

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 3rd 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, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, and G. Young (10). ABSENT: Commissioners Jones and J. Young (2).

The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were given during previous committee meetings. There were no Agenda Additions nor Citizens Comments, so the Commission moved onto Visitors.

VISITORS

- Lorenzo Davenport
Who's Next Barbershop

The Commission commended Who's Next Barbershop and its owner, Mr. Lorenzo Davenport, for their dedication to the youth of Caddo Parish, particularly for providing free haircuts at a back to school event. Mr. Davenport was recognized for using his platform to mentor and encourage young people, helping them to achieve greatness and pursue positive paths. Several Commissioners expressed their gratitude and support for Mr. Davenport's work.

Mr. Davenport thanked the Commission, his team, and his wife for recognizing his efforts in trying to make the community a better place, "one haircut at a time".

- Aniyah Brown
Shreveport Fire Department Firefighter of the Year

Firefighter Aniyah Brown of the Shreveport Fire Department was honored as the 2025 Firefighter of the Year by the Kiwanis Club for her selflessness and dedication. The Commission extended its congratulations to Firefighter Brown for her extraordinary service and contributions to the community.

Firefighter Brown expressed gratitude and emphasized the importance of serving the community, both on and off duty.

- The Arc of Caddo-Bossier
Deidre McVay-Schulmeister
Kristen Powers

The Arc of Caddo-Bossier presented its programs and divisions, emphasizing its role in workforce development by supporting individuals with disabilities and their families. The Arc highlighted its partnerships, community integration efforts, and the positive impact on the lives of those served. They are requesting a bigger ask this year of \$100k to support its programs, including Goldman School, GREAT program, community homes, and Frost Industries.

Several Commissioners thanked the Arc for the great work they are doing in the community.

- Alexis Svehla
Robinson's Rescue

Ms. Svehla thanked the Commission for its support, which has enabled the organization to provide affordable and free spay/neuter surgeries. Robinson's Rescue operates several programs, including affordable spay/neuter, subsidized spay/neuter incentive program (SNIPP), as well as education and outreach. Their efforts have led to a significant decrease in shelter intake and euthanasia rates in the Parish.

- Beth Smiley
American Rose Center

The American Rose Society is facing financial challenges due to declining membership and is seeking support to continue its operations, particularly the annual Christmas in Roseland event. The American Rose Center contributes significantly to the community through education, preservation of roses, and hosting international rose trials. Ms. Smiley advised that they will need to raise \$125k by the end of September to ensure the Christmas in Roseland event can take place this year.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- Budget Retreat—September 12, 2025

Administrator Bryant announced that the budget retreat is scheduled for September 12, 2025.

- Juvenile Detention Center census

Administrator Bryant said that there are 22 children in the Detention Center, five of which are OJJ, and four 17 year olds. There are 422 children on probation and twenty juveniles are at CCC.

There were no Commission Remarks, so the Commission moved onto the President's Report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Madame President announced that there will be a Mooretown Community Meeting on September 4, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. She invited all to attend.

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

NEW BUSINESS

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

- *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*
- *Resolution No. 37 of 2025, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to approve the assignment, bill of sale, and conveyance of State Agency Leases No. 22291 and No. 22292 from Cypress Energy Partners, LLC, to Apex Natural Gas, LLC, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Special Resolution Suicide Prevention Awareness Month & Veterans Suicide Prevention Awareness Day*
- *Special Resolution Hispanic Heritage Month*
- *Special Resolution Sickle Cell Awareness Month*
- *Special Resolution Hunger Action Month*
- *Special Resolution Chef De'Unaka "Punkin" Haley*
- *Caddo Parish Tax Assessor, Dr. Regina Webb, as a Visitor during the September 4, 2025 Regular Session*

At this time, Mr. Cothran's motion to englobo and advance carried unanimously with Commissioners Jones and J. Young being absent (2).

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. G. Young, *that 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* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Lazarus, Thomas, and G. Young (8). NAYS: Commissioners Cothran and Kracman (2). ABSENT: Commissioners Jones and J. Young (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Cothran**, seconded by Mr. G. Young, *that the Commission convene into Executive Session to discuss Caddo Suit #659061.* Motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Jones and J. Young being absent (2).

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

COMMUNIQUES

- Mr. Thomas offered condolences for the Winn family.
- Mrs. Gage-Watts encouraged all to stay safe because the COVID-19 variant is on the rise.

There were no Citizens Comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

- *Ordinance No. 6559 of 2025, an ordinance declaring certain adjudicated properties to be surplus and to authorize the Parish Administrator, or a designee, to sell the Parish of Caddo's tax interest in certain surplus adjudicated properties and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6560 of 2025, an ordinance to amend Chapter 26 of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo relating to traffic schedules to establish a schedule for placement of traffic calming devices to include speed bumps and humps, 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 5:45 p.m.



Michelle Nations
Assistant Commission Clerk