administrator Bryant advised that the financial statements from August 2025 were attached to the agenda and a hard copy was placed at each Commissioner's station.

- Broadband Update

The Comcast Broadband Project is 50% complete with 1,000+ addresses now serviceable; remaining work is expected to be completed by November, 2025. Mrs. Bryant mentioned that there are other ISPs who provide internet service.

Mr. Burrell would Administration to reach out to the ISPs to provide an update to the Commissioners. He would like these representatives to come to the Commission in person, rather than providing a small summary of the project. "This doesn't tell me a damn thing," he said. Mrs. Bryant said that the ISPs will be limited on what they provide during a public forum due to the competitiveness of the market.

- I-49 Update

Administrator Bryant said that they have reached out to NLCOG determine a date for them to come to the Commission and provide an update.

COMMISSION REMARKS

- Mr. J. Young addressed some of the Citizens Comments with regards to pickleball. The proposed pickleball complex includes 19 courts with seating for 1,000 and is designed to host regional and national tournaments with additional family-friendly features. The project aims to serve anyone who is interested in playing pickleball, with plans to facilitate access for various parts of the Parish through support from SporTran and Caddo Parish schools. The project is funded by revenue bonds, which are repaid with the revenue generated by the project, with additional funds available to cover any revenue shortfalls. Investing in the quality of life amenities, like pickleball, is crucial to retain residents. The proposed 30-year lease with renewal options for the pickleball complex site is a common practice and provide long-term use of the property.

- Mr. Cothran invited everyone to attend the Caddo Parish Veterans Mental Health Resource Fair tomorrow from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. He mentioned that September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.

- Mr. Epperson asked that a resolution be drafted for Mr. Ken Krefft to attend Washington, D.C. in February.

- Mr. Thomas asked everyone to vote for the Levitt Foundation.

There being no President's Report nor Old Business, the Commission moved onto New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *that the following items be advanced to Thursday's agenda for introduction or consideration:*

- *Ordinance No. 6562 of 2025, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, by amending the zoning of property located west side of Ellerbe Road, approximately 825 feet south of E. Flournoy Lucas Road, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, from R-1-7 Single Family Residential Zoning District to C-1 Neighborhood Commercial Zoning District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 38 of 2025, a resolution to relocate the polling place for Precinct 5-7 from Queensborough Elementary School, 2701 Catherine Street, Shreveport, LA 71109 to Bilberry Park Community Center, 1902 Alabama Street, Shreveport, LA 71109, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Special Resolution United States Air Force 78th Birthday*
- *Special Resolution of Remembrance Walter Perry*
- *Special Resolution Southwood High School Football Team*
- *Special Resolution United Through Fitness' Riverfest*

- *Special Resolution National Salute to African American Authors*
- *Special Resolution Mane Event Car Show*
- *Visitor for Regular Session, Mudbugs Assistant Coach Brett Smith*

At this time, Mr. Jones' motion to englobo and advance carried unanimously with Commissioner Blake being absent (1).

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *that the Commission convene into Executive Session to discuss Caddo Suit #659061. Motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Blake being absent (1).*

At this time, only specified members were allowed in the Chambers for this discussion. Everyone else was dismissed.

Once the discussion was had, the Commission reconvened to regular order. There were no Communiques nor Citizens Comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

- *Ordinance No. 6561 of 2025, an ordinance to deem property surplus and authorize the sale of surplus property owned by the Parish of Caddo and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6548 of 2025, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Debt Service Fund and the Capital Outlay Fund to provide an appropriation of \$10M for the construction of a pickleball park, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 4:30 p.m.



 Michelle Nations
 Assistant Commission Clerk