

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 6th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 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, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (11). ABSENT: Commissioner Blake (1).

The Pledge of Allegiance and invocation were given during previous committee meetings.

AGENDA ADDITIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that the agenda be expanded and Special Resolution celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the U.S. Marines* be added under Special Resolutions.

Madame President opened the floor for anyone to speak in favor or against adding these items to the agenda. There being no one to speak, the President closed the public hearing.

At this time, Mr. Jones' motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Blake being absent. This was added under Special Resolutions.

There were no Citizens Comments nor Visitors.

**ADOPT REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS**

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mr. J. Young, *that following items be adopted:*

- *Regular Session Minutes October 23, 2025*
- *Special Session Minutes- Budget Intro October 30, 2025*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition—Historical Civil Rights Leaders*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition—Shamarion McCoy*

Mr. McCoy, accompanied by his family, principal, and band director, delivered heartfelt remarks acknowledging God, his parents, and mentors for their support. His mother shared that early intervention programs helped him overcome early childhood speech delays and that he will also graduate with a college degree from Southern University at Shreveport prior to his high school diploma.

Several Commissioners offered words of pride and encouragement, commending his faith, discipline, and representation of Caddo Parish. The Commission emphasized the importance of family, education, and mentorship in youth development.

- *Special Resolution of Remembrance—Elvira Helaire Davis*
- *Proclamation 250th Anniversary of the U.S. Marines*

At this time, Mr. Jones' motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Blake being absent.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION
HISTORICAL CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERS**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission joins the North Louisiana Civil Rights Coalition in recognizing the enduring contributions and sacrifices of those who courageously stood for justice, equality, and human dignity during the American Civil Rights Movement; and

WHEREAS, these five legendary figures—Mrs. Mamie Love Wallace, Reverend Claude Clifford McLain, Reverend Harry Blake, Reverend E. Edward Jones, and Reverend Calvin Austin—each played an indelible role in shaping the moral and civic progress of Caddo Parish, the State of Louisiana, and the nation; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Mamie Love Wallace, a pioneering beautician and tireless community leader, provided not only beauty services but also courage, dignity, and organizational strength to the local civil rights movement. Her salon served as a safe haven for activists and a headquarters for grassroots organizing during the struggle for equality in Shreveport; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Claude Clifford McLain, as longtime pastor of Little Union Baptist Church (1959–1991) and President of the Shreveport Branch of the NAACP, transformed his church into a

central meeting place for the Civil Rights Movement in North Louisiana, guiding the community through some of its most turbulent and transformative decades; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Harry Blake, as pastor of Mount Canaan Baptist Church and a local leader of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, faced violence and persecution for his courage. On September 22, 1963, following a memorial service for the victims of the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing, Reverend Blake was brutally beaten by police for his peaceful leadership—a sacrifice that symbolized the cost of freedom and the moral clarity of nonviolent resistance; and

WHEREAS, Reverend E. Edward Jones, pastor of Galilee Baptist Church for more than fifty years, was a towering spiritual and civic leader who served on the Caddo Parish Police Jury and stood as a plaintiff in the lawsuit that led to the desegregation of Caddo Parish Public Schools. His lifelong dedication to justice and education profoundly reshaped opportunities for generations of African Americans in North Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Calvin Austin, a young student activist during the height of the Civil Rights struggle, led a demonstration protesting the brutal beating of Reverend Blake. For this act of courage, he was arrested, jailed for forty days, and expelled from Caddo Parish Schools. Yet his resilience and moral fortitude inspired many—decades later, he was fittingly awarded his high school diploma, a testament to the enduring triumph of justice over oppression; and

WHEREAS, the combined legacies of these five extraordinary leaders embody the faith, courage, and determination that transformed not only Caddo Parish but the entire nation. Their sacrifices, leadership, and devotion to the cause of civil and human rights continue to inspire future generations to speak out against injustice wherever it exists;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby posthumously honor and remember Mrs. Mamie Love Wallace, Reverend Claude Clifford McLain, Reverend Harry Blake, Reverend E. Edward Jones, and Reverend Calvin Austin, and recognizes their immeasurable contributions to civil rights, equality, and community advancement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in addition to becoming a part of the permanent records of Caddo Parish, that this Resolution be presented on Saturday, November 15, 2025, at 6:00 P.M., during the North Louisiana Civil Rights Coalition's Annual Legends Gala at the Shreveport Convention Center, as a permanent record of gratitude from the citizens of Caddo Parish for the courage, sacrifice, and leadership of these extraordinary individuals.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION SHAMARION MCCOY

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission desires to recognize and honor outstanding young citizens whose accomplishments bring pride to their schools, their families, and the Parish of Caddo; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shamarion McCoy, a 16-year-old junior at Booker T. Washington High School, has achieved the highest musical honor available to high school band students in the State of Louisiana by being selected to the 2025 Louisiana Music Educators Association (LMEA) All State Symphonic Band; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McCoy is the first student in Booker T. Washington High School's history to be selected for the LMEA All State Band, marking a historic milestone for the school and a significant achievement for the community; and

WHEREAS, in addition to this exceptional accomplishment, Mr. McCoy is also the only student from Caddo Parish to be selected for this elite ensemble in 2025, further underscoring his extraordinary talent, dedication, and commitment to musical excellence; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McCoy's selection to the All State Symphonic Band is preceded by a series of impressive recognitions, including his placement in the 2024–2025 LMEA District 8 Symphonic Band as a 10th-grade student, his distinction as 1st Chair Trombone in the 2023–2024 LMEA District 8 Concert Band (second band), and his earlier achievement as a member of the Caddo Honor Band in the 9th grade; and

WHEREAS, these accomplishments reflect not only Mr. McCoy's personal discipline and passion for the arts, but also the strong support of his family, teachers, and band directors at Booker T. Washington High School, whose encouragement and mentorship have helped foster his exceptional growth as a musician; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission wishes to commend Mr. McCoy for his dedication, perseverance, and excellence, and to celebrate his historic achievements that bring honor to both his school and the entire Parish.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby honor, congratulate, and extend its deepest appreciation to Mr. Shamarion McCoy for his groundbreaking accomplishments in music and for representing Caddo Parish with excellence and distinction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be recorded in the official proceedings of the Caddo Parish Commission, and that an official copy be presented to Mr. McCoy as a symbol of the Commission’s pride and recognition.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION
ELVIRA HELAIRE DAVIS**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission pauses with great respect and deep gratitude to honor the extraordinary life of Mrs. Elvira Helaire-Davis, a beloved matriarch, community icon, and one of the longest-living residents in the State of Louisiana, who passed away peacefully on Monday, October 27, 2025, at the remarkable age of 110; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Helaire-Davis was born on July 21, 1915, at Oakland Plantation near Natchitoches, Louisiana, the daughter of Felix Helaire and Martha Hamilton, and one of eight children raised by hardworking sharecropper parents whose resilience and values helped shape the strength she displayed throughout her long life; and

WHEREAS, her 110 years, 3 months, and 6 days of life spanned some of the most defining moments in American and world history, including two World Wars, the Great Depression, the Civil Rights Movement, the moon landing, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, the tragedy of 9/11, and the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Helaire-Davis was affectionately described by her family as a “walking history,” and her grace, wisdom, and presence connected generations to a living legacy of endurance, courage, and faith; and

WHEREAS, despite attending school only through the eighth grade, Mrs. Helaire-Davis was honored on her 106th birthday with an honorary high school diploma, arranged by the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and presented by the Mayors of Natchitoches and Shreveport an achievement that fulfilled one of her lifelong goals and brought immense pride to her family; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Helaire-Davis was beloved throughout the Shreveport community, particularly in the MLK neighborhood, where she was celebrated on her 109th birthday with a parade, roses, balloons, and heartfelt tributes from neighbors who admired her strength, kindness, and longevity; and

WHEREAS, family members traced her ancestry to the Temne tribe of Sierra Leone, further enriching her family’s understanding of their heritage and honoring the cultural legacy that she carried with dignity; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Helaire-Davis treasured her family deeply, and her granddaughters remembered her joy at receiving birthday wishes from President Barack Obama—twice—and her amazement at witnessing the election of the first African-American president, as well as seeing her hometown of Natchitoches elect its first African-American mayor, Ronnie Whitten; and

WHEREAS, she was cherished as the matriarch of her family, a stabilizing presence, and a source of guidance and inspiration whose life touched countless individuals across generations; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Coroner’s Office and the wider community recognized Mrs. Helaire-Davis for her contributions, spirit, and remarkable journey, and her passing leaves a void in the hearts of all who were blessed to know her; and

WHEREAS, final arrangements are entrusted to Heavenly Gates Funeral Home, as family and friends gather to celebrate her remarkable legacy and to honor the profound impact she made on her community and beyond.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby celebrate, honor, and forever remember the life and legacy of Mrs. Elvira Helaire-Davis, whose 110 years of purpose, perseverance, and love stand as a testament to the strength of the human spirit.

**PROCLAMATION
250TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED STATES MARINES**

This proclamation was not attached to the agenda, nor was it in the files.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- Announcements

Administrator Bryant announced that the previously scheduled Budget Retreat will be rescheduled to Wednesday, November 12. Additionally, the Grand Opening for the Walter B. Jacobs Memorial Nature Park is scheduled for Wednesday, December 4, at 10:00 a.m. She also announced that the Commission will be hosting a food distribution on November 22 with details to follow.

COMMUNIQUE & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Jones announced a Cedar Grove United Park Cleanup at A.B. Palmer Park (547 E. 79th Street) on Saturday from 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
- Mr. Cothran reflected on the earlier presentation, citing comments from the Mayor's Shreveport-Bossier Prayer Breakfast by Judge Matlock regarding the importance of family in combating community issues; suggested formation of a committee to address family stability.

Mr. Jones agreed and recommended this discussion be forwarded to the Juvenile Justice Committee.

Mr. Cothran also said that the Long Range Planning Committee met with Job Corps. Further discussion will be had in early 2026, once enrollment increases to plan citizen assistance projects.

- Mr. Atkins reported that the Audit & Finance Committee reviewed internal audit findings regarding HR, retirement benefits, and IT systems. All findings were low- to moderate-risk with corrective actions underway.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Madame President Gage-Watts reviewed the communication from Congressman Cleo Fields regarding SNAP benefit reductions resulting from a federal court order. Recipients will receive 50% of normal benefits (approximately \$25 per week) due to federal contingency funding limitations. She emphasized the need for local supplemental efforts and commended the Commission for previously allocating funds in August to address this anticipated issue.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES

Madame President Gage-Watts opened the floor for a public hearing on the following ordinances:

- *Ordinance No. 6564 of 2025, an ordinance adopting the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Shreve Memorial Library for the year 2026*
- *Ordinance No. 6566 of 2025, an ordinance to close and abandon two portions of road right-of-way in the Forbing Factory Subdivision, in Section 8, Township 16 North, Range 13 West, in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

Jonathan Ratliff came before the Commission and gave the following comment in support of Ordinance No. 6566 of 2025:

Jonathan Ratliff, Raley and Associates, 4913 Shed Road, Bossier City. Third time up here, so it's just a little clean up. That's what this ordinance is. This is 6566, yeah, in favor. So, and just to keep y'all informed in case anything was confusing. Some of this is clean up. Some of this is existing right-of-way. There's an old 28-foot right-of-way along an edge that we want to close, that we can make all the properties touch each other and not have a 28-foot unusable alley right-of-way down the center. And then, some of it was stuff that has been bought over but still existed within the property. So, it's just a lot of cleanup so that we can get the commercial subdivision going. Thank you.

- *Ordinance No. 6567 of 2025, an ordinance amending the 2025 Budget to amend the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Housing Choice Voucher Program Fund and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

There being no one to speak in favor, or against, the ordinances, the President closed the public hearing.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

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

- *Ordinance No. 6564 of 2025, an ordinance adopting the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Shreve Memorial Library for the year 2026*
- *Ordinance No. 6566 of 2025, an ordinance to close and abandon two portions of road right-of-way in the Forbing Factory Subdivision, in Section 8, Township 16*

North, Range 13 West, in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto

- Ordinance No. 6567 of 2025, an ordinance amending the 2025 Budget to amend the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Housing Choice Voucher Program Fund and to otherwise provide with respect thereto

Mr. Atkins complimented the library budget report, noting that this year’s structure more clearly showed that many expenditures are for one-time capital projects, which had not always been obvious in prior years.

At this time, Mr. Jones’ motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Blake being absent.

ORDINANCE NO. 6564 OF 2025

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE BUDGET OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE **SHREVE MEMORIAL LIBRARY** FOR THE YEAR 2026

BE IT ORDAINED by the Caddo Parish Commission, in legal and regular session convened, that the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the **Shreve Memorial Library** for the year 2026, is hereby adopted and appropriated as follows, to wit

2026 BUDGET

<u>Revenues</u>	
Ad Valorem Taxes	\$ 20,362,000
State Revenue Sharing	320,000
Interest Earned	450,000
Other Receipts	320,000
Fines & Forfeitures	<u>5,000</u>
Total Revenues	<u>21,457,000</u>
<u>Expenditures</u>	
Shreve Memorial Library Maintenance & Operation	20,963,000
Library Debt Service	
Capital	<u>9,492,000</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>30,455,000</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	<u>(8,998,000)</u>
Fund Balance at Beginning of Year	<u>35,714,218</u>
Fund Balance at End of Year	<u>26,716,218</u>

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that any time during the year the Shreve Memorial Library Board of Control shall have the authority to transfer part or all of the unencumbered appropriation from one budget category to another budget category within the Library Fund.

ORDINANCE NO. 6566 OF 2025

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE TO CLOSE AND ABANDON TWO PORTIONS OF ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY IN THE FORBING FACTORY SUBDIVISION, IN SECTION 8, TOWNSHIP 16 NORTH, RANGE 13 WEST, IN THE PARISH OF CADDO, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, on January 5, 1912, the Forbing Factory Subdivision, was filed and recorded under Instrument No. 28364, in Book 50, Page 459, of the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, Louisiana. This subdivision dedicated to the public a 30 foot wide street right-of-way on the east side of Block 2, running south from Sand Beach Road (Flournoy Lucas Road) to Forbing Street (Dunn Street) and a 15 foot wide street dedication running east from Third Street to the northeast corner of Lot 14, Block 3 of said subdivision; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has received a request from Mr. Jonathan Ratliff, representing Gamvest Limited Partnership to close and abandon these two portions of road right-of-way in

the Forbing Factory Subdivision. Joining Gamvest Limited Partnership in this request is DRD Rental Properties, LLC, represented by Ms. Katherine Pierce, the only other owner of adjacent property; and

WHEREAS, the major utility companies have been polled and none have any facilities located within these dedications nor any objections to these closure and abandonments; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that the 30 foot wide street dedication on the east side of Block 2, running south from Sand Beach Road (Flournoy Lucas Road) to Forbing Street (Dunn Street) and the 15 foot wide street dedication running east from Third Street to the northeast corner of Lot 14, Block 3 of said subdivision and as shown on Exhibit A, are hereby closed and abandoned and no longer in effect.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a copy of this ordinance and plat marked Exhibit "A", displaying the dedications to be closed and abandoned shall be filed in the conveyance records of the Parish of Caddo.

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 of 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 become effective ten 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. 6567 OF 2025

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2025 BUDGET TO AMEND THE BUDGET OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM FUND AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has been the recipient of the Section 8 grant (Housing Voucher Program) from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) since the 1970s; and

WHEREAS, Section 8 funds the Housing Voucher Program that the federal program has for assisting very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market; and

WHEREAS, the Parish received additional funding for the Housing Voucher Program in 2025 due to aggressive leasing which increased HUD funding significantly and increased the number of families we served; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend a budget for revenues and expenditures for the Housing Voucher Program Fund; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Housing Voucher Program Fund for the year 2025 as follows:

	<u>Budget Increase (Decrease)</u>
Housing Voucher Program Fund:	
Revenue:	
Section 8 Grant Revenue	\$600,000
Section 8 Grant Expenses	\$600,000

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 upon adoption.

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

ORDINANCES (for introduction by title)

- *Ordinance No. 6596 of 2025, an ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of not exceeding ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) of limited tax revenue bonds of Caddo Parish, Louisiana; and providing for other matters in connection therewith*
- *Ordinance No. 6597 of 2025, an ordinance amending the 2025 Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat and Oil & Gas Funds*
- *Ordinance No. 6598 of 2025, an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 6554 of 2025 pertaining to Schedule of Licenses & Fees, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6599 of 2025, an ordinance amending Article II of Chapter 36 of the Code of Ordinances relative to Alcohol & Drunkenness in Parish Parks, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6600 of 2025, an ordinance amending and re-enacting Chapter 52 of the Code of Ordinances relative to Utilities, to include solar farm regulations, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6601 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*

WORK SESSION MINUTES RESOLUTIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mr. J. Young, *that the following items be englobed and adopted:*

- *Work Session Minutes—November 3, 2025*
- *Resolution No. 43 of 2025, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to execute the subsurface use agreement with Apex Natural Gas, LLC, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*

At this time, Mr. Jones' motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Blake being absent.

RESOLUTION NO. 43 OF 2025

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CADDO PARISH
ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE THE SUBSURFACE USE
AGREEMENT WITH APEX NATURAL GAS, LLC., AND OTHERWISE
PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo is the owner of the following described property, (hereinafter referred to as the "Property"): A strip of land one hundred feet wide known locally as Wallace Lake Road, the center line of said strip to be West line of the Southwest Quarter of Southeast Quarter of Section 30, Township 16 North, Range 13 West, Caddo Parish, Louisiana. The one hundred (100) foot strip to be the West Fifty (50) feet of the Southwest Quarter of Southeast Quarter and the East Fifty (50) feet of the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 30, Township 16 North, Range 13 West, Caddo Parish, Louisiana and being the same strip of land dedicated in that certain Dedication of Public Road from Virgil F. Sightler to The Public dated March 14, 1949 and recorded in Book 588, Page 843, Conveyance Records, Caddo Parish, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Apex Natural Gas, LLC, proposes to drill one or more directional wells through the subsurface of the "Property" to a bottomhole location(s) underlying lands near or in the vicinity of the "Property", hereinafter referred to as the "Subject Wells", and in order for Apex Natural Gas, LLC, to directionally drill such wells it will be necessary to use the subsurface of a portion or portions of the "Property"; and

WHEREAS, for and in consideration of the sum of Ten Thousand and No/100 (\$10,000.00) Dollars, Apex Natural Gas, LLC, agrees to Pay the Parish of Caddo for the Subsurface Use Agreement described above and said Subsurface Use Agreement shall remain in full force for a term or Three (3) years from the effective date and for so long thereafter as the rights granted are exercised without cessation of more than three (3) years; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission, in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Administrator is hereby authorized to execute the Subsurface Use Agreement for the purpose of drilling one or more directional wells through the subsurface of the “Property”.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Agreement shall only be executed or entered into after being approved by the Parish Attorney both in form and substance;

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.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. J. Young**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that the following appointments be adopted:*

- *Reappoint William Bradford to the Industrial Development Board*
- *Reappoint Lauren Marchive to the Parish Planning & Zoning Board*
- *Appoint Brad Smith to the Fire District No. 1 Board*
- *Appoint Anthony Burks to the Ward II Industrial Board*
- *Appoint Tony Leach to the Caddo Sewerage District No. 7 Board*
- *Reappoint JoAnn Witkowski to the Caddo Sewerage District No. 7 Board*
- *Appoint Natalie Roberson to the Caddo Sewerage District No. 2 Board*

At this time, Mr. J. Young’s motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Blake being absent.

COMMUNIQUE & REPORTS

- Special Resolution of Recognition—Max Chambers

Mr. Chambers briefly addressed the Commission, thanking members for acknowledging his accomplishments and stating that he is proud to represent the City of Shreveport. He introduced his family members present: his father, mother, sister, and grandfather.

Mrs. Gage-Watts highlighted his success on The Voice, his broader accomplishments beyond the show, and noted the Commission’s pride in finally being able to recognize him given his busy performance schedule, including Broadway engagements. She emphasized that he is an asset to Shreveport and Caddo Parish and that the Parish stands ready to support him.

Mr. Thomas referenced Mr. Chambers’ rendition of “Don’t You Worry ’Bout a Thing” on The Voice, noting the national praise he has received and declaring that the Commission is already claiming his ultimate victory on the show. He also recalled Mr. Chambers’ earlier local performance at ArtBreak’s talent showcase, connecting it to the Parish’s goal of nurturing homegrown talent.

Mr. Jones praised Mr. Chambers’ talent, confidence, and stage presence, joking that his grandfather would say the young man is “sharp.” He called this one of the best meetings of the year because of the youth recognitions, and he joined others in proclaiming that Mr. Chambers will be the winner of The Voice. He encouraged Mr. Chambers to continue trusting God, adding that God will open doors his mind cannot yet fathom.

Mr. Burrell recalled watching The Voice at home, hearing Mr. Chambers sing, and being excited when Shreveport was announced. He recognized Mr. Chambers’ grandfather and commented that, given that lineage, Mr. Chambers “must be pretty good” and that he expects great things from him and his family.

Mr. Cothran shared that Mr. Chambers is his cousin and spoke about their Cedar Grove roots, noting the strong musical heritage in the family. He emphasized that God’s plan for Mr. Chambers’ life has been evident from the beginning and commended the entire family for their support, saying this “village” is an example of what could be replicated Parish-wide for youth success.

Mr. G. Young tied Mr. Chambers' recognition to the Commission's effort to make Caddo Parish an epicenter for film and entertainment, stating that Mr. Chambers and other young talents help demonstrate that the region is ready to take that mantle. He stressed that by showing up and sharing his gift, Mr. Chambers is "giving back" to other families and youth who will be inspired to pursue their talents.

Mr. Atkins again congratulated Mr. Chambers on behalf of the community and specifically complimented his professional, well-put-together appearance, noting that someone has clearly taught him to pay attention to detail. He shared his father's maxim that "a young man can never be overdressed" and encouraged Mr. Chambers to continue representing the community well.

- Reminder: Public Hearing for 2026 Budget Ordinances will take place during the November 20, 2025 Regular Session.

There were no Citizens Comments. There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.


Michelle Nations
Assistant Commission Clerk


Stormy Gage-Watts
President