

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 23rd DAY OF APRIL, 2025

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

Mr. Maddox Nations gave the invocation, and Ms. Kimberly Harris led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ADDITIONS

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *to expand the agenda and add the following items:*

- *Add United Way Executive Director LaToria Thomas as a visitor with her presentation on Financial Literacy Month*
- *Resolution No. 32 of 2026, expressing support for HB 997 and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 33 of 2026, resolution requesting an exemption from the provisions of HB 746 as they apply to our parish's Commercial Vehicle Program and otherwise providing with respect thereto*

Commission Clerk, Mr. Jeff Everson, noted that that one item contained a typographical error that would need correction if adopted. He clarified that Resolution No. 32 incorrectly referenced House Bill 799 in the printed document and should instead reference House Bill 997. Additional clarification was provided regarding House Bill 997, explaining that the legislation would allow parish and local governments to utilize official websites as a means of satisfying public notice publication requirements, particularly in areas where print media outlets are limited. The Parish Attorney concurred with this interpretation.

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

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Connie Williamson came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Connie Williamson, 4894 Dixie Garden Loop in Shreveport. I'm here to talk about data centers. I know that's not on your agenda, but I wanted to say that if y'all want to know what it's like to be next to a data center, just a few blocks from here is the old Selber building. And I was by there the other day, and the noise coming from there was so loud you couldn't hear the person next to you talking. So, you want to experience what it'll be like. That's a tier three, I think. And the one they're building is going to be a tier four. The data centers will affect everyone in Northwest Louisiana. Our electric bills, water, and health. In April of 2026, 142 groups across 24 states have delayed or killed data centers. Why? Rising utility bills and/or outages, noise, air, and water pollution. Our elected officials are giving data centers 25 years exemption on their taxes. They're signing NDAs, showing direct disregard for the will of the people. By December of 2029, the data center is targeted for 50 jobs. No benefits to the area, 25 years tax exemption, money away from schools, libraries, streets, and only 50 jobs. I would like to know how many of our Commissioners have signed NDAs, I mean, I'm not sure they can even admit to that, and what your stance is on data centers. And since we already know what the mayor and the city council feel about that, I would like to start with my own Commissioner, Mr. John-Paul Young, and since he is running for mayor, how he feels about the data centers.

VISITORS

- United Way
Executive Director, LaToria Thomas

Ms. Latoria "Tori" Thomas, President and CEO of United Way of Northwest Louisiana, appeared before the Commission as a scheduled visitor and began her presentation in recognition of Financial Literacy Month. She expressed appreciation to the Commission for the opportunity to present and noted that, while recent events required minor adjustments to her remarks, she would proceed with the originally submitted materials.

Ms. Thomas provided an overview of United Way's newly launched Financial Security Center, which offers free, one-on-one financial coaching and counseling services. She explained that the

program, previously limited to the City of Shreveport, has now expanded to serve all ten parishes within United Way's regional footprint. Additionally, United Way has begun implementing a "Financial Wellness at Work" initiative, partnering with local employers to bring financial coaching services directly into the workplace to better accommodate employees' schedules.

A central focus of the presentation was the ALICE population—an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed—representing individuals who are employed but do not earn sufficient income to meet basic living expenses. Ms. Thomas emphasized that this population often falls outside eligibility for traditional assistance programs despite experiencing significant financial strain. She further highlighted regional data indicating that poverty rates in Northwest Louisiana are increasing while the ALICE population is decreasing, signaling a concerning economic trend in which more households are falling below the poverty threshold.

Ms. Thomas discussed the financial realities facing working families, noting that a household of four in Louisiana requires approximately \$80,000 annually to meet basic needs, while many common occupations yield significantly lower combined incomes. She illustrated the gap between income and expenses, emphasizing the absence of discretionary spending or savings within typical household budgets.

The presentation also detailed United Way's programmatic efforts across several focus areas, including youth opportunity, financial security, and community health. Initiatives highlighted included the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which distributes thousands of books monthly to young children, targeted school partnerships to improve kindergarten readiness, and school supply support for Title I educators. Financial programs include second-chance banking partnerships, debt reduction counseling, budgeting assistance, and tax preparation services.

Ms. Thomas reported measurable outcomes from these efforts, including over \$3 million in reduced consumer debt, approximately \$2.5 million in prescription cost savings, and the opening of thousands of second-chance bank accounts. She emphasized that these successes are achieved through financial education, coaching, and negotiation strategies rather than direct payment of debts.

In addition to standard programming, Ms. Thomas addressed recent community concerns following a local tragedy, noting that financial instability was identified as one contributing factor. She emphasized the importance of connecting residents to available mental health and crisis resources. She highlighted United Way's 2-1-1 service as a key access point for community support and noted coordination with the national 988 crisis line for mental health emergencies. She further announced the launch of a disaster relief initiative to support vulnerable populations, including efforts to provide safety resources for domestic violence victims.

Following the presentation, Commissioners engaged in discussion and posed questions. Mr. Atkins inquired about the reported \$3 million in debt reduction, and Ms. Thomas clarified that the figure reflects a combination of negotiated debt reductions and successful repayment by program participants, rather than direct financial assistance. She also noted that some individuals benefit from student loan forgiveness through guidance provided by United Way counselors.

Mr. Burrell raised concerns regarding predatory lending practices, particularly payday loans and high-interest credit products. Ms. Thomas acknowledged the challenges posed by these financial instruments and explained that United Way prioritizes helping individuals exit payday lending cycles. She also highlighted partnerships with local financial institutions offering low-interest, small-dollar loan alternatives designed to reduce reliance on high-cost lenders.

Additional discussion addressed workforce financial behaviors, including the use of retirement funds. Ms. Thomas shared data from a local employer indicating a higher rate of 401(k) withdrawals among Shreveport-based employees compared to other regions, underscoring the need for increased financial literacy and planning support.

Commissioners expressed appreciation for United Way's work and its impact on the community. Several Commissioners specifically commended the effectiveness of the 2-1-1 program as a critical resource for residents in need. Mrs. Gage-Watts reaffirmed ongoing support for United Way's initiatives, emphasizing the connection between strong families and strong communities.

Ms. Thomas concluded her presentation by offering to provide additional data, including a full ALICE report and a list of participating financial institutions. She reiterated the availability of United Way's services and encouraged continued collaboration.

ADOPT REGULAR SESSION MINUTES SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

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

- *Regular Session Minutes—April 9, 2026*

- *Special Resolution regarding the tragic events of April 19, 2026*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition 40th Anniversary of Artbreak*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week*

As representatives approached the podium, the resolution was read into the record, formally recognizing the second full week of April—April 12 through April 18, 2026—as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. The resolution highlighted the critical role of 911 dispatchers as the first point of contact during emergencies, emphasizing their responsibility in answering calls, providing life-saving instructions, and coordinating responses among law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services.

Representatives from the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office expressed appreciation for the recognition and acknowledged the importance of honoring telecommunicators for their service. Commissioners then offered remarks commending the honorees for their professionalism, composure, and dedication in high-stress situations.

Mr. Atkins expressed gratitude for the telecommunicators' ability to remain calm and provide reassurance during emergencies. He also raised a constituent inquiry regarding dispatch procedures, specifically questioning whether the closest emergency response unit is deployed regardless of jurisdiction. While a detailed response was not fully captured in the record, the discussion clarified that dispatch decisions are coordinated through a centralized system, with calls initially routed through fire services and then directed to the appropriate agency based on jurisdiction.

Additional Commissioners echoed appreciation for the telecommunicators' work. Mr. Jones reflected on a recent visit to a 911 call center, noting the level of focus and composure required in the role. Mr. Cothran emphasized the emotional toll of the profession and encouraged telecommunicators to prioritize self-care given the traumatic nature of the calls they handle. Mr. Burrell inquired about the structure of the 911 system and was informed that, while multiple agencies operate within the system, all emergency calls are processed through a unified dispatch system before being routed accordingly.

Further remarks highlighted the demanding and often unseen nature of the profession, with Commissioners acknowledging telecommunicators as essential to the overall public safety infrastructure. Expressions of appreciation were offered collectively on behalf of the Commission and the citizens of Caddo Parish.

- *Special Resolution of Recognition April as Month of the Military Child*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition May as National Day of Prayer in Caddo Parish*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition Stuffed Shrimp Festival*
- *Commissioners For A Day presentation*

At this time, the Commission invited the Student Commissioners for a Day to participate in the recognition and join for photographs. The students were then given the opportunity to introduce themselves and share their future aspirations. Each student provided their name, school affiliation, and post-graduation plans, which included pursuits in military service, higher education, political science, healthcare, and other professional fields. The Commission acknowledged the students' achievements, including scholarship awards and academic acceptances, and welcomed their participation in the meeting.

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

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION
REGARDING THE TRAGIC EVENTS OF APRIL 19, 2026**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission is deeply heartbroken by the tragic and senseless loss of eight young lives and the severe injuries of additional victims in Shreveport on April 19, 2026; and

WHEREAS, this unimaginable act of violence has shaken our entire community to its core, leaving families grieving, neighborhoods mourning, and our parish united in sorrow; and

WHEREAS, Jayla Elkins (3), Shayla Elkins (5), Baylon Snow (5), Kayla Pugh (6), Khedarrion Snow (6), Layla Pugh (7), Markaydon Pugh (10), and Sariah Snow (11) were precious children whose lives were full of promise, and they were deeply loved by their families, friends, and all who knew them, and their absence leaves a void that cannot be filled; and

WHEREAS, in times of such profound grief, it is the duty of this Commission to stand

alongside the affected families and all those impacted, offering our deepest condolences, unwavering support, and collective prayers; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish community has long demonstrated resilience, compassion, and unity in the face of tragedy, and it is in this spirit that we must now come together to comfort one another; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that we as a community not only mourn, but also commit ourselves to honoring the memory of those lost and injured by fostering love, protection, and opportunity for all children, and by working collaboratively to foster an environment that respects life and discourages domestic violence;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby express its profound grief and sorrow at the loss of these children, wishes healing and recovery for those the injured victims still battling to heal, and extends its heartfelt condolences to their families, loved ones, and all those affected by this devastating event; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission urges all citizens of Caddo Parish to lift up in prayer and support the families and communities impacted, offering compassion, kindness, and understanding in the days and weeks ahead; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon community leaders, organizations, and residents to come together in unity to identify meaningful ways to honor the lives lost, ensuring their memories endure as a call to action for peace, protection, and care for our women & children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission reaffirms its commitment to working with all partners to strengthen the safety, well-being, and future of families in our parish.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARTBREAK

WHEREAS, ArtBreak is a nationally recognized arts festival for students, founded in 1986 by the Caddo Parish Public Schools, providing a unique opportunity for young people to explore, express, and celebrate their creativity through the visual, literary, and performing arts; and

WHEREAS, for forty years, ArtBreak has served as a cornerstone of arts education in Caddo Parish, inspiring generations of students to discover their talents, build confidence, and develop a lifelong appreciation for the arts; and

WHEREAS, ArtBreak showcases thousands of works of art created by students from across Caddo Parish, highlighting the diversity, imagination, and innovation of our youth and reflecting the rich cultural fabric of our community; and

WHEREAS, the success and longevity of ArtBreak is made possible through the dedication of educators, administrators, parents, volunteers, community partners, and local arts organizations who work tirelessly to support arts education and provide meaningful opportunities for students; and

WHEREAS, ArtBreak has earned national acclaim as one of the largest student arts festivals in the United States, bringing pride and recognition to Caddo Parish and reinforcing the importance of investing in arts and education; and

WHEREAS, the 40th Anniversary of ArtBreak marks a significant milestone, celebrating four decades of creativity, collaboration, and commitment to enriching the lives of young people through the arts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commissioner Victor Thomas, that he does hereby celebrate the

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARTBREAK

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana and commends all those who have contributed to its continued success and impact over the past forty years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Caddo Parish Commission encourages all citizens to recognize and support the importance of arts education and to celebrate the achievements of the talented students whose work is showcased through ArtBreak.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK

WHEREAS, National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week is observed annually during

the second full week of April, and in 2026 will be recognized from April 12 through April 18, to honor the dedicated men and women who serve as public safety telecommunicators, the vital first point of contact in emergency response; and

WHEREAS, public safety telecommunicators—often referred to as 9-1-1 dispatchers—play a critical role in protecting life and property by answering emergency calls, providing lifesaving instructions, and coordinating the rapid response of law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo 9-1-1 Communications District serves as the central communications hub for emergency services in Caddo Parish, and its telecommunicators work diligently to ensure that every call for assistance is handled with urgency, professionalism, and care; and

WHEREAS, these highly trained professionals demonstrate exceptional skill, composure, and compassion while handling high-stress situations, offering reassurance and guidance to callers in moments of crisis; and

WHEREAS, the public safety telecommunicators of Caddo Parish work tirelessly behind the scenes, often without public recognition, to ensure the safety and well-being of our residents and first responders; and

WHEREAS, their commitment, professionalism, and dedication contribute significantly to the effectiveness of emergency services and enhance the overall quality of life in our community; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to recognize and express appreciation for the invaluable service provided by these individuals who serve as the critical link between those in need and those who respond;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission, in regular session duly convened, that it does hereby recognize as April 12–18, 2026 as

NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK

and honors the public safety telecommunicators of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, including those serving with the Caddo 9-1-1 Communications District for their outstanding service, dedication, and unwavering commitment to public safety; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Caddo Parish Commission expresses its sincere gratitude to these professionals for their essential role in safeguarding our community and encourages all citizens to recognize their contributions during this week and throughout the year; and

SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION APRIL AS MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

WHEREAS, the Month of the Military Child is observed each April to recognize the strength, resilience, and sacrifices of children whose parents serve in the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, military children face unique challenges, including frequent relocations, transitions between schools, and extended separations from parents due to deployments and training commitments; and

WHEREAS, despite these challenges, military children demonstrate remarkable courage, adaptability, and perseverance, contributing positively to their schools and communities; and

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish is home to many military families, including those connected to Barksdale Air Force Base, whose service and sacrifice play a vital role in protecting our nation and preserving our freedoms; and

WHEREAS, the support of military families, especially children, is essential to the strength and readiness of our Armed Forces, and their contributions deserve recognition and appreciation; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the Caddo Parish Commission join communities across the nation in honoring military children and recognizing their important role in the fabric of our society;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission, in regular session duly convened, that it does hereby declare April 2026 as

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana and encourages all citizens to recognize and celebrate the sacrifices and contributions of military children and their families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Caddo Parish Commission expresses its sincere

gratitude to the children of military families for their strength, resilience, and service to our nation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting and that a suitably prepared copy be presented to appropriate representatives in recognition of this observance.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION
MAY 7th AS NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IN CADDO PARISH**

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, designated by the United States Congress in 1952 and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman, calling upon the people of our nation to turn to God in prayer and meditation; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer has been a cherished tradition in American history since the founding of our nation, when leaders proclaimed days of prayer, fasting, and thanksgiving, acknowledging dependence upon Almighty God; and

WHEREAS, this observance stands as a unifying call for citizens of all faiths to come together in humility and reverence, seeking divine guidance, wisdom, and strength for our nation, our communities, and our leaders; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Caddo Parish recognize the importance of prayer as a source of hope, healing, and renewal, especially during times of challenge and uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer provides an opportunity for individuals, families, churches, and civic groups to gather in prayer for the well-being of our community, the protection of our freedoms, and the continued pursuit of justice, peace, and unity; and

WHEREAS, the theme of the 2026 National Day of Prayer emphasizes the enduring power of prayer and the foundational truth that faith has played a vital role in shaping our nation's character and guiding its leaders throughout history;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission, in regular session duly convened, that it does hereby proclaim May 7, 2026, as

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana and encourages all citizens to observe this day through prayer, reflection, and participation in appropriate events and activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Caddo Parish Commission calls upon the people of this community to unite in prayer for our parish, our state, and our nation, seeking guidance for our leaders, compassion for our neighbors, and strength to meet the challenges of our time with faith and resolve.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION
STUFFED SHRIMP FESTIVAL**

WHEREAS, the Shreveport Stuffed Shrimp Festival is a unique cultural celebration that highlights a signature shrimp delicacy created in Caddo Parish, reflecting the rich culinary heritage of Northwest Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Shreveport-style stuffed shrimp was developed by the legendary Chef Eddie G. Hughes at the historic Freeman & Harris Café in downtown Shreveport, and has since become a beloved staple of the region's cuisine, recognized and enjoyed far beyond the boundaries of Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, Chef Eddie G. Hughes, alongside his wife, Lois Bryant-Hughes, and their children, Geno, Ora, and Mavice, opened Eddie's Seafood and Soul Food Restaurant at the corner of Hollywood and Union Avenues in Shreveport, establishing a family legacy rooted in food, culture, and community; and

WHEREAS, Eddie's Seafood and Soul Food Restaurant remains one of Caddo Parish's oldest family-owned and operated establishments, serving generations of residents and visitors while preserving a rich culinary tradition; and

WHEREAS, the Shreveport Stuffed Shrimp Festival is an annual cultural celebration produced by the Eddie G. Hughes Foundation in collaboration with local businesses, organizations, and community members, and is made possible through charitable donations, sponsorships, and in-kind contributions; and

WHEREAS, the festival brings together families, residents, and visitors for a day of food, fellowship, entertainment, and community pride, while honoring the legacy of Chef Eddie G. Hughes and the cultural significance of Shreveport-style stuffed shrimp; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 Shreveport Stuffed Shrimp Festival will take place on May 10, 2026, at the Louisiana State Fairgrounds in Shreveport, Louisiana.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Caddo Parish Commission that the Shreveport Stuffed Shrimp Festival is hereby recognized and celebrated for its contributions to the cultural, culinary, and community spirit of Caddo Parish, and all citizens are encouraged to attend and support this meaningful event.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Parish Administrator Erica Bryant reminded Commissioners of an upcoming employee recognition “pinning” ceremony scheduled for May 1 at the Walter B. Jacobs Nature Center. The ceremony will honor Commissioners reaching service milestones, including a 25-year recognition. Commissioners were invited to attend, with a request to wear attire representing a favorite sports team or parish affiliation.

COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Thomas shared updates regarding a community arts initiative led by the Parish Poet Laureate, including participation in a creative project titled “Pinwheels for Peace.” He emphasized the importance of creative expression, particularly for youth, and reflected on a recent personal experience attending an ArtBreak event. He spoke on the emotional impact of viewing artwork created by students who were victims of a recent tragedy, noting the significance of honoring their creativity and ensuring their contributions are recognized.

- Mr. Atkins expressed appreciation for parish employees and noted a scheduling conflict that would prevent attendance at the upcoming ceremony.

- Mrs. Gage-Watts also provided remarks highlighting the professional accomplishments and qualifications of Dr. Markey Pierre, emphasizing her extensive experience in government relations, education, and public service, and affirming her reputation for effectiveness and leadership.

- Mr. Epperson shared several community updates, including the passing of a leader associated with the Police Jury Association and requested that condolences be extended. He also provided updates from the Public Safety Committee regarding revisions to the parish disaster preparedness and response booklet, noting ongoing efforts to improve its effectiveness.

Additionally, Mr. Epperson addressed the broader community response to a recent tragedy, emphasizing the importance of collaboration among agencies and the availability of mental health and support resources, particularly for veterans and their families. He encouraged dissemination of this information to the public.

- Mr. Burrell offered remarks addressing public commentary regarding Dr. Markey Pierre, expressing strong support for her professional qualifications and contributions. He emphasized the importance of accurate information and voiced concern over what he characterized as misinformation in public discourse.

- Mr. J. Young began by engaging in brief discussion regarding the upcoming employee recognition ceremony, confirming that he would be recognized for five years of service while currently serving within his seventh year.

He then addressed an upcoming agenda item concerning the proposed allocation of funds from the Reserve Trust Fund. Mr. J. Young explained that several local shelters and service providers assisting individuals experiencing homelessness have recently faced funding challenges due to reductions at the state and federal levels. He specifically referenced a request from HOPE Connections, whose representative was present, seeking up to \$40,000 in funding. He emphasized that access to shelter is a critical public safety issue, noting that individuals without stable housing may struggle to maintain their health, including adherence to necessary medications. He encouraged Commissioners to support the funding request, highlighting the broader community impact.

Mr. J. Young also addressed ongoing public discussion regarding data centers. He clarified that the Commission had not been asked to vote on the approval of any data center development within parish jurisdiction, noting that prior approvals referenced by the public pertained to zoning decisions within the City of Shreveport. He explained that the parish-level project is located in a rural area not subject to zoning regulations and, therefore, did not require Commission approval in that context.

He further clarified that his prior vote related to a tax agreement, specifically a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) structure, which he described as largely standard. He highlighted that, despite state-level exemptions allowing certain data centers to avoid sales taxes, the agreement approved by the Commission included a provision requiring a one percent sales tax, thereby generating substantial revenue for the parish. Mr. J. Young acknowledged both potential benefits and concerns associated with data center development, including environmental considerations such as noise, water, and air impacts. He noted that

noise is the primary factor within local regulatory control and referenced efforts to strengthen parish noise ordinances to address such concerns.

Additionally, Mr. J. Young stated that he had not entered into any non-disclosure agreements related to the project and shared his perspective that some previously confidential information had evolved following public announcements. He concluded by encouraging a balanced approach that considers both economic benefits and potential impacts.

- Mr. Jones then addressed recent incidents of violence within the state, including a shooting at a Baton Rouge shopping mall that resulted in injuries and one fatality. He expressed condolences to the victims and their families and emphasized the need for proactive, common-sense measures to enhance public safety. He also referenced a separate incident involving an individual traveling with harmful intent, underscoring broader concerns about safety and security.

Mr. Jones framed these issues as both societal and spiritual challenges, encouraging continued prayer and reflection. He expressed concern that repeated incidents of violence could contribute to population decline if residents no longer feel safe, particularly among young people considering whether to remain in or return to the community. He emphasized the importance of creating a safe and supportive environment to retain future generations.

In addition, Mr. Jones expressed support for Dr. Markey Pierre, affirming her professional qualifications and long-standing reputation. He emphasized the importance of maintaining respectful discourse, even in disagreement, and cautioned against allowing public discussions to become personal or divisive.

- Mr. Cothran provided an update from the Public Safety Committee, noting that recent discussions included topics such as animal control, disaster response, and coordination with constables and justices of the peace. He also announced an upcoming community meeting and referenced National Crime Victims' Rights Week programming. Mr. Cothran concluded by encouraging individuals to remain connected with loved ones and to recognize the importance of community support during difficult times.

- Mr. Atkins addressed earlier public comments regarding data centers, offering additional perspective. He noted that his personal experience in the downtown area did not align with concerns raised about noise from existing facilities. He further explained that increases in energy costs observed in recent years predated the introduction of data centers, suggesting that broader industry trends should be considered when evaluating utility rate changes.

Mr. Atkins also highlighted actions taken by the Public Service Commission to ensure that large-scale energy users, such as data centers, bear the cost of necessary infrastructure, thereby protecting residential and small commercial ratepayers. Regarding water usage, he emphasized that the City of Shreveport's water system currently has significant excess capacity, and that large-scale users could provide additional revenue to support system maintenance and improvements.

Finally, Mr. Atkins addressed employment projections associated with data center development, noting that anticipated job creation extends beyond direct employment to include a range of indirect and supporting roles across various trades and industries. He emphasized the importance of considering the full economic impact when evaluating such projects.

- Mr. Kracman opened this portion of discussion by clarifying his prior remarks regarding Dr. Markey Pierre, emphasizing that he had not questioned her character or experience but rather expressed concern regarding her actions in representing positions before the Legislature without formal directive from the Commission. He stated that while individual Commissioners and small groups have the authority to submit correspondence independently, there is a distinction between such actions and formal resolutions adopted by the full Commission. He expressed concern that statements made during legislative proceedings suggested that positions represented the unified stance of the Commission when no such resolutions had been adopted. Mr. Kracman reiterated that his request for her removal was rooted in accountability and clarity of representation rather than personal criticism.

- Mr. Epperson briefly returned to the floor to provide clarification regarding a previously mentioned individual, confirming the name as Major Coleman and noting his long-standing involvement with the Police Jury Association.

- Mr. Jones then addressed an upcoming community meeting scheduled at A.B. Palmer Center, emphasizing that the purpose of the gathering is to promote healing and constructive dialogue following recent tragic events. He strongly urged that the event remain non-political in nature, stressing that it should focus on providing resources, encouraging mental health support, and fostering community healing. Mr. Jones expressed concern about what he described as excessive public attention and competitive displays of support directed toward affected families, urging respect for their privacy and space during the grieving process. He emphasized the importance of sincerity in acts of support and cautioned against actions perceived as self-serving or performative.

Mr. Jones also inquired about the possibility of issuing a formal letter of support for Mr. Lewis Thomas Nelson from the Commission, to which legal counsel indicated that individual

Commissioners could submit such correspondence.

- Parish Administrator Bryant was recognized to provide clarification regarding the Commission's contractual relationship with Dr. Markey Pierre and the Strategy Group. She explained that a short-term contract had been executed for the duration of the legislative session. She reiterated that no formal resolution had been adopted by the Commission regarding specific legislation, but that communications expressing opposition to certain bills had been conveyed by individual Commissioners and the Administration. Administrator Bryant acknowledged that distinctions between individual positions and official Commission actions would be clarified moving forward to avoid confusion. She expressed confidence that the matter had been addressed and would not present further issues.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President G. Young began his report, noting that while he typically limits extended commentary, he felt it appropriate to address several matters for the benefit of both the Commission and the public. He spoke broadly about leadership challenges, acknowledging that opposition and criticism are inherent in public service and often accompany efforts to achieve meaningful progress.

Addressing the topic of data centers, President G. Young clarified his experience regarding non-disclosure agreements, explaining that such agreements are typically signed prior to receiving detailed information. He stated that, at the time of signing, specific details such as the identity of the company or vendor involved were not disclosed. He further clarified that information shared under the agreement was limited primarily to projected figures and general concepts, and that more definitive details—including the identities of involved companies—were only revealed at a later public announcement.

He then shifted focus to community initiatives, inviting staff to provide an update on the Caddo's Rising Star program. A representative reported that the final round of open auditions would be held at Green Oaks High School, with strong participation and a growing number of applicants across a diverse range of performance categories. It was noted that the program continues to highlight the breadth of talent within the parish, with upcoming qualifying rounds and a final competition scheduled for June. President G. Young expressed appreciation to parish staff and departments supporting the initiative, including Public Works and Parks and Recreation, acknowledging their contributions behind the scenes.

Finally, President G. Young requested a brief update regarding improvements to the committee room, specifically inquiring about the installation of new audio equipment. Staff indicated that microphones were expected to be installed in the coming week, with completion anticipated shortly thereafter. IS Director, Mr. Tracy Calloway, provided an update regarding audiovisual improvements to the committee and conference rooms, confirming that equipment had been ordered and installation was anticipated within the following week. It was noted that the upgrades would allow for recording capabilities in both spaces and were expected to be operational prior to the next scheduled committee meetings.

The President then delivered extended remarks addressing the concept and importance of the Home Rule Charter. He provided historical context, explaining that prior to the 1974 Louisiana Constitution, local governments operated with limited authority under state control. He outlined how the adoption of the Home Rule Charter system granted parishes and municipalities greater autonomy, enabling them to create governing structures and policies tailored to local needs. He emphasized that Home Rule remains a critical component of local governance, allowing communities to exercise self-determination. He expressed concern regarding what he described as a growing trend of state-level actions that may erode local authority. He clarified that his concerns were not rooted in political or racial divisions, but rather in preserving the integrity of local governance structures.

He further addressed recent legislative matters, explaining that due to time constraints, the Commission was unable to formally convene to adopt a resolution regarding certain pending legislation. As a result, he acted in his capacity as President to submit correspondence expressing opposition to actions perceived as undermining the Commission's authority. He reiterated that such actions were intended to protect the constitutional rights of the parish under the Home Rule Charter.

In addressing ongoing discussion regarding Dr. Markey Pierre, the President characterized the issue as a procedural misunderstanding rather than a substantive failure, emphasizing that individuals may occasionally misspeak or make errors. He urged the body to remain focused on broader concerns related to local governance and collaboration with state officials.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ZONING ORDINANCES

President G. Young opened the floor for anyone to speak in favor or against the following zoning ordinances and cases:

- *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*

There being no one to speak in favor or against the zoning ordinances, the President closed the public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES

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

- *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 sign on I-20 East bound and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

Ms. Jon Glover came to speak in opposition to Ordinance No. 6613 of 2026:

Jon Glover, 9100 Walker Road, Apartment 217, Shreveport, Louisiana, zip code 71118. I rise to speak on Ordinance 6613 of 2026. The welcome sign on I20 eastbound, I'm in opposition of that. Definitely trying to picture in my head, where would you put such a sign? I was out on I49 on Monday, and I saw the Welcome to Caddo sign that said "Veteran Friendly," but I'm trying to think. We have the river that divides us, so are you putting the sign right there at the end of the bridge, the Red River bridge, because you said I20 eastbound. So, where are we putting this sign? Are we talking about coming from the Greenwood, Louisiana way, beyond the Texas line and we're going to put welcome to Louisiana going eastbound? I mean, where are we putting this sign? And then help me to understand why we need the sign that says welcome to Caddo when Caddo is the first parish once we leave Texas to cross the line. So, I mean, just help me make it make sense. Thank you.

- *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*

There being no one to speak in favor or against the ordinances, the President closed the public hearing.

ZONING ORDINANCES (for final passage)

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *to englobe and adopt the following zoning ordinances:*

- *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*

At this time, Mr. Atkins' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jones, Lazarus, Thomas, and J. Young (9). NAYS: Commissioner G. Young (1). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell and Kracman (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

**ORDINANCE NO. 6614 OF 2026
ZONING CASE 25-5-P**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

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, LOUISIANA., 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

BE IT ORDAINED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, is hereby amended and re-enacted to read as follows, to wit:

The official Zoning Map of the Shreveport Metropolitan Planning Area of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, be amended by rezoning property located on the West side of Wallace Lake Road, approx. 1,415' north of Mayo Road, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, more particularly described below, be and the same is hereby amended from R-E Residential Estate Zoning district to C-1 Neighborhood Commercial Zoning District and I-1 Light Industrial Zoning District.

TRACT 1: From R-E TO I-1 on the NW corner of Section 18, T16N, R13W, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, run N89°51'57"E a distance of 1169.06 feet, thence run S0°4'13"E a distance of 150 feet to the POB. hence run N89°51'57"E a distance of 235.41 feet; Thence run S0°3'33"W a distance of 833.66 feet; Thence run N89°51'57"E a distance of 553.60 feet; Thence run S0°10'2"E a distance of 464.93 feet; Thence run S89°51'57" W a distance of 788.11 feet; Thence run N0°4'13"W a distance of 1298.59 feet; said tract containing 12.89 acres. TRACT 2: From R-E to C-1: A tract of land located in Section 18, T16N, R13W, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, said tract more fully described as follows: From the NW corner of Section 18, T16N, R13W, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, run N89°51'57"E a distance of 1404.81 feet; Thence run S0°3'33"W a distance of 933.66 feet; Thence run N89°51'57"E a distance of 553.60 feet; Thence run S0°10'2"E a distance of 50 feet to the POB. Thence run N89°51'57"E a distance of 350 feet; Thence run S0°10'02"E a distance of 464.93 feet; Thence run S89°51'57"W a distance of 350 feet; Thence run N0°10'02"W a distance of 464.93 feet; said tract containing 3.74 acres.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any provision or item of this ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after publication in the official journal.

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 6615 OF 2026
ZONING CASE 26-6-P**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

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, LOUISIANA., FROM C-4 HEAVY COMMERCIAL ZONING DISTRICT TO I-2 HEAVY INDUSTRIAL ZONING DISTRICT, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

BE IT ORDAINED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, is hereby amended and re-enacted to read as follows, to wit:

The official Zoning Map of the Shreveport Metropolitan Planning Area of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, be amended by rezoning property located on the West Side of Box Road, approximately 1,700 Feet South of Mt. Zion Road, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, more particularly described below, be and the same is hereby amended

from C-4 Heavy Commercial Zoning District to I-2 Heavy Industrial Zoning District:

A Tract of Located in Section 1, Township 16 North, Range 14 West Of The Louisiana Prime Meridian, Northwestern Land District, Caddo Parish, Louisiana. Said Tract Being Fully Described As Follows: Beginning At The Northwest Corner Of Lot 44 Of Suburban Acres As Recorded In Book 50. Page 319, Of The Records Of Caddo Parish, Louisiana; Run Thence South 01°02'37" West For A Distance Of 837.32 Feet, Thence Run North 89°19'36" West For A Distance Of 260.12 Feet, Thence Run North 01°02'37" East For A Distance Of 837.32 Feet. Thence Run South 89°19'36" East For A Distance Of 260.12 Feet To The Point Of Beginning Said Tract Containing 5.000 Acres, Sec. 01, Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any provision or item of this ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after publication in the official journal.

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

ORDINANCES (for final passage)

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by 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 sign on I-20 East bound and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted. Motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Epperson, Gage-Watts, and J. Young (3). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Cothran, Jones, Lazarus, Thomas, and G. Young (7). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell and Kracman (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that 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* be adopted. Motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Burrell and Kracman being absent.

ORDINANCE NO. 6616 OF 2026

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF LOTS 10 AND 11, STOVALL SUBDIVISION, UNIT NO. 3, SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF LOTS 31, 32 AND 33, STOVALL SUBDIVISION, UNIT NO. 3, SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Public Works Department needs to expand its maintenance facilities on Monty Street, Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS the properties adjacent to the maintenance facilities are known as Lots 10 And 11, Stovall Subdivision Unit No. 3, and Lots 31, 32 And 33, Stovall Subdivision, Unit No. 3, respectively; and

WHEREAS, the respective prices for the lots have been negotiated at \$8400.00 and \$3900.00; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission has determined that the properties are needed for the public purpose of expanding the Public Works maintenance facilities; and

WHEREAS, Section 3-11(11) of the Charter of the Parish of Caddo requires the adoption of an ordinance for the conveyance of any lands or property to or from the parish.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby authorize the purchase of:

181426-055-0052-00

Lots 10 & 11, Stovall Subdivision, Unit No. 3, a subdivision of the City of Shreveport of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, as per plat filed and recorded in Book 700, Page 13, of the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish Louisiana.

181426-055-0052-00

Lots 31, 32, & 33, Stovall Subdivision, Unit No. 3, a subdivision of the City of Shreveport of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, as per plat filed and recorded in Book 700, Page 13, of the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Parish is authorized to purchase the above-referenced properties for a price not to exceed \$12,300.00 total.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Caddo Parish Administrator or her designee shall be authorized to do any and all things and to sign any and all contracts and other documents in a form acceptable to the Caddo Parish Attorney necessary to effectuate the purposes set forth herein.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any provision or item of this ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

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

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION BY TITLE

- *Ordinance No. 6619 of 2026, an ordinance to authorize the purchase of Lots 10 and 11, Stovall Subdivision, Unit No. 3, Shreveport, Louisiana, and to authorize the purchase of Lots 31, 32 and 33, Stovall Subdivision, Unit No. 3, Shreveport, Louisiana otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6620 of 2026, an ordinance setting the parish millage for the purpose of paying principal and interest, due in 2026 on outstanding Parish Bond Issues and to instruct the Assessor to include said millage on the tax roll of the Parish of Caddo for the year 2026, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6621 of 2026, ordinance to adopt values for assessments for railways and other public service property*
- *Ordinance No. 6622 of 2026, an ordinance to set the General Purpose and Special Purpose Millages providing for millage rate adjustments, as allowed by Article VII, Section 23 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 and La R.S. 47:1705 (b), levying and imposing taxes and assessments for 2026 on all the property subject to taxation in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6623 of 2026, an ordinance setting the assessment of property classified as timberlands and to instruct the assessor to include said assessment on the tax roll of the Parish of Caddo for the year 2026, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

WORK SESSION MINUTES RESOLUTIONS NEW BUSINESS

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

- *Work Session Minutes—April 20, 2026*
- *Resolution No. 30 of 2026, a resolution to amend Resolution No. 44 of 2025 giving notice of 2026 Caddo Parish Commission meeting dates, designating certain dates on the Commission calendar and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 32 of 2026, expressing support for HB 997 and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 33 of 2026, resolution requesting an exemption from the provisions of HB 746 as they apply to our parish's Commercial Vehicle Program and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Appoint Randy Moulton to Sewer District No. 8*

- *Adopt recommendations of the Property Standards Committee: Case No. 1—4101 Ridgeway Shreveport, LA (demolish); Case No. 2—4229 Hampton, Shreveport, LA (demolish); and Case No. 3—8930 Lake End, Mooringsport, LA (clean up remaining trash on the property)*
- *Approve relevant commissioners to travel when invited on Administratively approved travel in connection with Commission Business. This would allow commission travel when an officers or committee chair is invited by the Administration to participate alongside them when doing business on behalf of the parish requiring travel during the 2026 budget cycle*

During consideration of the previously separated item regarding the distribution of emergency funding, Mr. Atkins requested that the matter be addressed independently to allow for full clarity and deliberation.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 30 OF 2026

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION 44 OF 2025 GIVING NOTICE OF 2026 CADDO PARISH COMMISSION MEETING DATES, DESIGNATING CERTAIN DATES ON THE COMMISSION CALENDAR AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission gave written public notice of its regularly scheduled meetings for the calendar year 2026 pursuant to R.S. 42:7; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission is required by law to fix the time, day, and place of its regular meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission has found it necessary to amend its initial 2026 calendar of meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened that the Caddo Parish Commission shall meet on the Thursday following the first and third Tuesday of each month at 3:30 p.m. in the Government Chamber of the First Floor of the Government Plaza, 505 Travis Street, Shreveport, Louisiana, unless a holiday, and then on the business day immediately following, or on such other days as the Commission may set.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Caddo Parish Commission shall meet in work session on the Monday preceding the regular session, at 3:30 p.m. in the Government Chamber of the First Floor of the Government Plaza, 505 Travis Street, Shreveport, Louisiana, unless Monday is a legal holiday, and then on the business day following, or on such other day as the Commission may set.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Section 3-06. Commission Meetings and Rules of the Caddo Parish Home Rule Charter prescribes that the Commission shall meet regularly at least once in every month; therefore, the Commission will meet only once during the month of May, 2026 and that being on May 21, 2026, preceded by a Work Session on May 18, 2026; and only once during the month of July, 2026 and that being on July 9, 2026, preceded by a Work Session on July 6, 2026; and that the Commission will meet only once in a regular session during the month of December, 2026, and that being on December 3, 2026, preceded by a work session on November 30, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Caddo Parish Commission may meet in duly called special session at other times of the year as may be necessary with proper notice to the public as prescribed by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission wishes to acknowledge and dedicate significant dates on the 2026 calendar for recognitions and that it hereby adopts the following observations for 2026:

- May as both Military Appreciation Month and Mental Health Awareness Month, the week of May 17-23 as National Public Works Week, and May 22nd as National Maritime Day; Lupus Awareness Month, National Skin Cancer Awareness Month, National Stroke Awareness Month, National Nurses Week (May 6-12), Armed Forces Day (May 15).
- June as Black Music Month, Men's Health Month, PTSD Awareness Month, and Alzheimer's & Brain Health Awareness Month, with Juneteenth and World Sickle Cell Awareness Day on June 19th, The Anniversary of the US Army on June 14th, and National Cancer Survivor day on June 7;

- July as Parks & Recreation Month, Independence Day on July 4th, the anniversary of the signing of the Caddo Treaty on July 1;
- August as Children’s Eye Health Month, Purple Heart Day on August 7th, the anniversary of the United States Coast Guard on August 4th;
- September as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, Veterans Suicide Prevention Awareness Day, Hispanic Heritage Month, Sickle Cell Awareness Month, Hunger Action Month, United States Air Force Anniversary on September 18th, National Salute to African-American Authors; Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, Emergency Preparedness Month, Prostate Cancer Awareness Month;
- October as United States Navy Anniversary, Black Restaurant Week, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Filipino American Heritage Month
- November as National Alzheimer’s & Brain Awareness Month, National Diabetes Awareness Month, Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, Lung Cancer Awareness Month

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declare severable.

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 32 OF 2026

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL 997 OF THE 2026 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION OF THE LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE RELATING TO PUBLISHING INFORMATION AND NOTICES ON A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION’S WEBSITE, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, House Bill 997 (2026 Regular Session) addresses the posting of official communications and notices to a political subdivision’s website as their official journal; and

WHEREAS, the bill ensures that citizens and their local governing bodies are not unduly burdened by the dramatic reduction in local print media availability caused by mergers and consolidations of media which has led to decreased competition, decreased citizen engagement, decreased viewer/readership and increased costs of publication; and

WHEREAS, according to the Louisiana Press Association, digital platforms have become the dominant source for news in Louisiana, with around 77% of residents accessing news from digital sources and online news has overtaken traditional print as the primary method of consumption. Only 7%-8% of Louisiana residents rely on print as their primary, daily source of news.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby express its support of House Bill 997 of the 2026 Legislative Session and urges the Louisiana Legislature to adopt this legislation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent, following adoption, to the Louisiana Legislature and to the members of the legislative delegation of Caddo Parish.

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 this resolution shall take effect immediately.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 33 OF 2026

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING AN EXEMPTION TO PROVISIONS OF HOUSE BILL 746 OF THE 2026 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION OF THE LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE RELATING TO COMMERCIAL VEHICLE FLEET REGULATION, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, House Bill 746 (2026 Regular Session) addresses commercial vehicle fleet regulation by local governing entities; and

WHEREAS, Parish of Caddo's Commercial Vehicle Program has been in place since 2010 and has consistently served as a vital component of our transportation and public works operations, demonstrating value in maintaining safe and reliable roadways for our residents and the traveling public; and

WHEREAS, Routine enforcement and oversight of commercial vehicles operating within Caddo Parish, enables us to ensure compliance with applicable safety standards, thereby reducing risks associated with unsafe or improperly loaded vehicles and improving public safety; and

WHEREAS, Parish of Caddo also uses the program to monitor and protect its roadway infrastructure from damage caused by excessive loading, preserving the integrity and longevity of these critical assets and protecting parish roads and bridges from premature deterioration and increased maintenance costs.

WHEREAS, Parish of Caddo's permit fees do not exceed or extend beyond the fees established by the State of Louisiana as it is not the goal of the Parish of Caddo to impose additional financial burdens on operators but instead aligns with existing state standards while carrying out localized enforcement and oversight.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby request an exemption from House Bill 746 to allow the Parish of Caddo to continue the long-standing successful efforts to strengthen public safety, state compliance and prolonged value and integrity without disruption.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent, following adoption, to the Louisiana Legislature and to the members of the legislative delegation of Caddo Parish.

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 this resolution shall take effect immediately.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Resolution No. 31 of 2026, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to execute an intergovernmental agreement with the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office to authorize and establish a PILOT Home Incarceration & Electronic Monitoring Program within the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office for misdemeanor nonviolent offenses and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted.

Officials explained that the program would apply to individuals convicted of non-violent misdemeanor offenses, as defined by state statute, and would include a structured vetting process considering criminal history and other eligibility factors. Qualified individuals would serve their sentences outside of the parish jail under electronic monitoring, with real-time oversight by a monitoring company and prompt notification of any violations.

Commissioners engaged in discussion regarding the program's scope, enforcement, and anticipated impact. Questions were raised concerning the definition of non-violent offenses, the operational details of monitoring, and whether the program would reduce jail population levels. Representatives indicated that while current inmate eligibility may be limited due to strict vetting criteria, the program could provide benefits over time, particularly for individuals serving short-term sentences.

Additional discussion highlighted the program's potential advantages, including cost savings, reduced jail overcrowding, enhanced public safety, and support for rehabilitation efforts. Commissioners emphasized both the fiscal and community benefits, noting that reduced incarceration could lessen the financial burden on taxpayers, particularly in relation to healthcare costs for inmates.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 31 OF 2026

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CADDO PARISH ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CADDO PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE TO AUTHORIZE AND ESTABLISH A PILOT HOME INCARCERATION AND ELECTRONIC MONITORING PROGRAM WITHIN THE CADDO PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR MISDEMEANOR NONVIOLENT OFFENSES AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office currently provides law enforcement, detention, and related correctional services to all citizens of Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo is required by state statute to fund detention costs within the Caddo Parish Jail; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office has proposed a Home Incarceration and Electronic Monitoring Program as a community-based supervision alternative for misdemeanor non-violent offenders; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo desires to determine the impact such a program would have on detention costs at the Caddo Parish Jail; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Home Incarceration and Electronic Monitoring Program will provide for strict supervision and electronic monitoring of participants placed under its control by the Caddo Parish Courts, ensuring accountability and safety of the community; and

WHEREAS, the public purpose of this initiative, in addition to lowering detention costs, is to reduce jail overcrowding and promote rehabilitation, while maintaining public safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby authorize an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Parish of Caddo and the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office substantially in accordance with the terms outlined herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Administrator or his designee shall be authorized to do any and all things and to sign any and all contracts and other documents in a form acceptable to the Caddo Parish Attorney necessary to effectuate the purposes set forth herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that the distribution of emergency funding in the Reserve Trust fund to provide funding to Caddo Community Action Agency be amended to include: Include Mom's on a Mission, Hope Connections, Providence House, Choice Counseling Services, Red River Therapeutic Solutions, Open Arms Behavioral Health, and other social work/professional services; not to exceed \$40k per organizations; and with the total appropriation not to exceed \$350k.*

This amendment was introduced to authorize the distribution of emergency funding to several community organizations providing services related to housing, domestic violence, counseling, and crisis response. It was clarified that funding would be drawn from an existing emergency allocation of \$350,000 within the parish budget, and that disbursements would be subject to administrative review and need-based criteria.

Discussion emphasized the urgency of addressing community needs in light of recent tragic events, as well as the importance of maintaining fiscal oversight to ensure funds remain available for future emergencies. The amendment provided flexibility for administration to allocate resources efficiently while remaining within the established budget.

Commissioners sought clarification regarding the structure and oversight of the funding. The Parish Administrator Bryant confirmed that the \$350,000 emergency fund had already been appropriated within the budget and that the motion provided administrative authority to allocate those funds as needed. It

was emphasized that funds would not be distributed as lump-sum grants to organizations; rather, agencies would provide services to eligible individuals and subsequently seek reimbursement following a vetting process.

Commissioners discussed the importance of maintaining transparency and accountability in the allocation process. It was clarified that some organizations had formally expressed need, while others were identified by the Commission based on demonstrated community impact and capacity to provide services. The vetting process would include verification of eligibility, need, and appropriate documentation prior to reimbursement.

Further clarification emphasized that the funding mechanism allows flexibility to respond to emergent community needs, particularly in light of recent tragic events, while ensuring that expenditures remain within the established budget. Commissioners reiterated that the intent of the funding is to support individuals directly through services such as counseling, relocation assistance, and crisis intervention, rather than to provide unrestricted funding to organizations.

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

There was no Old Business.

COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Announcement of Public Meeting:** Notice is hereby given that at its meeting to be held on Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 3:30 p.m. at its regular meeting place, the Government Plaza Chambers, 505 Travis Street, Shreveport, Louisiana, the Caddo Parish Commission plans to consider adopting a resolution ordering and calling an election to be held in Caddo Parish to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds.
- **Announcement of Public Meeting:** The Caddo Parish Commission will convene as the Caddo Parish Tax Board of Appeals on Monday, September 14, 2026 at 1pm in the Chambers at Government Plaza (505 Travis Street, Shreveport, LA 71101)
- It was confirmed that the previously scheduled meeting for early May had been canceled due to an anticipated lack of quorum. The next scheduled work session and regular session were confirmed for the week of May 18–21, 2026, with all necessary ordinances appropriately advertised for consideration at that time.
- Mrs. Blake shared remarks regarding the Caddo's Rising Star youth talent competition, highlighting a personal observation of a young participant who overcame nervousness during an audition. She emphasized the importance of creating opportunities for youth to build confidence and express their talents, noting the program's positive impact on participants.
- Mr. Thomas provided an update regarding the joint meeting of the Appropriations and Economic Development Committees, noting that the meeting had been canceled due to ongoing community response efforts related to recent events. She stated that the meeting is tentatively rescheduled for May 20, 2026, and emphasized the importance of transparency in requiring organizations receiving parish funding to report outcomes.
- Additional remarks included acknowledgments of family members present, expressions of appreciation, and personal recognitions among Commissioners. Observances were also made in recognition of Mother's Day, with Commissioners extending well wishes to mothers in the community.

There were no Citizens Comments for late arrivals. There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.


Michelle Nations
Assistant Commission Clerk


Gregory Young
President