

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION  
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 4th DAY OF JUNE, 2026

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).

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

**AGENDA ADDITIONS**

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *to expand the agenda and add Special Resolution Commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Annie Mae Cannon* be added to the agenda under Special Resolutions.

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, Mr. Thomas' motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Burrell being absent.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Elaine Hamilton came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Hello. My name is Elaine Hamilton and I've been a resident. What I'm speaking on is about the data centers. So, I've been a resident here in Shreveport for all of my life, I'm 27 years old. I want to make a comment on the horrific things that are to come if we allow Amazon and its 12.5 billion dollar data center that wants to build and consume water from our city. When you hear about the data centers, you hear about how great the opportunity is for jobs and it can bring great infrastructure to the people of the city, but we do not hear of the warnings and the harmful things and terrible things that the data centers are, that is actually used and what it's used for. The data centers are used for AI purposes and to help keep artificial intelligence alive. So, what is the everyday maintenance for these centers? What these centers need to keep cooling for the millions of computers so that they don't overheat, and what is needed is our water. The rain water, the lake water, river water, all the waters that provide us with everything that we use to a day-to-day basis, with bathing, toiletries, dishwashing, washing clothes, and washing your cars. Just all of the things that you can think of what we use with water. These companies will only tell us only so much, and if they want us to know or when it's too late for us to act on. So, I'm here to give my vote on the data centers that I do not support them and I don't want them in our city, in this city. And I don't want my city to end up like Memphis, parts of Texas that are like up an hour away from Fort Worth, Ohio, and Georgia. There's no clean drinking water for the rural areas, no clean bathing water for those areas. New Jersey's residents successfully came together and stood their ground and won on what was right for them and their people. So, that's what I want for my people in my city and my state. So, no to data centers and no to AI. Thank you.

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

I just want to start off by saying thank you for Resolutions 38 and 41. Starting with Resolution 38, in the city water agreement, it says that the West Shreveport data center will drain 7.5 million gallons of water per day. In the Blanchard water agreement, it says that it will use 5 million gallons of water per day, both coming from Caddo Lake. Will Amazon still use the water from Caddo Lake and collect rainwater on a daily basis? That's pretty much my only question about Resolution 38. I can visit the neighborhood behind the West Shreveport data center yesterday, and the first thing that I noticed was how quiet it was and how peaceful it was. It didn't even feel like Shreveport. It felt like a rural area outside of the city limits. And you can feel the sense of community between neighbors. I worry for the people. I worry about their health, their children, their peace. The same things goes for Stateline residents. These people have worked their whole lives to build a beautiful family and a home, and they don't deserve to live next door to a data center. I'm sorry. How can we trust a company that asked our elected officials to sign an NDA and they wouldn't even tell us who they were until months after? We deserve clean water. We deserve clean air. We deserve clean energy. So, please, I ask that you change Resolution 41 to ask for a third party, not Amazon and someone of their choosing, because I think we know how that's going to go. Thank you.

Paige Hoffpauir came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Hi. God bless y'all. Thank you for letting me speak today. I just have a concern going forward that we would repeat mistakes of the past. Last year around this time, several of us came and we witnessed to each one of you that Gay Pride Month and LGBTQ Pride Month does not produce fruit that will bless our community. Think like drag shows, things like gay field day in our parks, promoting sexual sin to our children, and confusing god's rainbow, which is a covenant promise of love that he'll never flood the earth again, that they would use that as some symbol that it does not represent. I just come because you voted last year, where previous years it was englobo, meaning it was hidden in other resolutions or other packages to where maybe there were good things in those packages. But if there's something in those

packages that's not good, it wasn't really brought into the light. So last year, by god's grace, this was brought into the light, and each one of you voted on whether you agreed with the declaration of Gay Pride Month being over the citizens of Shreveport. And so, I just believe god moved in that moment, and I believe he'll bring restoration to all of us, no matter what confusion or no matter what sin or no matter what, you know, thing we find ourselves in, which is what we typically can do as human beings. Okay? I don't stand in front of you spotless. None of us do. But we cannot subject ourselves to the curse that comes with announcing that god is okay with something that he's not okay with. And this is not the place to do it. The government seat that you hold is a seat of authority. It's a seat of responsibility. It's a seat of honor. And we rely on your good judgment. That's why we voted for each one of you here. We need you to fear god. We need you to understand that you answer to him. And what cannot produce children should not be admonished as okay. It is not. None of you came into this world by a relationship that was not created by god to reproduce children. So, let's not say it's okay, things that are okay that are not okay, this year. Please, in Jesus's name I ask you, please. Thank you.

Sean Botzong came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

My name is Sean Botzong, and I own a property directly south of the data center proposed on Stateline Road, which is often called Blanchard, but it is not Blanchard. It's on Stateline Road out in the country, and I also own property on the southwest corner from the property that the Stateline Road data center is going to be on. First off, on the Resolution 41, I also would like to ask that a independent agent or people do that. And I would also ask that the data center on Stateline Road also be included in that, as we have the same effects as the data center proposed on Dawson Road. I think that there are better choices than the data center on Stateline Road as far as location, such as the Caddo-Bossier Port that was set up for an industrial site. They have approximately a thousand acres for sale right there right now. There's plenty of water available. Amazon could build their own power plant. There is lots of natural gas that could supply that power plant and they will be using the electricity anyway from somewhere else. I guess my main thing is that I don't want it next to my property that I worked and paid for. This is not land that I inherited. This is something that I worked for and I want to pass down to my son. Thank you.

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

My name is Matthew Alexander. I live at 178 Carrollton. I'm not going to thank you for speaking here because y'all work for me, so let's get that out of the way. I have four points I would like to make during my three minutes of democracy allowed by this commission. Number one, the environmental impact studies voted on Monday must be conducted by a third-party group, not Amazon. And work on these projects must not begin until these two studies have concluded, so that this commission has the necessary time needed to review the findings of these two studies. Number two, there seems to be no legal justification under the Caddo Lake Commission bylaws that would allow the proposed amount of water for the Stateline project to be legally diverted there. The Caddo Lake Commission bylaws state that when the mean sea level is at or below 167 ½ feet above sea level, meaning no water is flowing over the spillway in the 12 Mile Bayou, no diversions from Caddo Lake may be made except in the case of a catastrophic event, such as destruction of a municipality or political subdivision's other water supply source, or a draw down which is more severe than the critical draw down of record. The Commission also states the water priority is given to domestic users, municipalities or municipal use by political subdivisions, and lastly, industries, in that order. While Cross Lake, number three, while Cross Lake is Shreveport's main drinking water reservoir, the city clearly states on their website the 12 Mile Bayou is used as an alternative water supply source when needed, mainly during droughts, which occur frequently. 12 Mile Bayou falls under the authority of the Red River Compact, as does Lake O' the Pines in East Texas and Caddo Lake. Here's a game let's play. If there's no water in Lake O' the Pines flowing into Caddo Lake and no water from Caddo lake flowing into 12 Mile Bayou, then your alternative water supply source has quite literally evaporated. Lastly, this point is concerning the non-disclosure agreements signed in secret regarding these projects. How can this body pretend to be democratic when no one is discussing the absolutely undemocratic nature of non-disclosure agreements? How can any member of this board lecture any resident on anything when some of the members of this very board has signed these agreements, pushing these unpopular projects forward against the wishes of the people? And instead of advocates, we get lecturers. Well, here's a lecture. I signed the recall petition. I've been going door-to-door, person-to-person, encouraging other people to do the same. I want a new governor that won't cancel elections and sell the state to the highest bidder at the detriment of our residents. I want everyone to be equally involved in a real democratic process. But I'm not sure that members of this board want what I want or what the people want. The people want to have a say in the voice of the matter and a voice in the matters affecting their lives. And they're going to have one with or without y'all.

Bennie Harrison came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good evening, everyone. I'm a resident of Shreveport for the past 16 years in the Greenwood Acres subdivision. And where y'all proposing to put that plant at is two streets away from where I grew up at. I know the woods and all that. That's where our playing ground's. But what I want to talk about is the bills that's going up from this data center. They've already went up. I'm a one-person household now in a family home. My gas bill from December is 758 dollars. A one-person household. My kids are grown and gone. No grandkids here or anything. I want to talk about that. 758 dollars. One person. I have no gas leak. I had independent people to come out and check for those leaks. No leaks of any kind. I have proof of it. My electric bill went up. I'm an older person. Suffer from, supposed to been, arthritis and everything. Don't have that. I don't run my air conditioner. My neighbors and them can tell you I'm a outdoorsy type person. I don't need that. When it's cold, just give me a little-bitty electric heater and I'll run that. That bill was up to 238 dollars. I'm on a fixed income once a month. I've worked here all my life since 1977 up until

2006. Also, those plants they're proposing to put a chemical, well a stack there. If we can't go outside, grow our own vegetables with all those chemicals coming down and everything, we getting enough chemicals now. We don't need any more chemicals. I used to work with OSHA through my job, General Motors. I'm proposing that OSHA come in and do these cancer calls and cases, because I know four people directly that has cancer, but when they had it, they lived near the data center. We didn't know what their cancer come from. It was nothing genetic that they had this cancer from. And it was all kind of cancer that not only affected the females, but the males included. We need to study on that. I don't want that coming down on me if I'm sitting outside enjoying my beautifulness that God gave us. We can't do that if we got chemicals coming down on our head and everything. So, y'all, it's a no-go for this darn data center. Thank you.

### **VISITORS**

- Caddo Parish Youth Alliance Presentation

Mrs. Gage-Watts introduced Ms. Valarie Jameson, who serves as coordinator of the inaugural Caddo Parish Youth Leadership Alliance. Ms. Jameson expressed appreciation to Parish Administration and the Commission for supporting the program and described the opportunity to work with local students as both rewarding and inspiring. She stated that the program had been operating since September and had provided students with meaningful leadership and civic engagement experiences.

Ms. Jameson then introduced CPYLA President Michael Hicks and Vice President Taylor Harris, who led the student presentation. The student leaders introduced fellow Alliance members representing schools throughout Caddo Parish and thanked the Commission for the opportunity to participate in the program. They explained that the Alliance was designed to educate students about local government, civic responsibility, leadership development, and community engagement.

Student participants Madison Coleman and Carter McDowell shared personal reflections regarding their experiences in the program. Ms. Coleman stated that participation in the Alliance had allowed her to work alongside like-minded peers, gain a better understanding of parish government operations, and learn parliamentary procedures and leadership skills. She expressed gratitude for the opportunity to participate and described the experience as highly educational and rewarding.

Mr. McDowell likewise praised the program, stating that it had strengthened his confidence, leadership abilities, and understanding of local government. He specifically highlighted presentations involving the juvenile justice system, which he said reinforced the importance of discipline, decision-making, and personal responsibility. He thanked Mrs. Gage-Watts, Ms. Jameson, and program staff for their guidance and mentorship.

Vice President Harris then introduced the Alliance's group project, entitled "Project Youth Night Out." She explained that Alliance members surveyed local youth regarding activities and opportunities they would like to see offered within the community. Based on feedback received, the students developed a proposal for a recurring youth-centered event designed to provide a safe, engaging, and positive environment for teenagers.

The students outlined a proposal for a quarterly Youth Night Out event to be held at parish recreational facilities and parks. Proposed locations included Walter B. Jacobs Memorial Nature Park, Earl G. Williamson Park, Keithville Community Park, and P.B.S. Pinchback Park. Students envisioned the event as a collaborative effort involving the Youth Leadership Alliance, the Commission, community partners, and local businesses.

Alliance members described a variety of activities designed to encourage youth participation, including gaming tournaments, educational competitions, trivia contests, giant lawn games, arts and crafts stations, scavenger hunts, and recreational opportunities. Students also proposed incorporating civic education components by providing opportunities for Commissioners to engage directly with youth participants and share information about parish government and public service.

The presentation further addressed logistical considerations, including food service, event staffing, security, registration procedures, and parental communication. Students proposed utilizing an online registration system and mobile application that would allow participants to register, verify eligibility, receive event information, and provide parents with notifications regarding attendance and event activities. The students emphasized safety as a primary consideration and outlined recommendations for security personnel, monitoring procedures, and participant accountability.

The Alliance also presented preliminary cost estimates associated with facility rentals, security, food, entertainment, event equipment, prizes, and insurance requirements. Students explained that the project was intended to create positive recreational opportunities for local youth while encouraging civic involvement, leadership development, and community engagement.

Mrs. Gage-Watts concluded the Youth Leadership Alliance presentation by expressing her gratitude and pride in the inaugural class of participants. She commended the students for their commitment, leadership, and vision, noting that leadership is defined not by age but by courage, service, and a willingness to make a positive impact. Mrs. Gage-Watts reflected on the origins of the program, explaining that the concept had begun several years earlier after reviewing information regarding a youth

leadership initiative in another community. She stated that seeing the program fully implemented in Caddo Parish represented the realization of a long-term vision and reaffirmed her belief that investing in young people is essential to the future success of the parish. She also recognized Parish Administrator Erica Bryant, Ms. Valerie Jameson, Mr. Jeff Everson, and numerous staff members whose support and mentorship contributed to the program's success.

President G. Young also congratulated the students and emphasized the Commission's ongoing commitment to investing in future generations. He discussed the Commission's vision for future quality-of-life projects, including the proposed motorsports complex, and noted that many of the recreational and youth-oriented activities envisioned by the students could potentially be incorporated into future parish facilities. President Jackson encouraged the students to remain engaged in their communities and invited them to attend the upcoming Caddo's Rising Star competition to support fellow young people showcasing their talents.

Mr. Jones thanked Mrs. Gage-Watts for championing the initiative and acknowledged the effort required to transform an idea into a successful program. He praised the students for the professionalism and creativity demonstrated in their presentation, particularly their emphasis on safety, parental involvement, and accountability. Mr. Jones encouraged the students to continue developing their leadership skills, pursue educational and professional opportunities, and ultimately bring their experiences back to Caddo Parish to help strengthen the community. He expressed hope that one day members of the Youth Leadership Alliance would return to serve as community leaders and elected officials.

Mrs. Blake congratulated the students on their accomplishments and praised the Alliance's proposed Youth Night Out initiative for focusing on the broader needs of young people throughout Caddo Parish rather than the interests of a single school or community. She commended the students for creating a project designed to promote safety, positive recreation, and community engagement, noting that their willingness to serve others reflected strong leadership qualities.

Mr. Cothran echoed the praise offered by his colleagues and commended the students for their dedication and perseverance. He specifically noted the importance of involving peers in the project development process and encouraged the participants to maintain the relationships they had built through the program. Drawing upon his military experience, Mr. Cochran encouraged students to continue supporting one another as "battle buddies" and acknowledged the role parents and family members played in helping participants take advantage of the opportunity.

Mr. Burrell praised the confidence and leadership displayed by the students and compared their growth to that of participants in youth entrepreneurship programs he has supported over the years. He encouraged the students to continue thinking about their future goals and reminded them that they possess the ability to achieve success through hard work and determination. Mr. Burrell stated that the students represented the future of the community and expressed confidence that they would continue to make meaningful contributions in the years ahead.

Mr. Thomas congratulated the students on the quality of their presentation and described their work as comparable to that of professional staff presentations regularly delivered to the Commission. He encouraged the students to recognize that their circumstances do not define their future and shared personal reflections regarding his own journey from childhood adversity to public service. Mr. Thomas praised the students for demonstrating that young people are capable of leading, planning, and implementing meaningful initiatives and expressed enthusiasm for the proposed Youth Night Out program. He also commended Mrs. Gage-Watts for her leadership in establishing the Youth Leadership Alliance and creating opportunities for future generations of young leaders.

Parish Administrator Erica Bryant thanked Mrs. Gage-Watts, Ms. Jameson, Mr. Everson, and the students for their participation and dedication throughout the inaugural year of the program. She acknowledged the time commitment required of the participants and congratulated them on completing the program successfully. Administrator Bryant expressed her anticipation for future classes of the Youth Leadership Alliance and encouraged the students to continue pursuing leadership opportunities.

Ms. Jameson then recognized the parents and family members in attendance and thanked them for supporting the students throughout the program. She again expressed appreciation to Parish staff and presenters who contributed to the students' educational experience. Before concluding the presentation, the students presented Mrs. Gage-Watts with a token of appreciation in recognition of her vision and leadership in establishing the program.

It was then **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *to authorize the funding of up to \$35k per quarter to support the implementation of the Youth Night Out initiative propose by the Youth Leadership Alliance utilizing an appropriate existing funding source.*

During discussion, staff clarified that the motion did not create a new budget allocation but instead authorized the use of existing available funds within the appropriate budget category.

Mrs. Gage-Watts' motion was approved unanimously with Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Epperson, Kracman, and J. Young being absent.

## **ADOPT REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *that Regular Session Minutes from May 21, 2026 be adopted.* Motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Burrell.

### **SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS**

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that the following items be englobed and adopted:*

- *Special Resolution Commemorating the 251<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the United States Army*

Mr. Epperson spoke briefly on the Special Resolution commemorating the 251st Anniversary of the United States Army, emphasizing the Army's founding on June 14, 1775, and its historical significance in the formation and defense of the United States.

- *Special Resolution Hattie D. Wade*

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

### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION 251<sup>ST</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY**

WHEREAS, the United States Army was established by the Second Continental Congress on June 14, 1775, making it the oldest branch of the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, for two hundred fifty-one years, the United States Army has faithfully defended the freedoms, liberties, and democratic principles upon which this Nation was founded, serving with honor through times of war, peace, and national emergency; and

WHEREAS, generations of Soldiers have answered the call to duty, demonstrating extraordinary courage, selfless service, integrity, and sacrifice in defense of the United States and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Army's proud legacy includes the service of millions of Americans from all walks of life who have contributed to the security, strength, and prosperity of our Nation both at home and abroad; and

WHEREAS, the United States Army continues to uphold its mission of protecting the Nation, supporting allies, responding to disasters, and maintaining readiness to meet the challenges of an ever-changing world; and

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish is home to many active-duty Soldiers, veterans, reservists, National Guard members, military families, and patriotic citizens whose contributions and sacrifices strengthen our community and exemplify the values of duty, honor, and country; and

WHEREAS, the 251st Anniversary of the United States Army provides an opportunity for all Americans to reflect upon and express gratitude for the dedication and service of the men and women who have worn the Army uniform throughout our Nation's history.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission, in regular session convened, that it does hereby commemorate the 251st Anniversary of the United States Army, honor the distinguished legacy of the Army and its Soldiers, and express its deepest appreciation for their unwavering commitment to the defense of the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Caddo Parish Commission encourages all citizens to recognize and celebrate the contributions of Army Soldiers, veterans, and military families whose service and sacrifice have helped preserve the freedoms enjoyed by all Americans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Caddo Parish Commission and that suitable copies be presented as appropriate.

THUS, DONE AND ADOPTED by the Caddo Parish Commission, in regular session convened on this 4th day of June, 2026.

### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION HATTIE D. WADE**

WHEREAS, Dr. Hattie Lewis Wade was born in Cotton Valley, Louisiana, reared in Monroe, Louisiana, and received her early education at Little Flower Catholic School; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Wade pursued higher education with distinction, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education with a concentration in piano and choral conducting from Grambling State University, a Master of Education from Louisiana State University, and the prestigious Doctorate of Sacred Music from Temple College in Cincinnati, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Wade faithfully served the students of the Caddo Parish School System as a dedicated music educator for more than twenty years, inspiring generations of young people through excellence in music education and earning numerous superior ratings and sweepstakes honors with her middle and high school choirs and piano groups; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Wade demonstrated extraordinary leadership as Director of Music for the city-wide youth rally choir, helping to grow the choir to more than 600 voices and creating opportunities for countless youth to develop their talents and strengthen their faith through music; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Wade devoted more than thirty years of distinguished service as Organist and Director of Music for the National Baptist Convention of America International, Inc., and in recognition of her immeasurable impact and legacy, the Convention renamed its music department "The Hattie Wade Academy of Music & Arts" upon her retirement; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Wade's gifts and talents have reached beyond local and national borders, as she has shared her expertise through music workshops and educational classes in Australia and Switzerland; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Wade recently retired after an extraordinary 59 and one-half years of faithful service as Pianist and Director/Minister of Music at Galilee Baptist Church, where her ministry touched countless lives through worship, mentorship, and musical excellence; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hattie Wade's lifelong dedication to education, ministry, music, and service has made a lasting impact upon the citizens of Caddo Parish and far beyond, leaving a legacy of faith, excellence, and inspiration for future generations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby recognize and honor Dr. Hattie Lewis Wade for her remarkable lifetime of service, leadership, and contributions to music education and ministry, and extend sincere gratitude and appreciation for her unwavering commitment to the community and the Kingdom of God.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be presented to Dr. Hattie Lewis Wade as an expression of highest esteem, admiration, and appreciation for her outstanding legacy of service.

THUS, DONE AND SIGNED this 31st day of May, 2026.

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that Special Resolution Commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Mrs. Annie Mae Cannon* be adopted.

Mrs. Gage-Watts offered remarks recognizing Mrs. Cannon's milestone and the blessing of celebrating her centennial birthday.

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

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION  
MRS. ANNIE MAE CANNON 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**

WHEREAS, reaching one hundred years of age is an extraordinary milestone achieved by only a select few individuals, representing a lifetime of perseverance, faith, wisdom, and dedication; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Annie Mae Cannon celebrated her 100th birthday in 2026, marking a century of life during which she has witnessed remarkable changes in American history, advances in society and technology, and the continued growth and development of the Shreveport-Caddo Parish community; and

WHEREAS, throughout her long and distinguished life, Mrs. Cannon has served as an example of strength, resilience, and grace, inspiring family members, friends, neighbors, and all who have had the privilege of knowing her; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Cannon's century of life reflects the enduring values of faith, family, service, and community that have helped shape generations and strengthen the fabric of Northwest Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission desires to join with her family, loved ones, and the citizens of Caddo Parish in recognizing this extraordinary occasion and expressing appreciation for the example Mrs. Cannon has provided through her life and character;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in regular

session convened that it does hereby recognize and celebrate the 100th Birthday of Mrs. Annie Mae Cannon and extends its heartfelt congratulations and best wishes as she commemorates this remarkable milestone.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Caddo Parish Commission expresses its sincere gratitude for Mrs. Cannon's century of life, wisdom, and inspiration, and wishes her continued health, happiness, peace, and blessings in the years ahead.

THUS DONE AND ADOPTED by the Caddo Parish Commission, State of Louisiana, in regular session convened on this 4th day of June, 2026.

### **ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

- *Dale Sibley, Registrar of Voters*

Parish Administrator Erica Bryant introduced Mr. Dale Sibley, Caddo Parish Registrar of Voters, who attended the meeting to address election-related questions and concerns raised by Commissioners and constituents. Ms. Bryant noted that Mr. Sibley had agreed to appear at the meeting in advance of the June 15 meeting due to early voting obligations.

Mr. Sibley then addressed the Commission regarding election administration and voter concerns. Mr. Thomas reported receiving numerous calls from constituents during the recent election regarding precinct location changes and voter confusion when arriving at polling places. He inquired about follow-up efforts and asked how information regarding precinct changes was being communicated to voters. Mr. Sibley explained that precinct locations and polling place assignments fall under the jurisdiction of the Clerk of Court's Office. He noted that while the Registrar's Office receives notification of precinct changes in order to update voter records, it does not participate in the decision-making process related to those changes. He cited the Western Hills/Bill Cockrell precinct change as an example of a change with which he was personally familiar.

He also requested clarification regarding party affiliation requirements and important deadlines for voters wishing to change their registration information. Mr. Sibley explained that voter registration changes are prohibited during the thirty-day "close of books" period preceding an election. As the parish was already within that period for the June election, any changes made now would not become effective until the fall election cycle. He further informed the Commission that absentee ballots had recently been received and that staff members were working extended hours to prepare and mail them due to the shortened election calendar. He advised that voters should begin receiving mail ballots shortly and reminded the public that early voting would begin on Friday, June 12, rather than the customary Saturday start date, due to the Juneteenth holiday. Early voting would be conducted at both the downtown and South Shreveport locations.

Responding to concerns regarding absentee ballots that had been distributed before changes were made to the election ballot, Mr. Sibley assured the Commission that no ballots had been discarded. He explained that while races for the House of Representatives were subsequently removed from consideration due to legislative and executive actions, ballots had already been printed and distributed. He noted that election officials followed state guidance and simply did not count votes cast in those races. He emphasized that all other portions of those ballots remained valid and were counted appropriately.

Mrs. Gage-Watts requested clarification regarding voter registration deadlines. Referring to information available on the Secretary of State's website, she noted that June 6 was listed as the deadline for online registration changes. Mr. Sibley confirmed that while online registration changes closed on June 6, in-person registration changes could still be made for an additional period. She emphasized the importance of ensuring that accurate information is communicated to voters regarding registration deadlines and election procedures.

Mrs. Gage-Watts further asked how election-related information was being communicated to the public. Mr. Sibley explained that Louisiana's election system is highly centralized, with most election guidance and public information originating from the Secretary of State's Office. He stated that state officials had led public education efforts regarding the recent transition to a closed primary system, including mailings to no-party voters and statewide informational campaigns. Locally, the Registrar's Office supplements those efforts through public presentations, website updates, public service announcements, and outreach to community organizations. He acknowledged that the transition had occurred rapidly and that voter feedback had highlighted areas needing improvement.

Mr. Sibley also discussed changes to the absentee voting process, including the introduction of a new four-envelope mailing system. He noted that some voters found the revised process clear and understandable, while others expressed frustration with its complexity. Feedback from both registrars and clerks throughout the state had been communicated to state officials for consideration. He advised that election administrators continue to evaluate potential improvements to the process.

Mrs. Gage-Watts encouraged the Registrar's Office to continue expanding voter education efforts and suggested linking Secretary of State election information directly to the Registrar's website. She also recommended sharing voter information updates with Commissioners so they could help disseminate accurate information to constituents. Mr. Sibley agreed that voter education is critical and indicated that his office welcomes opportunities to partner with local officials in communicating election information.

The discussion then turned to Election Day assistance and voter support. Mr. Sibley explained that while the Clerk of Court manages polling locations on Election Day, the Registrar's Office remains fully staffed to answer questions from voters and Commissioners. He advised that voters experiencing problems at polling locations should immediately notify election commissioners before casting their ballots. Once a ballot has been submitted, election officials are unable to alter or correct it. He emphasized that Louisiana's election system contains procedures for resolving most voter issues, provided concerns are raised before a ballot is finalized.

President G. Young briefly exercised a point of personal privilege to acknowledge both his own military service and Mr. Sibley's service in the 101st Airborne Division. He thanked Mr. Sibley for his ongoing efforts to educate voters and provide accurate election information. President G. Young stressed the importance of an informed electorate and combating misinformation regarding election procedures.

Mr. Sibley concluded by encouraging Commissioners to continue sharing constituent concerns with his office. He stated that many election-related issues can be addressed effectively when officials are notified promptly. He also provided an overview of the Caddo Parish Board of Election Supervisors. He explained that the Board serves as the governing body responsible for certifying election results, reviewing ballot issues, and making determinations regarding the validity of questioned ballots. The Board consists of the Registrar of Voters, the Clerk of Court, a gubernatorial appointee, a Republican Party appointee, and a Democratic Party appointee. Mr. Sibley emphasized that the Board plays a critical role in election oversight and final certification of election results within the parish.

It was noted that Clerk of Court, Mike Spence, was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict involving election training, but had been invited to participate. Ms. Bryant also informed the Commission that Facilities and Maintenance personnel were actively installing election precinct signage throughout the parish in preparation for the upcoming election.

- *Caddo's Rising Star*

Parish Administrator Erica Bryant invited Ms. Krystle Beauchamp and Mr. Patrick Wesley to provide an update on the upcoming Caddo's Rising Star talent competition. Ms. Beauchamp reported that the event would be held on June 7 at 6:00 p.m. and highlighted the enthusiasm and dedication demonstrated by the youth finalists throughout the competition process. She noted that the finalists represented a variety of talents, including vocal performances, dance, and instrumental music, and had participated in television and radio appearances promoting the event. Ms. Beauchamp advised that four judges from the music, television, and film industries would evaluate the contestants, who would compete for a \$5,000 grand prize. In addition, a People's Choice Award would be determined through audience participation. She further announced that nationally known entertainer Cupid would serve as Master of Ceremonies and perform during the program. She encouraged Commissioners and the public to attend and support the youth participants.

Mr. Wesley expressed appreciation to the Commission and Parish Administration for their support of the program. He stated that the initiative provides young people throughout Caddo Parish with an opportunity to showcase their talents and feel valued by their community. Mr. Wesley described the program as a meaningful investment in local youth and thanked the Commission for allowing staff the flexibility to develop innovative community-centered programming.

Following the presentation, Administrator Bryant reiterated the Parish's excitement regarding the event and encouraged public participation in celebrating the talents of Caddo Parish youth.

### **COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mr. J. Young inquired about the proposed SCORE litter abatement initiative involving Shreveport Green and a workforce development component utilizing high school students. Administrator Bryant explained that because the proposal would function as a program rather than a contracted public works service, it would be most appropriately considered through the Parish's Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) funding application process. She distinguished the proposal from traditional vendor-based litter collection services already managed through existing Public Works contracts. Mr. J. Young requested that Administration communicate with Shreveport Green regarding the appropriate application process.

He also expressed appreciation to citizens who had appeared before the Commission regarding data center-related issues. He acknowledged that data center development is a complex subject and noted that public input, particularly when presented in a constructive and respectful manner, contributes meaningfully to the Commission's understanding of the topic. He specifically thanked a citizen who had provided information and perspectives regarding data centers and their potential impacts.

- Mr. Thomas announced the successful opening weekend of the Shreveport Farmers' Market. He encouraged residents to visit the market, which operates each Saturday at Festival Plaza from 8:00 a.m. until noon through August 23. He noted the popularity of the market and advised visitors to arrive early for the best selection of locally grown produce. Mr. Thomas highlighted the market's SNAP matching program, which provides additional purchasing power for individuals utilizing food assistance benefits. He further informed the public of the Shreveport Green Urban Farm Market, held weekly at the

Urban Farm on Sprague Street, where fruits and vegetables are available at reduced cost.

He announced several upcoming community events, including Social Con, a professional conference for marketing and media professionals, and the Art-ish Festival at Riverview Hall, which would showcase local visual artists and performers. He encouraged public participation in both events.

Mr. Thomas then addressed comments and media coverage surrounding recent discussions involving Providence House and development opportunities within the Shreveport Common area. He stated that his intent had been to facilitate dialogue regarding opportunities that could strengthen Providence House's mission and long-term capacity rather than oppose the organization's presence or services. He reaffirmed his support for Providence House's work serving vulnerable populations, particularly women and children experiencing homelessness, and emphasized his commitment to collaborative solutions that support both the organization and the continued development of the Shreveport Common District. He reported that discussions among stakeholders had resulted in a commitment to continued dialogue and cooperation moving forward.

He concluded his remarks by congratulating Mr. Stephen Jean on his appointment as Executive Director of the Metropolitan Planning Commission, expressing confidence in his leadership and wishing him success in the role.

- Mr. Epperson commended Parish Administration and legislative consultant Dr. Pierre for providing thorough and accessible legislative updates throughout the 2026 Legislative Session. He also publicly thanked Senator Sam Jenkins and Representative Joy Walters for their responsiveness and assistance regarding legislative matters affecting Caddo Parish. Mr. Epperson further inquired about the status of summer feeding programs for children. In response, Mr. Thomas advised that the summer feeding program would continue and indicated that information regarding locations and schedules would be distributed to Commissioners for sharing with constituents. Mr. Epperson also encouraged residents experiencing utility affordability concerns to contact available assistance programs, including SWEPCO, Delta Utilities, and the Caddo Community Action Agency.

- Mr. Atkins echoed Mr. Epperson's praise for Dr. Pierre, noting the value of the legislative reports and updates provided to the Commission. Administrator Bryant advised that Dr. Pierre would present a comprehensive legislative recap to the Commission following completion of the legislative session and gubernatorial action on pending legislation. Mr. Atkins also followed up on a previously requested financial information report regarding the sports complex project. Administrator Bryant acknowledged the request and indicated that staff would provide the information as soon as practicable.

- Mrs. Blake reported attending the Free Coalition Conference, which focused on human trafficking and sex trafficking prevention. She described the conference as both educational and impactful, noting presentations from law enforcement agencies, educators, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation regarding emerging trafficking concerns, including online exploitation. Mrs. Blake announced plans to invite representatives to provide a future presentation to the Commission. She also highlighted an upcoming fundraising event, the "Nowhere to Wear It" Party, benefiting Purchased: Not for Sale, an organization supporting individuals impacted by human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.

Additionally, Mrs. Blake promoted the American Rose Center's planned celebration of America's 250th anniversary, scheduled for July 5. She described the event as a family-oriented celebration featuring patriotic activities, live entertainment, historical reenactors, food vendors, and community participation. She also shared her attendance at a dedication ceremony honoring the First Lady of Shreveport through the planting of the Shreveport Rose, noting the flower's unique significance and beauty.

- Mr. Lazarus provided a report on a Rural Development Committee meeting focused on long-term water supply issues affecting Caddo Parish. He thanked Dr. Ken Ward for presenting information regarding the parish's water resources and infrastructure challenges. Mr. Lazarus explained that North Caddo Parish is primarily served by Blanchard Water, while portions of South Caddo rely heavily on groundwater aquifers. He noted concerns regarding aquifer depletion and discussed previously identified alternative water sources, including Caddo Lake, Toledo Bend Reservoir, and the Red River. He reported that, given concerns regarding certain alternatives, the Red River may warrant additional evaluation. Mr. Lazarus stated that a comprehensive environmental study would be required before any significant project could move forward and announced that he had requested preparation of legislation to initiate such a study. He encouraged fellow Commissioners to support the effort when presented.

President G. Young praised the Rural Development Committee meeting, describing it as one of the most informative committee meetings he had attended. He noted the value of obtaining factual, locally focused information regarding water resources and emphasized the importance of continuing objective and informed discussions concerning water usage, infrastructure planning, and related development issues.

- Mr. Burrell reported on the continued success of the BizCamp Entrepreneurship Program, now in its twenty-sixth year. He explained that the program serves youth ages 13 to 17, as well as Job Corps participants, by providing entrepreneurial education and business experience. Commissioner

Burrell noted that the program receives support from both public and private partners, including the Caddo Parish Commission and the G-Unit Foundation. He announced that participants would soon conduct a public marketplace event featuring products purchased and resold through the program, providing hands-on business experience.

- Before concluding comments, Mr. Thomas announced an upcoming Levitt AMP concert at Caddo Common Park featuring the Natural Change Band. He advised that the free event would include complimentary admission, refreshments, and community activities, encouraging residents to attend and support the concert series.

There was no President's Report nor Public Hearings on Zoning Ordinances.

### **PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES**

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

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

There are no Zoning Ordinances for final passage.

### **ORDINANCES (for final passage)**

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to englobe and adopt the following ordinances:*

- *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 to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

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

### **ORDINANCE NO. 6624 OF 2026**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

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

WHEREAS, the hereinbelow described properties are no longer needed for public purposes and should be declared surplus properties; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has received offers to purchase its tax interest in the hereinbelow described properties as indicated below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that the hereinbelow described properties are no longer needed for public purposes and are surplus properties.

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has a tax interest in the hereinbelow described properties which have been adjudicated for the non-payment of Parish property taxes; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby authorize the sale of its tax interest in the hereinbelow described properties.

Property No. 1, South 56' of Lots 12 & 13, Block D, T.C. Barret Subdivision, a subdivision in the City of Shreveport of Caddo Parish, Louisiana as per plat recorded in Book 300, Page 408, Caddo Parish, Louisiana (GEO # 171401-098-0034-00)

Property No. 2, Lot 23, Greenlawn Terrace Subdivision, a subdivision in the City of Shreveport of Caddo Parish, Louisiana as per plat recorded in Book 50, Page 289, Caddo Parish, Louisiana (GEO # 181435-029-0023-00)

Property No. 3, Lot 38 & East 30' of Lot 39, R.T. Cole Subdivision, TAL 10, Allendale, a subdivision in the City of Shreveport of Caddo Parish, Louisiana as per plat recorded in Book 250, Page 242, Caddo Parish, Louisiana (GEO # 181436-024-0062-00)

Property No. 4, E. 3.5' of N ½ of S 2/3 of Lot 79, less N 3', thereof AND N/2 of S 2/3 of Lot 80, less N 3', thereof, Shepherd & Stuart Subdivision, a subdivision in the City of Shreveport of Caddo Parish, Louisiana as per plat recorded in Book 24, Page 591, Caddo Parish, Louisiana (181435-125-0094-00)

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Caddo Parish Administrator, or his designee, shall be authorized to do any and all things and to sign any and all documents, including Acts of Cash Sale, 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 ten 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. 6625 OF 2026**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

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.

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo owns property a tract of land and building at 108 Finley Drive, Vivian, Louisiana which was formerly used as the North Camp for the Parish Public Works Department; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo no longer needs the property for public use; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Vivian desires to use the property to house some of its public services; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Vivian has offered to purchase the property, at its appraised fair market value less \$10,400.00 which is the cost of environmental remediation of storage tank located on the property, resulting in a sales price of \$359,600.00; 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 of the parish government; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission desires to allow the Town of Vivian to purchase the property located at 108 Finley Street, Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby declare surplus and authorize the transfer and sale of property identified above, LESS AND EXCEPT ALL MINERAL INTERESTS THEREIN OWNED BY THE PARISH OF CADDO to the Town of Vivian. or its authorized designee at a cost of \$359,600.00 for the property, the appraised fair market value less the cost of environmental remediation.

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 a copy of the instrument evidencing the sale

contemplated herein shall be on file in the Office of the Clerk of the Caddo Parish Commission for public inspection for thirty (30) days from the date this ordinance becomes effective.

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.

#### **ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION BY TITLE**

- *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 interest in certain surplus adjudicated properties, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

#### **WORK SESSION MINUTES**

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Cothran *that Work Session Minutes from June 1<sup>st</sup>* be adopted. Motion carried unanimously with all Commissioners present.

#### **RESOLUTIONS**

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *that 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 postponed.

Upon recommendation from Administration, Mr. Thomas moved to postpone consideration of the resolution pending additional review and confirmation of a permanent solution to issues identified at the project site. The motion to postpone was adopted by acclamation.

Administrator Bryant explained that a temporary solution had already been implemented and staff wished to verify the appropriateness of a permanent corrective action before returning the item to the Commission.

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that the following resolutions be remanded to the Natural Resources Committee:*

- *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*
- *Resolution No. 41 of 2026, a resolution requesting data center operator to produce an environmental impact study considering the effects that their development and operations will have on the residents of Dawson Road and State Line Road including the egress and ingress, construction impacts, operational impacts, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*

In support of his motion, Mr. Thomas emphasized the importance of obtaining comprehensive information before acting on matters involving water resources and data center development. He stated that while he respected the concerns expressed by citizens and fellow Commissioners, the Commission had not yet fully analyzed the available information or received sufficient input from relevant authorities. He noted the value of previous discussions regarding rainwater harvesting and water management strategies and expressed a desire for a thorough review involving the Caddo Lake Commission and other subject matter experts. Mr. Thomas stressed that the Commission should balance economic development opportunities with responsible environmental stewardship and should avoid making decisions without adequate factual information. He encouraged continued dialogue, collaboration, and public engagement through the committee process.

Mr. Jones noted that committee meetings are publicly noticed in advance and encouraged interested citizens to subscribe to Commission notifications. He then asked whether the Rural Development Committee might also have a role in reviewing the matter given its connection to water resources. President G. Young responded that, while water supply concerns affect both rural and municipal areas, the broader environmental and resource management implications of the proposed resolutions made the Natural Resources Committee the most appropriate venue for review. He expressed confidence in the committee's ability to conduct a fair and objective evaluation of the issues.

**Substitute motion by Mr. Kracman**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *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 remanded to the Natural Resources Committee; and Resolution No. 41 of 2026, a resolution requesting data center operator to produce an environmental impact study considering the effects that their development and operations will have on the residents of Dawson Road and State Line Road including the egress and ingress, construction impacts, operational impacts, and otherwise providing with respect thereto be adopted.

Mr. Kracman explained that the request for an environmental and infrastructure study should move forward independently of broader policy discussions. He stated that the resolution merely requested information and did not impose mandates or regulatory requirements on any developer. Mr. Kracman noted that studies related to environmental impacts, drainage, ingress and egress, and infrastructure are standard components of major development projects and suggested that obtaining such information would assist the Commission in making informed decisions.

President G. Young further acknowledged that some of the requested analyses may already have been completed and suggested that the Commission first determine what information was already available before requesting additional studies.

Mr. Epperson emphasized that Resolution No. 41 constituted a request for information rather than a mandate, noting that the proposed resolution simply sought an environmental impact study and was not intended to impose requirements on developers. He further observed that previous major parish projects, including the sports complex and pickleball facility, had been supported by feasibility studies and extensive public discussion, arguing that similar efforts to gather information should not be viewed as burdensome.

Mr. J. Young noted that previous discussions had contemplated including multiple proposed data center developments within any requested environmental impact review. He pointed out that while one of the facilities was referenced in the title of the agenda item, references to the State Line Road project did not appear consistently throughout all versions of the supporting documentation. Commission Clerk, Mr. Everson, clarified that the amended version under consideration did, in fact, include references to both the Resilient Technology Park development and the proposed State Line Road facility.

Mr. Thomas reiterated his support for obtaining additional information regarding data center development and associated environmental concerns. He expressed support for further review through the committee process so that Commissioners could receive detailed presentations, evaluate factual information, and develop policy recommendations based on a more complete understanding of the issues involved.

Mr. Jones stated that several citizens who had appeared before the Commission expressed concerns about allowing developers to conduct their own environmental studies and had advocated for independent, third-party evaluations. He emphasized the importance of considering those concerns and allowing sufficient time for additional review and public input. Mr. Jones noted that the rapid pace of discussions surrounding data centers warranted a deliberate and thoughtful approach and expressed support for committee review before any final action was taken.

**Call for the Question by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Cothran, Jones, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (9). NAYS: Commissioners Burrell and Gage-Watts (2). ABSENT: Commissioner Epperson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Kracman's substitute motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Kracman, Lazarus, and J. Young (4). NAYS: Commissioners Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Gage-Watts, Jones, Thomas, and G. Young (7). ABSENT: Commissioner Epperson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Thomas' original motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Gage-Watts, Jones, Kracman, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (10). NAYS: Commissioner Lazarus (1). ABSENT: Commissioner Epperson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Following the vote, Mr. Thomas requested that information regarding public notification of committee meetings be shared with citizens interested in participating in future discussions. Commission Clerk Everson advised that citizens may subscribe to calendar alerts through the Parish's website, [caddo.gov](http://caddo.gov), which provides notifications of upcoming committee meetings and agendas. Mr. Jones inquired whether such notifications would continue automatically once subscribed, and staff confirmed that alerts would continue until the subscriber chose to opt out.

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *to amend Resolution No. 40 of 2026 to reflect the following language: a resolution to recognize and educated the public on the true meaning and history of Memorial Day, to honor the men and women of the United States Armed Forces who made the ultimate sacrifice, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be adopted.

The substitute resolution acknowledged the historical origins of Memorial Day, recognized its significance as a national observance honoring fallen service members, encouraged educational and commemorative activities, and expressed support for veterans, military families, and Gold Star families.

The resolution also specifically recognized several recently fallen members of the United States Armed Forces and extended condolences to their families and fellow service members.

Speaking in support of the substitute motion, Mr. Thomas, a military veteran, emphasized the importance of honoring those who sacrificed their lives in service to the nation while also respecting the freedoms for which they fought. He stated that Memorial Day should be observed through education, remembrance, and recognition of military service rather than through directives regarding how individuals choose to commemorate the holiday. Mr. Thomas expressed his belief that the substitute resolution more appropriately balanced public education, historical awareness, and respect for individual freedoms.

Mr. Kracman responded by acknowledging the intent behind both the original and substitute resolutions but expressed concerns regarding the direction of the substitute measure. He stated that Memorial Day traditionally honors all service members who have died in military service and questioned the inclusion of references to specific recent military casualties. Mr. Kracman argued that Memorial Day should remain a unifying observance honoring all fallen service members regardless of race, political affiliation, or era of service. He further stated that he could not support either version of the resolution, citing concerns regarding constitutional principles, freedom of expression, and maintaining the broad historical purpose of Memorial Day.

President G. Young encouraged Commissioners to remain respectful of differing viewpoints and emphasized the importance of maintaining civility during debate. He noted that Commissioners have a responsibility to express their opinions while also respecting the perspectives of their colleagues.

Mr. Atkins spoke in support of the substitute resolution, stating that he believed the revised version represented an improvement over the original proposal. He noted that the substitute resolution focused on honoring service members, educating the public about Memorial Day, and promoting remembrance without addressing unrelated matters. Mr. Atkins expressed his belief that the substitute resolution appropriately recognized the significance of Memorial Day and indicated his support for its adoption.

Mr. Jones addressed the Commission regarding the importance of maintaining respectful dialogue despite disagreements. He thanked veterans and active-duty service members for their sacrifices and acknowledged the freedoms made possible through military service. Mr. Jones emphasized the need for Commissioners to engage one another with civility and professionalism, noting the progress the Commission had made in improving its working relationships and encouraging colleagues to continue fostering a constructive environment. He further observed that historical events and facts should be acknowledged as part of the educational purpose of Memorial Day and encouraged the Commission to focus on unity and leadership.

**Call for the Question by Mr. Cothran**, seconded by Mr. Jones. Motion carried unanimously with Commission Epperson being absent.

There was no Old Business.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

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

- *Selection of the 2026-2027 Caddo Parish Official Journal USA Today/Local IQ/Sheveport Times*
- *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 2028*

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

There were no Communiqués nor Citizens Comments for late arrivals. There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

  
Michelle Nations  
Assistant Commission Clerk

  
Gregory Young  
President