

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 2nd DAY OF MARCH, 2026

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Special Session, on the above date, immediately following the Work Session, in the Government Chambers, with Mr. Greg Young, President, 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: Commissioner Epperson (1).

The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were given during a previous committee meeting. There were no Citizens Comments.

NEW BUSINESS

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

- *Resolution No. 16 of 2026, a resolution approving the holding of an election in North Caddo Hospital Service District on Saturday, June 27, 2026, to authorize the continuation of a levy and collection of a 5.0 mill property tax therein*
- *Special Resolution of Remembrance Margaret Shehee*
- *Special Resolution commemorating Women's Month*
- *Special Resolution commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Order of Eastern Star-Ruth Chapter 57*
- *Regular Session Minutes from February 19, 2026*

At this time, Mr. J. Young's motion to englobo and advance carried unanimously with Commissioner Epperson being absent (1).

RESOLUTION NO. 16 OF 2026

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE HOLDING OF AN ELECTION IN NORTH CADDO HOSPITAL SERVICE DISTRICT ON SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2026, TO AUTHORIZE THE CONTINUATION OF A LEVY AND COLLECTION OF A 5.0 MILL PROPERTY TAX THEREIN;

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of North Caddo Hospital Service District (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of North Caddo Hospital Service District (the "District") and doing business as North Caddo Medical Center, adopted a resolution on February 24, 2026, calling a special election in the District on Saturday, June 27, 2026, to authorize the continuation of a levy and collection of a 5.0 mill property tax therein; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Authority of the District has requested that the Caddo Parish Commission, acting as the governing authority of the Parish of Caddo, State of Louisiana, give its consent and authority for the District to hold the aforesaid election, and in the event that the election carries to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein; and

WHEREAS, as required by Article VI, Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, it is now the desire of the Caddo Parish Commission to approve the holding of said election and in the event that the election carries, to authorize the District to continue to levy and collect the 5.0 mill property tax therein;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission, acting as the governing authority of said Parish, that:

SECTION 1. In compliance with the provisions of Article VI, Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, and in accordance with the request of the Board of Commissioners of North Caddo Hospital Service District, the Caddo Parish Commission hereby approves the holding of an election in the District, on Saturday, June 27, 2026, at which election there will be submitted the following proposition, to-wit:

AMBULANCE SERVICE PROPERTY TAX PROPOSITION
(MILLAGE RENEWAL)

Shall North Caddo Hospital Service District under the provisions of Article VI, Section 30 and 32 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 and other constitutional and statutory authority supplemental thereto, be authorized to renew and continue to levy and collect, and adopt an ordinance providing for such levy and collection, a tax of 5.0 mill on all property subject to taxation within the District, the estimated amount reasonably expected to be collected from the levy of the tax for one entire year at the time of proposal is \$464,444.62, commencing with the year 2027 and continuing for a maximum of ten (10) years with the avails or proceeds of the Tax (after first paying the reasonable and necessary costs and expenses of collecting and administering the tax) to be dedicated and used for the purpose of continuing, maintaining and operating an emergency ambulance service for the residents of the North Caddo Hospital Service District, said ambulance service to be operated under the authority of the North Caddo Medical Center, and for maintaining, operating and improving the operating base of the North Caddo Hospital Service District Emergency Ambulance Service located at North Caddo Medical Center?

SECTION 2. In the event the election carries, the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby further consent to and authorize the District to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Gage-Watts, Jones, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (11).

NAYS: None (0).

ABSENT: Epperson (1).

And the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 2nd day of March, 2026.

/s/ Jeff Everson
Clerk

/s/ Greg Young
President

SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF REMEMBRANCE MARGARET SHEHEE

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Margaret Scott Shehee Cole, a beloved native daughter, respected business leader, devoted philanthropist, and steadfast community servant, who departed this life on February 22, 2026, at the age of 64 in Shreveport, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Margaret was born on May 12, 1961, in Shreveport, Louisiana, and was raised in a family dedicated to community involvement and civic leadership; she was the daughter of William Peyton Shehee and the late Virginia Kilpatrick Shehee, a trailblazing businesswoman and public servant whose own legacy helped shape the culture of service in Northwest Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Margaret exemplified a life of service both personally and professionally; as Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer of Kilpatrick Life Insurance Company and Kilpatrick's Rose-Neath Funeral Home, Crematorium and Cemeteries, Inc., she approached her work with integrity, compassion, and a commitment to the dignity of every life she served; and

WHEREAS, throughout her lifetime, Margaret offered gentle guidance and comfort to grieving families, providing a calm hand and gracious presence during life's most difficult moments — a testament to her generous spirit and deep care for the citizens of Northwest Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Margaret's community involvement extended far beyond her business leadership; she dedicated decades of service to the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana, helping to secure vital donations and support for families in need, and she worked closely with the Louisiana State Police, including serving as Troop G Area Director with the Louisiana Trooper Foundation and as a founding member of Shoot for the Blue, an annual fundraiser supporting state law enforcement; she worked tirelessly to expand travel options to and from Caddo as a member of the Airport Authority, and advocated for our community at every level of government, and

WHEREAS, Margaret's life of service earned her notable recognition, including the Louisiana State Police Colonel Superintendent's Award (posthumously) — a reflection of the respect and admiration she earned among law enforcement and public safety professionals; and

WHEREAS, Margaret also nurtured a life rich in personal friendships, family devotion, and joyful pursuits — from her animated wit and generosity toward friends and godchildren, to her love of travel (especially Paris), indulgence in her favorite burgundy grape lcee with a splash of Coca-Cola, fellowship

with loved ones, and the simple pleasures of life such as needlepoint and tea; and

WHEREAS, Margaret's passing has been met with an outpouring of support and admiration from the community she served so faithfully, reflecting the profound impact she had on the lives of so many in Caddo Parish and beyond; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission pauses in solemn remembrance to honor the memory of Margaret Scott Shehee Cole, recognizing her unwavering commitment to her community, her leadership in business and philanthropic endeavors, and her legacy of compassion and service which will long endure as a blessing to the people of Caddo Parish; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this memorial resolution be made a part of the official minutes of the Caddo Parish Commission and that a copy be presented to her family as a token of the Commission's deepest sympathy, respect, and gratitude for her life of exceptional service to others.

PROCLAMATION WOMEN'S MONTH

WHEREAS, American women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways; and

WHEREAS, American women have played and continue to play a critical economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of the life of the Nation by constituting a significant portion of the labor force working inside and outside the home; and

WHEREAS, American women have played a unique role throughout the history of the Nation by providing the majority of the nation's volunteer labor force; and

WHEREAS, American women were particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions in our Nation; and

WHEREAS, despite these contributions, the role of the American women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued in the literature, teaching and study of American history; and

WHEREAS, women across the globe face similar obstacles and biases and have come together to encourage a diverse, equitable and inclusive world by celebrating the achievements of women, raising awareness of bias, and acting for equality; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal and regular session this 2nd day of March, 2026 that it does hereby proclaim March, 2026 as:

'NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH'

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby proclaim March 8th, 2026 as:

'INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY'

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and urges all citizens to join with the Parish to celebrate the recognitions of these important occasions.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR-RUTH CHAPTER 57'S 80TH ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, **Order of the Eastern Star Ruth Chapter No. 57** is a fraternal organization dedicated to the principles of charitable service, truth, loving kindness, faith, fidelity, and service; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Chapter No. 57 was officially established on **March 28, 1946**, and has since maintained a proud and enduring presence in the City of Shreveport and throughout Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, for nearly eight decades, Ruth Chapter No. 57 has faithfully served the community through meaningful charitable outreach, volunteerism, educational support, and programs that uplift families and individuals; and

WHEREAS, the Chapter's community initiatives include, but are not limited to, participation in **Paint Your Heart Out**, the **Alzheimer's Walk**, and the provision of **Thanksgiving and Christmas community dinners**, demonstrating compassion and commitment to meeting the needs of the most vulnerable citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Chapter's long-standing commitment to service and community improvement reflects the highest ideals of civic responsibility and contributes positively to the quality of life for all citizens of Caddo Parish;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, that it does hereby proclaim March 28, 2026 as:

Order of the Eastern Star – Ruth Chapter No. 57 Day

in Caddo Parish, and encourages all citizens to join in celebrating this significant milestone and the Chapter for its historic legacy, unwavering service, and lasting impact upon the community anchored in their commitment to service, unity, and compassion.

It was **moved by Mr. J. Young**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *that Resolution No. 17 of 2026, a resolution of support for House Bill 219 of 2026 Louisiana Regular Session regarding post-conviction relief for those convicted by non-unanimous jury verdicts, and otherwise providing with respect thereto be adopted*

Mr. Atkins stated that he was not taking a position either in favor or against the issue, but did not feel sufficiently informed to vote. He indicated that he would prefer to review comprehensive data, hear all perspectives, and be fully educated on the matter before taking action. He further noted that while the Commission occasionally forwards noncontroversial items without extensive debate, he believed this matter warranted deeper review and, therefore, he preferred not to support forwarding it at this time.

Mr. Jones stated that constructive conversation is a necessary part of the Commission's deliberative process. He emphasized that Commissioners may not always agree, but each member has the responsibility to vote according to their convictions and conscience. He noted that not every vote will be unanimous and that differing positions do not reflect negatively on any individual Commissioner.

Mr. Burrell noted that this matter has longstanding implications and has disproportionately affected communities of color. Remarks were made emphasizing that facts and historical context should inform the Commission's consideration of the resolution.

Call for the Question by Mr. Lazarus. Motion carried by acclamation.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 17 OF 2026

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 219 of 2026 LOUISIANA REGULAR SESSION REGARDING POST-CONVICTION RELIEF FOR THOSE CONVICTED BY NON-UNANIMOUS JURY VERDICTS, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana allowed felony convictions by non-unanimous jury verdicts until the United States Supreme Court declared the practice unconstitutional in 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court decision in *Ramos v. Louisiana* left it to the states to decide whether that decision would be applied retroactively; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has not yet allowed, non-unanimous jury verdicts to be reconsidered retroactively, thus, allowing persons unconstitutionally convicted to remain imprisoned without recourse; and

WHEREAS, non-unanimous jury verdicts have disproportionately affected African-Americans; and

WHEREAS, HB 219 proposes to give the unconstitutionally convicted in Louisiana the means to pursue new trials.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby support the passage of HB 219 of 2026, which provides post-conviction relief to those in Louisiana who were unconstitutionally convicted by non-unanimous juries.

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

passage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution will be forwarded to the Speaker of the Louisiana House, the President of the Louisiana Senate, the Caddo Parish legislative delegation and Governor Jeff Landry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED 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 this resolution are hereby declared severable.

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

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

MEMBERS:	YEAS:	NAYS:	ABSENT:	ABSTAIN:
Chris Kracman	_____	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Greg Young	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____
Victor Thomas	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____
John-Paul Young	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____
Roy A. Burrell	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____
Steffon D. Jones	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____
Stormy Gage-Watts	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____
Grace Anne Blake	_____	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
John E. Atkins	_____	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Ron Cothran	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____
Ed Lazarus	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____
Ken Epperson, Sr.	_____	_____	<u>X</u>	_____

And the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 5th day of March, 2026.

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 5:12 p.m.



Michelle Nations
Assistant Commission Clerk