

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 19th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 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, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (11). ABSENT: Commissioner Blake (1).

Mr. Jones gave the invocation, and Mr. Thomas led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were no Agenda Additions, so the Commission moved onto Citizens Comments.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

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

Today you guys will be recognizing as Bobby Henderson and I am one of those fortunate young people from Queensborough who served animals Bobby Anderson because she was not only a mother to her 4 children and a wife coming up in Queensborough she was a community mother to all of us or Queensborough elementary she was cup scout Den mother she was boy scout Den mother she was weep alone Den mother she was girl scout Den mother she was Proudly did mother then she became the band President at Lakeshore And President at Fairport she was over supernatural's so just a few months ago I'm not going to have to gone celebrated her for 50 years of service to Queensborough as she really represents the essence of what we're doing with that's on duty which is the empowered village she gave us the motherhood when our Mother's were working and the parenting when a lot of our proper parents could not be there. So, I just wanna tell you guys I'm in full support of your recognition of Mrs Bobby Henderson. Thanks.

Leslie Alexander came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Thank you, commissioners. I'm Leslie Alexander. On the subject of ordinance 6464, as I believe it's now numbered, I presume the latest version is minus those references to "traitors and felons" but is still problematic. Sec. 2-7.-...no memorials, monuments, etc... of "individuals, organizations, groups, or entities that advocate bigotry, division, hatred and racism." For every 100 people, there are 100 opinions as to what this means. In certain sections of the country, leaders of the traditional Christian Church are considered "bigoted" for their adherence to traditional moral values. Under this definition, the Southern Poverty Law Center has even named some of them "domestic terrorists" for exercising their right to freedom of religion and conscience. A young male student in the Midwest was recently suspended for wearing a t-shirt that said, "There are only two genders" because it was considered too "divisive." He has now filed a federal lawsuit against his school. After the wholesale, arbitrary removal of Confederate monuments, certain sections of the country now want to take down Thomas Jefferson, Winston Churchill and even Abraham Lincoln. And we all know the Palestinian/Jewish disagreement, each side accusing the other of hatred and bigotry. One person's hatred is another person's love, tradition, and deeply held cultural or religious belief. Second, the ordinance states, "There shall be no memorials... of individuals that have been found guilty of obstructing a "constitutionally mandated process." What does this even mean? this too is unknowable and is not determinative. Constitutional debates are usually so murky that the Supreme Court often has to get involved, and even then, many do not agree. The ordinance is without substance and holds no real meaning. Any proposed monument or memorial in the future should be argued on its own merits using real and tangible facts, In a case-by-case basis. Please vote against. Thank you.
Leslie Alexander 19 Sept 2024

VISITORS

- Recognition of the Veterans Celebration Committee
United States Congressional Record presented by Senator Cassidy's Office

Mr. Epperson said that the Veterans Celebration Committee hosts the largest Veterans parade in the State of Louisiana. He also mentioned that the Caddo Parish Commission voted to display "Veteran Friendly" on the welcome signs coming into Caddo Parish. Veterans, America's first heroes. Every day should be Veterans Day in America, said the Veterans Celebration Committee.

- Airport Park Community Choir

The Airport Park Community Choir thanked the Commission for honoring them today. They performed a song for those in attendance.

Mrs. Gage-Watts encouraged the choir to keep spreading the joy through music. Several Commissioners, including Mr. Burrell, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Cothran, and Mr. Jones, gave accolades to the members of the choir.

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

ADOPT REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

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

- *Regular Session Minutes from September 5, 2024*
- *Special Session Minutes—Tax Board of Appeals from September 11, 2024*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition Gold Star Survivors*

On behalf of the Commission, Mrs. Gage-Watts presented Mrs. Huse with flowers to honor her son who passed away during his tour overseas. Mrs. Blake presented Mrs. Huse with a spa day from her salon.

Mr. Thomas thanked God for having the opportunity to serve his country. He also thanked Mrs. Huse for allowing her son that same opportunity. Mr. Cothran agreed and said that “he saw some things” while in the military. The Huse Family is loved, he said.

- *Special Resolution of Recognition of Reverend Brian Wilson*
- *Proclamation Workforce Development Month*

Mr. Thomas thanked Goodwill Industries for training people and catapulting them into a career. He wanted to recognized this organization during Workforce Development Month.

- *Special Resolution of Recognition Walk to End Alzheimer’s*

Mr. Thomas announced that Walk to End Alzheimer’s event will be held on October 26. He encouraged anyone to join his team.

- *Special Resolution of Recognition Progressive Smith Brothers*
- *Special Resolution or Recognition 40th Anniversary of Dixie Cold Storage Fire*
- *Presentation of Special Resolution of Recognition Bobby T. Henderson*

Mr. Burrell said that Mrs. Bobby T. Henderson, aka the Mother of Queensborough, has served her community for years.

Mrs. Henderson thanked the Commission for honoring her today. She recognized her family members who were in attendance.

- *Proclamation Sickle Cell Anemia Awareness Month*

Several parents of Sickle Cell children provided their testimonies and daily struggles that they go through with their children who have Sickle Cell. They asked for any type of help they could provide to the children and the families who are affected by Sickle Cell.

Mr. Thomas told the mothers to “stay encouraged”. Mr. Cothran agreed and said that Sickle Cell is fairly unstudied.

Mrs. Gage-Watts said she is a carried of the Sickle Cell trait, and her son has Sickle Cell. When crisis hits, it affects the patients and their families. This month is to increase awareness, so more research and studies can be conducted on this disease.

Mrs. Blake thanked the mothers who came and spoke about Sickle Cell. Today I learned more than I could ever imagine about this disease, she said.

- *Proclamation Hispanic Heritage Month*

Mrs. Gage-Watts said that it is important to celebrate different cultures and ethnicities in America, including Hispanic Heritage Month.

At this time, Mr. Burrell’s motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Blake being absent (1).

SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION GOLD STAR SURVIVORS

WHEREAS, the term “Gold Star” originated during World War I when families displayed service flags bearing a blue star for each military service member serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, which was replaced with a gold star when a service member was killed in action or died during service; and

WHEREAS, Gold Star survivors are the mothers, fathers, spouses, children, siblings, and other family members who have lost a loved one in the line of duty, each bearing a personal and often unspoken grief that few can truly comprehend; and

WHEREAS, the sacrifice made by their loved ones who laid down their lives in defense of our nation stands as a profound testament to the courage, commitment, and sense of duty they held to preserve our freedoms; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that we, as a community, honor the strength, resilience, and patriotism of these survivors, who continue to carry forward the legacy of those lost in service; and

WHEREAS, the last Sunday in September is recognized as Gold Star Mother’s Day and serves as an opportunity to honor those mothers who have lost a son or daughter in the line of duty, and for the community to publicly express love, sorrow and reverence towards the mothers and their families; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission wishes to formally recognize and honor Gold Star survivors, particularly the Gold Star Mothers, by offering deep gratitude for the immeasurable sacrifice their families have made in defense of our country;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, in due and legal session convened, that it does hereby declare September 29th, 2024 as Gold Star Mother’s Day in Caddo Parish and asks all citizens to honor and pay tribute to Gold Star survivors, recognizing their continued strength, sacrifice, and the cherished memory of their loved ones who gave the ultimate sacrifice for the United States of America.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION
REVEREND BRIAN WILSON**

WHEREAS, Reverend Brian Wilson has been called to serve as Pastor of Unity of Faith Baptist Church in Shreveport, Louisiana, a role in which he will continue his lifelong devotion to ministry, faith, and service to others; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Wilson, guided by the Holy Spirit, will bring a fresh vision and steadfast leadership to Unity of Faith Baptist Church, building on the strong foundation laid by the visionary pastors who preceded him during the church’s fifteen years of history; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Wilson’s ministry is characterized by a deep commitment to family and community, with a mission to foster “Living the New Life” through faith, love, and service to others, embodying the principles of unity, compassion, and spiritual growth; and

WHEREAS, the congregation of Unity of Faith Baptist Church, along with family, friends, and supporters, celebrate Reverend Wilson as a humble and dynamic leader who inspires others through his actions, his words, and his unwavering dedication to Christ’s teachings; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Wilson’s influence extends beyond the pulpit, as he strives to strengthen the bonds of community within and outside the church, encouraging faith-based outreach that will enrich the lives of many throughout Caddo Parish and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission joins the members of Unity of Faith Baptist Church in recognizing Reverend Brian Wilson as their Pastor, Leader, and Friend, and in celebrating his installation as a momentous occasion for the church and the broader community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, in due and legal session convened, that it does hereby honor and recognize Reverend Brian Wilson for his faithful service, his dedication to the church and the community, and his installation as Pastor of Unity of Faith Baptist Church.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby proclaim Sunday, September 29, 2024, as Reverend Brian Wilson Day in Caddo Parish, in recognition of his spiritual leadership and the positive impact he continues to make in the lives of so many.

**PROCLAMATION
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT MONTH**

WHEREAS, throughout the month of September, communities across the nation recognize National Workforce Development Month, celebrating the contributions of workforce professionals and highlighting initiatives that support job seekers and employers alike; and

WHEREAS, in Caddo Parish, workforce development is essential to fostering economic growth and improving the lives of residents by helping individuals access the skills and training needed to secure meaningful, sustainable employment; and

WHEREAS, Goodwill Industries of North Louisiana, a leader in workforce development, provides a wide range of services to job seekers, including hands-on job training, résumé building, and support services, ensuring that individuals from all walks of life have the opportunity to achieve upward mobility in the workforce; and

WHEREAS, Goodwill's unique model of funding local job training programs through the sale of donated items has enabled them to support the community for nearly 100 years, providing critical services to help individuals facing barriers to employment; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, Goodwill Industries of North Louisiana, in partnership with the Department of Children and Family Services, supported both custodial and non-custodial parents, as well as SNAP recipients, helping 38 individuals obtain certifications in fields such as truck driving (Commercial Driver's Licenses), manufacturing (forklift operation), and healthcare (phlebotomy and medical assistant programs); and

WHEREAS, during a time when thousands of Louisianans are seeking employment or better-paying jobs, Goodwill Industries of North Louisiana has played a crucial role in helping 2,525 individuals in North Louisiana through job training, placement services, and other workforce initiatives in 2023 alone; and

WHEREAS, despite unemployment being around 4% according to the U.S. Department of Labor, many Louisianans continue to face challenges with underemployment and low wages, making the efforts of workforce development organizations like Goodwill more important than ever; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission wishes to recognize and commend the invaluable work of Goodwill Industries of North Louisiana and other workforce development organizations that are making a difference in the lives of so many, contributing to a stronger and more resilient local economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, in due and legal session convened, that it does hereby proclaim the month of September 2024 as Workforce Development Month in Caddo Parish and expresses its deepest appreciation to organizations like Goodwill Industries of North Louisiana for their tireless efforts in helping individuals gain the skills, training, and support needed to thrive in today's workforce.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption, and a copy of this resolution be sent to Goodwill Industries of North Louisiana as a token of appreciation for their outstanding contributions

SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's Disease is a progressive neurodegenerative disorder that affects millions of individuals and families across the United States, creating challenges not only for those diagnosed but also for their caregivers and loved ones; and

WHEREAS, the Shreveport-Bossier Alzheimer's Association has worked tirelessly to raise awareness, provide support, and mobilize resources to combat the effects of Alzheimer's Disease in our community, offering critical assistance to those affected by this debilitating illness; and

WHEREAS, through education, advocacy, and fundraising efforts, the Shreveport-Bossier Alzheimer's Association continues to play a vital role in helping to advance research, improve care, and bring hope to families who face the daily challenges posed by Alzheimer's Disease; and

WHEREAS, one of the most impactful events organized by the Shreveport-Bossier Alzheimer's Association is the Walk to End Alzheimer's, which will be held on Saturday, October 26, 2024, at the Louisiana Boardwalk, where participants will come together in solidarity to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support, and research; and

WHEREAS, the Walk to End Alzheimer's not only serves as a powerful symbol of community unity in the fight against this disease but also generates critical resources that are essential for ongoing research and local support services for those living with Alzheimer's; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission applauds the dedication and commitment of the Shreveport-Bossier Alzheimer's Association in helping families navigate the challenges of Alzheimer's Disease and supporting the broader effort to find a cure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, in due and legal session convened, that it does hereby recognize and commend the Shreveport-Bossier Alzheimer's Association for its outstanding work in raising awareness, providing support, and organizing impactful events such as the Walk to End Alzheimer's to address the needs of individuals and families affected by Alzheimer's Disease.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission encourages all residents to support the Walk to End Alzheimer's on Saturday, October 26, 2024, at the Louisiana Boardwalk and to continue efforts in raising awareness and resources to fight against this devastating disease.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION
PROGRESSIVE SMITH BROTHERS**

WHEREAS, The Progressive Smith Brothers, a legendary gospel group formed in 1944, have graced audiences with their music for eighty years, becoming an iconic name in the gospel music scene and serving as an inspiration to generations of artists and listeners; and

WHEREAS, the original group was composed of four brothers—Willie, Palmo, Benny Ray, and another Smith brother—who began singing at a young age, nurtured by their parents, Augusta Smith, who served as the group's musician, and Palmo Smith, Sr., who was a lead singer and guiding influence; and

WHEREAS, The Progressive Smith Brothers gained early exposure through appearances on KANB Radio Station, where their uncle Willie "Uncle Bill" Caston was a radio announcer, and later on KOKA Radio Station; and

WHEREAS, in 1955, The Progressive Smith Brothers were featured on The Hallelujah Train on KSLA Channel, and for the next twenty-eight years, their beautiful voices resonated across the community every Sunday, becoming a cherished part of the lives of their devoted listeners; and

WHEREAS, at the height of their career, The Progressive Smith Brothers were known across the country for their distinctive gospel sound, recording eight 8-track tapes, three CDs, and two 45 RPM records, leaving an enduring legacy in the music industry; and

WHEREAS, the current group continues to honor the tradition set by the original members, consisting of two original brothers, Willie and Palmo Smith, along with their nephew Willie B. Mitchell, and joined by Pastor Larry Thorn, Pastor Larry Davis, George Orgun, James Presley, Ronald Crawford, LaDarien Thomas, and Marcus Hamilton; and

WHEREAS, former lead singer Benny Ray Smith faithfully served the group until his health began to decline in 2015, contributing greatly to the group's legacy and continued success; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission wishes to recognize the Progressive Smith Brothers for their outstanding contributions to the gospel music industry and for the joy and inspiration they have brought to audiences for over eight decades.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, in due and legal session convened, that it does hereby honor and commend The Progressive Smith Brothers for their eighty-year legacy of music, faith, and service, and for their continued impact on the cultural and spiritual life of our community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption, and that a copy be sent to The Progressive Smith Brothers in recognition of their extraordinary contributions to the music world.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION
40TH ANNIVERSARY OF DIXIE COLD STORAGE FIRE OF 1984**

WHEREAS, on September 17, 1984, the Shreveport Fire Department responded to a hazardous material call at the Dixie Cold Storage facility due to an anhydrous ammonia leak, a dangerous situation that escalated quickly; and

WHEREAS, a spark ignited the fumes within the facility, severely endangering the firefighters on the scene, including Captain Percy Johnson and Assistant Chief Pat Johnson, both members of the Shreveport Fire Department's Hazardous Materials Team; and

WHEREAS, an explosion erupted within the facility, igniting the protective suits worn by the firefighters and a heroic rescue of followed with firefighters while simultaneously battling the blaze as they worked to rescue their own; and

WHEREAS, Assistant Chief Pat Johnson suffered critical injuries with second- and third-

degree burns, ending his distinguished career with the Shreveport Fire Department, and Captain Percy Johnson also sustained severe burns and tragically passed away 36 hours later as a result of his injuries; and

WHEREAS, six other firefighters were also injured during this tragic incident, exemplifying the courage and sacrifice that first responders make to protect our communities; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission joins the Shreveport Fire Department and the entire community in remembering the sacrifice of Captain Percy Johnson and all those who were injured in the line of duty on that fateful day; and

WHEREAS, as we observe the 40th Anniversary of the Dixie Cold Storage Fire, we honor the memory of Captain Percy Johnson, Assistant Chief Pat Johnson and all the first responders who gave their lives or suffered injuries in the line of duty, while recognizing the bravery and dedication of all who continue to serve;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, in due and legal session convened, that it does hereby declare September 17, 2024 as a day of remembrance in honor of the first responders who perished or were injured in the 1984 Dixie Cold Storage Fire.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission calls upon all citizens of Caddo Parish to reflect upon the service and sacrifice of these brave first responders.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- Legislative Priorities

Mrs. Bryant said that the Legislative Priorities have been placed in the Commissioners' boxes. She asked that they be returned as quickly as possible.

- War on Litter

Mrs. Bryant announced that the War on Litter event is scheduled for September 20-September 21.

- Morning Star Lighthouse

Mrs. Bryant also announced that the grand opening for the first Caddo Parish Lighthouse will be held on September 29, 2024 at Morning Star Baptist Church

- John Tuggle

It was with great sadness that Mrs. Bryant announced that Mr. John Tuggle, Shreve Memorial Library Executive Director, has passed away. A moment of silence was held in honor of him.

COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mrs. Gage-Watts thanked everyone for wearing red in honor of Sickle Cell Awareness Month. She asked that the courthouse be lit up during this month.

Mrs. Gage-Watts also asked everyone to check their voter registration status. She then thanked various departments for all of their hard work in addressing her citizens' needs.

- Mr. Epperson asked that the courthouse be lit up during Gold Star Mother's Weekend. He also reminded everyone that they need a real ID by March 7, 2025 in order to fly.

The Public Safety Committee met today to discuss the War on Litter. They also discussed an increase in support to the Indigent Defenders Office in the amount of \$252k. The next meeting is scheduled for November 7 at 1:00 p.m.

- Mr. Kracman asked for many prayers for former Commissioner Todd Hopkins while he is in the hospital fighting for his life.

- Mr. Thomas reminded everyone of National Night Out and encouraged all citizens to attend the various events. He also announced that he received a Girl Scouts Award.

- Mr. Atkins said that the Audit & Finance Committee met last week, and there were no major concerns at this time.

- Mr. Cothran said that the NGO Appropriations Committee will meet next week.

- Mrs. Gage-Watts announced that she has been selected as a Member At-Large for the National Association of Black County Officials.

There was no President's Report nor Public Hearing on Zoning Ordinances, so the Commission moved onto Public Hearing on Ordinances.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES

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

- *Ordinance No. 6456 of 2024, an ordinance setting the Parish Millage for the purpose of paying principal interest, due in 2024 on outstanding parish bond issues and to instruct the Assessor to include said millage on the tax roll of the Parish of Caddo for the year 2024, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6457 of 2024, an ordinance to adopt the values fixed, or to be fixed, by the Louisiana Tax Commission on all assessments for railways and other public service corporations, and to instruct the Assessor to extend such assessments and values on the tax roll of the Parish of Caddo for the year 2024, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6458 of 2024, an ordinance to set the General Purpose and Special Purpose Millages providing for an increase in the millage rates not in excess of the prior years maximum rates, as allowed by Article VII, Section 23 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 and LA.R.S. 47:1705 (B), levying and imposing taxes and assessments for 2024 on all the property subject to taxation in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6459 of 2024, an ordinance to set the General Purpose and Special Purpose Millages providing for millage rate adjustments, as allowed by Article VII, Section 23 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 and LA.R.S. 47:1705 (B), levying and imposing taxes and assessments for 2024 on all the property subject to taxation in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6460 of 2024, an ordinance setting the assessment of property classified as timberlands and to instruct the Assessor to include said assessment on the tax roll of the Parish of Caddo for the year 2024, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6461 of 2024, an ordinance to sell surplus property under Chapter 19, Article II, Division 3 of the Code of Ordinances relative to donation of adjudicated property acquired by the Parish under LA.R.S. 47:2236 et seq., to authorize the donation of property to Gods of Grind, LLC, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6462 of 2024, an ordinance to donate surplus property under Chapter 19, Article II, Division 3 of the Code of Ordinances relative to donation of adjudicated property acquired by the Parish under LA.R.S. 47:2236 et seq., to authorize the donation of property to Caddo Parish Fire Protection District One, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

There being no one to speak in favor, or against, the ordinances, the President closed the public hearings. There were no Zoning Ordinances, so the Commission moved onto Ordinances for final passage.

ORDINANCES (for final passage)

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *to englobe and adopt the following ordinances:*

- *Ordinance No. 6456 of 2024, an ordinance setting the Parish Millage for the purpose of paying principal interest, due in 2024 on outstanding parish bond issues and to instruct the Assessor to include said millage on the tax roll of the Parish of Caddo for the year 2024, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6457 of 2024, an ordinance to adopt the values fixed, or to be fixed, by the Louisiana Tax Commission on all assessments for railways and other public service corporations, and to instruct the Assessor to extend such assessments and values on the tax roll of the Parish of Caddo for the year 2024, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

- *Ordinance No. 6459 of 2024, an ordinance to set the general purpose and special purpose millages providing for millage rate adjustments, as allowed by Article VII, Section 23 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 and LA R.S. 47:1705 (B), levying and imposing taxes and assessments for 2024 on all the property subject to taxation in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6460 of 2024, an ordinance setting the assessment of property classified as timberlands and to instruct the Assessor to include said assessment on the tax roll of the Parish of Caddo for the year 2024, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6461 of 2024 (as amended), an ordinance to sell surplus property under Chapter 19, Article II, Division 3 of the Code of Ordinances relative to donation of adjudicated property acquired by the Parish under LA.R.S. 47:2236 et seq., to authorize the sale of property to Gods of Grind, LLC, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6462 of 2024, an ordinance to donate surplus property under Chapter 19, Article II, Division 3 of the Code of Ordinances relative to donation of adjudicated property acquired by the Parish under LA.R.S. 47:2236 et seq., to authorize the donation of property to Caddo Parish Fire Protection District One, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

Mrs. Bryant advised that Ordinance No. 6459 of 2024 is not necessary to adopt if the Commission votes to adopt Ordinance No. 6458 of 2024.

Mr. Thomas said that Ordinance No. 6461 should say “sale of property”, not “donation of property”. This friendly amendment was accepted.

Mr. Atkins requested that Ordinance No. 6458 of 2024 and Ordinance No. 6459 of 2024 be removed from the englobo for further discussion. This friendly amendment was accepted by Mr. Jones.

At this time, Mr. Jones’ motion as amended carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 6456 OF 2024

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE PARISH MILLAGE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST, DUE IN 2024 ON OUTSTANDING PARISH BOND ISSUES AND TO INSTRUCT THE ASSESSOR TO INCLUDE SAID MILLAGE ON THE TAX ROLL OF THE PARISH OF CADDO FOR THE YEAR 2024, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, on August 1, 2007, the Parish of Caddo issued general obligation bonds in the total aggregate sum of \$10,000,000; and

WHEREAS, on August 1, 2008, the Parish of Caddo issued general obligation bonds in the total aggregate sum of \$10,000,000; and

WHEREAS, on September 17, 2009, the Parish of Caddo issued general obligation bonds in the total aggregate sum of \$10,000,000; and

WHEREAS, on May 15, 2015, the Parish of Caddo sold Refunding Bonds in the total aggregate sum of \$6,850,000; and

WHEREAS, on February 25, 2015 the Parish of Caddo sold Refunding Bonds in the total aggregate sum of \$6,345,000; and

WHEREAS, on May 19, 2016 the Parish of Caddo sold Refunding Bonds in the total aggregate sum of \$7,250,000; and

WHEREAS, on March 29, 2023 the Parish of Caddo issued general obligation bonds in the total aggregate sum of \$20,000,000; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to levy a millage tax for the year 2024 in order to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, which will fall due in the year 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, in due, legal, and regular session convened, that a special tax of 1.5 mills on the dollar on assessed valuation of all property subject to taxation within the whole of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, be and the same is hereby levied for the year 2023, for the purpose of paying principal and interest which will become due in the year 2023 on the aforesaid public improvement bonds and refunding bonds.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Commission Clerk shall give notice of this ordinance to the Assessor of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and instruct him to levy and assess each tax as set forth herein for the year 2023.

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

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this ordinance shall take effect ten (10) days after publication in the official journal.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 6457 OF 2024

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE VALUES FIXED, OR TO BE FIXED BY THE LOUISIANA TAX COMMISSION ON ALL ASSESSMENTS FOR RAILWAYS AND OTHER PUBLIC SERVICE CORPORATIONS, AND TO INSTRUCT THE ASSESSOR TO EXTEND SUCH ASSESSMENTS AND VALUES ON THE TAX ROLL OF THE PARISH OF CADDO FOR THE YEAR 2024, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal, and regular session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission hereby adopts any and all assessments covering property owned by railways, tank car lines, and other public service corporations, and that the values named, fixed and reported be accepted and adopted as the values for all Parish purposes.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Commission Clerk shall give notice of this ordinance to the Assessor of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and instruct him to levy and assess each applicable tax millage upon these values as set forth herein for the year 2024.

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

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this ordinance shall take effect ten (10) days after publication in the official journal.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 6460 OF 2024

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE ASSESSMENT OF PROPERTY CLASSIFIED AS TIMBERLANDS AND TO INSTRUCT THE ASSESSOR TO INCLUDE SAID ASSESSMENT ON THE TAX ROLL OF THE PARISH OF CADDO FOR THE YEAR 2024, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal, and regular session convened, that the Tax Assessor of Caddo Parish be authorized and instructed to assess property in Caddo Parish, classified as timberlands at eight cents (\$.08) per acre for the year 2024.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that, the Commission Clerk shall give notice of this ordinance to the Assessor of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and instruct him to levy and assess the applicable tax, at the above stated rate, upon these values as set forth herein for the year 2024.

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

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this ordinance shall take effect ten (10) days after publication in the official journal.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 6461 OF 2024

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE TO SELL SURPLUS PROPERTY UNDER CHAPTER 19, ARTICLE II, DIVISION 3 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATIVE TO DONATION OF ADJUDICATED PROPERTY ACQUIRED BY THE PARISH UNDER LA. R.S. 47:2236 ET SEQ., TO AUTHORIZE THE SALE OF PROPERTY TO GODS OF GRIND, LLC, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, Mr. Olanza Sanders, representing Gods of Grind, LLC, applied under Section 19-51 of the Code of Ordinances to acquire a certain property adjudicated to the Parish for unpaid property taxes;

WHEREAS, Gods of Grind, LLC has had the property appraised and has met the requirements to acquire the property by an act of cash sale;

WHEREAS, pursuant to La. R.S. 47:2236, the Parish took full ownership in that property;

WHEREAS, under Section 19-51, this property is deemed surplus and not needed for a public purpose;

WHEREAS, Gods of Grind, LLC will use this property to re-develop the area near its property along Pickett Street;

WHEREAS, the Parish is now ready to sell this property to Gods of Grind, LLC;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal, and regular session convened, that pursuant to La R.S. 47:2236, it does hereby approve the sale for the appraised value of One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00), for the purpose stated above, to Gods of Grind, LLC the following described property:

- a) Lot 5, J. B. Pickett Subdivision, TAL 14, Shreveport, (Geo. No. 181437-036-0005-00)

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Parish Administrator, or her designee is authorized to take all necessary actions to comply with the requirements of La. R.S. 47:2236-37 and this sale, subject to approval of the Parish Attorney of any documents or transactions.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 6462 OF 2024

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE TO DONATE SURPLUS PROPERTY UNDER CHAPTER 19, ARTICLE II, DIVISION 3 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATIVE TO DONATION OF ADJUDICATED PROPERTY ACQUIRED BY THE PARISH UNDER LA. R.S. 47:2236 ET SEQ., TO AUTHORIZE THE DONATION OF PROPERTY TO CADDO PARISH FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ONE, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish Fire Protection District One applied under Section 19-51 of the Code of Ordinances to acquire a certain property adjudicated to the Parish for unpaid property taxes;

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish Fire Protection District One met the requirements to acquire the property by donation;

WHEREAS, pursuant to La. R.S. 47:2236, the Parish took full ownership in that property;

WHEREAS, under Section 19-51, this property is deemed surplus and not needed for a public purpose;

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish Fire Protection District One will use this property to expand their facilities at 4305 North Lakeshore Drive;

WHEREAS, the Parish is authorized to enter into cooperative endeavors with other entities, including other political subdivisions "for a public purpose." La. Const. Ann. art. VII, § 14(C).

WHEREAS, assisting the fire protection district in by providing land for expansion and enlargement of their facilities is such a public purpose.

WHEREAS, transferring this property by donation to the District will advance the Parish's interest in safety and fire protection;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal, and regular session convened, that pursuant to La R.S. 47:2236, it does hereby donate for the purpose stated above to Caddo Parish Fire Protection District One the following described property:

Lots 154, 155, & 156, and One-Half (1/2) the adjacent abandoned alley, Lakeview Subdivision, (Geo. No. 181430-001-0154-00)

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Parish Administrator, or her designee is authorized to take all necessary actions to comply with the requirements of La. R.S. 47:2236-37 and this donation, subject to approval of the Parish Attorney of any documents or transactions.

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

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that Ordinance No. 6458 of 2024, an ordinance to set the General Purpose & Special Purpose Millages providing for an increase in the millage rates not in excess of the prior years maximum rates, as allowed by Article VII, Section 23 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 and LA.R.S. 47:1705 (B), levying and imposing taxes and assessments for 2024 on all the property subject to taxation in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto be adopted.*

Mr. Atkins asked for clarification regarding the information that was provided to the Commissioners. Mrs. Barnett said that the document provided to the Commissioners is an illustration of the changes in the millages. She also said that these are the only millages that are eligible for adjustment. Mr. Atkins said that if the Commission were to adjust down, the projected revenue would be approximately \$69k more than last year; if the Commission were to stay the same, the projected revenue would be about \$1.2M greater than last year. Mrs. Barnett agreed with this.

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (9). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Kracman, and Lazarus (3). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

ORDINANCE NO. 6458 OF 2024

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE TO SET THE GENERAL PURPOSE AND SPECIAL PURPOSE MILLAGES PROVIDING FOR AN INCREASE IN THE MILLAGE RATES NOT IN EXCESS OF THE PRIOR YEARS MAXIMUM RATES, AS ALLOWED BY ARTICLE VII, SECTION 23 OF THE LOUISIANA CONSTITUTION OF 1974 AND LA R.S. 47:1705 (B), LEVYING AND IMPOSING TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS FOR 2024 ON ALL THE PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION IN THE PARISH OF CADDO, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Caddo Parish Commission (the "Commission") acting as the governing authority of Caddo Parish, Louisiana (the "Parish"), to levy various taxes for the year 2024; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to adjust the Parish millages as a result of the quadrennial reappraisal and valuation of the property subject to taxation within the Parish, in proportion to the increase

in the 2024 taxable assessed valuation of the Parish;

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held by the Commission on the subject of the proposed millage adjustment in accordance with the open meetings law and the additional requirements of Article VII, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 and LA R.S. 47:1705(B).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, in due, legal and regular session convened, that the following general purpose and special millages (that is, fractional mills on the dollar) on the assessed valuation of all property subject to taxation in the whole of Caddo Parish, Louisiana be and the same are hereby levied at the following increased millage rate no in excess of prior years maximum rates for the year 2024, in accordance with Article VII, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 and LA R.S. 47:1705, as applicable:

	2024 Adjusted Millage Rate	Levy Rate
General:		
General Alimony —For all property lying outside of cities and towns, as described below	5.89 mills	6.13 mills
Exempted Municipalities—For all property lying within the confines of incorporated cities and towns having a population in excess of 1,000 and which maintain a system of street paving and those being Shreveport, Vivian, and Bossier City	2.94 mills	3.06 mills
Special Purpose:		
Public Health		
For the creation and support of public health centers in the Parish	.83 mills	.87 mills
For the maintenance and operation of public health centers in the Parish and portion rededicated for payment of mandatory costs of the criminal justice system	1.30 mills	1.30 mills
Shreve Memorial Library:		
For the acquiring, equipping, construction, improving, maintaining and operating the public library system	4.74 mills	4.74 mills
For the maintenance and operation of parish library facilities and portion rededication to payment of mandatory costs of the criminal justice system	4.66 mills	4.66 mills
Juvenile Court:		
For the maintenance and operation for the juvenile court, and juvenile detention home facilities	1.88 mills	1.97 mills
Detention Facilities:		
For the maintenance and operation of detention facilities and portion rededicated for payment of mandatory costs of the criminal justice system	5.52 mills	5.52 mills
Courthouse Maintenance:		
For the maintenance and operation of parish Courthouse and other building facilities	2.59 mills	2.72 mills
Public Works:		
For the maintenance and operation of road, bridge, drainage, garbage collection, and mandatory costs of the criminal justice system	5.96 mills	5.96 mills
Public Facilities:		
For the maintenance and operation of public facilities, specifically road and bridge, parks and recreation, garbage collection and drainage	.80 mills	.84 mills
Biomedical Research:		
For the promotion of economic development		

through the Biomedical Research Foundation of Northwest Louisiana and portion rededicated to mandatory costs of the criminal justice system 1.68 mills 1.76 mills

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Commission Clerk shall give notice of this ordinance to the Assessor of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and instruct him to levy and assess each tax as set forth herein for the year 2024, and the tax collector of Caddo Parish, Louisiana shall collect and remit the same to said taxing authority in accordance with law.

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

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this ordinance shall take effect 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.

ZONING ORDINANCES (for introduction by title)

- Ordinance No. 6463 of 2024, Zoning Case 24-01-CTAP, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, relative to short-term rentals, with all their provisions included herein, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto

ORDINANCES (for introduction by title)

- Ordinance No. 6464 of 2024, an ordinance prohibiting the placement of certain monuments on Parish property, and otherwise providing with respect thereto

WORK SESSION MINUTES

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *that the Work Session Minutes from September 16, 2024* be ratified. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that Resolution No. 58 of 2024, a resolution amending the Rules & By-Laws of the Caddo Parish Commission to provide for a permanent Public Safety Committee, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be adopted.

Amendment by Mr. J. Young, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *to amend the language to say “general public safety matters”.* Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. J. Young asked for the amendment so this committee would not conflict with other committees.

At this time, Mr. Epperson’s motion carried as amended unanimously of those present.

RESOLUTION NO. 58 OF 2024

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE RULES AND BY-LAWS OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION TO PROVIDE FOR A PERMANENT PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Rules and By-Laws of the Caddo Parish Commission provide for a listing of the Commission’s standing committees; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Committee has met consistently throughout 2024 as an ad-hoc committee and should be made a permanent standing committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that Article I of the Commission Bylaws is amended as follows:

ARTICLE I

Powers of Duties of the President

* * * * *

RULE 2: The President shall possess the following powers and perform the following duties:

* * * * *

A. The President shall assign all members of the Caddo Parish Commission to their respective committees and chairmanships. There shall be twelve standing committees of the Caddo Parish Commission whose duties respectively shall be to take into consideration all such subjects as properly pertain to the subjects and purposes assigned to each of them and which may be referred to them by the Caddo Commission. Those committees are as follows:

- (1) Animal Services Committee: To this committee shall be referred, legislation relating to the following subjects: creation and modification of Animal and Fowl ordinances.
- (2) Appropriations Committee: To this committee shall be referred legislation relating to the following subjects: appropriation of parish funds from the Riverboat Fund; budgetary requirements and procedures; comprehensive parish capital budget.
- (3) Code Enforcement and Property Standards Committee: To this committee shall be referred all legislation relating to the following subjects: all matters related to the dereliction of public and private lands within the parish outside incorporated municipalities; building code modifications, all matters related to subdivision creation; all matters related to health and safety issues effecting the public.
- (4) Commission Clerk and Parish Administrator Evaluation Committee: To this committee shall be referred the annual evaluation of Caddo Parish Administrator and Caddo Parish Commission Clerk; setting forth annual recommendation for pay raises and other matters.
- (5) Economic Development Committee: legislation relating to the following subjects: appropriation of funds from the parish's video poker proceeds; Caddo Parish industrial inducement; economic development districts and special industrial taxing districts, industrial parks and enhancement avenues for new and existing businesses within the Parish of Caddo.
- (6) Juvenile Justice and Related Services Committee: To this committee shall be referred legislation relating to the following subjects: matters related to Juvenile Court, and Juvenile detention in Caddo Parish; matters regarding community and faith based juvenile programs in the parish.
- (7) Natural Resource Committee: To this committee shall be referred legislation relating to the following subjects: natural resources generally; mineral resources of parish owned lands; all matters relating to parish parks and recreation and parish waterways.
- (8) Personnel Policies and Procedures Committee: To this committee shall be referred legislation regarding matters encompassed by the Parish Charter, Commission By-Laws, and Parish Personnel Policies.
- (9) Veterans Affairs and Services: To this committee shall be referred legislation relating to the following subjects: matters related to Veteran issues, including parish veteran affairs offices, issues effecting veteran care, and support for various programs veterans' throughout the parish.
- (10) Long Range Planning & Special Needs Committee: To this committee shall be referred legislation relating to the following subjects: matters related to issues not covered in the other nine standing committees, including but not limited to long range planning, alcohol licenses, constables and justices of the peace, facilities and space utilization, and all matters related to disaster relief and emergency response.
- (11) Audit/Finance Committee: To this committee the Administrator shall present his recommended process for a comprehensive internal audit of the parish no later than the second regular Commission meeting of each year. This committee shall make a recommendation regarding approval of that process to the Commission body no later than the first regular February meeting of each year. The Administrator and Director of Finance

shall also present an overview of the financial matters of the Parish to this committee on a quarterly basis and this committee shall make recommendations to the Commission body regarding any budget amendments requested by agencies or departments included in the Parish budget

- (12) Alcoholic Beverage Committee: The committee shall consist of five members of the Parish Commission appointed by the President of the Commission. The purpose of the alcoholic beverage permit committee shall be to hold hearings and recommend penalties for violations of parish ordinances on alcoholic beverage permits and to consider and make recommendations for changes in the alcoholic beverage ordinances of the Parish.
- (13) Public Safety Committee: To this committee shall be referred legislation relating to crime lab funding, general safety matters, first responder issues, election safety, litter, and natural disaster response.

* * * * *

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

COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Epperson congratulated Mrs. Gage-Watts and encouraged her to bring the annual event to Caddo Parish.

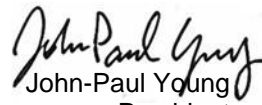
CITIZENS COMMENTS (late arrivals)

Mr. Doughzart came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Ordinance No. 6457 of 2024, an ordinance to adopt the values fixed, or to be fixed, by the Louisiana Tax Commission on all assessments for railways and other public service corporations, and to instruct the Assessor to extend such assessments and values on the tax roll of the Parish of Caddo for the year 2024, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.


Michelle Nations
Assistant to the Commission Clerk


John-Paul Young
President