

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S
PROPERTY STANDARDS HEARING COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 21st DAY OF JANUARY 2025

The Caddo Parish Property Standards Committee met in legal session on the above date at 2:00 p.m., in the Government Plaza Chambers, with Mr. Lazarus, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Burrell, Gage-Watts Kracman, Lazarus, and J. Young (5). ABSENT: Commissioner Epperson (1).

Mr. Lazarus gave the invocation, and Mr. Kracman led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk of the Commission, Mr. Jeff Everson, reminded the committee members that each motion needs to include the Committee's recommendation to the full body, as well as, the inclusion of all testimony and documentation into the permanent record. He administered the Oath.

NEW BUSINESS

- Case No. 1—8310 Hwy 1, Shreveport, LA 71107

Mr. Brandon Bradford stated that the property has two dilapidated trailer structures that are falling apart. Both structures are open to the elements. It also has an inoperable recreation vehicle and has overgrowth of grass and weeds creating a possible health and safety hazard for the neighbors. The structures are uninhabitable, so no one lives in them. Proper notifications have been sent, and it was published in the Official Journal. He also reminded the Committee that this was postponed from the January 21, 2025 Property Standards Hearing.

Mr. Hislope said that the land belonged to his late father and remain tied up in an 11 year succession dispute with his brother. He has already spent about \$25k maintaining the property and previously removed a structure near the highway. He further explained that the current trailers are far from the highway, on a private road, not visible or accessible to the public. He suspects the complaint came from the Red River Waterway Commission, which had expressed interest in purchasing the property. Mr. Hislope intends to clean the site, but hesitates to invest further until the succession is finalized.

Mr. Burrell questioned whether cleanup was contingent upon the unresolved succession; the owner said that he would like the matter to be settled before putting more money into the property.

Mrs. Gage-Watts clarified that if the Parish cleans up the property, costs would be billed as a lien against the property and recovered at sale. Mr. Bradford confirmed that the Parish cleanup costs reflect fair market rates—no markups.

Mr. Kracman noted that the structures were about an eighth of a mile off the highway, not visible, and pose no public hazard or neighbor complaints. He suggested granting the owner more time.

Mr. J. Young reiterated that the Parish cleanup costs are comparable to private demolition and could be completed quickly if desired.

It was **moved by Mr. Kracman**, seconded by Mr G. Young, *that this case be postponed for 60 days.* Motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Epperson being absent.

Mrs. Gage-Watts supported this motion, but emphasized that at the next hearing, she would like to see progress, as the Commission is enforcing parish-wide anti-litter and property standards efforts.

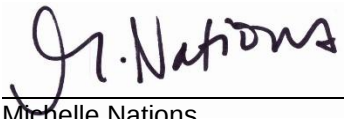
- Case No. 2—15376 Christian, Hosston, LA 71043

Mr. Bradford said that this property contains a dilapidated and burned trailer structure with high grass and vegetation, creating a health and safety hazard for the neighbors. The Parish is requesting that the property is condemned, so that the necessary steps can be taken to clean up the property. The trailer is uninhabitable, so no one lives in it. Proper notifications have been sent, and it was published in the Official Journal.

It was noted that the property owners were not in attendance.

It was **moved by Mr. J. Young**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that the recommendation to accept all documents with regards to this case and to demolish the property and place a lien on it be forwarded to the full body.* Motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Epperson being absent.

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Committee, so the Committee adjourned at 2:36 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Nations". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The "M" is large and loops around the first part of the name. The "Nations" is written in a similar cursive script.

Michelle Nations
Assistant Commission Clerk