

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 6th DAY OF JULY, 2026

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Work Session, on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., in the Government Chambers, with Mr. Greg Young, President, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (12). ABSENT: None (0).

Mr. Atkins gave the invocation, and Mr. Cothran led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ADDITIONS

It was **moved by Mr. J. Young**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that the agenda be expanded and Special Resolution of Recognition to Cpl. Darryl Council and Cpl. Corey Sullivan of the Shreveport Police Department upon their selection as the top two DWI Enforcement Officers in Louisiana* be added under Special Resolutions.

At this time, the President opened the floor for anyone to speak in favor or against the agenda addition.

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

Jon Glover, 9100 Walker Road, Apartment 217, Shreveport, Louisiana, zip code 71118. As I listened to the addition, I did not hear the addition clearly, what it was supporting. If it could, with your permission, President, that be reread so I'd understand what it is that you all are proposing or contemplating, I would appreciate it. Thank you.

There being no one else to speak, the President closed the public hearing.

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS

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

Again, commissioners, Jon Glover, 9100 Walker Road, Apartment 217, Shreveport, Louisiana, zip code 71118. For the record, I went over the agenda. There were two items that I saw that I wanted to get an explanation for. Also, I wanted to, for the record, to ask that you all limit your englobos, especially when legislation that may impact me is on the agenda. And at this work session, I'm asking that you all will address. With that said, the first piece of legislation that I looked at, for the record, was 6635. That was the one that was authored by one of your commissioners who is asking seemingly for a consideration to be given to temporary housing for those persons that may be coming into our sector to become employees of those who will be addressing the data centers and its need. For the record, that 11-page document that supports or supposed to support what is being asked that you all consider, the language of it made me believe that you really didn't want it because I looked at all the twists and turns in that document. It almost said that and I heard it in an interview that says everybody thinks Louisiana is a hard place to do business. But that document definitely proves that Louisiana would be, and especially Caddo Parish, would be a hard place to get some business done. Those twists and turns of, "you need to do this, you need to do this, you need to do this." 11 pages is what that document represented. And that information is very crucial and critical to what you all are having to propose, excuse me, consider for advancing. And I want to make sure and ask you all, for the record, that you all are actually reading that document to understand what is being proposed for you all. Then the legislation 6636, still the pickle ball project. For the record, it is saying that now you all will be entering into a lease agreement where the commission will pay a million, excuse me, a dollar a year. Now, where many would say it's only a dollar a year. Well, I look at it, for the record. We're investing all these revenue bonds. You're anticipating a return. If you don't get the return you're asking for, for the record, we taxpayers will have to make up those payments. So, why are we paying them a dollar, even if it's just a dollar? And we understand that there are guidelines, statutes, and whatever else that may be governing what you all are doing. But I'd like to understand the twists and turns to that negotiation as well. You know, when Representative Stephen Jackson was successful in implementing House Bill 461, it left me, a citizen, in the dark with a lot of information. And, for the record, I'd ask that that not be. Thank you.

There were no Visitors.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- Updates on Thursday from the IDB and NLEP

Administrator Bryant reported that representatives from the Industrial Development Board (IDB) and the North Louisiana Economic Partnership (NLEP) would attend the Regular Session to provide

updates on their organizations.

- Juvenile Detention Center census

Administrator Bryant said that there are 11 children in the Detention Center, 3 of which are OJJ. There are three 17 year olds. There are 413 children on probation. Eighteen juveniles are at CCC.

Mr. Atkins inquired about the continued decline in juvenile detention numbers and asked what factors had contributed to the decrease. Mr. Carlos, Assistant Director of Juvenile Services, attributed the reduction to several factors, including enhanced probation supervision, intensive monitoring efforts, compliance with electronic monitoring reporting requirements, and an overall decline in juvenile crime consistent with trends in the City of Shreveport. Administration noted that the implementation of the new state law regarding 17-year-olds has also contributed to lower detention numbers.

- June, 2026 Financial Statements

Administrator Bryant advised that the June 2026 financials have been attached to the agenda and a hard copy was placed at each Commissioner's station.

COMMISSION REMARKS

- Mrs. Gage-Watts requested an update regarding public safety documentation discussed during the Public Safety Committee meeting. Administrator Bryant explained that Administration had begun reviewing the proposal as part of the 2027 budget process and would provide updates as additional information became available. Commissioner Gage-Watts also requested that Administration contact the appropriate agency regarding overgrown grass along LA Highway 3132, noting that vegetation was obstructing motorists' visibility. Administration agreed to investigate the concern.

- Mr. Thomas highlighted several upcoming community events, including a Louisiana Music Commission discussion on North Louisiana's impact on the music industry, the Urban Green Market, the Shreveport Farmers' Market, and the Red River Balloon Rally, encouraging residents to participate in local activities.

- Mr. Cothran announced a July 15 public meeting at the Bert Kouns Library regarding the proposed permanent relocation of a polling location. He encouraged public participation and noted that information had been shared through social media and would also be distributed by the Parish.

- Mr. J. Young recognized a Shreveport Police Department officer who was injured while responding to a disturbance during the Fourth of July weekend. He expressed appreciation for the officer's service and indicated his intent to present a Special Resolution recognizing her actions once the investigation had concluded.

- Mrs. Gage-Watts and Mr. Burrell promoted the 48th Annual Northwest Louisiana Sickie Cell Softball Tournament, emphasizing its role in raising awareness and support for individuals living with sickle cell disease. Mr. Burrell discussed the tournament's history, family activities, fireworks display, partnership with the Louisiana Senior Games, and the event's estimated \$1–2 million economic impact on the community.

- Mrs. Gage-Watts raised concerns regarding mosquito activity following recent rainfall and asked Animal Services about mosquito control efforts around community events. Animal Services staff explained that routine spraying occurs throughout the Parish, residents may request additional spraying by contacting Animal Services, and recommended the use of insect repellent containing DEET while also eliminating standing water around homes. Mr. Burrell requested that Cargill Park receive mosquito treatment prior to the upcoming softball tournament.

There was no Old Business, nor a President's Report.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that Ordinance No. 6629 of 2026, PZC Case No. 26-12-P, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, by amending the zoning of property located west side of Cypress Garden Road, approximately 681 feet south of Willow Ridge Road, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, from R-MHP Residential Manufactured Home Park District to R-A Rural Agriculture District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's Regular Session for introduction. Motion carried unanimously with all Commission members present.

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that Ordinance No. 6630 of 2026, an ordinance relative to the sale of parish property, to authorize the sale of the Regional Lab building located at 533 Vine Street, Shreveport, LA, and adjacent parking lots, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's Regular Session for introduction.

Administrator Bryant explained that a previously anticipated sale had not been finalized and that the ordinance would authorize the Parish to solicit competitive bids. She further explained that if

no bids meeting the appraised value were received, the Commission could later consider reducing the asking price. Commissioners discussed the property's location, pricing, and potential repair needs.

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts' motion carried unanimously with all Commission members present.

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Ordinance No. 6631 of 2026, an ordinance to enact Section 32-62 through Section 32-65 of Chapter 32—Offenses and Miscellaneous provisions of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, relative to offenses on Sportran buses traveling within unincorporated areas of Caddo Parish, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's Regular Session for introduction.

Administration explained that the ordinance mirrors recently adopted City of Shreveport regulations to provide consistent protections for SporTran employees and property throughout the transit system.

SporTran Executive Director Dinero Washington addressed the Commission, noting that annual ridership has grown from approximately 2 million to nearly 5 million passengers. He explained that as SporTran has expanded service into unincorporated areas, consistent enforcement of transit-related offenses has become increasingly important. Mr. Washington also reported that SporTran is working with the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office regarding transit policing and provided an update on efforts to restore Amtrak passenger rail service, stating that progress continues toward identifying the station location and that service could begin within the next 18 to 24 months. Commissioners commended Mr. Washington for his leadership and recognized the contributions of community members who have supported the Amtrak initiative.

At this time, Mr. Thomas' motion carried unanimously with all Commission members present.

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Ordinance No. 6332 of 2026, an ordinance to expand the use of certain parish property to the David Raines Community Health Center, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's Regular Session for introduction.

Administration explained that following the closure of the Parish's Head Start program at the facility, David Raines requested use of the additional space. Under the amended lease, the Health Center would assume responsibility for maintenance and utility costs associated with the expanded space.

At this time, Mr. Jones' motion carried unanimously with all Commission members present.

It was **moved by Mr. Cothran**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Ordinance No. 6633 of 2026, an ordinance to deem property surplus and to authorize the Parish Administrator, or her designee, to sell surplus property owned by the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's Regular Session for introduction.

Administration explained that the ordinance would allow the Parish to dispose of obsolete equipment, including former Caddo Community Action Agency Head Start buses, through the annual surplus auction process. Proceeds from the sale would be returned to the respective departmental funds. Commissioners discussed notification procedures for municipalities interested in purchasing surplus public safety equipment and noted that many of the vehicles were approximately 20 years old.

At this time, Mr. Cothran's motion carried unanimously with all Commission members present.

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Ordinance No. 6634 of 2026, an ordinance amending and re-enacting Division 3 of Article V, Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances relative to the procedures for the sale of adjudicated property pursuant to LA. R.S. 47:2201, et seq., to delete the exemption for District 3, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's Regular Session for introduction.

Mr. Thomas explained that the change would eliminate the district-specific exemption and establish a uniform process for adjudicated property sales throughout the Parish. Administration noted that the exemption had been requested by a previous commissioner and that its removal would create consistency across all districts.

At this time, Mr. Thomas' motion carried unanimously with all Commission members present.

It was **moved by Mr. J. Young**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that Ordinance No. 6635 of 2026, an ordinance establishing regulations for temporary workforce housing facilities in unincorporated Caddo Parish, Louisiana; providing for definitions, registration requirements, operational standards, enforcement, and penalties; and for other related purposes* be remanded to a committee of the President's choice.

Mr. J. Young explained that the proposed ordinance was intended to address anticipated

housing needs associated with large-scale data center construction projects and would establish operational standards for temporary worker housing, including provisions related to public safety, utilities, site management, and post-use site restoration.

Commissioners discussed the proposal, expressing support for a thorough committee review while also raising questions regarding neighborhood impacts, property rights, and the Parish's legal authority to regulate such facilities. Legal advised that the Parish's authority to regulate temporary workforce housing in unincorporated areas is limited under current law and would require adoption of zoning regulations through a comprehensive master planning process before such regulations could be implemented outside the existing five-mile zoning jurisdiction. Commissioners agreed that additional discussion in committee would allow the legal, planning, and policy issues to be fully evaluated before further consideration by the Commission.

Legal clarified that, under current Louisiana law, the Parish lacks authority to regulate housing uses in unincorporated areas without first adopting a comprehensive master plan and implementing zoning regulations. Attorney Frazier explained that any zoning-related regulations within the existing five-mile planning area would also require review and recommendation by the Metropolitan Planning Commission before Commission action could be taken. Administration noted that updating the Parish's master plan could be considered during the 2027 budget process if the Commission wished to pursue zoning authority in the future.

Commissioners discussed the legal limitations, the role of committees in evaluating complex policy issues, and the distinction between regulating housing uses and enforcing existing public safety, building code, and noise ordinances.

At this time, Mr. J. Young's motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Epperson, Kracman, and J. Young (5). NAYS: Commissioners Blake, Cothran, Gage-Watts, Jones, Lazarus, Thomas, and G. Young (7). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that Ordinance No. 6636 of 2026, an ordinance to authorize the Parish Administrator to finalize the lease of certain property owned by the YMCA of Northwest Louisiana, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's Regular Session for introduction.

Administration explained that the lease would be executed at a nominal rate of \$1.00 per year, consistent with previous discussions, while a separate agreement would address the YMCA's management responsibilities for the facility. Commissioners noted that the YMCA's governing requirements necessitated a lease rather than a donation of the property.

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (11). NAYS: Commissioner Kracman (1). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that Resolution No. 45 of 2026, a resolution to provide an annual certification to the State of Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development in accordance with the Off-System Bridge Replacement Program, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's Regular Session for consideration. Motion carried unanimously with all Commission members present.

It was **moved by Mr. Kracman**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that Resolution No. 46 of 2026, a resolution opposing the redistricting of Louisiana's United States Congressional District initiated by the Louisiana Legislature, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be tabled indefinitely.

Mr. Kracman said that the issue the issue was controversial, had already been addressed by the Legislature and the courts, and was outside the Commission's primary responsibilities.

Several commissioners opposed tabling the resolution, emphasizing that they viewed the issue as one of voting rights and representation rather than partisan politics. They expressed concern that the redistricting plan would diminish minority representation and stated that the Commission should continue advocating on behalf of its constituents despite prior court rulings. Other commissioners maintained that, while voting rights are important, the matter had already been resolved by the courts and was not within the Commission's authority to change.

Commissioners also discussed parliamentary procedure to clarify whether the motion to table or the original resolution should be considered first. Legal advised that the motion to table was the only motion before the Commission.

At this time, Mr. Kracman's motion failed, as shown by the following roll votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Kracman, Lazarus, and J. Young (5). NAYS: Commissioners Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, Thomas, and G. Young (7). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **then moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Resolution No. 46 of 2026, a resolution opposing the redistricting of Louisiana's United States Congressional District initiated*

by the Louisiana Legislature, and otherwise providing with respect thereto be moved to Thursday's Regular Session for consideration. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, Thomas, and G. Young (7). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Kracman, Lazarus, and J. Young (5). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that the following items be englobed and moved to Thursday's Regular Session for consideration:*

- *Resolution No. 47 of 2026, evidencing public approval of bonds issued by the Capital Area Finance Authority pursuant to Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1989, as amended*
- *Presentation of Special Resolution of Recognition SUSLA Dual Enrollment Program*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition Parks & Recreation Month*
- *Special Resolution Commemorating the Centennial Anniversary of Goodwill Industries of Northwest Louisiana*
- *Reappointments of David Norman, Jennifer Fant, and Brenda Smith to the North Caddo Medical Center*
- *Reappointment of Randy Shouse to the Lakeview Waterworks Board*
- *Appointment of Amy McMullen to Caddo Fire District No. 3 Board*

At this time, Mr. Thomas' motion carried unanimously with all Commission members present.

COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mrs. Gage-Watts requested updates regarding a previously reported noise complaint associated with drilling operations near Lakeshore. Public Works reported that multiple decibel readings had been taken and were approximately 10 decibels below the allowable threshold. At Commissioner Gage-Watts' request, staff agreed to conduct an additional monitoring study once the sound monitoring equipment became available.

She also requested follow-up on an ongoing animal nuisance complaint involving dogs on Louise Street. Animal Services reported that staff had investigated the complaint, contacted the property owner, and continued to monitor the situation. She additionally inquired about a recently reported loose dog near Brookshire's, and Animal Services advised that the complaint had just been received and would be investigated.

- Mr. J. Young commented on the Commission's committee process, expressing the importance of discussing significant policy issues, including temporary workforce housing and future data center development, through committee meetings.
- Mr. Jones called a Special Projects meeting for Thursday at 12:00 noon.

CITIZENS COMMENTS (LATE ARRIVALS)

Abby Whittington came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

First, I just want to say that y'all should be ashamed of y'all's selves, anybody who didn't vote in favor of Resolution 46, because Louisiana is black and some of y'all's constituents are, and y'all cannot change that. And then also, in this meeting and the meeting last month, I did hear a lot of remorse about the data center that most of y'all voted in favor of. But just so y'all know, y'all do have the opportunity to work with the community on this and ban these data centers and put a moratorium on the parish. They did it in New Orleans. We can do that. And then also, can y'all please work with the people in y'all's community to let them know what's going, because we have no idea what is going on? Like, can y'all let us know what's going on in the agenda before 5 minutes before it's uploaded? Also, in Shreveport right now, there are 4,400 people without power. How are we going to have a data center on our power grid? Thanks.

CONSENT AGENDA

- *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*

There were no Citizens Comments (late arrivals). At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 5:30 p.m.


Michelle Nations
Assistant Commission Clerk