

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 20th 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, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Gage-Watts, Jones, Kracman, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (10). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson and Lazarus (2).

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. Thomas

Mr. Epperson

Mr. Jones

Mr. Burrell

Mr. Cothran

Mr. G. Young

Mrs. Gage-Watts

- *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.

COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. G. Young
- Mr. Jones
- Mr. Cothran
- Mr. Atkins

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Madame President Gage-Watts

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*

John Ratcliff

- *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 englobo 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. Cothran

Mr. Atkins

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

ORDINANCE NO. 6564 OF 2025

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

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.

COMMUNIQUES & REPORTS

- Special Resolution of Recognition—Max Chambers
 Mr. Chambers
 Mrs. Gage-Watts
 Mr. Thomas
 Mr. Jones
 Mr. Burrell
 Mr. Cothran
 Mr. G. Young
- 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