

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 6th DAY OF APRIL, 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).

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

AGENDA ADDITIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *to expand the agenda and add the following items under New Business:*

- *Advance a Special Resolution of Remembrance for Shreveport City Marshall's Assistant Chief Deputy Kirby Dawson*
- *Advance Resolution No. 29 of 2026, a resolution authorizing the execution of a cooperative endeavor agreement for disbursement of funds from the Parish of Caddo Economic Development Trust Fund, with the I-49 North Corridor Economic Development District, State of Louisiana and Edgemont Holdings, LLC (the "company") relative to reimbursement to the company for infrastructure improvements for the Travel Center Project located in the southwest quadrant of the Interstate 49/La. Hwy. 2 Interchange, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*

The President opened the floor for anyone to speak for or against the agenda additions. There was no one to speak, so the President closed the public hearing.

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Elizabeth Woolbert came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Thank you. My name is Elizabeth Woolbert. My address is 4330 Greenwood Road in Shreveport, Louisiana, 71109. Sorry, this is new for me, so I'm not sure if it's appropriate to address everyone at once or Mr. Kracman directly, but my reason for being here has primarily to do with your Facebook post from yesterday. I understand it was a religious holiday that has enormous significance to believers in Christianity. I also know that I'm a resident of Caddo Parish. I'm a secular humanist. I am the daughter of a Catholic who is the son of a Catholic and a Jew. I am sister-in-law to Muslims. I work for a Hindu family. And I found it disconcerting that the Easter message, which was, I felt, insulting toward Islam, Hinduism, Confucianism, and Buddhism all in one tight little post, came from your official Facebook page as a representative of Caddo Parish. And it struck me as highly inappropriate and as a violation of church-state separation, which is a value that is extremely important to me, because I, while not a religious believer and while I've never suffered marginalization or persecution of any kind based on my religious belief, my family have, my friends have. And to me, if you are an elected official in what is ostensibly a secular, democratic, pluralistic, multicultural society, that sort of sentiment would be best reserved for your personal Facebook page. And I don't know how the social media of elected officials works. I don't know if it's an account like, you know, the POTUS Twitter or Facebook, I'm sure you know changes hands as new presidents are elected, I don't know if it works anything like that at this level. Regardless, the page is the one that identifies you as a representative of all of Caddo Parish, which does not only include Christians. It includes people of many different faiths or no faith at all. And I'm curious if you have anything to say about that in retrospect, or if other members of the Commission have the opportunity to comment on it, or if this is something we can say will be either prohibited or strongly discouraged in the future.

David Hackney came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good afternoon, everybody, my name is Dave Hackney. I'm a Shreveport resident, 9660 Railsback Ridge. I'm speaking today, reluctantly, in support of Resolution 27 by President Greg Young. And I say reluctantly, because I think there needs to be some changes made at the port. I just happen to think that the legislation that's being proposed in Baton Rouge isn't the fix. And let me explain. So, the Caddo-Bossier Port is funded by taxpayers of Caddo and Bossier Parish. So those folks, us, all of you, should have a say in the running of the port. I don't think sending the question down to Baton Rouge for the entire Senate to approve commissioners is a workable solution. So, your resolution opposing that legislation, I support. Now, some of the things concerning about the port that not the average citizen knows is that the port area is the entire Caddo and Bossier Parish. It's not just that little corner down in southeast Caddo Parish. In the legislation creating the port and the port commission, it says the commission shall regulate the commerce and traffic within the port area in such a matter as may, in its judgment, be the best interest of the state, of the state. So, when they're evaluating a project or bringing something in, it's got to

be good for the state, which doesn't necessarily mean it's good for the Parish. And, Mrs. Bryant, you're a commissioner at the port, and I have the utmost respect for you, and I've gotten to know you a little bit, I've gone to a lot of port meetings over the last three years. I don't know how you, as the Caddo Parish Administrator, which, in a very broad sense, your job is to do the best thing for Caddo Parish, and balancing that with sitting down at the port and making a decision for the best of the state, because they're two different things. I had an opinion column I sent to the clerk earlier today a link to that column, and if you don't have a subscription to the Advocate I sent a PDF file. I'd encourage you to read it and this topic will have more discussion. Thank you. And I really wish you two guys would take your hats off inside the building. I think that's very disrespectful.

Bobbie Flowers came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Praise the Lord, brothers and sisters. Thank you all for having us be able to come and express ourselves, and thank you all for the wonderful things that you do for the Parish. I'm sorry, Bobbie Flowers, PO Box 438, Greenwood, Louisiana, 71033. I'm here representing the Hidden Talent Theater. I got carried away wanting to thank you all first. Didn't mean to be absent-minded, though I am. I have a perfect memory, though. Anyway, my interest of being here today is I'm interested in the Caddo Parish Rising Star that you all have, and I'm interested in that because I'm in theater and I do believe that engaging young people in positive activity like entertainment because that's one of their favorite things. They like to look at it on TV, they like to engage in it in video games, and acting, and singing, and rapping, and all of that. I think positive entertainment, that's a good vehicle that you all have put together, that talent show, because I believe that it will be a redeeming positive engagement for them to be involved in. I would like to be a part of that, either as a board member, if you all have a board, as I do produce plays. I do make films. I have won the New York Film Festival, not won, but one of my films was in the New York Festival, and I was invited to take it to Cannes. So, I've done some film as well as stage plays, and the stage plays that I've done have been plays that are redeeming messages to our young people, who are what we need to invest out time in, because they are our future. And I think what you all have together here with that Rising Star Caddo Parish thing that you have there, I think that is very, very interesting. I think that's about all that I wanted to say. And thank you all for allowing me to speak.

Al Moore came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Al Moore, 3711 Crestview Drive, Shreveport, Louisiana, 71119. I wanted to just come down and personally thank the Caddo Parish Commission for continuing to support Christian Service. Just think about it, you can't do anything hungry. And in the few past years, y'all have supported us to help continue to feed the needy in our community. Year-to-date, right now, we're at 23,646 meals from January 1st to March 31st. And with y'all's support, we continue to do that. And that's what I wanted to personally come down and say. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

There were no Visitors.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- Caddo's Rising Star update

Updates were provided on the Caddo Rising Star program, noting continued participation and upcoming qualifying rounds.

- Student Commissioners for A Day

Administrator Bryant provided details regarding the upcoming "Commissioner for a Day" program scheduled for April 23. Commissioners were instructed to submit student participants to the Clerk's Office, with planned activities including departmental engagement, lunch, and participation in the regular commission meeting.

- Juvenile Detention Center census

Administrator Bryant said that there are 11 children in the Detention Center, 4 of which are OJJ. There are no 17 year olds. There are 389 children on probation. Seventeen juveniles are at CCC.

- Employee Pin Ceremony

Administrator Bryant also announced that the Employee Pin Ceremony would be held May 1 at the Walter B. Jacobs Nature Center.

- Love the Boot Week—April 20 – April 24

Commissioners were informed that Love the Boot Week would take place April 20–24, with parish participation encouraged.

COMMISSION REMARKS

- Mr. Burrell requested that Public Works investigate a proposed development near Lakeshore Drive, expressing concerns about traffic impacts and coordination with the City of Shreveport.

Public Works agreed to follow up and report back.

- Mr. Jones reported on a Special Projects Committee meeting focused on parish beautification, pedestrian safety, and blight, noting that discussions would continue in a future meeting.

He recognized Woodlawn High School's choir for its successful inaugural gospel concert and commended increased community support for youth programs, emphasizing the importance of arts as an alternative pathway for student achievement.

- Mr. Epperson announced an upcoming community cleanup event and expressed appreciation for ongoing drainage and infrastructure improvements in his district.

He also commended community member Bobby Flowers for her longstanding contributions to youth engagement through theater and encouraged her involvement in parish programs. He also emphasized the importance of disaster preparedness, noting that the parish's Disaster Response Book would be updated and encouraging residents to utilize available resources.

- Mrs. Blake shared a personal account highlighting community responsibility in addressing litter and encouraged residents to take initiative in maintaining parish cleanliness. She concluded her remarks by encouraging citizens to take personal responsibility in maintaining community cleanliness, emphasizing that small individual efforts can significantly improve parish beautification. She also promoted participation in Love the Boot Week as an opportunity for community engagement.

She also highlighted the accomplishments of Shreveport native Jeremy Plater, who contributed to NASA's Artemis II mission, recognizing his role in a historic achievement.

- Mr. Cothran provided a report from the Public Safety Committee meeting, noting a detailed discussion with the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office regarding a proposed home incarceration program aimed at reducing costs and improving safety at the Caddo Correctional Center. He stated that the program has already been in place and proven successful, and clarified that it does not involve violent offenders. Additional discussion included efforts to align parish and city alcohol beverage permitting processes for consistency.

He also announced upcoming community meetings in the Southern Hills and Cedar Grove areas to encourage neighborhood engagement.

- Mr. Atkins announced an upcoming Audit and Finance Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday at 2:30 p.m. to review the internal audit plan. He explained that the request to advance approval of the plan on the current agenda was procedural, with detailed discussion to occur during the committee meeting and subsequent commission meeting.

- Mr. Thomas shared several community announcements, including the upcoming Bug Bazaar at Sci-Port Discovery Center on April 11, encouraging families to attend. He also highlighted recent developments at Sci-Port, including the unveiling of a new batting and pitching cage sponsored by community partners. He congratulated Booker T. Washington High School's concert choir for earning a sweepstakes trophy at a recent competition and recognized local artist EJ Fields for achieving a number one ranking on Billboard's gospel chart. Additionally, he encouraged residents to support local chef Niema DeGrazia by watching her appearance on the Food Network program Chopped.

- Mr. J. Young reported on a Juvenile Justice Committee meeting held earlier in the day, during which Resolution 24 of 2026 was discussed. The resolution opposes proposed state legislation (House Bill 140) concerning time limitations for juvenile delinquency proceedings. He reported that the Juvenile Justice Committee voted unanimously (5–0) to support Resolution 24 of 2026, which opposes proposed state legislation extending time limits for juvenile delinquency proceedings. He expressed concern that such extensions could contribute to overcrowding at the Caddo Correctional Center and delay juveniles' constitutional right to a speedy trial. Mr. J. Young also highlighted the success of the parish's animal control efforts, noting the capture and removal of wild hogs that had posed safety concerns. He shared that processed meat from the animals had been donated to local organizations, including Christian Service, contributing to community food efforts.

- Mrs. Gage-Watts announced that the Economic Development Committee would meet on April 9 at 12:30 p.m.

- Mr. Kracman raised concerns regarding audio quality during committee meeting broadcasts and invited the public to attend weekly Blanchard Warriors special needs baseball games, emphasizing community involvement and support for youth with special needs. He also addressed prior public comments regarding his social media post, reiterating his personal beliefs and representing the views of his constituents.

- Mr. Burrell informed the public that the Red Shield Youth Center had reopened and would offer summer programming, noting continued parish support for the facility and its services to youth across the community.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President G. Young encouraged commissioners and residents to promote participation in the Caddo Rising Star program, emphasizing the importance of supporting local talent and community engagement.

He also clarified for the record that individual commissioners' social media accounts are personal and not official government pages of Caddo Parish, noting that only parish-managed pages, such as those operated by parish departments, constitute official communication channels.

There was no Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded Mr. Jones, *that Ordinance No. 6613 of 2026, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Public Works Fund and the Capital Outlay Fund to provide an appropriation to install welcome signs on I-20 east bound and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, Lazarus, Thomas, and J. Young (9). NAYS: Commissioners Kracman and G. Young (2). ABSENT: Commissioner Cothran (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mr. J. Young, *to englobo and move the following items to Thursday's agenda:*

- *Ordinance No. 6614 of 2026, Zoning Case PZC 25-5-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 west side of Wallace Lake Road, approximately 1,415 feet north of Mayo Road, Caddo Parish, LA, from R-E, Residential Estate Zoning District to C-1, Neighborhood Commercial Zoning District and I-1, Light Industrial Zoning District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6615 of 2026, Zoning Case PZC 26-6-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 west side of Box Road, approximately 1,700 feet south of Mt. Zion Road, Caddo Parish, LA, from C-4 Heavy Commercial Zoning District to I-2, Heavy Industrial Zoning District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6616 of 2026, an ordinance declaring certain adjudicated properties to be surplus and to authorize the Parish Administrator, or a designee, to sell the Parish of Caddo's tax interest in certain surplus adjudicated properties and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 21 of 2026, a resolution to authorize the acceptance of The Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire*
- *Resolution No. 22 of 2026, a resolution supporting House Bill 73 and Senate Bill 1 of the 2026 Regular Legislative Session of the Louisiana Legislature relating to electronic method of voting for members of public bodies and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 23 of 2026, a resolution supporting House Bill 193 of the 2026 Regular Legislative Session of the Louisiana Legislature providing that executive directors of certain Louisiana Sickle Cell Disease Organizations are members of the Louisiana Sickle Cell Commission, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 24 of 2026, a resolution opposing House Bill 140 of the 2026 Regular Legislative Session of the Louisiana Legislature relating to time limitations for juvenile delinquency proceedings and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 25 of 2026, a resolution opposing house bill 340 of the 2026 Regular Legislative Session of the Louisiana Legislature relating to time of reappraisal of property for ad valorem tax purposes, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 26 of 2026, a resolution opposing house bill 737 of the 2026 Regular Legislative Session of the Louisiana Legislature removing the requirement for submission of evidence of immunization against Meningococcal Disease as a condition of school entry, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition for the AmeriCorps Southern University Foster*

- *Grandparent's Senior Volunteer Program*
- *Special Resolution Recognizing Parish/County Government Month*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition for Mr. Dother Sykes*
- *Special Resolution for Autism Awareness Month*
- *Special Resolution Recognizing Dr. Alexander Mikaberidze as LSU-Shreveport's first Boyd Professor.*
- *Special Resolution for Caddo Day at State Capitol*
- *Advance Approval of Internal Audit Plan*
- *Special Resolution of Remembrance for Shreveport City Marshall's Assistant Chief Deputy Kirby Dawson*

At this time, Mr. Jones' motion carried unanimously by all Commissioners.

It was **moved by Mr. J. Young**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that Ordinance No. 6617 of 2026, an ordinance amending and re-enacting Chapter 32, Article VI, of the Caddo Parish Code of Ordinances, repealing Section 32-52 and Section 34-22 of the Code of the Caddo Parish Code of Ordinances, and otherwise providing with respect thereto be remanded to the Special Projects Committee.* Motion carried unanimously by all Commissioners.

It was **moved by Mr. J. Young**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that Ordinance No. 6618 of 2026, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Capital Outlay Fund and the Oil & Gas Fund in the amount of \$2,800,000 to provide an appropriation for law enforcement equipment to support the Shreveport Police Department through the purchase of up to 40 take home police vehicles and enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement for their use and other matters pertaining thereto be remanded to the Public Safety Committee.*

Mrs. Blake expressed opposition to the referral, stating that the City of Shreveport was already in the process of purchasing approximately 60 police vehicles, including take-home units, and questioned the necessity of further parish involvement at this time.

In response, Mr. J. Young noted that the total number of vehicles needed may exceed those currently being procured by the city and stated that discussions with a city councilmember and law enforcement personnel indicated a higher overall need. He further explained that the intent was to explore additional support similar to prior parish actions.

Concerns were raised regarding the lack of direct communication with the Police Chief and the absence of formal requests or documentation from the department. It was also suggested that the matter may be more appropriately handled at the committee level prior to being placed on the agenda, to allow for more thorough vetting.

Mrs. Blake emphasized concerns about the timing of the discussion, noting that the issue could become politicized, particularly in the context of an ongoing mayoral election, and that it involved matters already being addressed by the city.

President G. Young reminded commissioners to direct comments through the chair to maintain order and decorum.

In response, it was clarified that by Mr. J. Young that the Commission bylaws permit members to place items on the agenda, with the expectation that appropriate items may then be referred to committee for further discussion.

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

It was **moved by Mr. J. Young**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *that Resolution No. 28 of 2026, a resolution urging and requesting the Louisiana State Legislature and Louisiana Governor to enact legislation exempting state and local law enforcement officers and first responders from Louisiana State Income Tax be remanded to the Public Safety Committee.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (9). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, and Cothran (3). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Resolution No. 29 of 2026, a resolution authorizing the execution of a cooperative endeavor agreement for disbursement of*

funds from the Parish of Caddo Economic Development Trust Fund, with the I-49 North Corridor Economic Development District, State of Louisiana and Edgemont Holdings, LLC (the "company") relative to reimbursement to the company for infrastructure improvements for the Travel Center Project located in the southwest quadrant of the Interstate 49/La. Hwy. 2 Interchange, and otherwise providing with respect thereto be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration. 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 Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *I-49 North Corridor Economic Development District Resolution No. 1 of 2026, a resolution authorizing the execution of a cooperative endeavor agreement for disbursement of funds from the Parish of Caddo Economic Development Trust Fund, with the I-49 North Corridor Economic Development District, State of Louisiana and Edgemont Holdings, LLC (the "company") relative to reimbursement to the company for infrastructure improvements for the Travel Center Project located in the southwest quadrant of the Interstate 49/La. Hwy. 2 Interchange, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration. 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).

CONSENT AGENDA

- *Ordinance No. 6609 of 2026, in regards to Zoning Case 25-28-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 west side of Akinson Drive, approximately, 1,440 feet south of West 70th Street, Caddo Parish, Louisiana., from I-2 Heavy Industrial Zoning to I-2 Heavy Industrial Zoning (SPUD) and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6610 of 2026, in regards to Zoning Case 25-29-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 north side of Southern Loop, approximately 1,050 feet east of Wallace Lake Road Caddo Parish, Louisiana, from C-2 Corridor Commercial (PUD) Zoning District to C-3 General Commercial Zoning District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6611 of 2026, an ordinance to deem property surplus and authorize the sale of surplus property owned by the Parish of Caddo and to otherwise provide with respect thereto.*
- *Ordinance No. 6612 of 2026, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund to provide an appropriation of \$32,500 for the Louisiana Rouxgaroux Football Team, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

There were no Communiqués nor Citizens Comments (late arrivals). At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 5:00 p.m.



Michelle Nations
Assistant Commission Clerk