

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 18th DAY OF JUNE, 2026

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Regular Session, on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., in the Government Chambers, with Mr. G. Young, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Gage-Watts, Jones, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (11). ABSENT: Epperson (1).

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

AGENDA ADDITIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watt, *to expand the agenda and add the following items under Special Resolutions:*

- *Special Resolution Commemorating the Life and Legacy of former Shreveport Mayor John Hussey*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition for Monica Cooper upon her being named First Response Telecommunicator of the Year*
- *Special Resolution of Remembrance following the tragic loss of 8 airmen in a B-52 test flight incident*

A public hearing was opened to allow for comment on the proposed additions; however, no individuals came forward to speak in opposition or support. The public hearing was subsequently closed.

At this time, Mr. Thomas' motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Epperson, Kracman, and Jones being absent.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Melissa Netherton came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good afternoon, commissioners. My name is Melissa Netherton. I'm here today in support of the 2026 Pride Month resolution. I am keenly aware people hold different personal and religious beliefs about sexuality and identity. However, this resolution is not about asking anyone to change their beliefs. It's about recognizing that the LGBTQIA+ people are part of this community and deserve to be seen, respected, and included in public life. We are already here. We are students, teachers, parents, healthcare workers, veterans, accountants, and neighbors. This is not abstract. We are people who live here, work here, and are part of everyday life in Caddo Parish. Having Pride Month matters from a public health standpoint as well. Research from the CDC and the Trevor Project show that LGBTQIA+ youth are more than four times as likely to attempt suicide compared to their peers, and nearly 40% seriously considered suicide in the past year. Transgender and non-binary youth face even higher risk, especially in environments where they feel unsafe or unsupported. These are not just numbers. They reflect what happens when young people experience stigma, isolation, and rejection. This is part of why public recognition matters. It helps create a baseline of dignity and belonging that research shows is linked to better mental health outcomes and lower risk. When LGBTQIA+ people are spoken about in harmful or dismissive ways, it affects real people's mental health, safety, and sense of belonging right here in this parish. Supporting this resolution does not take anything away from anyone else. It simply affirms that everyone in this community deserves equal respect and recognition, no matter who they are or who they love. I appreciate the Commission's continued support of this resolution in past years, and I hope that it continues in spite of vitriolic and dangerous rhetoric. Thank you for your time.

Matthew Torma came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Hi, my name is Matthew Torma. I'm going to be speaking for the Pride Month. So, to just start, I brought the bible with me. I figured we're going to be talking about that a lot. Why not bring it along? Mark 12:31 says, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." Amen. Thank you. I was going to say tough crowd. Okay. So, why don't we prove this tonight? We all agree that children should be safe, but we are here to talk about our neighbors. Like everyone said, we know who they are. They work with us, and they are also our family. To continue on, Matthew 7:3. "Why do you see the speck in your brother's eye, but not notice the log that is in your own eye?" I, for one, can speak to myself that I definitely have several logs in my eye. It's a damn miracle that I can see. And I think everyone in this room probably has at least some point blamed somebody else for something that is their own fault when they should look inward. So yeah, that's what Jesus asks us to do. Whenever we look and blame somebody else, we're asked to look again and look at ourself. And then let's talk about what it means to take the lord's name in vain. So that is the, what, second commandment. I may be wrong. I was born Catholic, baptized and confirmed. You know, chose the name, Peter the Rock. I don't know if y'all know anything about him. So, let's talk about what vanity means. The original Hebrew means emptiness, false, or worthless. So, it would be to carry his name falsely or worthlessly or emptiness. And let's see, Dennis Prager, who I know a lot of people probably love in this room, said, "The worst sin is committing evil in god's

name. And you carry his name in vain when you use his name to condemn his own creation.” So, I’m going to ask you, do we believe that god made a mistake or are all of us in his creation? I’m going to leave you with one more thing and then I promise I will leave the podium, and it’s 1 John, and appropriate for me, 4:20. “If anyone says, ‘I love god,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar. For he who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love god, whom he has not seen.” Thank you.

MarvKevea Campbell came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good afternoon. My name is MarvKevea Campbell. I stand before you guys as a person that wears a lot of hats here in the parish. I’m a business owner, educator, but in recognition of today, I’m a black gay man. And at its core, Pride is not about asking for a special treatment. It is about acknowledging the dignity, the humanity, and contribution of a community that has long faced discrimination, exclusion, and misunderstanding. And in a time where queer people continue to experience hostility, violence, and attacks on their rights, recognizing Pride sends a simple but very powerful message that every person deserves to be seen, valued, and respected. Queer people are not separate from our communities. They are our communities. They are elected officials, teachers, attorneys, judges, first responders, business owners, health care professionals, artists, clergy members, and public servants. They are our neighbors, our co-workers, friends, family members. And so, every day, queer people help make our city, our parish, and our nation stronger. The history of Pride is rooted in resilience. It reminds us that progress is possible when people are willing to stand against discrimination and affirm the worth of every human being. Celebrating this month does not diminish anyone else’s story. It simply ensures that a historically marginalized group is not erased from others. I also want to recognize PACE, an organization that has worked tirelessly to promote equity, equality, and opportunity for queer people throughout Northwest Louisiana. Their work demonstrates what community looks like. Bringing people together, providing support, helping create a region where everyone can thrive. And as an educator, I also believe that we must consider the example that we set for the next generation and those that are to come. Children are watching us. Young people are watching us. They are learning from the conversations we have, the decisions that we make, and the way that we treat one another. Racism, sexism, transphobia, homophobia are learned behaviors. No child is born hating another person because of who they are. Hatred is taught, but love, acceptance, and respect can be taught as well. So, today, I ask you to support this resolution, not because queer people are more important than anyone else, but because no one is less important than anyone else, but because no one is less important than anyone else. Recognition matters, visibility matters, and in Caddo Parish, every resident deserves to know that they belong. So, I leave you with a simple question. If hatred can be taught and love can be taught, which one will we choose today? Thank you for your time and your consideration.

Adrienne Critcher came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good afternoon. I’m Adrienne Critcher and I am a founding member of PACE. I’m here to speak in favor of the resolution today, and I want to thank you for your past support of Pride resolutions. At your work session on Monday, you heard from a woman who used vitriolic language to demonize LGBT people based on her own personal religious beliefs, asking you to vote against the Pride resolution this year. If the Commission needed a reason to make a public statement against the demonization and discrimination against gay people and their families, she gave you the very reason. Because of people like her, for years, being gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender, or having a family member was something people were afraid to talk about. This meant the only voices that they heard were the people who were completely misrepresenting the lives of LGBT people. But as more and more LGBT people and their families have decided to come out and lead open lives, Americans have seen for themselves that the hateful lies that they’ve been told about LGBT people simply are not true, that true family values mean that all family members are to be loved, valued, and nurtured. These are the families like mine that remain beautifully whole. My husband and I couldn’t be more proud of our gay son, a professor at one of the most prestigious business schools in the country, but more importantly, a wonderful person. He grew up here and attended public schools for being gay before he even knew he was gay. The bullies, I wonder how they were raised, cursed him in the halls of Middle Magnet using language I can’t repeat here. I don’t think your sexual orientation or gender identity is something to be proud of or ashamed of. Most of us, regardless of our sexual orientation or gender identity, strive to lead productive meaningful lives, and in doing so, want the encouragement, and we deserve the encouragement and support of our families, churches, and our government. Yet, it’s too often these very institutions that reject, demonize, and every year pass laws denying basic rights to LGBT people. Yet LGBT people still lead lives of contribution, courage, and commitment while facing senseless discrimination. Now, that’s something to be proud of. Thank you.

Heather Dubois came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Alright, my comment is a little bit more holistic. It’s regarding freedom from religion. First, I want to say that I fully support the right of private citizens to utilize public comment for expressing their religion. They’re free to equate their beliefs with bigotry, tolerance, ignorance. However, I’m concerned regarding the growing comfort and confidence that people have in believing that their religion should extend beyond their homes, churches, and personal relationship with god, that their belief systems should be used to govern entire communities of people that do not ascribe to the same faith. Commissioners, I am fully aware that your own religious beliefs are central to your values and how you make your decisions. At the last session, I heard over 20 evocations of faith by five separate commissioners. Do not cast this as a judgment, merely to assert that my concerns do not exist in the abstract. Likely, you would state that your faith is unshakeable, not something that can be taken from you. So, I ask you to consider the age-old thought exercise of the democratic experiment that is America. If you were to be in the minority of religions and the majority religion was oppositional to your belief system, do you think it is right for the government

to be swayed into decisions that would restrict your freedoms because it aligns with the majority faith? Restrictions like what you can wear, how you present yourself, what you can say, think or do, what positions of authority you hold, where you are allowed to exist, and who or how you can love. These are not fringe concepts. These restrictions represent the real beliefs of Christian sects across America, comprising millions of people and making their way into legislation across the nation and actual legislation being proposed or adopted. They should have no place in our freedoms as American citizens. As you make your decisions on the measure to recognize Pride Month, something that I ask you to approve of, you may reflect on public comment and come to various conclusions. I ask you to consider the deeper meaning behind your decisions. You may hear homegirl's argument from the work session against recognition of the LGBTQ community's presence in this parish and decide to continue supporting this measure because you believe her specific religion does not govern the general public. You may hear her and choose to continue supporting this measure because that's not what your god says. You may even hear her and agree because it aligns with your version of god, of what god specifies. You may have also just taken offense to me qualifying it as "your version of god." If so, I feel you're real close to the point there. I'm asking that when you hear these administrations of oppression, please respond as though they would strip you of your own rights. I do not ask you to decide upon this measure as it relates to your religious belief, but as the core mission of your seat to govern and respect to all members of your community, ensure their rights, freedoms, and privileges are protected. We are here showing you that the LGBTQ+ community is present in this parish, deserves to see themselves recognized by their government as having the right to exist. Going forward, I also make the humble request that you are conscious when equating your religious beliefs with decisions made in these seats, because those actions are not too distant from religious oppression. Empathy can exist outside of religion, even if it's rooted in those beliefs. Thank you for choosing to sponsor this resolution, Commissioner Thomas, the community's listening. Many of us see this as a choice for love and compassion. And I close it with freedom of religion and freedom from religion is not a half-measure. Thank you.

Susan Caldwell came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

My name is Susan Caldwell. I serve All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church at 9449 Ellerbe Road here in Shreveport as Director of Religious Education. I'm here with the support of my minister, the Reverend Barbara Gerald, who is on study leave, and my congregation, a number of whom have shown up today for this hearing. I want to thank the Commission. I want to thank Commissioner Thomas for proposing the resolution. I want to thank you for issuing Pride resolutions in the past years, and I encourage you to vote once again in favor of it. I read the testimony against the resolution for Monday's work session by someone who apparently felt called to speak from a position of faith. I, too, speak from a position of faith to defend and celebrate all members of my congregation and all the people who come through the doors of my church seeking safety, affirmation, and welcome. This includes all members of the LGBTQIA+ community who are more scapegoated and in more danger these days than in recent years, particularly our trans siblings. I don't think that either my faith or anyone else's should rule in the public sphere. I think it's public. Public is public for a reason. But I do think that government should affirm the inherent worth, rights, and dignity of all people. I heard the governor's call for a family month, but that would exclude families, some families in favor of others, as opposed to the all-inclusive celebrations my church and others have been a part of over the years, such as Field Gay and Pride in the Park. The characterization of these events as anything other than inclusive family fun reveals a somewhat sordid imagination. To defeat this resolution would be a sad step backwards in a city and parish that seeks to attract new people, young people to live and work here. I would love to live in a time and a place where people could just be and be themselves and we would no longer need special months to celebrate the rights of certain humans just to exist in this world without harassment and defamation. But the backlash to this resolution shows we're not nearly there yet. Please uphold your tradition of support for all families, for all people, and pass this resolution. Thank you.

Edi Kí came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good evening, Caddo Parish Commission. My name is Edi Kí, and I'm here today, not as a citizen, but as a black transgender person, a veteran, an artist, a musician, and an advocate, someone who has invested countless hours into helping build a community in this city. I listened carefully to the comments made regarding the resolution of Pride Month, and what stood out to me was the comparison of LGBTQ+ to adulterers, theft, and even murderers. I want to challenge that comparison. Stealing is an action. Murder is an action. Adultery is an action. But being a part of the LGBT+ community is not a crime. It is not an act of violence. It is not an offense committed against another person. Pride Month was not created to celebrate harming people. It exists because, for generations, people like myself were denied jobs, denied housing, denied opportunities, and denied dignity, denied the right to marry, and in many cases denied safety. It exists because we simply want to be treated as human beings. I perform at local community events. I have created spaces for artists. I mentor and I encourage others to pursue their dreams. My existence does not diminish anyone else's faith, family, or freedom. Thank you.

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

Well, here we are again. God bless you. Thank you for letting me come. I wish we didn't have to do this. I wish we didn't have to come and express on behalf of families and children how this hurts our community. As far as the comments go so far, I would like it to be of record for all the emails that you have received on behalf of all the people that are not present here today. I would like the number of people who have been emailing you that they are against Gay Pride in our city to be part of the record in this deliberation here. So, please bring that fact forward at some point before the vote. Secondly, I didn't know that Gay Pride was a religion. That's what I'm hearing today. I didn't know that. But I have written a letter

for the Caddo Commissioners today because I've come to you in honor, in kindness, and I have communicated truth to you. I am here as an instrument of god's love. He loves every person in this audience. Every person in this audience has value. Every person in this audience has potential. And we as a community want everyone to succeed. But we do not want it to be at the sacrifice of our children. And this is what I have to say to you today after all my visits here and after you disregarding everything I've said before. Dear Caddo Commissioners, it is with high disgrace you have proceed year after year to project your homosexual ideologies over the citizens of Caddo. Legislating sin does not make it okay. I pray you come to your senses and produce fruit in keeping with wise counsel and judgment. If you do not fear god enough to vote no on this resolution that Victor Thomas has repeatedly brought before you, you have no wisdom to lead the citizens in other matters because the fear of god is the beginning of wisdom. So, let's not make this personal and I regret having to do so. However, I will do so if it protects innocent children and youth from being inundated at our parks and baited into a lifestyle of dishonor and sin against one's own body. Even the animals in Shreveport know better. They are not celebrating Gay Pride Month and turning to the same sex and trying to reproduce by perversion. They have better sense than that. They don't turn away from the instincts god has given them. Neither shall we. Husbands, wives, daughters, sons, this is the way of the family god has produced. Let us not ever veer from common sense and creation's natural order. Where would that get us? The Gay Pride Month resolution is a direct attack against family, just as lying would be a direct attack against truth and justice in our court system, and murder would be a direct attack against the sanctity of life. Stealing would be a direct attack against fair commerce. So cease and desist your attack against family and our children by retracting your resolution to make June Gay Pride Month this year or any other year over the citizens of Caddo Parish. With highest and best intention. My name is Paige Hoffpauir, and I stand behind this fully, and I've not come to you in any sort of hate, Victor. I have come to you in truth. Mr. Thomas's name has been stated before. Okay. Well, I tell you what, I don't want to get personal, but you have made this government seat about your personal homosexual ideology, Mr. Greg Young, on behalf of Mr. Victor Thomas. That is what this has occurred. And the vast majority of citizens in Caddo Parish do not stand for Gay Pride Month. And you cannot say this is love. You can't package the rainbow and say god's in honor of this. You can't do all of this. It's like pointing a, you know, a finger at god and mocking him honestly. So, look at the individuals in this crowd. See how they're acting today. Okay? Rebellion is not a rebellion against good order, citizenship, patriotism, love, you know, doing things, not making a group about sex. From last I understood, sex is nobody's business. It's no one's business. It is a measure that god has graced with a husband and a wife. And outside of that, it will cause disease. It will cause hurt. It will cause pain. It will cause shame. It will cause isolation. It will cause all these things that y'all are putting on us as citizens and saying we are causing, we are saying this against the Gay Pride population and we have never done that. This is against god's natural order and it has consequences. They're personal consequences. And you cannot use your seat to legislate something that is against god's order and say it's okay. No matter how much lipstick you put on this thing, guys, it's not okay. It's never going to be okay. But what is going to be completely known by everyone, Mr. Young, on behalf of Mr. Thomas who's rolling his eyes at me right now, is that god, you will hear from him. You will hear whether you have used this seat for righteousness or not. Whether your political careers will go forward, other people on the committee, and you'll project other horrible inequity over our city. That would be a question I would have. And then also I would also ask individuals who have voted in the past, are you not voting this year because there's something that has been englobo in this package and now you won't stand for morality. You won't stand for truth, but now you're going to say yes to the whole package because you want something in it to pass. See, these are the tricks you've done. Okay, now everyone in Shreveport knows about it. Everyone, and believe me, I've already brought it up to a higher government body than this because I don't think your seats are here to legislate immorality. I think maybe our culture has accepted it for a time, but it's not your duty to bless everyone with comforting words that dishonor the truth of god's natural order, because the natural order is there for our protection. The natural order of things is there for our children's protection. Do you know a husband and a wife, they protect their children? That's what they do. They protect their children. Why would people be at a Gay Pride Month with t-shirts on that say "mom hugs" and "dad hugs?" Do children not know who their parents are? Why is there Queer Prom that invites 16-year-olds to come to an adult party? Do these adults not have their own children? Why don't they have their own children? Because this lifestyle does not produce children. So, you're coming after our children. You can't have our children. You can't legislate this from your seat of government anymore. And as god is my witness, you all know it's the truth. And as god is my witness, he will make you understand. I am telling you truth. And I have said it with grace for many times before. And if you do not have the fear of god, then you are not fit to be in this seat of government any longer. You're not because you don't fear god. Mr. Jones knows the word of god. Many of you have gotten your offices on Republican values and said that you're a Republican. That stands with children and families. Democrats, you have families and children. You love god just as much as Republicans. I'm not in either boat too much. But there is a position and a posture that these seats hold. And we ask that you use common sense. If nature does not do it and nature's god has not ordained it from heaven and it does not produce children, how can you say from your seat that it is okay? If it is against god and his natural order, it is not okay. It will bring consequences to this community and you are all going to be the people that are responsible for it. Thank you.

Ronald Pierce Bamburg came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Well, I'm just a former athlete from Louisiana tech, and I stood guilty before god. Mine was in the case of beautiful girls. But god told me in his word, and that's what it all gets down today to, do we believe the bible is the word of god? But god told me from his word that fornication, sex without marriage is wrong. So, even though my desire was for beautiful girls in college, I knew I was lost. And so, I knew in John chapter 3, Jesus said unless you're born again, you can't enter the kingdom of heaven. So, I could have argued against my feelings and my desires, but the fact is in Galatians 5:22 and following, or Galatians 5:19 and following, it says that fornication, sex apart from marriage is wrong. And so, I finally submitted to the lord. I failed to make the Olympics at 19 years old. I was trying to use my talent like these other young

people have tried to do and they're singing and so forth. But my world just got emptier and emptier, and even though my body was strong, I was an athlete, I knew I was going to die and knew my mom and dad was going to die, so I just started pouring over the word of god. And then also, I discovered in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Paul said do not be deceived. If we're drunkards, if we're adulterers, if we're homosexuals, if we're effeminate, we can't enter the kingdom of god. So either god is right or our opinions become god. And so, I submitted to the word of god. But the good news in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Paul says such were some of you. Some of you were fornicators. Some of you were adulterers. You were cheating on your mates. And some of you were homosexuals. But Paul said but you've been washed. You've been sanctified through the spirit of god in the lord Jesus. So, Jesus gave his blood to forgive this old athlete who was training for the Olympics, chasing the girls. He forgave me through the blood of his son. And any sin, it doesn't matter what the sin is, one drop of his precious blood can cleanse all of us. And god is love, but he's got certain standards from his word. We either submit to him or we destroy ourselves and we destroy those around us. He's love, but he want sus to submit to him because he's looking trillions of years out there. When our body dies, our spirit goes on somewhere. And Jesus wants us to be with him forever. I love y'all. Thank you very much.

Jon Glover came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Jon Glover, 9100 Walker Road, Apartment 217, Shreveport, Louisiana 71118. You know, I looked over the agenda for today and I noticed that on Monday there were a number of things that were englobo and those resolutions, pretty much all of them, were englobo to be advanced to today. I reach out to my commissioner with regards to the Pride Month proclamation, because that's what I'm looking at, the proclamation you all are going to be addressing the language of the proclamation. What is it that you're going to be saying that you're supporting on my behalf. My behalf, a citizen. A citizen, not a citizen that's relegated to the mindset of man, but a citizen who says, "You propose these items, I get to speak to them." But I want to hear what you all have to say with regards to them. I don't appreciate anyone trying to get me to appreciate what god does not appreciate. See, we talk about behaviors and because that's what it is, a behavior. You choose your own behavior as we all do. But why should it become a public thing when you get to choose your behavior? You all will get to decide whether or not a behavior chosen should be mandated onto me as one who has what, to recognize that June is Pride Month. Going beyond that, I want you to think about the legislation that impacts citizens here in Caddo Parish. That legislation that you all rarely address during work sessions or even at this regular meeting. See, anything that you're going to contemplate for a citizen that whether it's beneficial to them or not, your positions need to be made known. I need to understand that when you decide that, let's see here, agenda item, Resolution 42 of 2026, what is the, what is the totality of that piece of legislation? How will it impact me, a citizen, a taxpayer? You know, we heard the explanation of Resolution 43 of 2026, and I appreciate that because now I understand and I have clarity of what it is that you all will be addressing on my behalf, because it is you all that we voted into these seats, but we don't want you to believe that we don't deserve to be heard beyond us voting for you all. At the end of the day, it matters how you represent us as a whole. When it is that we go into a realm that will cause division because of divisiveness, we don't need it. Personal agenda should not be here because we're here to take care of the business of the parish. Thank you.

Victoria Vasquez came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

I won't take much of your time. I did not have a planned speech or anything. I'm just going off of my heart. I am also representing ministers of Jesus Christ. I am a minister myself alongside my husband. And with this I come boldly because there are so many more that believe just what we believe. And I believe a lot of you right here could be Christians yourself. So, this is where push comes to shove in this place of are we going to choose, are we going to have the fear of man or are we going to have a fear of god and what the bible professes, and we know very clearly what is right and what is wrong, and though I'll make it very clear I believe every human should be protected and should have a lot of the same rights. So, I'm not advocating for that. That's their personal thing. Though my personal beliefs are different, I do believe they should be safe in all regards, but I believe you guys as authority, that god has placed you and a lot of you believe god has placed you in authority to rule over a spiritual, this is spiritual, a city, and to use your voice to now turn yourself so you can continue with the flow of popularity. I just want you guys to have the fear of god to use your voice for the god that you profess, for the god that some of you even go to church and you say amen when you go against what god has placed you here to do, so that with more responsibility, I also as a leader, with more responsibility, I'm held to more of a standard. So, I'm just having you guys into that standard of what you guys vote for and what you guys decree over the land spiritually in authority has a weight that we do not agree with. We want our children to be safe. We want overall, we believe in spiritualism and all of that. When we decree a thing over a people just like alcoholism, drug addiction, we love them right where they're at, but we also say there is better. Go and sin no more. And this is where we have to make just decrees as leaders of what's best for our society. Thank you.

VISITORS

- Caddo's Rising Star

Parish Administrator Dr. Erica Bryant offered opening remarks, stating that the Commission was celebrating not only the success of the inaugural Caddo's Rising Star talent competition, but also the vision, leadership, and commitment to creating opportunities for young people in Caddo Parish. She recognized Commission President Greg Young for his leadership and passion in bringing the idea to life while serving as Chair of the Economic Development Committee. She also thanked the Commission, Economic Development Committee Chair Stormy Gage-Watts, the Communications Department, Parks

Department, judges, consultants, vendors, families, and all who contributed to the event's success.

Communications Director Krystle Beauchamp provided a recap of the competition and introduced a video montage highlighting the auditions, performances, finalists, and winners. Following the presentation, she recognized the many individuals who assisted with the event, including judges, the glam squad, sound and lighting consultants, support staff, and others who helped make the inaugural competition successful.

Ms. Heard thanked God, Commission President Greg Young, the Parish Administrator, Commissioners, her family, and her supporters for their love and encouragement.

President Young thanked those involved and invited former Commission Presidents John-Paul Young and Stormy Gage-Watts to the podium. He reflected on the early stages of the idea, noting that Commissioner John-Paul Young supported the creation of the advisory board while serving as President, and that Commissioner Gage-Watts continued supporting the initiative during her presidency. He also recognized the Administration, staff, and fellow Commissioners for embracing the vision and working together to create a platform for Caddo Parish youth.

Mrs. Gage-Watts praised the event as a world-class production and commended the organizers, technical crew, parents, coaches, and contestants. She described the performances as powerful and inspiring, noting the courage it took for each young person to perform before a live audience and judges. She especially recognized the grand prize and people's choice winner, Carla Heard, for her outstanding vocal performance, and expressed interest in seeing all contestants return to perform together as a group.

Mr. Atkins recognized President Young for his vision, recalling when the idea was first shared following an Economic Development Committee meeting, and thanked him for his leadership in bringing the project forward.

Mrs. Blake also thanked President Young for thinking outside the box and emphasized the importance of investing in youth as a way to move the parish forward. She spoke about the life lessons the contestants gained through the process, including confidence, perseverance, courage, and teamwork. She praised the diversity and talent of the performers, recognized the support they showed one another, and highlighted the story of a young pianist who taught himself to play using online resources. Mrs. Blake stated that the event provided young people a meaningful opportunity to showcase their talents and take them to the next level.

Mr. Burrell commended the Caddo's Rising Star contestants and stated that they deserved the recognition being received. He praised their professionalism, confidence, and performances, and thanked President Young for his leadership and vision in creating a platform to showcase the parish's youth. He noted that the Commission's work is intended to help leave a stronger parish for future generations.

Mrs. Gage-Watts emphasized that the event demonstrated economic prosperity, creative innovation, family, community, and a crime-free gathering. She stated that the event showed Caddo Parish can come together and enjoy a positive, unified evening.

Mr. Cothran apologized for being unable to attend the finale due to a graduation commitment, but stated that the important question moving forward is how to keep the group of young performers together. He encouraged the Commission to continue supporting youth talent and building future groups of performers, noting that with proper guidance, support, and opportunities, young people in Caddo Parish can achieve great things. He also recognized the parents and families for the time, effort, discipline, and investment required to support the contestants.

Mr. J. Young thanked President Young for his vision and described Caddo's Rising Star as one of the most enjoyable and meaningful events he has experienced as a Commissioner. He praised the quality of the production and the outstanding performances, recognizing several contestants by name and noting the poise, talent, and professionalism displayed throughout the event. He also thanked the Administration for supporting the initiative and helping bring the vision to life.

Mr. Cothran commended President Young, Commissioner Gage-Watts, and Commissioner John-Paul Young for their roles in supporting the event. He stated that the production rivaled nationally known talent shows and reflected the deep musical history of Caddo Parish, including the legacy of the Louisiana Hayride. He encouraged continued investment in local talent and expressed hope that Caddo Parish can retain and elevate its artists rather than losing them to other cities.

President Young then offered closing remarks on the Caddo's Rising Star recognition. He stated that the event was only the beginning of a broader vision to make Caddo Parish a centerpiece for entertainment, sports, recreation, and community pride. He spoke about the importance of rebranding the parish as a place where people want to visit, live, and raise families, especially in light of population loss in recent years. President Young encouraged the community to come together across differences and support future initiatives, including the proposed multi-sports complex. He emphasized that the young performers represented the future of Caddo Parish and reminded them of their value to themselves, their families, and

their community.

Following the remarks, President Young requested a ten-minute recess to allow Caddo's Rising Star participants and guests an opportunity to exit the Chamber or take photographs. Before recessing, the Commission formally voted to adopt the special resolution recognizing those who contributed to the success of Caddo's Rising Star.

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mr. G. Young, *to englobo and adopt the following Special Resolutions:*

- *Special Resolution of Recognition Carla Grace Heard as Inaugural Winner of Caddo's Rising Star*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition for the Contestants, Semi-Finalists, and Finalists of the Inaugural Caddo's Rising Star Competition*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition for those who contributed to the success of the Inaugural Caddo's Rising Star Competition*

Mr. Thomas' motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Epperson and Jones being absent.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION CARLA GRACE HEARD

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo established Caddo's Rising Star: Be Caddo's 12th Star, a parish wide talent competition created to showcase the extraordinary talents, creativity, and promise of young people throughout Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, the inaugural competition welcomed talented youth ages six through nineteen from throughout Caddo Parish to compete in a variety of performance categories before advancing through auditions, qualifying rounds, and the Grand Finale held at the Shreveport Convention Center; and

WHEREAS, Caddo's Rising Star exceeded expectations by drawing remarkable participation, enthusiastic community support, and outstanding performances from talented young artists across the parish; and

WHEREAS, Carla Grace Heard, a talented thirteen-year-old vocalist, distinguished herself throughout the competition through her poise, confidence, dedication, and exceptional musical ability; and

WHEREAS, Carla captivated audiences and judges alike through her performances of "Love on Top" by Beyoncé and "I Have Nothing" by Whitney Houston, showcasing vocal talent far beyond her years; and

WHEREAS, Carla was awarded the competition's Grand Prize of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) and earned the title of the first-ever Caddo's Rising Star, while also receiving the Caddo's Choice Audience Award and its accompanying Five Hundred Dollar (\$500) prize; and

WHEREAS, Carla is a dedicated student, talented saxophone player, active church participant, and a young person whose character, faith, determination, and family support exemplify the bright future of Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission desires to publicly recognize Carla Grace Heard for her outstanding achievement and for serving as an inspiration to young people throughout our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in regular session convened that it does hereby proclaim June 18th as

"Caddo's Rising Star, Carla Heard Day"

In Caddo Parish, and in doing so, encourages all citizens to join Commissioners in congratulating and recognizing Carla Heard as the inaugural winner of Caddo's Rising Star & and recipient of the Caddo's Choice Audience Award.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission commends Carla for her talent, dedication, and exemplary representation of the youth of Caddo Parish and wishes her continued success in all future endeavors.

THUS ADOPTED by the Caddo Parish Commission, in legal and regular session convened this 18th day of June, 2026.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION
CADDO'S RISING STAR**

WHEREAS, the successful launch of Caddo's Rising Star: Be Caddo's 12th Star required the vision, dedication, and tireless efforts of numerous individuals, organizations, and community partners committed to providing opportunities for the youth of Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, what began as an ambitious concept originating from the Caddo Commission's Economic Development Committee's Film and Entertainment subcommittee which evolved into one of the Parish's most successful new community initiatives, bringing together talented young performers, families, educators, businesses, media partners, volunteers, and citizens from throughout Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, the competition's success was made possible through the contributions of organizers, production staff, event coordinators, judges, volunteers, sponsors, technical crews, and countless others who devoted their time, expertise, and resources to ensure a first-class experience for participants and audiences alike; and

WHEREAS, special appreciation is extended to event consultant Tarsha Tieuel of My Shining Stars, LLC, the Shreveport Convention Center for hosting the Grand Finale, to event hosts Caddo Director of Communication Krystle Beauchamp and beloved recording artist Cupid for their outstanding presentation, to the judging panel of industry experts: Haley Brooke, Tony Mercedes, Sarah Gardner and Sean Pen McMillion, to mascot, Starry who kept the audience engaged & entertained, production managers and professionals like Millennia Digital Sound & Lighting, Vocal & Talent Coach Alex Johnson, makeup and wardrobe stylists, media partners like Cumulus Broadcasting and KTBS-3 and volunteers whose professionalism helped create a memorable and inspiring event; and

WHEREAS, these individuals and organizations demonstrated exceptional commitment to the young people of Caddo Parish by creating a platform through which talent could be discovered, celebrated, and encouraged; and

WHEREAS, the inaugural success of Caddo's Rising Star has established a strong foundation for future competitions and created a lasting opportunity to showcase the creativity and potential of Caddo Parish youth; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission desires to express its sincere gratitude and appreciation to all who contributed to the planning, organization, promotion, execution, and success of the inaugural competition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in regular session convened that it does hereby recognize and commend the organizers, judges, volunteers, hosts, sponsors, production staff, community partners, and supporters of the inaugural Caddo's Rising Star Talent Competition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission expresses its gratitude for their vision, dedication, and service in creating an event that successfully celebrated the talent and potential of the youth of Caddo Parish and strengthened community pride throughout the parish.

THUS ADOPTED by the Caddo Parish Commission, in legal and regular session convened this 18th day of June, 2026.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION
CADDO'S RISING STAR CONTESTANTS**

WHEREAS, Caddo's Rising Star: Be Caddo's 12th Star was established to celebrate and showcase the exceptional talents of young people throughout Caddo Parish while providing a positive platform for artistic expression, creativity, and personal growth; and

WHEREAS, students from communities across Caddo Parish answered the call to compete in the inaugural competition, demonstrating remarkable courage by sharing their talents before judges, audiences, and viewers throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, participants represented a wide variety of artistic disciplines including vocal performance, instrumental music, dance, theatrical arts, spoken word, and other creative talents, highlighting the rich diversity and promise of Caddo Parish youth; and

WHEREAS, each contestant contributed to the success of the competition through countless hours of preparation, practice, and performance, while displaying sportsmanship, perseverance, and dedication throughout the competition process; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Finale featured the 12 Finalists: Adiel Allison, Stella Bai, Malachi Carraway, Scarlett Clinton, Carla Heard, Hannah Lee, Violet Ogea, Lukas Owens, Harper Powell, Triple

Threat, Taylor Walker with Allison, Clinton, Carraway, Heard, Lee, and Ogea, advancing as semi-finalists and ultimately crowning the top performers as Allison in 3rd place, Carraway in 2nd place and Heard as both 1st Place and Audience choice, with all performers demonstrating extraordinary talent and commitment, helping transform a first-year competition into a community-wide celebration of youth achievement and artistic excellence; and

WHEREAS, through their participation, these young performers inspired audiences, brought families and communities together, and demonstrated that the future of Caddo Parish is bright, talented, and filled with promise; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission desires to recognize and commend every contestant, semi-finalist, and finalist who participated in the inaugural Caddo's Rising Star competition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in regular session convened that it does hereby commend and congratulate all contestants, semi-finalists, and finalists of the inaugural Caddo's Rising Star Talent Competition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission expresses its appreciation for their talent, dedication, hard work, and positive representation of the youth of Caddo Parish and encourages them to continue pursuing their dreams and sharing their gifts with others.

THUS, ADOPTED by the Caddo Parish Commission, in legal and regular session convened this 18th day of June, 2026.

ADOPT REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Regular Session Minutes from June 4, 2026* be adopted. Motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Epperson and Jones being absent.

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that Special Resolution of Acknowledgment Rev. E. Edward Jones Passing Anniversary* be adopted. Motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Epperson and Jones being absent.

Mr. Burrell explained that Reverend Jones had been a significant community leader whose influence extended locally, statewide, and nationally, and stated that it was appropriate to recognize his legacy and contributions.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION REV. E. EDWARD JONES PASSING ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. E. Edward Jones, Sr. was a devoted minister of the Gospel, a community leader, civil rights advocate, educator, public servant, and pastor whose life's work strengthened Caddo Parish, the City of Shreveport, the State of Louisiana, and communities across the nation; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Jones faithfully served as pastor of Galilee Baptist Church in Shreveport, Louisiana, where his ministry extended beyond the walls of the church and into the civic, educational, social, and spiritual life of the broader community; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Jones believed deeply in the dignity of all people and committed his life to advancing justice, opportunity, education, faith, and service; and

WHEREAS, during a critical period in the history of Caddo Parish and the American South, Reverend Jones gave courageous leadership in the struggle for civil rights, voting rights, school integration, equal opportunity, and full citizenship for African Americans and other marginalized communities; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Jones was among the early African Americans to serve on the Caddo Parish Police Jury, the governing body that preceded the Caddo Parish Commission, helping to open doors for broader Black political participation, representation, and leadership in parish government; and

WHEREAS, his public service helped mark a meaningful chapter in the continuing journey toward representative government, civic inclusion, and shared responsibility in Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Jones also served with distinction as a national religious leader, including his longtime leadership within the National Baptist Convention of America, where he was recognized for his preaching, administrative leadership, prophetic witness, and commitment to the social mission of the church; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Jones' influence reached across generations, encouraging young

people, pastors, lawyers, educators, elected officials, community servants, and ordinary citizens to use their gifts in service to God and humanity; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Jones attended Grambling College, NOW GSU, in Grambling, Louisiana where he excelled in academics, became Student Government Association President, and was a Charter Member of Alpha Phi Alpha's Delta Sigma Chapter in 1952 and was a true testament to the motto, "First of All, Servants of All, Transcend All;" and

WHEREAS, his legacy is remembered not only through his titles and accomplishments, but through the many lives he shaped, the institutions he strengthened, the leaders he encouraged, and the community he loved; and

WHEREAS, June 9, 2026 marks the 10th anniversary of the passing of Reverend Dr. E. Edward Jones, Sr., providing an appropriate occasion to pause in remembrance, thanksgiving, and renewed commitment to the values he embodied; and

WHEREAS, the remembrance of Reverend Jones' life calls the citizens of Caddo Parish to honor his legacy not only with words, but with continued service, courage, faith, unity, justice, and investment in the next generation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby recognize and honor the life, service, and enduring legacy of Reverend Dr. E. Edward Jones, Sr. on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of his passing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission acknowledges Reverend Jones' historic role in public service, including his service on the Caddo Parish Police Jury, his contributions to civil rights and community advancement, and his lasting impact upon Caddo Parish and beyond; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this recognition be extended to his family, Galilee Baptist Church, and all who continue to preserve and advance the legacy of Reverend Dr. E. Edward Jones, Sr.

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mr. J. Young, *that Special Resolution of Recognition Pride Month* be adopted.

Mr. J. Young spoke in support of the resolution, stating that all individuals deserve dignity and respect. He discussed the importance of standing against judgment, persecution, and discrimination and shared personal reflections regarding faith, acceptance, and the belief that all people are loved equally by God.

Mr. Cothran also addressed the resolution, emphasizing themes of love, understanding, and acceptance. He stated that throughout scripture he found a consistent message of love and encouraged individuals with differing viewpoints to engage in dialogue and seek common ground. Mr. Cothran announced that he would abstain from the vote.

Mrs. Blake stated that she supports all Americans regardless of race, religion, or creed, but expressed concern that resolutions recognizing specific groups can be divisive. She stated that the Commission should remain focused on matters directly related to parish government and public services. Mrs. Blake further explained that she opposed both the Pride Month resolution and similar resolutions recognizing particular groups because she believed they contributed to division rather than unity.

Mrs. Gage-Watts stated that her support of the resolution was not an endorsement of any particular lifestyle or personal choice, but rather an affirmation of her belief that all people deserve love and respect. She noted that her faith teaches her to love her neighbor and that each individual is ultimately accountable to God for their own actions.

Mr. Burrell stated that he viewed the resolution as recognition of a minority group and its contributions to society rather than an endorsement of any particular lifestyle. He reflected on historical examples of discrimination and injustice committed in the name of religion and politics and drew parallels to the struggles faced by marginalized communities. Mr. Burrell stated that his support for the resolution stemmed from his belief that all minority groups deserve recognition and equal treatment under the law.

Mr. Jones addressed the Commission and expressed concern that the controversy surrounding the resolution overshadowed the positive recognition of the Caddo's Rising Star participants earlier in the meeting. He emphasized the importance of unity and discussed the role of faith, government, and public discourse. Mr. Jones stated that while individuals may disagree on matters of faith and personal beliefs, those disagreements should not result in hatred or personal attacks. He encouraged respect, compassion, and constructive dialogue among community members, noting that all individuals fall short of perfection and should extend grace toward one another.

Mr. Kracman stated that he believed the resolution represented a divisive issue that fell

outside the primary responsibilities of parish government. He referenced public feedback received by the Commission and noted that a significant number of constituents had expressed opposition to the resolution. While acknowledging differing viewpoints, he stated that he could not support the measure.

President Young then offered closing remarks before the vote. He reflected on the contrast between the celebration of youth and community achievements earlier in the meeting and the divisive nature of the current discussion. He encouraged citizens and elected officials alike to focus on shared goals and common interests rather than attempting to dictate the beliefs of others. President Young emphasized the importance of self-reflection, mutual respect, and personal accountability, stating that individuals should strive to become the best versions of themselves rather than judging others.

At this time, Mr. Thomas' motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Gage-Watts, Jones, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (6). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Kracman, and Lazarus (4). ABSENT: Commissioner Epperson (1). ABSTAIN: Commissioner Cothran (1).

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *that Special Resolution of Recognition Shreveport Fire Department* be adopted.

The Commission then considered a special resolution recognizing the Shreveport Fire Department for its first-place finish at the Louisiana National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians Simulation Competition. Mrs. Gage-Watts explained that she had spoken with Fire Chief Clarence Reese and advised that the winning team would be available to attend a future Commission meeting for formal recognition.

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts' carried unanimously with Commissioners Blake, Epperson, and G. Young being absent.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION SHREVEPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the men and women of the Shreveport Fire Department serve with courage, professionalism, and dedication in protecting the lives and property of the citizens of Shreveport and Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, excellence in emergency medical response requires extensive training, technical proficiency, teamwork, and the ability to perform effectively under pressure; and

WHEREAS, Firefighters Austin Tull, Chase Pinion, Andrew Watts, and their teammates represented the Shreveport Fire Department at the Louisiana National Registered Emergency Medical Technician (LANREMT) 2026 Simulations War Competition, a statewide event designed to test the skills, knowledge, and preparedness of first responders through realistic emergency response scenarios; and

WHEREAS, competing against highly skilled teams of emergency responders from throughout the State of Louisiana, the Shreveport Fire Department team demonstrated exceptional competence, professionalism, and teamwork, earning First Place honors in the competition; and

WHEREAS, this outstanding achievement reflects the team's commitment to excellence in emergency medical services and highlights the superior training and readiness maintained by the Shreveport Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, the accomplishments of these firefighters bring great credit upon themselves, the Shreveport Fire Department, the City of Shreveport, and Caddo Parish, while serving as an inspiration to fellow first responders and citizens alike; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission desires to recognize and commend these firefighters for their remarkable achievement and their continued dedication to serving and protecting the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in regular session convened that it does hereby recognize and honor Firefighters Austin Tull, Chase Pinion, Andrew Watts, and their teammates for earning First Place in the LANREMT 2026 Simulations War Competition and congratulates them on this distinguished accomplishment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Caddo Parish Commission expresses its sincere appreciation for their service, professionalism, and commitment to excellence in emergency medical response and public safety.

THUS, ADOPTED by the Caddo Parish Commission, in legal and regular session convened, this 18th day of June, 2026.

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mr. J. Young, *that Special Resolution of*

Recognition Zhailon Levingston be adopted.

Although Mr. Livingston was unable to attend due to professional commitments, a prerecorded video message was presented to the Commission. In his remarks, Mr. Livingston thanked Caddo Parish, Shreveport, his schools, and the local arts community for providing early opportunities in music, theater, and the arts. He emphasized the importance of arts education and community support, stating that those opportunities helped shape him not only as an artist but also as a leader, organizer, and professional. He encouraged young people to pursue their dreams, remain persistent, and continue seeking opportunities to develop their talents.

Mr. Livingston's mother, Shannon Mercedes Livingston McGowan, accepted the recognition on his behalf and thanked the Commission for honoring her son. She praised the Commission's efforts to invest in young people through programs such as Caddo's Rising Star and stated that Mr. Livingston's accomplishments were rooted in the support he received from the Shreveport and Caddo Parish community.

Several Commissioners offered congratulatory remarks and recognized Mr. Livingston's achievements as a source of pride for the parish.

At this time, Mr. Jones' motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Blake and Epperson being absent.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION ZHAILON LEVINGSTON

WHEREAS, Zhailon Levingston, a proud native of Caddo Parish and graduate of Captain Shreve High School, has distinguished himself as one of the nation's most innovative and accomplished theatrical directors, writers, and creative artists; and

WHEREAS, through his extraordinary talent, vision, and dedication to the performing arts, Mr. Levingston has earned national acclaim for his groundbreaking contributions to American theater and for expanding opportunities for diverse voices and stories on the Broadway stage; and

WHEREAS, on June 7, 2026, Mr. Levingston achieved one of the highest honors in American theater when he received the Tony Award for Best Direction of a Musical for *Cats: The Jellicle Ball*, alongside co-director Bill Rauch, at the 79th Annual Tony Awards; and

WHEREAS, this historic achievement made Mr. Levingston the youngest Black director to direct a show on Broadway, the 2nd youngest director to win the Tony Award for Best Direction of a Musical, the 3rd Black Director (and the 1st this Century) to win a Tony for Best Direction of a Musical, further cementing his place among the most influential creative leaders in contemporary theater; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Levingston's success serves as an inspiration to aspiring artists throughout Caddo Parish and beyond, demonstrating that dedication, creativity, and perseverance can lead to excellence on the world's most prestigious stages; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Caddo Parish take great pride in celebrating the accomplishments of those whose achievements bring distinction and honor to our community, state, and nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in regular session convened, that it hereby recognizes and congratulates Zhailon Levingston upon his historic Tony Award victory and commends him for his outstanding contributions to the performing arts and for serving as an exemplary ambassador for Caddo Parish.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Caddo Parish Commission extends its sincere appreciation and best wishes to Zhailon Levingston for continued success in all future endeavors and expresses its gratitude for the pride and recognition he has brought to the citizens of Caddo Parish.

THUS DONE AND ADOPTED by the Caddo Parish Commission, State of Louisiana, in regular session duly convened this 18th day of June, 2026.

It was **move by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. J. Young, *to englobo and adopt the following special resolutions:*

- *Special Resolution June as Family Month*
- *Special Resolution Declaring Flag Day on June 14*
- *Special Resolution for the Honorable Devarjaye "DJ" Daniel, Honorary Judge*
- *Special Resolution Commemorating the Life and Legacy of former Shreveport*

Mayor John Hussey

- *Special Resolution of Recognition for Monica Cooper upon her being name First Response Telecommunicator of the Year*
- *Special Resolution expressing deepest sympathy following the tragic loss of 8 airmen in a B-52 test flight incident*

At this time, Mr. Atkins' motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Burrell being absent.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION FAMILY DAY

WHEREAS, family is one of God's greatest gifts to humanity, created to provide love, comfort, guidance, strength, and belonging; and

WHEREAS, throughout every generation, families have served as the heart of our communities and the foundation upon which compassion, faith, resilience, and hope are built; and

WHEREAS, God's love reminds us that every person is worthy of dignity, grace, mercy, and unconditional love; and

WHEREAS, families come in many forms and are beautifully shaped by life's journeys, including parents, grandparents, children, guardians, foster and adoptive families, blended families, extended families, chosen families, and all those who open their hearts and homes in love and care for one another; and

WHEREAS, the true strength of a family is not measured by appearance or circumstance, but by the love shared within it, the sacrifices made for one another, and the commitment to stand together through both triumph and hardship; and

WHEREAS, in times of division and uncertainty, our communities are uplifted when we lead with compassion, embrace one another with understanding, and remember that love is stronger than hatred, fear, or judgment; and

WHEREAS, children flourish when surrounded by encouragement, stability, kindness, and people who remind them that they are valued and deeply loved; and

WHEREAS, faith teaches us to "love thy neighbor," to care for the vulnerable, to forgive freely, and to strengthen the bonds that unite us rather than those that divide us; and

WHEREAS, Family Month should be a time to restore connections, celebrate the beauty of togetherness, honor parents and caregivers, support our elders, uplift our youth, and encourage every household to grow in love, peace, and understanding; and

WHEREAS, the enduring power of love — rooted in faith, hope, and grace — has the ability to heal families, strengthen communities, and inspire future generations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission proudly recognizes the month of June as Family Month, dedicated to celebrating the sacred bond of family, encouraging unity among all people, and honoring the many individuals who nurture, support, and love others unconditionally; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that during Family Month, all residents are encouraged to spend meaningful time with loved ones, extend grace and compassion to others, support families in need, and reflect on the importance of faith, kindness, reconciliation, and community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this body affirms that families of all backgrounds and experiences deserve respect, dignity, opportunity, and love, and that our community grows stronger when we choose understanding over division and love over fear; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we recognize God's love as a guiding light that calls us to care for one another, protect the vulnerable, strengthen our homes, and build a future rooted in hope, unity, and peace for generations to come.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION FLAG DAY

WHEREAS, The Caddo Parish Commission believes that the flag of the United States is a symbol of unity, the values of our nation, the ideals embedded in our Constitution and represents the rights protected Parish wide; and

WHEREAS, the Parish shall maintain a United States and Louisiana flag, flag staff and the necessary appliances for its display upon or near every Parish and administrative building where a flag staff or display appliances can be installed. There shall be a United States of America flag on display in every chamber and committee room where Caddo Parish Commission business is takes place or in such rooms wholly owned by the Parish; and

WHEREAS, the only flags that will be permanently permitted to be raised or displayed outside of wholly parish-owned facilities, administrative buildings, and any/all other wholly-owned Parish of Caddo property shall be the United States flag and the flag of the State of Louisiana, as well as the Prisoner of War/Missing in action flag and the flag with Parish seal. All flags shall be in standard colors and arrangement in accordance with state and federal code; and

WHEREAS, the official flag(s) listed above shall be flown at full- or half-staff pursuant to law; and

WHEREAS, consistent with national and state law and regulations and this policy, the Parish Administrator is requested to develop rules and regulations for the proper custody, care and display of the flag(s); and

WHEREAS, the flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem of display, should be retired through donation to an appropriate scouting, civic, military or veteran's organization or should be destroyed in a dignified way in accordance with US Flag Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened that the Caddo Parish Commission hereby recognizes Flag Day 2026 in Caddo Parish and requests that the afore-mentioned policies regarding the display of flags at Caddo Parish facilities be implemented.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution is effective immediately upon its passage.

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

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION
HONORABLE DEVARJAYE "DJ" DANIEL, HONORARY JUDGE**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission takes great pride in recognizing individuals whose courage, perseverance, and service inspire others and strengthen the spirit of our community; and

WHEREAS, Devarjaye "DJ" Daniel, affectionately known throughout the nation as "DJ," has become a symbol of resilience, determination, and hope in the face of extraordinary adversity; and

WHEREAS, DJ was diagnosed with brain and spinal cancer in 2018 and was given only months to live, yet through unwavering faith, remarkable courage, and an indomitable spirit, he has continued to defy the odds and inspire countless people across the United States; and

WHEREAS, despite enduring numerous medical treatments and more than thirteen surgeries, DJ has remained steadfast in pursuing his dream of serving in law enforcement and public service, demonstrating a commitment to others that far exceeds his years; and

WHEREAS, DJ embarked upon a nationwide mission to be sworn in as an honorary member of law enforcement agencies across America, a goal that has led him to be welcomed by more than one thousand law enforcement organizations and public safety agencies, earning recognition in the Guinness World Records and becoming a nationally celebrated ambassador for courage, perseverance, and community service; and

WHEREAS, DJ's extraordinary journey has brought comfort and encouragement to children facing illness, families confronting adversity, first responders serving their communities, and citizens from all walks of life, proving that a positive spirit and determination can overcome even the greatest obstacles; and

WHEREAS, on June 14, 2026, the Honorable Ree J. Casey-Jones, Chief Judge of the Caddo Parish Juvenile Court, will host a special swearing-in ceremony to appoint DJ Daniel as an Honorary Caddo Parish Juvenile Court Judge, recognizing both his inspirational example and his commitment to encouraging young people to pursue lives of service, integrity, and compassion; and

WHEREAS, DJ's life embodies the values of courage, perseverance, leadership, and hope that are essential to the administration of justice and the betterment of society, making him a most deserving recipient of this distinguished honor;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission, in regular session convened, that it hereby recognizes and congratulates Devarjaye “DJ” Daniel upon his appointment as an Honorary Caddo Parish Juvenile Court Judge and commends him for his extraordinary strength, unwavering determination, and inspirational service to communities across the nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Caddo Parish Commission expresses its sincere appreciation to Chief Judge Ree J. Casey-Jones and the Caddo Parish Juvenile Court for recognizing this remarkable young man whose life continues to be a beacon of hope and encouragement to all.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Caddo Parish Commission extends its heartfelt prayers and best wishes to DJ Daniel and his family and joins citizens throughout Caddo Parish and across America in celebrating his achievements and his enduring legacy of courage, faith, and service.

THUS DONE AND RESOLVED, this 15th day of June, 2026.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION
LIFE & LEGACY OF FORMER SHREVEPORT MAYOR JOHN HUSSEY**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission joins the citizens of Caddo Parish and the City of Shreveport in mourning the passing of former Shreveport Mayor John Hussey, a distinguished public servant whose leadership, vision, and dedication to community service left a lasting mark on our region; and

WHEREAS, John Hussey served as Mayor of the City of Shreveport from 1982 until 1990, guiding the city through a period of significant growth, development, and transformation while championing initiatives that strengthened the economic vitality and quality of life of the community; and

WHEREAS, throughout his tenure in public office, Mayor Hussey earned the respect and admiration of citizens and colleagues alike through his commitment to responsive government, civic engagement, and the advancement of opportunities for all residents of Shreveport and Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, the City of Shreveport pursued important projects and investments that contributed to the city's progress and helped lay the foundation for future development, demonstrating his steadfast belief in the promise and potential of the community he proudly served; and

WHEREAS, beyond his years as mayor, John Hussey remained an engaged and respected member of the community, offering wisdom, guidance, and support to civic, charitable, and business endeavors while exemplifying the highest ideals of public service; and

WHEREAS, his life was characterized by integrity, dedication, and a sincere desire to improve the lives of others, leaving a legacy that will continue to inspire current and future generations of leaders throughout Northwest Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, while the citizens of Caddo Parish mourn the loss of a devoted leader and community advocate, they also celebrate a life well lived and express gratitude for the many contributions he made to the betterment of Shreveport and Caddo Parish;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby express its deepest sympathy upon the passing of former Shreveport Mayor John Hussey, and does honor and commemorate his life, his service, and his enduring contributions to the citizens of this community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be spread upon the official minutes of the Caddo Parish Commission and that an appropriate copy be transmitted to the family of John Hussey as a lasting expression of the Commission's respect, gratitude, and condolences.

THUS RESOLVED AND ADOPTED by the Caddo Parish Commission, Parish of Caddo, State of Louisiana, in regular session convened on this 18th day of June, 2026.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION
MONICA COOPER**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission takes great pride in recognizing the outstanding achievements of public safety professionals whose dedication, skill, and commitment enhance the well-being of the citizens they serve; and

WHEREAS, Fire Communications Officer II (FCOII) Monica Cooper of the Shreveport Fire Department has been selected as the 2026 Louisiana EMS Telecommunicator of the Year, one of the highest honors bestowed upon emergency communications professionals in the State of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, this prestigious recognition was awarded by the Louisiana EMS community partners and Board Members and presented during the 2026 Louisiana EMS Awards Ceremony, highlighting FCOII Cooper's exceptional service, professionalism, and contributions to emergency medical

communications; and

WHEREAS, FCOII Cooper began her career with the Shreveport Fire Department in 2001 and has devoted more than two decades to serving the citizens of Shreveport and Caddo Parish with diligence, compassion, and unwavering commitment; and

WHEREAS, throughout her distinguished career, she has demonstrated excellence in emergency communications, serving as a vital link between citizens in need and first responders, often providing calm, reassuring, and lifesaving assistance during moments of crisis; and

WHEREAS, emergency telecommunicators serve as the first first responders, answering calls for help, gathering critical information, dispatching emergency resources, and providing guidance that can make a profound difference in emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, FCOII Cooper's professionalism, expertise, and dedication to excellence have earned the respect of her colleagues, supervisors, emergency medical personnel, firefighters, law enforcement officers, and the countless citizens whose lives have been impacted by her service; and

WHEREAS, her selection as the 2026 Louisiana EMS Telecommunicator of the Year reflects not only her individual achievements but also the high standards of excellence upheld by the Shreveport Fire Department and its Communications Division; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Caddo Parish are grateful for FCOII Cooper's years of faithful service and are proud to celebrate this well-deserved recognition of her accomplishments;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby recognize and commend Fire Communications Officer II Monica Cooper upon being named the 2026 Louisiana EMS Telecommunicator of the Year, and extends its sincere congratulations on this distinguished achievement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission expresses its appreciation for her more than twenty-four years of dedicated service to the Shreveport Fire Department and the citizens of Caddo Parish, and wishes her continued success in all future endeavors.

THUS, RESOLVED AND ADOPTED by the Caddo Parish Commission, Parish of Caddo, State of Louisiana, in regular session convened on this 18th day of June, 2026.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION
AIRMEN LOST IN A B-52 TEST FLIGHT INCIDENT**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission joins the citizens of Caddo Parish, the State of Louisiana, and the Nation in mourning the tragic loss of eight lives aboard a B-52 training flight; and

WHEREAS, these brave Airmen dedicated themselves to the defense of the United States, serving with honor, courage, professionalism, and an unwavering commitment to duty; and

WHEREAS, the men and women who fly, maintain, support, and sustain the B-52 mission undertake responsibilities that demand extraordinary skill, sacrifice, and devotion in service to our Nation; and

WHEREAS, Barksdale Air Force Base has long been an integral part of the fabric of Northwest Louisiana, and the B-52 mission remains a source of pride and distinction for our community and our Nation's defense; and

WHEREAS, the loss of these eight service members is felt not only by their families, friends, fellow Airmen, and civilian teammates, but also throughout the entire Northwest Louisiana community, which shares a deep and enduring bond with the personnel and mission of Barksdale Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, during this time of profound sorrow, it is fitting that the citizens of Caddo Parish express their heartfelt condolences, support, and gratitude to those who mourn this devastating loss and honor the memory of those whose lives were dedicated to the service of our country;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in regular session convened that it hereby expresses its deepest sympathy and condolences to the families, loved ones, fellow service members, civilian teammates, and all those affected by this tragic loss.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Caddo Parish Commission honors the memory, sacrifice, and service of the eight Airmen who lost their lives and recognizes their enduring contribution to the security and freedom of the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the citizens of Caddo Parish are encouraged to keep the families of the fallen, their fellow Airmen, and the entire Barksdale Air Force Base community in their

thoughts and prayers during the difficult days ahead.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Caddo Parish Commission and that appropriate copies be transmitted to the leadership of Barksdale Air Force Base and the families of the fallen, as appropriate.

ADOPTED by the Caddo Parish Commission, State of Louisiana, on this 18th day of June, 2026.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Parish Administrator Erica Bryant distributed and reviewed the proposed timeline for development of the 2027 Parish Budget. Commissioners were advised that budget materials would be emailed, calendar invitations would be issued for key budget meetings and retreats, and funding requests for nonprofit organizations and economic development agencies would be distributed in the coming days.

COMMUNIQUE & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mrs. Gage-Watts inquired about the process for nonprofit organizations to apply for Parish funding. Administration staff explained that funding applications are distributed to organizations that have either received funding or applied for funding within the previous three years. Staff advised that additional organizations may be added to the distribution list upon request and noted that the application process is not fully open due to staffing limitations and the volume of applications received. Mrs. Gage-Watts also requested that the Courthouse be illuminated in red in observance of World Sickle Cell Awareness Day, and Administration indicated that the request would be accommodated.
- Mr. Thomas reminded the public of upcoming Juneteenth celebrations, including the Let the Good Times Roll Festival in downtown Shreveport. He also encouraged citizens to participate in early voting and provided information regarding voting schedules and polling availability.
- Mr. Cothran inquired about public access to information regarding Parish funding opportunities and suggested making additional information available through the Parish website. Administration explained the challenges associated with managing large numbers of applications but agreed to continue providing information to interested organizations and members of the public.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Young reported that Commissioner Blake would be scheduling a Natural Resources Committee meeting in the coming weeks to address ongoing water-related concerns. He also discussed the need to review and potentially amend Commission bylaws and procedures related to public comments and meeting decorum. President Young requested that the Rules and Practices Committee consider the matter and develop recommendations to ensure fairness, consistency, and clarity in future meetings.

President Young further thanked those members of the public who remained throughout the lengthy meeting and expressed appreciation to Parish Administration and staff for their work in organizing and implementing the inaugural Caddo's Rising Star competition. He commended the Administration for embracing the vision and helping bring the program to fruition.

There was no Public Hearings on Zoning Ordinances & Cases.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES

President G. Young opened the floor for anyone to speak in favor or against the following ordinance:

- *Ordinance No. 6626 of 2026, an ordinance declaring 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 being no one to speak in favor or against the ordinance, the President closed the public hearing.

There are no Zoning Ordinances for final passage.

ORDINANCES (for final passage)

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that 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* be adopted. Motion carried unanimously with

Commissioners Blake and Epperson being absent.

ORDINANCE NO. 6626 OF 2026

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

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

WHEREAS, the hereinbelow described properties are no longer needed for public purposes and should be declared surplus properties; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has received offers to purchase its tax interest in the hereinbelow described properties as indicated below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that the hereinbelow described properties are no longer needed for public purposes and are surplus properties.

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has a tax interest in the hereinbelow described properties which have been adjudicated for the non-payment of Parish property taxes; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby authorize the sale of its tax interest in the hereinbelow described properties.

Property No. 1, Lots 12 & 13, Barron Subdivision, TAL 1 & 2, Allendale, a subdivision in the City of Shreveport of Caddo Parish, Louisiana as per plat recorded in Book 28, Page 29, Caddo Parish, Louisiana (GEO # 181436-019-0012-00)

Property No. 2, Lot 3, Barron Subdivision, TAL 1 & 2, Allendale, a subdivision in the City of Shreveport of Caddo Parish, Louisiana as per plat recorded in Book 28, Page 29, Caddo Parish, Louisiana (GEO # 181436-019-0003-00)

Property No. 3, Lot 44, Greenlawn Terrace Subdivision, a subdivision in the City of Shreveport of Caddo Parish, Louisiana as per plat recorded in Book 50, Page 289, Caddo Parish, Louisiana (GEO # 181435-030-0044-00)

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Caddo Parish Administrator, or his designee, shall be authorized to do any and all things and to sign any and all documents, including Acts of Cash Sale, in a form acceptable to the Caddo Parish Attorney necessary to effectuate the purposes set forth herein.

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 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 FOR INTRODUCTION BY TITLE

- *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*

**WORK SESSION MINUTES
RESOLUTIONS**

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that the following items be englobed and adopted:*

- *Work Session Minutes from June 15, 2026*

- *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*
- *Resolution No. 44 of 2026, a resolution to relocate the Polling Place for Precinct No. 10-4 Eighty-First Street ECE Center, 8108 Fairfield Avenue, Shreveport, LA, 71106 to Caddo Middle Magnet School, 7636 Cornelious Lane, Shreveport, LA 71106, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts' motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Blake and Epperson being absent.

RESOLUTION NO. 42 OF 2026

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CADDO COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY, INC. TO ADMINISTER THE HEAD START PROGRAM FOR THE PARISH OF CADDO, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission desires to obtain state and federal funds, where available, to benefit low and moderate income persons in the Parish of Caddo; and

WHEREAS, federal grants which are administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services are available for the purpose of providing a Head Start Preschool Education Program to qualified parish governments; and

WHEREAS, the program provides a comprehensive program to children in Early Head Start ages 0-3 and Traditional Head Start ages 3-5 and their families; and

WHEREAS, this program consists of five components: education, health, parent involvement, social services and transportation; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned program provides critical services by assisting children from low and moderate income families during their formative years; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Community Action Agency, Inc. has administered this program for the Caddo Parish Commission over the last forty-nine(49) years; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission is the appropriate agency to receive federal and/or state funding for the purpose of providing programs to support the indigent persons living with the Parish of Caddo.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission, in due, legal and regular session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby authorize the Caddo Community Action Agency, Inc. to administer the Head Start program on behalf of the Parish of Caddo.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Laurance Guidry and/or his successor is hereby authorized to do all things necessary to implement, maintain, amend or review any documents associated with the Head Start Program from the January 31, 2026 through effective date of this resolution through January 31, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that 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 the Resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict thereof are hereby repealed.

RESOLUTION NO. 44 OF 2026

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION TO RELOCATE THE POLLING PLACE FOR PRECINCT NO. 10-4 FROM EIGHTY-FIRST STREET ECE CENTER, 8108 FAIRFIELD AVE., SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71106 TO CADDO MIDDLE MAGNET SCHOOL, 7636 CORNELIOUS LANE, SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71106, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the established polling location for Precinct No. 10-4 was the Eighty-First Street ECE Center, located at 8108 Fairfield Ave., Shreveport, Louisiana 71106; and

WHEREAS, the Eighty-First Street ECE Center is no longer able to be a polling place because it has been closed by the Caddo Parish School Board; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Middle Magnet School, located at 7636 Cornelious Lane, Shreveport, Louisiana 71106, which is already a polling place and available to serve as the polling place for Precinct No. 10-4; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Middle Magnet School meets all requirements for polling places and is located approximately 1.0 mile from the Eighty-First Street ECE Center.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular, and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby change the polling location for Precinct No. 10-4 from Eighty-First Street ECE Center, 8108 Fairfield Ave., Shreveport, Louisiana 71106 to the Caddo Middle Magnet School, 7636 Cornelious Lane, Shreveport, Louisiana 71106.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that notice of this change shall be published in the official journal of the parish in accordance with La. R.S. 18:535.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that 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 of this resolution 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 ORDAINED that a copy of this ordinance shall be mailed to the following:

Secretary of the Senate of the State of Louisiana
Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana
Secretary of State of the State of Louisiana
Commissioner of Elections of the State of Louisiana
Parish of Caddo Registrar of Voters
Parish of Caddo Clerk of Court
Parish of Caddo Voting Machine Warehouse Supervisor
Parish of Caddo Director of Facilities and Maintenance

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect after June 27, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

It was **moved by Mr. Kracman**, seconded by Mr. Cothran, *that Resolution No. 43 of 2026, a resolution authorizing the Parish Administrator to retain the services of Attorney Malcolm S. Murchison and the Law Firm of Bradley Murchison Kelly & Shea LLC as outside legal counsel and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be adopted.

At the request of Mr. Kracman, Assistant Parish Attorney Jernigan provided an explanation of the matter. Attorney Jernigan stated that Apex Oil Company had filed litigation to determine the proper recipient of certain royalty proceeds associated with mineral interests. She explained that Apex Oil Company had asserted that Caddo Parish possessed the strongest claim to the funds and that the Parish agreed with that position. Attorney Jernigan further noted that Mr. Murchison had previously performed the legal work that enabled the Parish to lease its mineral interests and was therefore well positioned to represent the Parish in the matter.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 43 OF 2026

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH ADMINISTRATOR TO RETAIN THE SERVICES OF ATTORNEY MALCOLM S. MURCHISON AND THE LAW FIRM OF BRADLEY MURCHISON KELLY & SHEA LLC AS OUTSIDE LEGAL COUNSEL AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Parish has been named as a defendant in litigation styled Apex Natural Gas, LLC v. Silver Creek Exploration III, LLC, et al., Suit No. 663,621-B in the First Judicial District Court regarding SU138 Tracts and Lazard Wells; and

WHEREAS, Apex's suit seeks a declaratory judgment regarding competing mineral servitudes, ownership interests, and competing state agency leases affecting certain property interests in which both the Parish of Caddo and the City of Shreveport have interests; and

WHEREAS, Apex is represented by the law firm of Bradley Murchison Kelly & Shea LLC;
and

WHEREAS, Apex is asserting that the Parish of Caddo has superior mineral ownership in the property at interest and thus, Apex's interest is aligned with Caddo Parish's interest; and

WHEREAS, the issues presented in this litigation involve complex matters of oil and gas law, mineral rights, and land-use law requiring specialized expertise; and

WHEREAS, the Parish has previously retained the services of attorney Malcolm S. Murchison and the law firm Bradley Murchison Kelly & Shea LLC with respect to oil and gas issues; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Murchison and his firm are widely recognized as legal experts in oil and gas matters; and

WHEREAS, the Parish Attorney is recommending to the Commission that it would be in the best interest of Caddo Parish for it waive any conflict of interest and to retain the services of attorney Malcolm S. Murchison of the law firm Bradley Murchison Kelly & Shea LLC to provide counsel to the Parish and Commission in the above-referenced lawsuit; and

WHEREAS, the Parish Attorney's Office is requesting that the Commission appoint outside counsel familiar with matters related to oil and gas, land-use, and other matters so accompanying; and

WHEREAS, the Commission does hereby concur in the Parish Attorney's recommendation to retain Malcolm S. Murchison and the firm of Bradley Murchison Kelly & Shea LLC in the aforesaid matter;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session concerned that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby authorize the Parish Administrator or her designee to waive any potential conflict of interest and retain Malcolm S. Murchison and the firm Bradley Murchison Kelly and Shea LLC on behalf of Caddo Parish at an hourly rate not to exceed **\$350.00** for Mr. Murchison and other attorneys with ten or more years of experience, with other terms of the engagement being set for and a retainer agreement to be negotiated between the Parish Attorney and the law firm.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that 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 provision of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolution or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

There was no Old Business nor New Business.

COMMUNIQUES

- Mr. Cothran provided an update on the Public Safety Committee meeting held earlier in the day. He reported that the Committee had taken action on several matters and that Administration would continue reviewing and organizing the information before returning recommendations to the full Commission for future consideration.

CITIZENS COMMENTS (late arrivals)

Michael Chisum came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

If I had spoken earlier, may I suggest that when you codify these things, that you make sure people understand that that means maybe five people will get to speak in opposition or pro. 15 minutes, they might not understand that if they don't come early and they don't sign up early then they won't be able to be heard. And if I had been heard then I would have followed up with everything that you had said before as we celebrated the children. And I would have said to you, there was a day in your life where you had a dream about something you wanted to do big, but it wasn't the forum for it. You didn't, this is the Commission that you work on other things. You wouldn't do it here, but you had a dream for something and you still pushed it, but you kept it to yourself because you knew you were in an audience where people were not going to listen to you. It wasn't the normal work of a board of commissioners. Y'all handle everything else. But you had a dream about what you wanted the city to be. And like you said, you held it to yourself. You shared it with a few people. And then you decided to move it forward out of the hands of what you normally do. And you probably got some opposition that says, "We're going to spend money on what? We're going to do what? The Commission's going to do what?" But until you start saying we're going to do these things to create safe spaces for children to perform and to be themselves, their full selves. If we're going to step outside the box of what our job just tells us in the black and the white, then we don't celebrate every person. Unless you had created this opportunity for those children, some of those children would have never applied. Some of those children would have never had that opportunity. We've had things going on in this

community for years that were only for some children in some neighborhoods. And we still celebrate those things. But you're not going to see a rising star talent at the Cotillion. You're not going to see those things because we didn't make room for them. But you made room for them. And so, in support of LGBTQ Pride Month, it is not because we are proud of our sin. It is because we are proud of our struggle. And you know what that is like, so many of you on this board. And what you did today was you created an atmosphere and a world where, by voting and abstaining and not being a part, that you celebrated some children and then you made it harder for some other children in this city to really feel proud of themselves so that they could be everything that they could be. It's worth mentioning that the people who were here talking so much about us hurting their families didn't stay to support the family month. They came to be against us. I stayed for the family month and I have no problem with the family month. But when you say family of choice and you say families of choice, I have a family of choice. I come from a teacher, a preacher dad. I grew up in church. I'm a person of faith whose faith matters, who encompasses who I am. I'm a proud gay man. I'm also a Native American. I'm standing in the Caddo Courthouse where we celebrate the Caddo Indians who could not be further from who we were when we came and took their land and did everything. But I want to read the last thing in my 30 minutes, and please give me another second if I'm too shaken up to get it right. And when I raised my hand, sir, I meant no disrespect to you. I didn't understand the process and I'm sorry. I felt like this was a safe space and I didn't know the rules, but I want to tell you this. Caddo Indians, our namesake, the people who could have been no more like anything else. We moved, we destroyed, we didn't like their values. We didn't believe the way they believed. They were not like us. They didn't deserve to be there. Their faith was nothing like our faith. At the end of the day, from their website, the Caddo Nation, they call themselves, "We are the Caddo people." And I am a Caddo person. And we are the Caddo People. And their words, their last words, were, "We are an ancient tribe. We have been since time immemorial, and we will continue here." And put another way, we're here, we're queer, and we're not going anywhere. And you'll be lucky that we're here because we've helped make the city safer and better. And we support and we'll continue to do that, whether or not you ever acknowledge the struggle that we have to face to be here just to exist. I'm here and I'm going to be on YouTube crying like a baby, and I don't care because I'm proud of who I am, and I'm proud of who this city has been. And today, I'm a little less proud and that's okay. But not of myself, but not of who I am.

Allison Richardson came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good evening. I'm Allison. Long time everybody. Nice to see y'all again. I come before you today as a parent, a child advocate, and a Shreveport community member who believes every family in Caddo Parish deserves to have political structures and policies that serve them and not their agendas or the agendas of candidates. Why do I raise this issue? Because not only is it Pride Month, it's election season. We have seen the lengths candidates will go to get their name out there. Our community should not be a pawn in a divisive campaign and their tactics. I urge voters and candidates that have platforms to have legitimate platforms. Utilize those platforms to explain how you will better our community, how you will serve the community, and how you will actually fight for our children, not just sensationalism. Our community cannot bear any more negativity. Economic vitality follows through inclusion. Community health follows through belonging. I urge Commission, candidates, and as we approach this upcoming election season, to send a clear message that the strength of Caddo Parish is a community for everybody. Thank you.

Felicia Kay came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Felicia Kay. I ask that you give me leave for a moment to be silly today, as I don't believe that human beings should be controversial. I understand that some people oppose Pride Month because of their religious beliefs. I respect every person's right to practice their faith according to their conscience. However, as separation of church and state tells us, one person's religious belief should not determine whether an entire community is allowed to be recognized, acknowledged, or celebrated. It is important to remember that many of our ancestors came to this country seeking freedom from religious persecution. They understood what it meant to be excluded, treated as less than, or denied dignity because of who they were. That history should remind us that freedom is preserved not by deciding which groups are worthy of recognition, but by extending dignity and equal treatment to all people, especially those who have been marginalized. Pride Month exists because LGBTQ+ people have faced generations of discrimination, exclusion, and hostility. When people use public forums to argue that LGBTQ+ individuals are less deserving of visibility, respect, or acceptance, they unintentionally demonstrate exactly why Pride Month remains necessary. The irony is that efforts to diminish or exclude LGBTQ+ people are the very things that prolong Pride Month's necessity. They day LGBTQ+ people are treated with the same dignity, respect, and belonging as everyone else is the day that this recognition will no longer be needed. As an ordained minister myself, I feel that it's important to distinguish between sincerely held religious beliefs and rhetoric that demeans and entire group of people. I cannot reconcile hate speech directed at LGBTQ+ people with the example of Jesus Christ. With his ministry rooted in loved, compassion, humility, and the recognition of every person's inherent worth, whether or not someone agrees with me theologically, I believe that we can agree that cruelty, hostility, and contempt are not Christian virtues. Too often, prejudice is wrapped in religious language and presented as faith. Hate does not become holy simply because scripture is quoted alongside of it. Pride Month is not needed because everyone agrees. It is needed because many still do not. And this is where I'm going to deviate from my speech to acknowledge those talented young people at the beginning of this meeting, because I was once one of them. A queer talented person. And I don't want for any of them to believe that they are only worth celebrating if they aren't gay, because one day they may be celebrated in this very room for winning a Tony Award. Thank you.

Stephanie Mesloh came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good evening, my name is Stephanie Mesloh. I am the owner and clinical director of

Mesloh Counseling Center, right next door to this building. I am here because I was in support of the special resolution recognizing June as Pride Month. I am here as a licensed professional counselor, a counselor supervisor, an educator, a mother, and a former United States soldier. That last part, that hits me, because at one day in my life, I swore an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States of America, which includes the freedoms for every single person who has been in this room tonight, whether they agree with each other or not. I once argued when I was in the army for the religious rights of a person whose religious beliefs greatly conflicted with mine, because it wasn't right that I was allowed to practice my religion but she was not allowed to practice hers. I also recognize that there is a separation of church and state for a reason. Making human beings political, going to refrain from the language I want to use and I'm going to say it's nonsense. No person is political. No person's existence should be made a political speaking point. The entire reason that we have and need Pride Month is because we continue to be marginalized. We continue to be victimized and we continue to have people come in here and throw scripture trying to say that our people are wrong, that our children are wrong. We don't want to take their children. We want to protect all of our children, our children, too. Thank you for your time.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.


Michelle Nations
Assistant Commission Clerk


Gregory Young
President