

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 17th DAY OF AUGUST, 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, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (11). ABSENT: Commissioner Burrell (1).

Mrs. Gage-Watts gave the invocation, and Mr. Thomas led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Sheryl Cogdell came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

I'm here concerning the data centers. The two major big bad boys of AI are OpenAI and Anthropic, and these lose billions of dollars each year and their off balance sheet debt is lowballed. More debt is hidden in the footnotes. Speculative valuations are inflated. Critics say the industry is not sustainable. And who exactly are the clients? More surveillance for foreign and domestic governments, defense contractors. We're already mad about the theft of writers, artists, musicians, and the mining of our intellectual data. There is nothing democratic about how the AI industry is developing. How many gas turbines will be on the Amazon site? Natural gas is 90 to 95 percent methane. Will we have methane turbines like in Memphis? How many diesel generators? What happens in these unzoned areas? Are they required to have permits for these toxic machines? Amazon says that it's going to pay for 100 percent of the infrastructure rebuild. Is this just a promise or is their a legal contract? So, I would like for there to be to establish a promise of jobs fund. If the promise of 540 jobs at \$80,000 a year for 5 years, that's a fund of \$216 million. And also, no rate increases in utilities, electricity, water, and gas. The \$400 million promised in infrastructure is not enough. No increase in property taxes. Establish a decommission fund. When the AI bubble burts and/or their tax abatements expire and they decide to close, we are not left with a vast wasteland of buildings and contaminated material we have to clean up. Sales tax, no local tax incentives. A 1% sales tax is not too much to ask. Personally, I think they can pay all local taxes fully. We need to have noise protections for the local neighborhoods next door to the center. Is the tax revenue going to another state where the registered offices are located? If so, we need to bring those off some registered offices here. Establish an environmental fund to protect and repair the damage to our sportsman's paradise. The industry has a "move fast and break things" ideology. Their way is not the only way and it's not inevitable. What happens when the buildout process for one industry innovates and billions spent on one layout is no longer needed? When industry has to pave their own way, they innovate. You should know about the effect of transmission lines on cattle. The bad boys of the AI industry are techno-authoritarians and do not care about our community. So, we the people must protect it. Thank you.

Kenneth Moss came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good afternoon. I've come here to lend my voice to endorse the Resolutions 52 and 53 on the data centers. The data centers that they're proposing is approximately two miles from my back door as the crow flies. I don't want that thing near me. I don't want it destroying my property value. I don't want it destroying my health. It's going to come naturally because I'm pretty old. So, I just would like to lend my voice to endorse Resolution 52 and 53. And thank her for her comments before me. Alright, thank you.

Candy Peavy came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good afternoon. Today I want to talk about the bigger picture, technocracy, a system of governance where society is run by engineers, scientists, and tech experts, not by the people or you, our representatives. In 1973, the Trilateral Commission actively worked toward a technotronic era, which they planned to be implemented 50 years out. Do the math. This era was to be a gradual appearance of a more controlled society dominated by an elite and unrestrained by traditional values. It would have continuous surveillance over every citizen with complete files and instantaneous retrieval. Their plan was written 56 years ago. We are seeing its fruition now. No voting, no property rights, no ownership, just terms of service agreements. Programmable money. Recently, the trend has been toward privatized digital currency. Easier and quicker to implement. Tether owned by Cantor Fitzgerald. Circle owned by BlackRock. World Liberty Financial owned by Trump. Look who profits from this scheme. With programmable money, everything you want to spend money on, including food, fuel, and property, can be controlled because your money is tokenized. It's digital. These data centers are the infrastructure to push technology into every corner of American life and thus to one day be used to monitor, predict, and control an entire population. Look at how China is controlling their citizens through social credits, or how truckers in Canada lost access to their bank accounts during the COVID process. Data centers are the brain. Flock and other surveillance systems are the eyes. Tokenized money is the bloodstream. A programmable society requires knowing where every person in every vehicle is at all times. The only explanation for the seemingly sudden explosion of data centers across this county is for mass surveillance and population control. But we are sold the cameras as enhanced security and other measures such as our smart appliances, smart meters, or smart TVs as convenience. The bottom line is that they are all surveilling us all the time. And here's the strategy. It's called accelerationism. Build the infrastructure so fast that no Congress, no court, no regulator, no town hall or parish commission meeting can possibly keep up. Accelerate until the old system breaks. Many communities around the country are calling moratoriums. It's happening too fast. The citizens need more

information. The data centers need to be transparent. We need to know this information. You need to know this information to be able to make informed decisions. I urge you to support the moratorium and to form a committee to study these data centers. Yes, we need the economic development, but let's not sell ourselves short in the interim. Thank you.

Rachel Sangsura came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Hello. My name is Rachel Sangsura. I am a lifelong resident of Shreveport, mother of two. My husband is a mental health professional working at LSU. I've come today because I have a lot of concerns about the data centers about how quickly they have been pushing their way in. No ability to really have enough time to examine what their environmental impacts are. They come in, they say we're going to employ x number of people, thousands of people. That's really for construction and a lot of these data centers that are already operational, by the time they're done with construction, those numbers drop to maybe 100 to 200 jobs. And that's assuming that these are even local people, which they are not always local people. More often, I think they're not. They are an impact on our water system, which I mean, if you live in Shreveport, you know our water system has been breaking for a long time, and we have all suffered under it. Even this summer, we've had water issues. Same thing with our electrical grid. It was just announced within the last month that Louisiana is going to potentially have rolling blackouts because the electrical grid strain is so great right now. And these data centers put huge strain on both of those systems and ours is just not in the shape for that unless they're going to build us an entire new system from scratch which I don't see them doing. Also, as other people have mentioned, the sheer amount of sound, a lot of health impacts for people that live around these data centers. And they're recently discovering that they create a heat island effect which raises the temperature within six miles around them an average of 3 or 4 degrees and in one location up to 16 degrees additional heat. And we live in Shreveport, Louisiana. We cannot afford that additional heat at all. And you know citizens in the past have not been as aware. I think more and more people are becoming aware. More and more people are becoming concerned and I really urge you all to support this moratorium to give us time to actually have all this data come out. Erin Brockovich right now is doing a lot of research and she has mapped out where all of these data centers are and found that they are majority placed in areas that have a lot of drought. So, it's just all around not a good thing. There's really the only reason for this AI data center boom is, you know, all of the cloud computing, the constant surveillance. We have these Flock cameras that are now in our city that nobody knew about and suddenly they're here and they are, you know, getting things wrong. There was a man in Florida who was accused of some traffic violation. He was in another state and he was able to prove that thankfully, but this thing misread his license plate. Same thing with another woman who was arrested and she also had dash cam footage proving, but she still had to go through all of that. You know, we don't need more people getting AI psychosis. There's not been no looking at the mental health of young people, even people with their full faculties that have never had any mental health issues in the past. They fall prey to this. They end up committing suicide. But yes, Flock cameras are very, very suspicious. There have been other cities that have had, could not decommission them because of their contracts with Flock. They tried to cover them with trash bags and Flock sent out people to remove those trash bags. They covered them again. They're having to go through legal avenues to figure out how to remove these things. And so, between like this constant surveillance, the mental health issues, and I basically guess the last thing I want to say is that areas that you guys can follow to get more information on this. There's a gentleman on YouTube named Lewis Rossman. He's a privacy advocate. More Perfect Union is doing a lot of going out to actual communities impacted by these things and showing the brown water and everything else. And then of Erin Brockovich's work and you can find her online. Thank you.

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

Alright, I would like to address the comments by some of the Commissioners that local government can't stop hyper-scale data centers. There are 219 local city governments on track or have already placed a moratorium in the US, including on right here in New Orleans. I don't appreciate the comments that this is out of your hands when the process started in this very building with your votes. You have heard from your constituents since last December. You know where we stand. We demand a moratorium be placed on the Parish immediately and halt all construction on current and future hyper-scale data centers. I also request a third-party conduct an environmental impact study regarding Resolution 52. I support Resolution 53, but Commissioner Young, why are you still letting Amazon conduct business as usual in your city? If you are truly against hyper-scale data centers, then this resolution should have included current hyper-scale data centers in the Parish. State Line Road is a perfect example of this project's destruction and lack of respect for the community surrounding it. So, I will leave you with a question, Commissioners. Will you finally choose your neighbor or will you continue to choose Amazon?

Constance Green came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

I'm here because, of course, it's the data center subject, and I do want to make it very, very clear that if we did not understand non-disclosure agreements, we certainly understand them now. And we certainly understand that businesses create contracts and those sort of things that have to come together and pull together to make them work for the whole. But the whole right now is the subject of these data centers and their location. We know that it's been primarily defined or settled that you're going to have this data center where you've decided to locate it. But what the people do not know, there's been no clarity. There's been nothing concise. There's been nothing very clear and to the point why it is the only location that this data center may go. Now, if that's a part of the non-disclosure agreement, then I think you owe it fair to the people to be clear, to be concise, and just make it plain and simple. So, I'm here to oppose the data center's location. If there is some more data or some more information you can give us while you keep making us come back, I'm aware. I'm open to it. I'm available at any time. I'm open to that information. So,

I don't feel, and it's very apparent you shouldn't feel, that we have enough information that we believe, and some of us, any data centers or this particular data center being placed at this particular location, and what's wrong with it? Give us the clarity. Give us the conciseness of reports and make it plain, simple, and clear. Thank you again, Constance L. Green.

Brenda O'Brock came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Thank you for allowing the citizens to come and talk to you today and express their concerns. I am very concerned about a pattern that I've watched for many years. I'm Brenda O'Brock, and I've been coming before you for over fifty years, so you have my address. You know where to reach me. I am concerned about us not having a choice. 5G was put in my backyard and I didn't have a choice. Well, I could've paid extra, but it's like the salesman knows how to get you. And don't let the salesman do a job on you because who is going to be responsible when people lose the value of their property? When people lose their, they bought out in the country so they could have a peaceful setting. Who is going to be blamed for this? Is it going to be you because of how you voted? Okay, I want to take you back. Many of you are too old, or too young I should say, to remember the first TVs that came into our area. My dad took me to the Haughton top, I can't remember the name of it now, but anyway, it was where the first TV was because it was a high top and we saw the first TVs there. Think about that. Your first TV. Think about your first air conditioner. This was organic. You saw it. You liked what you saw. You didn't have to be convinced that, oh, your utilities is not going to go up. You're still going to have your peaceful setting. You knew you wanted this. It was organic. The data centers, listen to the citizens. They have all these questions about their utilities going up, their property values going down, and who's going to pay for this. They've got real valid concerns and all across our nation, too. Don't you think it's a little strange that all of a sudden, they're popping up everywhere? There's room for concern there. And so, I want you to share in this concern as though that's your backyard. That's your property that you paid for that the value is going to go down when the area had no more water and the utilities are sky-high. You need to be concerned about this and you need to stand for the citizens' rights.

Matt Gromlich came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

My name is Matt Gromlich. I live on Kelly Lane in Greenwood, Louisiana, Caddo Parish, and today I'm here to speak in favor of Resolution 53, a resolution declaring a 2-year moratorium on new data center development and expansion in unincorporated Caddo Parish. However, I'm not here today solely to represent myself. I'm also here today to represent the constituents that cannot be here. Because these meetings are held at 3:30, many are unable to attend. Last week, three out of four members of the Public Service Commission sided with Meta and refused to support Louisiana residents' ability to access basic information about the Richland Parish Hyperion project. Our own district commissioner was not in attendance. So today, we have a chance to be better. An enormous number of Louisiana's elected officials have signed non-disclosure agreements, effectively saying that their constituents are not capable of deciding how to build an economy of the people, by the people, and for the people. Instead, these same officials have chosen to build an economy of the richest, most powerful Americans, by the richest, most powerful Americans, and for the richest, most powerful Americans. Today, we have a chance to do better. The people seated behind me are Americans. They're Louisianians. They're our constituents. They are not sacrifices for unfettered capitalism that sees no value in human life or the natural world. It is time for our elected officials to take a stand against the greed that has infected our state and our country. It is time for us to imagine a better possibility to enhance the quality of life for our constituents, not to harm them. Today you have two choices. You can vote on the side of money like three out of four PSC commissioners did last week, or you can vote on the side of the people. If the people were allowed to vote for a moratorium into existence, they would. So today, be champions of decency. Be champions of democracy. Be champions of the people, by the people, and for the people. The people have spoken. Hear us clearly. Pass Resolution 53. Thank you.

George Gehrig came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good afternoon. Thank you for giving us an opportunity to express our comments. My name is George Gehrig. I lived and worked in Shreveport until I retired seven years ago. I'm currently living in Stonewall. I'm the founder of Ecoregional Consults and three landscape level BioBlitzes: the Northern Rocky Mountain Biodiversity Challenge, the South Central Plains Biodiversity Challenge, and the City Nature Challenge Northwest Louisiana, the first time Shreveport, Caddo Parish, any of the parishes in North Louisiana participated in the world's largest international BioBlitz. As far as I can tell, Being a student of organizing these BioBlitzes, we are extremely data-deficient. People aren't out making observations. We have no idea, for example, baseline information about pollinators or insects. I'm a volunteer ambassador with SciStarter Xerces Society and iNaturalist. Insects are one of the groups of organisms most likely to be impacted by the construction and operation of data centers through loss of habitat, noise, and light pollution, but we really, again, have no baseline data because nobody's monitoring them. It's striking that no biological assessments or any environmental impact statements are being required prior to the construction of the data centers or the associated power plants and transmission infrastructures, nor the ongoing monitoring programs to document species impacted from them. Lots of other people have talked about the impacts on humans. I'm advocating for the impact on species. I propose that a community science initiative be started involving the collaboration between high school students, area colleges, and universities, churches, and neighborhood associations. It would involve training volunteers, your citizens, your constituents, on how to make simple observations within a quarter mile, a half mile, and a mile radius of each of these proposed facilities. It's only with hard facts, and this isn't difficult, getting out and just making observations. Only with hard facts that communities will be able to make a cogent and persuasive argument about where these data decisions should be sited, if at all. Community science projects like the one I'm proposing would be an

excellent vehicle to empower people, create enormous community involvement, and to document our incredible shared natural heritage. Thank you.

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

Good afternoon. Thank you for your time for hearing from the citizens. I'm just a community mom. I'm an advocate for kids. I've spent the last two decades advocating for kids against abusive tactics, and a company coming in under non-disclosure agreements not forthcoming with information and not being able to be held accountable with all of that information seems like a pretty abusive tactic. I'm here for my kids' future. I also have ties to West Texas. There are neighborhoods in Leach that are having to truck in water and spend \$6,000 a month to get water. I am in support of putting a pause on this. I understand that our area is economically disadvantaged. However, we cannot serve our citizens' and our children's future up on a silver platter for these companies that already have money. If they have so much money, why can't we put that in a trust? So that eventually when the infrastructure is gone and we are left with the remains and the shells of things that we can no longer use, we are not burdened with it or that the jobs they promised that they say are going to be great for our economy never show up or they bring other people in. Our system can already not handle it. Our water system is already at risk. Who was driving down Youree Drive on Friday night when it went dark? Can our infrastructure handle that? What can be done? Because it seems like a lot of people are hiding behind the non-disclosure agreements. It's very concerning. I am not willing to gamble with the citizens' or my children's future. We need more information and we need time. If it is such a great investment, then why is everyone hiding? Why are they not forthcoming? Why do they have to have plain-clothes security at community meetings when we already have police officers there if it's such a great thing? So, if it's all that great, why can't we be honest about it and really know what's going on? Again, let's put a pause on it and get some more information because we have worked too hard to get where we are now to turn it over to someone that is just going to use our city, go for all the resources, mine it, and leaves us with nothing.

There were no Visitors.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- Intergovernmental Meeting—August 28, 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m., Walter B. Jacobs Event Center. Tour of the Nature Center to follow.

Administrator Bryant reminded the Commissioners that the Intergovernmental Meeting will be held on August 28th at the Walter B. Jacobs Event Center.

- Dr. Markey Pierre—Thursday, August 20

Dr. Pierre will provide an update during the Regular Session on Thursday.

- Legislative Priorities

Administrator Bryant advised that they will be sending out requests for legislative priorities to prepare for the upcoming legislative session.

- July, 2026 Financial Statements

The July, 2026 financial statements were attached to the agenda and placed at each Commissioners' station.

- Juvenile Detention Center census

Administrator Bryant said that there are 12 children in the Detention Center, two of which are OJJ. There is one 17 year old. There are 416 children on probation. Fourteen juveniles are at CCC.

Mr. Jones asked about the decrease in truancy numbers following the beginning of the school year. Mr. Andrew Randall, Juvenile Services Director, stated that, particularly with respect to truancy, credit should be given to the Caddo Parish School Board for its enhanced approach. He explained that much of the initial monitoring of truancy cases had been moved to operations at The Harbor, allowing juvenile court and probation resources to focus primarily on children and families with the most serious or persistent cases. He described the improvement as a holistic effort involving the School Board, Juvenile Services, and the juvenile judges.

When asked specifically about detention numbers, Mr. Randall confirmed that the Parish had also experienced a favorable downward trend during the year. He attributed the decrease to several factors, including collaboration with juvenile judges to provide alternatives to detention, changes in state law affecting the admission of 17-year-olds into the detention center, and enhanced efforts among probation officers, law enforcement, and other community partners to address juvenile issues preventatively.

Mr. Jones stated that discussions surrounding juvenile justice often focus on negative developments and that he wanted to provide an opportunity to recognize the positive progress being made. He expressed optimism that conditions were improving for children across the Parish, both within the juvenile justice system and the school system, and stated that he hoped the downward trend would continue

throughout the year.

Mr. Randall thanked the Administration and Commission for their continued support of juvenile services. He emphasized that the work represents a public trust and expressed appreciation for the individuals who work each day to assist children and families in establishing a healthier path forward for themselves and, ultimately, for Caddo Parish.

COMMISSION REMARKS

- Mr. Epperson asked Attorney Frazier about the current legal status of the proposed data center in Resilient Technology Park. She indicated that she did not have that information immediately available and would determine the current status and report back.

Mr. Epperson then raised an additional question concerning the previously approved PILOT resolution, asking what the effect would have been had that resolution failed. In response to questions regarding what would have occurred had the Commission not approved the PILOT terms, Administration and legal counsel explained that the data center project would still have been able to proceed. The PILOT provided certain tax incentives but was not authorization for construction or development of the project itself.

It was further explained that, had the Commission not supported the particular PILOT arrangement presented to it, the developer could potentially have pursued tax incentives through another available entity or mechanism. The PILOT considered by the Commission involved the Northwest Louisiana Finance Authority, but other entities may also have authority to provide similar incentives.

- Mr. Cothran recognized the work of the Volunteers for Youth Justice and nonprofit organizations that interact with young people through programs, backpack giveaways, and other community activities. He stated that many young people do not fully understand the consequences associated with certain behaviors and emphasized the importance of adults continuing to communicate those consequences. He encouraged the development of a more comprehensive mentorship program that would be available to any young person who wanted a mentor. He stated that young people benefit from having trusted adults outside of their immediate family with whom they can speak and seek guidance.

- Mr. J. Young asked Parish Attorney Donna Frazier whether a moratorium on data centers within the Parish's existing planning and zoning area—the area extending up to five miles outside the City of Shreveport—would require adoption by ordinance. Attorney Frazier confirmed that it would. He requested that Attorney Frazier draft an ordinance for the committee meeting.

He then asked about the for clarification regarding the PILOT previously considered by the Commission. Administrator Bryant explained that Resolution No. 48 of 2025 did not itself issue or approve the PILOT. Rather, the Commission recommended terms to the Northwest Louisiana Finance Authority, which was the entity responsible for issuing the PILOT. She further explained that there are other entities, including entities such as the Industrial Development Board and Port Authority, through which PILOT arrangements may potentially be pursued without necessarily requiring Commission approval. However, whenever an individual incentive is presented directly to the Commission, the Commission must consider that incentive separately. Approval of the previous terms did not create blanket approval for future data centers or other companies seeking incentives. The Commission was advised that the terms previously voted on by the Commission sunsetted on January 31, 2026. Therefore, those particular terms were no longer applicable, although the developer could potentially obtain additional incentives through another authorized mechanism.

Attorney Frazier also advised that the current Commission cannot bind itself or a future Commission in a manner that prevents Commissioners from exercising their voting authority on matters properly presented to them. Discussion followed regarding how that principle would affect a proposed moratorium on considering future PILOT agreements. Mr. J. Young requested that Attorney Frazier prepare a written memorandum explaining the legal limitations on a Commission binding itself or future Commissions, with the memorandum to be shared with all Commissioners.

- Mr. Atkins requested additional clarification regarding the tax structure associated with the PILOT. Administrator Bryant explained that state law provides certain sales-tax exemptions for data centers; however, under the negotiated arrangement, the data center would still pay a one-percent sales tax. She further explained that the PILOT terms considered by the Commission did not provide a 100-percent property-tax abatement. Certain percentages applied to immovable property over a four-year period, while movable property was treated differently. Consequently, the project would continue to generate some level of property-tax revenue. It was also clarified that Caddo Parish would receive the applicable sales-tax revenue from a data center located in the unincorporated Parish, such as the State Line Road project. The Parish would not receive the same sales-tax revenue from a project located within the City of Shreveport.

- Mrs. Blake requested clarification regarding the Parish's jurisdiction over the location of the State Line Road data center. Administration explained that, outside of the approximately five-mile planning and zoning area surrounding Shreveport, the Parish has not adopted a master plan or land-use regulations. Consequently, the Parish currently lacks the land-use regulatory framework necessary to regulate how private property is used in those areas. Administration noted that, should the Commission choose to pursue

land-use regulations, it could study options that regulate certain business or industrial uses while protecting residential property.

Mrs. Blake asked whether a moratorium directed toward a particular industry could legally be adopted if the Parish had appropriate planning and zoning regulations in place. Attorney Frazier explained that moratoriums may be used to allow time to study a particular land-use issue when an existing planning and zoning framework is in place and circumstances warrant further study. She noted that jurisdictions previously cited as having adopted data-center moratoriums have countywide or parishwide zoning ordinances, unlike Caddo Parish.

- Mr. Kracman asked for clarification regarding Resolution No. 53, stating that he had initially understood the proposed moratorium to concern tax incentives rather than development and expansion of data centers. Attorney Frazier explained that the resolution addressed more than tax incentives. The portion proposing an 18-month prohibition on data center development or expansion presented a land-use issue that could not be implemented by resolution and could not be implemented by ordinance in an area where the Parish lacks the necessary planning and zoning framework.

Attorney Frazier also noted that the Commission does not have authority to direct the Northwest Louisiana Finance Authority in the manner contemplated by portions of the resolution. Additionally, the Parish Charter restricts the Commission from directing or interfering with certain day-to-day administrative operations, including negotiations undertaken by the Administration. Administration may bring proposed incentives before the Commission, at which time Commissioners retain the authority to approve or reject them.

Mr. Kracman asked whether Parish Administration had participated in negotiating the previous PILOT terms. Administration indicated that it had not been involved in determining those terms, explaining that the Northwest Louisiana Finance Authority developed the proposal and sought the Commission's support for the terms being presented. Administration reiterated that rejection of the PILOT terms by the Commission would not have stopped construction of the data center. The developer could have continued the project without those particular incentives or sought another incentive mechanism through another authorized entity.

Mr. Kracman also requested a clear definition of a "hyperscale data center," noting that the terminology appeared to reference large companies such as Amazon and Google but that a specific definition would be helpful when considering legislation or policy concerning such facilities.

- Mrs. Blake reminded everyone that the Parish is under a burn ban.

She also thanked Mr. Cothran for assisting a person in the community. It was noted that Mr. Cothran did not know the individual personally but stopped to help her and provided his contact information in case she needed further assistance within the Parish. The incident was offered as an example of serving citizens without seeking recognition.

- Mr. Kracman reminded Legal of a previously submitted public records requests concerning permits associated with the State Line Road project, including questions regarding the types of permits issued and whether any special exceptions had been granted relating to matters such as noise or hours of operation. Administration was asked to follow up on the outstanding request.

He also addressed earlier statements suggesting that District 1 residents had been responsible for lobbying the Legislature regarding zoning restrictions in unincorporated Caddo Parish. He disputed that characterization and described traveling to Baton Rouge during the 2020 legislative session with citizens representing several Commission districts to advocate regarding House Bill 697/Act 294.

Mr. Kracman acknowledged the strong opinions both supporting and opposing data center development but stressed the importance of showing empathy and respect toward residents who are directly affected by construction and development activities. He expressed concern about the tone sometimes used when addressing residents and stated that citizens raising concerns should not automatically be characterized as opposing economic development.

As an example, he referenced complaints from residents regarding construction activity occurring as early as approximately 3:55 a.m., including the operation of heavy equipment on a school morning. He stated that residents are already experiencing significant disruption and encouraged the Commission to recognize those impacts rather than simply telling residents that nothing can be done.

Mr. Kracman also discussed the Bison family, which he stated has resided on its property for approximately 119 years and is now facing the construction of a facility estimated at two to three million square feet near the family's home. He stated that frustration from residents facing those circumstances was understandable and reiterated that the manner in which the Commission communicates with affected citizens is important.

He further stated that his concern was not based on taking a position for or against data centers but rather on the issue of transparency. He noted that concerns regarding transparency have been expressed by individuals representing a wide range of political viewpoints and stated that many citizens feel disrespected because they believe they were excluded from the conversation surrounding the project.

President G. Young responded that he did not believe Commissioners had spoken negatively or disrespectfully toward citizens. He stated that, conversely, members of the Commission had at times been subjected to disrespectful comments from individuals appearing before the body.

He also addressed the distinction between sympathy and empathy and stated that he could empathize with residents living near industrial or infrastructure developments because of his own experiences living near Calumet and railroad tracks. He reiterated that he understood the difficulties residents may experience when development occurs near their homes.

President G. Young stated that his frustration was not directed toward citizens expressing concerns but toward what he characterized as misinformation and incomplete information being provided regarding the issue. He expressed concern that some members of the Commission were contributing to division surrounding the matter and reiterated his respect for citizens who appear before the Commission.

With no additional Commissioners seeking recognition, President Young elected to forego the President's Report and proceeded to Old Business. There was no Old Business scheduled for consideration.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Lazarus**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that Ordinance No. 6639 of 2026, in relation to PZC Case No. 26-13-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 on the south side of Stagecoach Road approximately 500 feet west of Riding Club Lane, Caddo Parish, LA from R-A Rural Agricultural Zoning District to R-A Rural Agricultural, Small Planned Unit Development, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's Regular Session for introduction. Motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Burrell and J. Young being absent.

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Ordinance No. 6640 of 2026, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Public Works Fund and the Capital Outlay Fund to provide an appropriation to install a welcome sign on I-20 east bound, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's Regular Session for introduction.

Mr. Epperson spoke in support of the ordinance and discussed the importance of recognizing the area's significant military and veteran population. He noted that Bossier and Caddo Parishes have a veteran population of approximately 30,000 and referenced the substantial economic impact associated with veterans' compensation and pensions. He also talked about the significant military and veteran-related institutions affecting the region. He stated that welcome signage recognizing the area's military community would send a positive message and could help demonstrate that Caddo Parish values veterans and military personnel who live, work, and travel in the area.

Mrs. Gage-Watts expressed support for the ordinance, stating that she supported efforts to make Caddo Parish more attractive and welcoming.

At this time, Mr. Epperson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, and Lazarus (6). NAYS: Commissioners Cothran, Kracman, Thomas, and G. Young (4). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell and J. Young (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that Resolution No. 51 of 2026, a resolution authorizing the Parish Administrator to execute a memorandum of understanding between the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office, the City of Shreveport, the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and other parties concerning the development and implementation of the "Caddo Coordinated Response Model" and related domestic violence response collaboration, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's Regular Session for consideration.

Administrator Bryant explained that the Sheriff's Office was coordinating a collaborative community response to domestic violence and that the resolution would express the Commission's support and authorize the Parish Administrator to sign the Memorandum of Understanding.

Mrs. Gage-Watts expressed her support for efforts that encourage collaboration and coalition-building to address domestic violence within the community.

Mr. Atkins questioned whether a Commission resolution was actually necessary for the Parish Administrator to enter into discussions or execute such an agreement with the Sheriff's Office, noting the Administrator's existing authority. Administrator Bryant confirmed that she already possessed authority to execute a Memorandum of Understanding, but explained that the Sheriff's Office preferred to have a formal resolution of support from the Commission.

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts' motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Burrell and J. Young being absent.

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *that Resolution No. 52 of 2026, a resolution requesting data center developers to produce environmental impact studies considering the*

effects that their development and operation will have on residents of neighboring communities including Dawson Road and Stateline Road with focus on the impact to egress and ingress, construction impacts, operational impacts, and otherwise providing with respect thereto to; and Resolution No. 53 of 2026, a resolution declaring a two-year moratorium on new data center development and expansion in unincorporated Caddo Parish, establishing a Data Center Study Committee, addressing the PILOT framework adopted under Resolution 48 of 2025, and otherwise providing with respect thereto be englobed and remanded to the Special Projects Committee.

- Thomas: I do believe both of these include information that we have tried our best to relay to the citizens. What I'll do is I'll yield to the chair of the Special Projects Committee. I think we've done exhaustive discussions about the legalities that surround both of these. So I'll yield to the Special Projects chair if he'd like to speak.
- G. Young: All right. The chair recognizes Special Projects chair.
- Jones: I don't really have anything to say right now. Talk about it in the committee meeting, or we can hear from legal. Are we able to do this or not? Or we can talk about it in the committee meeting.

Substitute motion by Mr. J. Young, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *that Resolution No. 52 of 2026, a resolution requesting data center developers to produce environmental impact studies considering the effects that their development and operation will have on residents of neighboring communities including Dawson Road and Stateline Road with focus on the impact to egress and ingress, construction impacts, operational impacts, and otherwise providing with respect thereto to; and Resolution No. 53 of 2026, a resolution declaring a two-year moratorium on new data center development and expansion in unincorporated Caddo Parish, establishing a Data Center Study Committee, addressing the PILOT framework adopted under Resolution 48 of 2025, and otherwise providing with respect thereto be englobed and advanced with a Special Projects Committee meeting scheduled prior to Thursday's Regular Session.*

- J. Young: Yes, Mr. President. Thank you. We've all heard from a lot of citizens just now. They were unanimous in their support for these resolutions, and they were of every type of person, both ideologically and racially and demographically as far as age goes. The thing that unites them is that they are regular people who have been excluded from this process, the way many of us were excluded to a degree from this process by not having information. And that's what they want, and I think that they deserve it, and the only people who can give them an opportunity to get that is us. I regret not doing more to do that in the past, and I think that it is the appropriate thing for us to do now. We have a chance to correct course and move forward in a way that respects our democratic form of government, and I hope that everyone will support that. Thank you.
- G. Young: All right. Thank you for your remarks, Commissioner. The chair recognizes Commissioner Victor Thomas.
- Thomas: Thank you, Mr. President. I'll say this because I won't have to get back on the board and say this. I think that with the previous things that have appeared on our agenda, I think we had—and let me say this to the citizens as well—once again, because of our democratic process, the citizens in District 1 lobbied the state to make sure that there was no zoning in unincorporated areas. As of today, we do not have any applicable zoning laws for the unincorporated area of State Line Road. Once again, we have been explained by our legal that if we were to put in a moratorium, we stand and we face being sued for unprecedented amounts of money. If we can do something for the zoning in unincorporated areas—
- Once again, and I'll say this again, we are more than open to having a discussion with the citizens of District 1 because, once again, we have authority over the State Line Road data center. We are more than happy to put in some type of industrial zoning. We are not trying to zone citizens. We would not be trying to do anything like that, but we are willing to put in some type of industrial zoning in place in the unincorporated area. There's a process to do that. We will be more than open to doing that. With that process, the citizens of District 1 have expressed to us that they're not open to that. Once again, thank you, Mr. President. I don't know how many times it has to be reiterated or restated.
- G. Young: All right. Thank you, Commissioner.
- Kracman: Point of information, sir. It was not District 1 that lobbied the state. It was the whole of Caddo Parish that lobbied the state to change the rules. However, we don't have anything on the agenda that reflects—
- G. Young: What is your point of information, Commissioner?
- Kracman: All those comments were—
- G. Young: The point of information has to do with our rules. Now, if you wish to speak, Commissioner, what you have to do is get on the board and you'll be allotted time to speak on that.
- Kracman: I'm just giving—I'm asking a question. I'm asking a question of information.

G. Young: Commissioner, you have to give deference and be polite and show some civility with your colleagues. We have a process that allows you to speak. We have a process. Commissioner Epperson, you're being recognized.

Epperson: I'm in agreement with Commissioner John-Paul Young as far as us advancing these two resolutions. I think we've spoken enough in reference. We've heard from the citizens, which has been quite definitive and unified. I had the opportunity to visit the data center that's being located in Rapides Parish in Boyce, and the information and the way that I was received was second to none. I'd like to get the Clerk, if they would, to pass some of this information out and give the public some, too. These people didn't have any reservations, and the first part in their fact sheet, it says, "Transparency drives trust." Transparency drives trust. That's why we are here today, because initially we weren't transparent. And as Apostle Paul say, in all we do, get an understanding. Understanding. That's why we're here today, because we didn't go about this in the right way. We didn't start out with it by getting with the citizens, explain to them exactly what was what. That's why we're here today. We've been to committees, and I think we've discussed this enough. The citizens have spoken, and I'm in favor of advancing this to Thursday's agenda. Thank you.

G. Young: Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner John-Paul Young. Let's see. This will be your second time, so we're going to yield to Commissioner Ron Cothran.

Cothran: Thank you, Mr. President. My initial question was, can a moratorium be enacted via an ordinance? But the thing is, it's my understanding if we were to do that, we would be enacting a policy that we do not have in place at this particular time concerning what Commissioner Thomas shared a few minutes ago. So at this particular time, I guess the question is, where do we go from here? I know we have all this stuff out here right now. We have people losing their mind right now concerning different issues that are going on. But the most important thing is that, from a legal perspective, my question would be to legal: What could we do right now legally in reference to a moratorium and ordinance?

Attorney
Frazier: Commissioner, I think I've been over some of this a few times, but I think it's important to note that a moratorium cannot be enacted via resolution, per your Charter Section 3-11(C). A resolution does not have the force of law. So, you cannot enact a moratorium via a resolution. Via an ordinance, if you enact a moratorium on a particular type of land use in an area where you do not have a master plan and zoning ordinances, that is in violation of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 and Louisiana Revised Statutes 33. The path forward is to establish a master plan. You have a time frame for that. There may be some form of a moratorium that could be enacted while that study is taking place, but you've got to move forward with planning and zoning to be able to regulate what types of land use can go in that area.

Cothran: Thank you. I yield.

G. Young: Thank you. The chair recognizes Commissioner Stormy Gage-Watts.

Gage-Watts: Thank you, Mr. President. Hearing from our attorney about the status of this resolution and how we are moving forward, I just wanted to acknowledge that I do hear our taxpayers and their concerns, and I do want to acknowledge that we don't know everything about the data centers or its effects. I do believe in economic development, but I also know that this is a very fluid situation. And before we make any permanent decisions, per our legal advice of what I just heard, I want to ensure that we are making the best decisions based on the interests of our citizens here in Caddo Parish. I encourage each of you to join CaddoReady.org to receive updates about future committee meetings because this is not a closed-door process. It has always been open and transparent. So, please continue to show up and share your feedback as we do our part to protect the best interests of the citizens of Caddo Parish. And again, I want to say thank you to each of you for showing up today. Thank you, Mr. President.

G. Young: All right. Thank you for your remarks, Commissioner. The chair recognizes Commissioner Steffon Jones.

Call for the Question by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Cothran, Gage-Watts, Jones, Lazarus, and Thomas (7). NAYS: Commissioners Epperson, Kracman, G. Young, and J. Young (4). ABSENT: Commissioner Burrell (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. J. Young's substitute motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Epperson, Kracman, and J. Young (3). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Cothran, Gage-Watts, Jones, Lazarus, Thomas, and G. Young (8). ABSENT: Commissioner Burrell (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

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

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Jones, to englobe and move the following items to Thursday's Regular Session for consideration:

- *Special Resolution acknowledging Mr. Cornell White and Mr. Walter Pinkston*
- *Visit from Congressman Cleo Field's Regional Director Signora Thomas*

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts' motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Burrell and J. Young being absent.

COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Thomas reminded residents of District 3 of two neighborhood meetings scheduled for that evening. The Stoner Hill Neighborhood Association meeting was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. at Valencia Park, followed by the North Highlands Neighborhood Association meeting at 6:00 p.m. at the North Shreveport Branch Library.
- Mr. Cothran announced that a Job Corps commencement ceremony would be held Friday at 1:00 p.m.
- Mr. Jones congratulated Commissioner Ken Epperson on his appointment to a military and veterans-related council, recognizing Commissioner Epperson's longstanding support for veterans and expressing confidence that he would represent the Parish well. He also encouraged citizens to support local schools as football season begins.

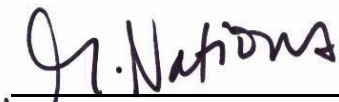
He asked residents, regardless of whether they have children participating, to attend local Friday night football games and support students. He emphasized that support should extend beyond the football players to include band members, cheerleaders, and other student groups that have spent the summer preparing for the season. Mr. Jones specifically encouraged District 6 residents to support Woodlawn and Southwood, noting the work those programs and their students have put into improving. He concluded by encouraging citizens throughout Caddo Parish to attend local school events and support the Parish's young people.

There were no Citizens Comments late arrivals.

CONSENT AGENDA

- *Ordinance No. 6638 of 2026, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund and the Oil & Gas Fund to provide an appropriation of \$10k for Volunteers of America and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 5:16 p.m.



Michelle Nations
Assistant Commission Clerk