

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION  
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 15<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2026

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Work Session, on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., in the Government Chambers, with Mr. Greg Young, President, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Burrell, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (8). ABSENT: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Cothran, and Kracman (4).

Mr. Jones gave the invocation, and Mr. Thomas led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no Agenda Additions.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Paige Hoffpauir came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Hi. Paige Hoffpauir, 1064 Gabriel's Turn, Shreveport, Louisiana. I'm coming today because I hear that there is on the agenda a resolution to declare June Gay Pride Month. I lift this up to each one of you today, as we have dedicated this meeting to god and the citizens of Shreveport. I hope today that each one of your votes, which will be seen by all the people that put you in office, it's interesting, I'm getting no eye contact right now by any of you, that you will be making a decision expressing that the citizens of Shreveport, the families of Shreveport, that it is okay for you as commissioners to declare that Gay Pride Month is okay over our city when god clearly says it is not from him. So, my question is where did Gay Pride Month come from? Did it come from heaven or did it come from fallen man? Did it come from a state that does not produce children, that causes sickness? It says it is a sin against our own bodies when he have sexual immorality. I ask you, what's next? Are you going to declare that there is a month that's going to be okay for adultery? Is there going to be a month that you're going to declare is okay for stealing? How will our banks operate in that condition if you guys say from your pulpit, your authority seats that it's okay just this month to celebrate stealing? Would that benefit Shreveport? How would that work? What would the fruit look like? Would it be okay for you to say, "Hey, this month we're going to say murder is okay. We're going to say that this month it is okay for you to sleep with your neighbor's wife. That's what we've decided today in our Caddo commissioning positions." I can tell you that this is just not the way to produce a blessed and righteous community. And I am sorry if there are individuals that are compromised in this department and now begin to project that on the citizens of Shreveport, but it is going to end because we will not have that. That is not the kind of representation that we put you in office to do. This is a high seat of authority and good judgment. And I can tell you that the organizations that you're honoring today, Victor, have produced parties that bait our children. Queer Prom invites 16-year-olds to a prom party with sexually explicit drag shows and alcohol. It's on their website. So, please tell me if that's not against the law. And please tell me if each one of you in today's vote, are not directly responsible for things like that happening to our youth. So, we just need quality leadership here. Let's just get it right this time, guys. I'm not against y'all. I am for families. I am for prosperity. I am for righteousness, peace, joy, love, all the things that will bless our neighborhoods. Please don't use this seat to constitute and legislate something that is not righteous. It's not okay with god and it's not okay with us.

Larry Heard came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good afternoon to the commissioners. I am here to just give you compliments for the production that was done last weekend, which was the Caddo Parish Rising Star. Regardless of how the outcome, I still would have been able to, and I'm sorry, my name is Larry Heard. Regardless of the outcome, I still would have enjoyed the production. It was a production that was first-class. It was something that was enjoyable and it was well-orchestrated, and I just wanted to compliment you as a group of commissioners. And I remember seeing some people there and they just had a good time, too. And it was very well-orchestrated and I just wanted to compliment you on that and say hats off to you and keep up the good work, because we will never know how we instill in our young people something that will carry them the rest of their lives. So, hats off to you and keep up the good work.

**VISITORS**

- *Southern University's Dual Enrollment Program*

This will be postponed due to inclement weather.

- *Alzheimer's Association*

Mr. Thomas requested that informational materials provided by the Alzheimer's Association be displayed and shared with the public in recognition of Alzheimer's and Brain Health Awareness Month. He noted that approximately 6,150 residents in Caddo Parish over the age of 65 are affected by Alzheimer's disease and emphasized the importance of raising awareness and supporting ongoing research efforts. Commissioner Thomas also promoted the upcoming Walk to End Alzheimer's scheduled for October 3, 2026, encouraging community organizations and residents to participate.

Mrs. Gage-Watts spoke in support of Alzheimer's awareness and shared a personal

account regarding her mother's battle with dementia following a stroke. She described the emotional impact Alzheimer's disease has on families and encouraged public involvement in efforts to advance research and support those affected by the disease.

### **ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

- *May 2026 Financial Statements*

The May 2026 Financial Statements were placed at each Commissioner's station, as well as being attached to the agenda.

- *Juvenile Detention Center census*

Administrator Bryant said that there are 6 children in the Detention Center, 2 of which are OJJ. There is one 17 year olds. There are 416 children on probation, and thirteen juveniles are at CCC.

- *Juvenile Services Community Service Update*

Administrator Bryant also gave an update on the Juvenile Services Community Service Program, which involved 94 youth who collectively completed 370 hours of community service and removed 313 bags of litter from throughout the parish. Administration noted that the program continues to serve as both a rehabilitative effort and a means of addressing community litter concerns.

An update was also provided regarding the Parish's litter abatement efforts. Public Works personnel have covered approximately 142 miles while collecting nearly 21 tons of solid waste. The Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office contributed approximately 15 miles of cleanup and collected over three tons of debris, while the Parish's contracted litter abatement provider collected approximately 12 tons of waste over 69 miles. Staff further reported that approximately 520 discarded tires had been removed. Administration acknowledged that illegal dumping and litter remain ongoing challenges but emphasized the Parish's continued commitment to addressing the issue.

- *LSU Health Shreveport Wastewater Update*

Representatives from LSU Health Shreveport then appeared before the Commission to provide an update on projects funded through the Parish's opioid settlement allocations. Lisa Babin, Chief of Staff for Government Affairs and Communications, thanked the Commission for its partnership and stewardship of opioid settlement funds. She explained that the Parish's investment has supported multiple research initiatives, attracted additional federal grant funding, and positioned Caddo Parish as a leader in addressing substance abuse and behavioral health challenges. Ms. Babin reported that the Parish's three-year, \$1.5 million commitment is currently supporting 29 clinician-scientists, trainees, and seven active research projects focused on addiction treatment and behavioral health interventions.

Ms. Babin also highlighted the passage of Senate Bill 43 during the 2026 Legislative Session. She stated that the legislation passed unanimously and was informed in part by data generated through LSU Health's research efforts supported by opioid settlement funding. According to LSU Health representatives, the legislation positions Louisiana as a national leader in emerging medical research and innovative treatment approaches for substance use disorders, mental health conditions, and veteran care.

Dr. Kevin Murnane provided additional details regarding LSU Health's treatment-resistant neuropsychiatric illness program located on Fairfield Avenue. He explained that researchers are studying emerging treatment methods for conditions such as methamphetamine addiction, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and other behavioral health disorders that have proven resistant to conventional therapies. Dr. Murnane highlighted promising early results from clinical trials involving psilocybin-assisted therapy, noting significant improvements in participants' ability to abstain from methamphetamine use and maintain recovery over extended periods following treatment. He also discussed ongoing research involving transcranial magnetic stimulation and other therapeutic approaches.

He further reported on LSU Health's wastewater monitoring program, which tracks community-level substance use trends. Data collected through the program indicate that methamphetamine levels detected in the Shreveport-Caddo Parish area exceed those reported in many other regions of the country. He explained that the information is being used to better understand substance abuse patterns, identify emerging threats, and guide treatment and intervention strategies. LSU Health is also incorporating additional data sources, including criminalistics laboratory information, to monitor trends involving substances such as gabapentin and other drugs associated with overdose deaths.

Mr. Burrell commended LSU Health's efforts and expressed appreciation for the research made possible through both previous Parish support and opioid settlement funding. He questioned LSU Health representatives regarding the factors contributing to high methamphetamine usage rates in the region. Dr. Murnane responded that a combination of economic challenges, limited opportunities, interstate drug trafficking routes, mental health issues, and socioeconomic vulnerabilities likely contribute to the prevalence of methamphetamine use in Northwest Louisiana. He emphasized the importance of expanding treatment opportunities and creating pathways for hope and economic opportunity as part of a

comprehensive response.

Mr. Burrell also inquired about the potential use of wastewater monitoring data to identify geographic areas experiencing elevated substance use rates and to direct treatment resources accordingly. Dr. Murnane responded that LSU Health is continuing to integrate wastewater monitoring data with emergency room, hospital, and crime data to improve its ability to target interventions and deploy resources where they are most needed.

The Commission continued its discussion with representatives from LSU Health Shreveport regarding opioid settlement-funded initiatives. Dr. Murnane explained that while wastewater monitoring data is valuable, it is most effective when combined with information from hospitals, emergency rooms, behavioral health agencies, criminal justice systems, and other data sources. He noted that LSU Health's long-term vision includes the development of a mental health command center capable of integrating multiple data streams to identify community needs and direct resources more strategically.

Mr. J. Young commended LSU Health's work and reflected on the Commission's early discussions regarding methamphetamine addiction and the need for innovative treatment options. He expressed appreciation for LSU Health's leadership in developing therapies for treatment-resistant substance abuse disorders and asked about the next steps necessary to expand access to those treatments. Dr. Murnane explained that the recent passage of Senate Bill 43 will allow greater coordination with the Louisiana Department of Health and regional human services districts, helping identify participants for future studies and creating a pathway toward Food and Drug Administration approval. He noted that FDA approval would be essential to ensuring Medicaid reimbursement and broader accessibility of emerging treatments, particularly for low-income patients served by LSU Health.

Mr. J. Young praised the research team for its efforts and stated that the work being conducted has the potential to significantly impact addiction treatment and behavioral health care nationwide.

President G. Young referenced concerns regarding veteran suicide rates and encouraged collaboration between LSU Health and the Overton Brooks Veterans Affairs Medical Center. He noted the importance of coordinating resources among medical providers, law enforcement agencies, and veterans' organizations to improve outcomes for veterans struggling with mental health challenges.

President G. Young also emphasized the Commission's commitment to accountability and transparency regarding organizations that receive public funding. He explained that the Commission has encouraged grant recipients and funded partners to periodically provide updates on their programs, expenditures, and measurable outcomes. While expressing support for LSU Health's work, he indicated a particular interest in reviewing effectiveness data and outcome measures associated with the funded initiatives. LSU Health representatives offered to provide tours of their facilities and additional briefings to any commissioner seeking a more in-depth understanding of the programs and research being conducted.

Following the LSU Health presentation, Administrator Bryant informed the Commission that former Shreveport Mayor John Hussey passed away and extended condolences to his family.

### **COMMISSION REMARKS**

- Mr. Thomas inquired about the Parish's preparedness for potential flooding due to ongoing severe weather. Administrator Bryant noted that residents had reported localized flooding and asked whether additional sandbag distribution efforts were being considered. Administration responded that staff were monitoring conditions and coordinating with Public Works to determine whether expanded sandbag distribution would be necessary based on weather forecasts and changing conditions.

He also reported on a recent gathering of approximately 300 social media professionals, content creators, and digital influencers held in Shreveport. He stated that the event focused on professional development, collaboration, and growing digital platforms while also encouraging participants to use their influence to increase public awareness of local government and community issues. He further reported attending the Film and Entertainment Summit and expressed optimism regarding continued growth within the region's film and entertainment industries.

Mr. Thomas also highlighted several upcoming community events, including the Let the Good Times Roll Festival, a local health and wellness fair, the Shreveport Green Urban Farm Market, and various cultural and entertainment activities occurring throughout the week. He reiterated that numerous recreational and cultural opportunities continue to be available throughout the community.

He concluded his remarks by extending condolences to President G. Young following the recent death of a close family member. President G. Young clarified that the deceased was his cousin, whom he considered like a brother, and thanked his colleagues for their support and prayers.

- Mr. Burrell reported on a recent gathering of Black Alumni from the University of Louisiana Monroe and discussed conversations regarding declining enrollment among African American students at predominantly white institutions. He noted that the university's new president attended the event and expressed a willingness to work collaboratively on issues affecting student recruitment and retention.

He also spoke about concerns raised by some citizens regarding the Commission's support of marginalized groups. He emphasized the importance of treating all individuals with dignity and fairness and discussed the need for broader conversations regarding discrimination, civil rights, and equal treatment under the law.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Reminder of previously adopted recognitions: June—Black Music Month, Men's Health Month, PTSD Awareness Month, Alzheimer's & Brain Health Awareness Month; June 7—National Cancer Survivor Day; June 14—U.S. Army Anniversary; June 19—Juneteenth and World Sickle Cell Awareness Day; July—Parks & Recreation Month; July 1—Caddo Treaty Signing Anniversary; and July 4—Independence Day.

There was no President's Report.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mr. J. Young**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, to *englobo and take the following action for these items:*

- *Ordinance No. 6627 of 2026, an ordinance to amend Chapter 26 of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo relative to Section 26-187, Schedule F, No Parking Zones, to include a portion of North Pines Drive and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be advanced to Thursday's Regular Session for introduction
- *Ordinance No. 6628 of 2026, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Oil & Gas Fund and the Capital Outlay Fund in the amount of up to \$1M to study the feasibility of a water plant at the Port of Caddo-Bossier and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be remanded to the Rural Development Committee
- *Resolution No. 42 of 2026, a resolution authorizing the Caddo Community Action Agency, Inc. to administer the Head Start program for the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be advanced to Thursday's Regular Session for consideration
- *Resolution No. 43 of 2026, a resolution authorizing the Parish Administrator to retain the services of Attorney Malcom S. Murchison and the Law Firm of Bradley Murchison Kelly & Shea LLC as outside legal counsel and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be advanced to Thursday's Regular Session for consideration
- *Resolution No. 44 of 2026, a resolution to relocate the polling place for Precinct No. 10-4 from 81<sup>st</sup> Street ECE Center, 8108 Fairfield Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71106 to Caddo Middle Magnet School, 7636 Cornelius Lane, Shreveport, LA 71106, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be advanced to Thursday's Regular Session for consideration
- *Presentation and Special Resolutions related to Caddo's Rising Star* be advanced to Thursday's Regular Session
- *Special Resolution acknowledging the anniversary of the passing of Rev. E. Edward Jones* be advanced to Thursday's Regular Session for consideration
- *Special Resolution recognizing Pride Month* be advanced to Thursday's Regular Session for consideration
- *Special Resolution of Recognition Zhailon Levingston* be advanced to Thursday's Regular Session for consideration
- *Special Resolution of Recognition for Shreveport Fire Department* be advanced to Thursday's Regular Session for consideration
- *Special Resolution declaring June as Family Month* be advanced to Thursday's Regular Session for consideration
- *Special Resolution declaring Flag Day on June 14* be advanced to Thursday's Regular Session for consideration
- *Special Resolution for the Honorable Devarjaye "DJ" Daniel, Honorary Judge* be advanced to Thursday's Regular Session for consideration

Several Commissioners asked to be co-sponsors to various special resolutions.

At this time, Mr. J. Young's motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Cothran, and Kracman being absent.

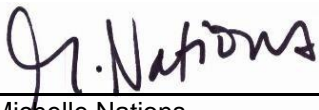
#### **COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- President G. Young thanked commissioners, staff, and members of the public for attending the meeting despite severe weather conditions. Drawing on his experience as a former postal employee, he expressed appreciation for everyone's commitment to conducting the public's business regardless of challenging circumstances.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- *Ordinance No. 6626 of 2026, 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*

There were no Citizens Comments (late arrivals). At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

  
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Michelle Nations  
Assistant Commission Clerk