

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 2nd DAY OF JUNE, 2026

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Work Session, on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., in the Government Chambers, with Mr. Greg Young, President, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (10). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell and Jones (2).

Mr. Thomas gave the invocation, and Mr. Lazarus led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no Agenda Additions.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Ben Cothran came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

My name is Ben Cothran. 3404 Edson Boulevard, Shreveport, Louisiana 71107. Commissioners and citizens and Caddo Parish, my name is Ben Cothran. I'm commander of Lowe McFarlane American Legion Post 14 and commander-elect of District 4 of the Department of Louisiana. Since the founding of the United States, it is estimated that 558 million Americans and immigrants have lived in this country. More than 1.1 million of them have died defending the United States in wars and combat actions since the American Revolution. They each have their own stories to tell. The crosses at Normandy, the graves at Arlington, the markers at Punchbowl, the fallen heroes who rest in places unknown. They're not here, but they're all part of our family. It is our duty to remember them, their sacrifice, and to keep their legacy alive. We should not forget the price they gave by stepping up for our country and putting their lives at risk. We've got to always keep their memory alive and their sacrifices. Memorial Day should mean more to every person that resides here in our nation. It has become a mockery for business and citizens alike. Mattress sales, used cars, and other gimmicks that use this day as a prop to have sale is disgraceful. Some of you here know someone or some family that has paid the ultimate sacrifice by defending our nation. They did not pay that price so that we could get a deal on a refrigerator. One day, one holiday should be held sacred. That day is Memorial Day. Memorial Day also provides an educational opportunity. It's teaching our youth, just like my grandkids and the kids that come in here, patriotism and paying respect to those who went before us, and just honor the dignity and character and pass down to our youth what should be taught to them. As commander of one of the largest American Legion posts in the south, I and my members support Commissioner Epperson's resolution number 40, and hope the Parish does as well. Thank you.

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

As I perused the agenda for today's work session, there were two pieces of legislation that really stopped me in my tracks. I needed to understand what it was that was trying to be accomplished, achieved, however the situation may be. Resolution 38 of 2026, definitely would love to meet the clarification, the explanation as the what we're asking these data center operators to provide for you. You know, were any of these things considered at the time that the permission to do what they're doing done? I mean, did we not know that these could be some vital essence of what we're trying to address, at that time versus now? As for another piece of legislation, 41 of 2026, I looked at it and it asked to produce an environmental impact study. Was such ever requested in the scope of whatever this piece of legislation has come here to your paper today? What is the essence of it? Give us a picture of how we got here with this legislation because I'd like to know. I'd like to know what was it that prompted this request today. You know, when I was listening to the gentleman speaking about Memorial Day and how it is that we individually, definitely collectively, can and do address how we deal with Memorial Day. I don't know that you can urge me to do anything outside of what I consider, being a part of the armed services myself, but you know, definitely, you know what are we saying? We want to bind something on citizens that they have the right to make a choice as to how they will meet however a celebration they will want to choose how to do it. I just don't understand it. I'm asking too, as I stand here and have looked over this agenda, that every piece of legislation that can any kind of way impact me, a citizen, I want you all to discuss it today and let me understand what your positions are and how it is that it's going to be of worth to me, the citizen. Thank you.

Matthew Alexander came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

My name is Matthew Alexander. I live at 178 Carrollton Avenue. All right. It's embarrassing for me as a lifelong resident of Louisiana that I have to be here as an exhausted worker to remind you of simple facts that this board and the city council and everyone else seems to be unable to grasp. Number one, people have to have water to live. Number two, population growth is directly tied to the amount of accessible water. Number three, the western United States, including Texas and including East Texas, is running out of water, and groundwater resources from aquifers in Louisiana are being depleted to accommodate industry and agriculture at an unsustainable rate. These are undisputable facts. Other facts you seem unable to grasp: Data centers are not job creators. Companies pushing artificial intelligence in American workplaces are the single biggest threat to new entries into the labor market. Meaning, over long time periods, they will decrease job opportunities, not increase job growth. You need to understand that when you talk about whatever sort of fallacy you've come to believe in. Data centers also require an extremely low number of full-time employees. And the construction of these monstrosities will in no way

guarantee increased revenue in the short-term or long-term. The people that work on these projects don't have to live here. They don't have to sign a piece of paper that says you have to live here. They're going to live in campers. They're going to send all their money back to other states, and you're just going to be stuck with a giant facility that you got no benefit from because you gave tax exemptions to a billionaire who doesn't need it, instead of giving tax exemptions to your own people. That's long-term vision that you lack. The very things these projects are claiming to champion, job growth, population growth, are also going to ensure that these things won't happen, and here's why: because you're going to run out of water. You can't grow a population without water. It's safe to estimate that Shreveport will give away 20,000 people's worth of water to accommodate this facility. And Caddo Lake, which is fed upstream by Lake O' the Pines and Big Cypress Bayou, averages about 6 feet deep between both state sides. Marshall, Texas, receives their water from Big Cypress Bayou. Lake O' the Pines is being courted by cities as far away as Dallas to supply Texas cities with their disappearing water. Well, here's what should happen, because I wrote more stuff, but I'm running out of time. This board should pass the environmental impact study for Shreveport. It should also include the data center on Stateline Road, and work should be stopped so that these studies can tell you exactly what I've just told you, so that you can avoid making two huge mistakes.

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

Abigail Whittington, 654 Columbia Street, Shreveport, LA. So, just what he was talking about how Caddo Lake, Lake O' the Pines funnels into Caddo Lake. Amazon just donated \$5 billion to the Caddo Lake Institute to flow more water into Caddo Lake. So, to me, that seems like Amazon already seems like they know Caddo Lake is not a sufficient amount of water to last this data center. And as far as both resolutions, I believe that Ken Epperson's needs to be passed. I still have a lot of questions about John-Paul Young's. Why are we giving them this rainwater? Why do they deserve it? Why can't we have it? And why do they Caddo Lake and the rainwater? Whenever I called my commissioner today, you didn't even know how much water they're planning to use in the water agreement. 7.5 million gallons. It's like 2 billion gallons of water a year. We want our water and we want our land and we don't want data centers.

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

Good afternoon, I'm Candy Peavy. My address is on the card, Shreveport, Louisiana 71106. [The President read aloud the citizen's address: 942 Ontario Street, Shreveport, Louisiana 71106.] So, like I said, I came here to talk about the resolution for the data center and the water preservation, the rainwater collection. I agree with what these other two people have said. I'm strongly opposed to data centers, period. I think we're making a deal with the devil, honestly. But I also think the toothpaste is out of the tube, and it's coming whether we want it or not. I don't like it, but I do like this resolution. So, that's why I came to support the resolution. We need the water. There's other issues. There's power issues, electricity issues, and I see you shaking your head, but this is true. Lake Tahoe just told their citizens that they're going to have to find a new source for electricity after next year because that data center is going to be using all their electricity. So, something to keep in mind. Water's very crucial to life. I feel like this resolution is a great start to helping supply the water. If it's going to fall on their roof anyway, they might as well collect it and use it. But I also like the proposal that we treat the waste water that comes from it. It needs to be treated. It can't go back into our system full of the contaminants that are there. So, I hope you will pass the resolution, but I'd like to see the data center stopped. Thank you.

There were no Visitors.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- Caddo's Rising Star

Administrator Bryant reminded the Commissioners and the public about the upcoming Caddo Rising Stars Talent Show, scheduled for Sunday at 6:00 p.m. at the Shreveport Convention Center. Flyers had been distributed to commissioners and digital copies provided via email. The flyer highlighted the finalists selected to participate in the event. Commissioners were encouraged to promote attendance among family, friends, and constituents and to support the community event.

- Juvenile Detention Center census

Administrator Bryant said that there are 17 children in the Detention Center, 4 of which are OJJ. There are two 17 year olds. There are 416 children on probation. Eighteen juveniles are at CCC.

COMMISSION REMARKS

- Mr. Epperson inquired whether Caddo Parish had contributed any incentives to support the development of the data center planned for the Regional Technology Park. Administration responded that they were not aware of any direct incentives provided by the Parish for the project.

Mr. Epperson also followed up on a constituent concern regarding lighting and noise issues on Sophie Lane. He asked whether staff had received an email detailing the complaint. Staff indicated they had not seen the email but requested that it be resent. Mr. Epperson noted that the correspondence had also been copied to Code Enforcement personnel. Staff agreed to coordinate internally and follow up on the matter.

Mr. Epperson further recognized that June 14, 2026, would be both Flag Day and Father's Day. He used the opportunity to remind residents about the veterans and military resource area located in the Government Plaza foyer, where flag disposal boxes are available for public use. He emphasized the importance of proper flag etiquette, including replacing worn or damaged flags, ensuring outdoor flags displayed at night are properly illuminated, and understanding the distinction between indoor and outdoor flags. Mr. Epperson explained that the flag disposal boxes are monitored in partnership with American Legion Post 14, which assists with the respectful and proper disposal of retired American flags according to established protocols. Citizens with questions were encouraged to contact either the Clerk's Office or Mr. Epperson.

- Mrs. Gage-Watts asked whether the Registrar of Voters had responded to requests to attend a Commission meeting and discuss election-related changes. Administration reported that discussions were ongoing and that efforts were being made to schedule the Registrar's attendance at an upcoming June meeting. Mrs. Gage-Watts also noted that June 6 would be the deadline for voters to change party affiliation or update voter registration information ahead of the June 27 election and stressed the importance of distributing this information to the public. She suggested obtaining written materials from the Registrar's Office and posting election information and links on both the Registrar's and Parish websites to improve public awareness.

The Commission President added that he had personally communicated with the Registrar of Voters and confirmed the Registrar's willingness to attend a future meeting to provide updates and answer questions regarding election procedures and recent changes.

- Mr. J. Young shared information regarding a proposed litter abatement and workforce development initiative developed by Shreveport Green. Copies of the proposal were distributed to commissioners. He explained that the program combines litter collection, beautification efforts, and workforce training opportunities, including resume-building and job-readiness skills. The initiative is modeled after a successful program operating in Hot Springs, Arkansas. He stated that funding for litter-related efforts had already been included in the Parish budget and indicated that he would ask Administration to provide guidance regarding the appropriate procedural steps for advancing the proposal.

Mr. J. Young also briefly commented on a resolution concerning rainwater collection that had been placed on the agenda. He expressed his support for expanding rainwater harvesting efforts, noting that the region receives more than four feet of rainfall annually, much of which ultimately flows into the Red River and Gulf of Mexico. He suggested that increasing water storage and collection efforts could help provide additional water resources during drier periods and support long-term sustainability efforts.

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

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Ordinance No. 6626 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 interests in certain surplus adjudicated properties, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction. Motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Burrell and Jones being absent.

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *Resolution No. 37 of 2026, a resolution to relocate the polling place for Precinct 7-1, 12-2, and 12-6 from Western Hills Baptist Church, 4153 Pines Road, Shreveport, LA 71119, to Bill Cockrell Recreation Center, 4109 Pines Road, Shreveport, LA 71119, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration.

Mr. Epperson explained that concerns regarding the existing polling location had been known for some time and that issues with the facility had become apparent during the most recent election cycle.

Mrs. Gage-Watts Gage-Watts voiced support for the relocation and emphasized the importance of ensuring voters could easily identify the new polling location. She requested that clear signage be placed at the new site to facilitate voter access and minimize confusion.

Administrator Bryant responded that temporary election signage would be placed at polling locations as required. She explained that the primary challenge involved obtaining permission to install permanent signs on properties not owned by the Parish. Despite those limitations, temporary directional and informational signage would be available during elections.

Mrs. Gage-Watts raised concerns based on previous precinct relocations, noting that some voters had reported confusion when arriving at former polling locations. She asked whether personnel would be stationed at the previous location to redirect voters if necessary.

Administrator Bryant confirmed that this had been standard practice during prior polling place relocations and that personnel would again be assigned to former polling locations, when appropriate, to assist voters and direct them to the correct polling site. Precinct signage would also be posted to further assist the public.

President G. Young clarified for the public that the item before the Commission was a

resolution expressing the Commission's support for the proposed polling place relocation. He noted that other entities involved in the election process would ultimately have authority over the final approval of polling locations, and that the Commission's action served as a formal recommendation.

Administration further advised that polling locations are routinely reviewed prior to election cycles to ensure facilities remain suitable and available. As a result, additional polling place relocation resolutions may be presented in the coming weeks as evaluations continue.

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

It was **moved by Mr. J. Young**, seconded by Mr. G. Young, *that Resolution No. 38 of 2026, a resolution urging data center operators in Caddo Parish to adopt rainwater harvesting and advanced water discharge filtration, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration. Motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Burrell and Jones being absent.

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mr. Cothran, *that Resolution No. 39 of 2026, a resolution opposing the 2026 redistricting of Louisiana Congressional Districts, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration.

As the author of the resolution, President G. Young spoke in support of the measure. He stated that the resolution was intended to formally oppose a congressional redistricting plan that had reportedly received approval from both the Louisiana House of Representatives and Louisiana Senate and was anticipated to be presented to the Governor for final consideration.

President G. Young characterized the proposal as an issue involving voting rights and representation, expressing concern that the redistricting plan could have the effect of diminishing the political influence and voting strength of Black citizens. He emphasized that, in his view, equal representation and access to political participation are fundamental democratic principles that should be protected for all citizens.

Drawing upon references to the principles of equality and justice embodied in the nation's founding documents and civic traditions, President G. Young argued that government actions should ensure that all residents are treated fairly and afforded equal opportunities for representation. He expressed disappointment that issues related to voting rights and representation do not always generate the same level of public engagement as other matters and encouraged commissioners to support the resolution as a statement in favor of equal treatment and inclusion.

President G. Young further stated that he felt strongly about the issue and indicated that, should the resolution fail to advance, he intended to continue bringing the matter before the Commission for consideration in the future.

At this time, Mr. Thomas' motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Thomas, and G. Young (5). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Kracman, Lazarus, and J. Young (5). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell and Jones (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Cothran**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that Resolution No. 40 of 2026, a resolution to urge a return to the true meaning of Memorial Day, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration.

At the request of Commissioner Epperson, the resolution was read into the record. Following the reading, Commissioner Epperson spoke extensively regarding his support for the measure and the significance of Memorial Day.

Mr. Epperson reflected on his decades of military and veterans-related service, including his work with the Northwest Louisiana Veterans Cemetery, where he had participated in and observed hundreds of military funerals for veterans, spouses, and eligible dependents. He also highlighted his involvement with numerous veterans organizations and advocacy efforts at the local, state, and national levels, including work with veterans service organizations, the Overton Brooks VA Medical Center, and national county government initiatives supporting veterans and military families.

Drawing from his experiences, Mr. Epperson described observing families who regularly visited the gravesites of fallen service members on birthdays, anniversaries, and other meaningful occasions. He emphasized that Memorial Day was originally established to honor and remember military personnel who lost their lives while serving the nation and argued that the holiday's purpose has become overshadowed by commercial promotions, sales events, and recreational activities.

Mr. Epperson expressed concern over the widespread use of phrases such as "Happy Memorial Day" and the increasing commercialization of the holiday through retail advertising and promotional campaigns. He stated that Memorial Day should remain a solemn occasion dedicated to honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice and recognizing the grief still carried by surviving family members. He urged citizens to reflect on the true purpose of the day and to show greater respect for those who died in military service.

Mr. Atkins sought the perspectives of other veterans serving on the Commission regarding the resolution and its underlying message.

President G. Young responded that he generally supported the resolution and agreed with the importance of historical accuracy and remembrance. He noted that many holidays and historical observances carry complex histories and interpretations. While acknowledging the challenges of changing public perceptions, he stated that encouraging greater understanding and reflection remains worthwhile.

Mr. Cothran, a military veteran, expressed support for the resolution and shared his personal perspective. He explained that hearing the phrase "Happy Memorial Day" has always been difficult for him because Memorial Day commemorates those who lost their lives in service to the country. Referencing the phrase "all gave some, some gave all," he emphasized that Memorial Day is intended to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice. He described Memorial Day and Veterans Day as emotionally significant occasions, recalling fellow service members who began military service with him but never returned home. Mr. Cothran stated that public education regarding the meaning of Memorial Day is important to ensure that its purpose is properly understood.

Mr. Thomas also offered comments from his own military experience. He stated that having known fellow soldiers who died in combat, he understood and shared Commissioner Epperson's concerns regarding the holiday's commercialization. He noted that Memorial Day is not a celebration but rather a solemn opportunity to honor those who sacrificed their lives so that others could enjoy the freedoms afforded by the nation. While acknowledging that resolutions alone may not change public attitudes, he expressed support for efforts to educate citizens about the holiday's significance.

Mrs. Blake spoke in support of the resolution and shared a personal family connection to military service. She recalled growing up in a family affected by the loss of a relative who was listed as missing in action and witnessing the emotional impact that loss had on family members over many years. She stated that Memorial Day serves as an important opportunity to remember those who sacrificed for the nation and to educate others about the purpose of the holiday. Mrs. Blake explained that, as a small business owner, she uses the occasion to discuss the meaning of Memorial Day with employees and customers rather than treating it as a sales opportunity. She emphasized that while individuals remain free to spend the holiday as they choose, public education about its significance remains valuable.

At this time, Mr. Cothran's motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Burrell and Jones being absent.

It was **moved by Mr. Kracman**, seconded by Mr. J. Young, *that Resolution No. 41 of 2026, a resolution requesting data center operators to produce an environmental impact study considering the effects that their development and operations will have on the residents of Dawson Road including the impact to egress and ingress, construction impacts, operational impacts, and otherwise providing with respect thereto be amended to include Stateline Road and surrounding areas and be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration.*

Mr. Epperson requested that the resolution be read into the record. He then explained that the Dawson Road community has experienced long-standing flooding issues, including limited access during major rain events. He noted that residents have historically had only one way in and one way out, creating challenges for emergency services, school transportation, and residents traveling to and from work.

Mr. Epperson referenced the proximity of Dawson Road to the Resilient Technology Park and described concerns regarding drainage patterns in the area. He explained that significant drainage channels converge near Jefferson Paige Road and that flooding has repeatedly affected the community. He further noted that the Parish and City have invested in Resilient Way, but there have been ongoing concerns about whether that roadway could provide access or relief for nearby residents.

He also stated that the proposed data center development would involve a significant amount of construction, land clearing, earth movement, concrete, steel, and other infrastructure. He expressed concern that removing trees, vegetation, and natural absorption areas could worsen stormwater runoff and drainage impacts. He emphasized that the purpose of the resolution was to request a study so residents and public officials could better understand potential effects before construction and operations proceed.

He also raised concerns regarding construction traffic and existing congestion along Industrial Loop, Greenwood Road, Highway 80, Jefferson Paige Road, and surrounding corridors. Commissioner Epperson noted that traffic is already affected when incidents occur on I-20, I-220, or LA 3132, often diverting vehicles through nearby residential and commercial areas. He stated that additional construction vehicles and operational traffic associated with the data center could further impact access and safety for nearby communities, including Greenwood Acres.

President G. Young asked for clarification that Mr. Epperson was not suggesting that the existing flooding began because of Resilient Way, but rather that the flooding problem already existed and could potentially be worsened by future development. Mr. Epperson confirmed that the flooding issue is long-standing and that his concern relates to the potential additional impact of large-scale construction and land disturbance.

The Parish Attorney clarified that the resolution seeks to include traffic, construction, and

operational impacts within the requested study, particularly where traffic may be diverted or increased because of the project.

Mr. Epperson further stated that coordination with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development may be necessary because existing roadway conditions and intersections already require attention. He emphasized that the resolution is a request for the data center operators to study and address potential impacts, consistent with comments previously made by project representatives encouraging residents and officials to identify concerns.

President G. Young questioned whether a study commissioned by the data center operator could be fully independent, noting that studies funded by interested parties may carry perceived or actual bias. He suggested that the Commission may wish to consider whether the resolution should request that an independent entity conduct the study, even if funded by the operator. Mr. Epperson responded that the resolution was intended to make the request and place the issue before the operators and affected residents.

Mr. Atkins expressed support for responsible economic development and stated that major projects should include appropriate impact studies. Administration advised that data center companies should be conducting analyses regarding roadway, water, electricity, and other infrastructure impacts as part of responsible project planning, though Administration did not have evidence of such studies at that time.

Mr. J. Young stated that many citizens have requested greater transparency regarding the data center project, including Amazon's plans and the expected impacts of construction and operations. He noted that when the Commission previously considered the tax agreement involving the data center project, there was discussion that additional conditions or requests could be made as the project moved forward. He stated that the request for an environmental impact study was appropriate and consistent with that prior discussion.

At this time, Mr. Kracman's motion as amended carried unanimously with Commissioners Burrell and Jones being absent.

It was **moved by Mr. Cothran**, seconded by Mr. Kracman, *that Special Resolution of Recognition United States Army 251st Anniversary* be advanced to Thursday's agenda for consideration.

Mr. Epperson noted that June 14, 2026, coincides with Flag Day, Father's Day, and the 251st anniversary of the founding of the United States Army. He emphasized the Army's historic role in the nation's founding, noting that the Army predates both the Constitution and the formal establishment of the United States government. He stated that the Army's contributions to securing American independence and preserving the nation's freedoms should be recognized and remembered. He reflected on the sacrifices made by service members throughout history, including those who left their families and livelihoods behind to serve during the Revolutionary War and subsequent conflicts.

He further noted that veterans' organizations and local governments have long worked to educate the public regarding military service, patriotic observances, and the significance of military-related holidays. He referenced the annual veteran's celebration, honor ceremony, parade, and joint proclamation efforts conducted throughout Caddo Parish and Northwest Louisiana. These initiatives encourage schools, colleges, and community institutions to invite veterans and military personnel to share their experiences and educate the public about military service and American history.

Mr. Epperson emphasized that the resolution aligns with those ongoing educational efforts and serves as another opportunity to promote public understanding of the Army's historical significance and contributions.

Substitute motion by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. J. Young, *to englobo and move the following items to Thursday's Regular Session:*

- *Special Resolution of Recognition United States Army 251st Anniversary*
- *Special Resolution for Hattie D. Wade*
- *Selection of the 2026-2027 Official Journal*
- *Appointment of Mary Stahl May to the Caddo Parish Planning & Zoning Commission to fill the unexpired term of Laura Neubert (term to expire October 2026)*
- *Appointment of Sandra Lister to the Caddo Parish Planning & Zoning Commission to fill the unexpired term of Phyllis Hart (term to expire September 2026)*
- *Presentation and ceremony of the Caddo Parish Youth Leadership Alliance*

Mr. Kracman expressed support for the englobo.

Mr. Cothran suggested that the Parish consider utilizing its communication platforms to further educate the public about military service and veterans' issues. He stated that many non-veterans may simply be unfamiliar with military traditions and customs rather than intentionally disrespectful. He encouraged opportunities for veterans to share their experiences and perspectives with the community, emphasizing that education and dialogue can foster greater understanding and appreciation for military service.

During discussion, Mr. Epperson inquired whether any additional applications had been received regarding the Official Journal designation. The Clerk reported that an application had been received from The Shreveport Times and that no other applications had been submitted.

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

COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Epperson asked whether any members of the Commission had received information regarding a recent Louisiana Spirit Award event associated with Speaker of the House Mike Johnson. He stated that he learned about the event through news coverage and had subsequently contacted Speaker Johnson's office. Mr. Epperson noted that, had he been aware of the opportunity in advance, there were several individuals he would have liked to recommend for consideration. He further informed the Commission that he had a meeting scheduled with Speaker Johnson's office the following day. Mr. Epperson expressed hope that the Parish would have opportunities to engage more closely with Speaker Johnson's office in the future.

- Mr. Cothran then shared information regarding several recent community and educational activities. He reported attending a two-day SAFE Training program focused on suicide awareness and prevention, with particular emphasis on veterans and military families. Mr. Cothran highlighted the importance of addressing mental health concerns and increasing awareness of available resources for those at risk.

He also attended a seminar entitled "Choice Versus Condition," which focused on issues related to domestic violence. Mr. Cothran noted the value of community education and continued efforts to address domestic violence prevention and awareness.

Additionally, Mr. Cothran announced that the Southern Hills Business Association would be holding a meeting the following day at noon and invited interested individuals to attend.

Before concluding his remarks, Mr. Cothran acknowledged his wedding anniversary and extended anniversary wishes to his wife.

CONSENT AGENDA

- *Ordinance No. 6624 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*
- *Ordinance No. 6625 of 2026, an ordinance to authorize the Parish Administrator, or a designee, to sell real property located at 108 Finley Drive, Vivian, LA, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*

There were no Citizens Comments (late arrivals). At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 4:42 p.m.



Michelle Nations
Assistant Commission Clerk