

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 19th DAY OF OCTOBER, 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, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Jones, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (10). ABSENT: Commissioner Blake and Gage-Watts (2).

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

AGENDA ADDITIONS

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

- *Special Resolution of Recognition Veterans Celebration Week in Caddo Parish*
- *Special Resolution David Dennis*

A public hearing was opened regarding the proposed additions.

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

Good evening, members of the Commission. Jon Glover, 9100 Walker Road, Apartment 217, Shreveport, Louisiana, zip code 71118. Listening to what the clerk has shared. Three then two. Who are the two? And can you share with us what it is that prompts them being added to the agenda, if you will? Thank you. [Mr. J. Young briefly explained which potential agenda additions were to be voted upon.] Thank you, Mr. President. I was trying to see which two, the potential two, were because he did state them, but I did not hear them clearly enough. I did understand that the one that was in the middle they were going to put aside. I just wanted to get an affirmation of what those two persons or whatever it was that was being presented before you all to adopt. I didn't hear it. He was mumbling somewhat. I just need him to speak clearly so I can hear. [Mr. G. Young restated that the potential agenda addition regarding a special resolution for Veterans Celebration Week was not part of Mr. J. Young's motion to be voted upon.] Okay, and those two that were, that's what I was asking. What were the two? Because they were new to the agenda. [Mr. J. Young restated his motion as, to add for consideration to the agenda the special resolution proclaiming Veterans Celebration Week in Caddo Parish brought by Commissioner Epperson and the special resolution for David Dennis brought by Commissioner Cothran.]

There being no one else to speak in favor or against the Agenda Additions, President G. Young closed the public hearing.

At this time, Mr. J. Young's motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Blake, Gage-Watts, and Jones being absent.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

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

Again, Jon Glover, 9100 Walker Road, Apartment 217, Shreveport, Louisiana, zip code 71118. Having perused the agenda for today, I wanted to ask, as I've asked before, that before you decide to englobe any piece of legislation that may impact me or the citizens of Caddo Parish, that there be some discussion or let us know what it is that you're trying to accomplish with those pieces of legislation. Two, I wanted to know how the process for the NGOs is going. I haven't heard anything about how you all are going to be critiquing or if you're going to be using the process that was already in place or if you added something to the process. I'd just like to know because I've looked over that listing as well. And though we've not had any communications with regards to where you all stand or what you all may be anticipating in this process altogether, I just ask that you make it available or knowledgeable to us, the citizens of Caddo Parish. And I wanted to, too, apologize to the Commission if were that when I asked my question, it brought some problems with that I was trying to get clarified. That is not my intent and I don't want anyone to think that I'm here to bring forth anything except me gaining knowledge of what you all are about to address in this work session. Thank you.

VISITORS

- *David Hackney*

Mr. Hackney addressed the Commission regarding the proposed Caddo Parish sports complex, continuing comments he began during the October 5 Work Session. He commended the Commission for pursuing the project and emphasized the interdependence of Shreveport and Caddo Parish. However, he expressed concerns regarding financing, site selection, cost estimates, and the need

for additional review before proceeding.

Mr. Hackney stated that letters supporting the project did not adequately address its cost or funding. He questioned the Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce's endorsement and suggested that the proposal undergo further evaluation. He discussed the importance of early project planning, independent review, and avoiding schedule-driven decisions, expressing concern that the November election timeline had rushed the proposal. He also noted that approximately half of the projected revenue would come from the family entertainment center and food and beverage concessions.

Regarding location, Mr. Hackney recommended considering sites throughout the parish with sufficient acreage, highway access, visibility, and convenience for residents. He suggested evaluating undeveloped land north of the Allendale neighborhood near existing and proposed interstate connections. Drawing comparisons to the Superdome's location and role in urban revitalization, he encouraged consideration of the complex's potential to support tourism and redevelopment. He also emphasized that public safety and traffic impacts should be addressed regardless of the selected location.

Mr. Hackney discussed the ballot proposition authorizing up to \$60 million in bonds for a term not exceeding 25 years at an interest rate not exceeding seven percent. He questioned language indicating no estimated increase above the current 1.50-mill levy during the first year of issuance and requested clarification regarding potential increases in subsequent years. Citing the construction cost of the Ruston Sports Complex and comments regarding current replacement costs, he also questioned whether the proposed project's cost estimate was sufficient.

Mr. Hackney commended the parish's financial position based on his review of its 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. He referenced approximately \$275 million in governmental fund balances, including \$28.1 million identified as unassigned, \$152 million subject to external restrictions, \$53 million for contingencies, and \$29 million committed to subsequent-year expenditures and economic development. He requested clarification regarding the restrictions and whether available funds could offset construction costs or reduce borrowing. He concluded that, based on the information available, he was unlikely to support the tax proposal, but remained open to additional information.

Mr. Kracman thanked Mr. Hackney for his presentation and asked him to describe his professional background. Mr. Hackney stated that he held degrees in petroleum engineering and engineering management and had worked for Chevron for 40 years, managing multimillion-dollar projects and participating in multibillion-dollar projects. Mr. Kracman expressed appreciation for his analysis and stated that his questions reflected concerns shared by constituents who remained undecided about the proposed sports complex.

At the President G. Young's request, the Administrator Bryant responded to Mr. Hackney's concerns. She stated that the Commission had conducted a study, held meetings, and reviewed information before advancing the proposal. She explained that the Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce had conducted its own review before endorsing the project. She expressed confidence in the construction estimates and noted that the Ruston Sports Complex included outdoor amenities not proposed for the Caddo Parish facility.

Administrator Bryant explained that certain parish funds were restricted by voter-approved purposes, including roads and bridges, jail operations, and public buildings. She further noted the parish's statutory obligations to fund outside agencies and the need to maintain funds for those responsibilities. Regarding the ballot language, she explained that millage rates must be adopted annually and stated that the existing 1.50-mill levy was sufficient to pay the proposed debt's principal and interest without an increase. She added that outstanding bonds would require a debt-service levy through 2043 even if the proposition failed. She stated that, if approved, the final site selection would be based on data and considered publicly, including a public hearing.

President G. Young discussed his background and approach to financial responsibility, emphasizing that he took the expenditure of taxpayer funds seriously. He stated that the proposal had received careful consideration and expressed his belief that the sports complex would serve the area's long-term interests.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- **Early Voting**

Administrator Bryant reminded everyone that early voting begins October 20th through October 27th.

In response to Mr. Young, the Administrator stated that early voting hours were 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., excluding Sunday. Mr. Kracman asked whether a sports complex informational mailer required a disclosure identifying who paid for it. The Administrator responded that the mailer was informational rather than advocacy material and did not require such a disclosure.

- **Juvenile Detention Center census**

Administrator Bryant said that there are 17 children in the Detention Center, one of which is OJJ. There is one 17 year old. There are 403 children on probation. Twenty-one juveniles are at CCC.

- Budget Retreat

Administrator Bryant announced that the budget retreat had been rescheduled from November 4 to November 10, 2026.

- September, 2026 Financials

The September 2026 financials are attached to the agenda and placed at each Commissioner's station.

COMMISSION REMARKS

- Mr. Cothran reported attending a trauma symposium and a domestic violence lethality risk and prevention workshop. He encouraged continued collaboration regarding policies and procedures and commended those working to address domestic violence. He also thanked the City of Shreveport Water and Sewerage Director Brandon Snead and his staff for their prompt response to a water main break affecting his constituents.

- Mr. Thomas encouraged residents to participate in early voting and become informed before casting their ballots. He identified early voting locations at the Caddo Parish Registrar of Voters Office and the Hamilton/South Caddo Branch of Shreve Memorial Library. He announced the Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals Initiative's 20th anniversary reunion social, scheduled for October 20 at 5:30 p.m. at the Capri Theater, and encouraged support for Shreveport Black Restaurant Week. He also commended both chambers for providing opportunities to learn about candidates and their plans for the community.

Regarding appropriations, Mr. Thomas directed the public to committee minutes and meeting recordings available through the parish website and YouTube channel. He stated that the committee had conducted more than 50 organizational interviews and established a \$1.4 million cap for 2027 appropriations. He explained that further review was underway to determine how to distribute funds effectively and responsibly. He noted that appropriations were primarily supported by the Riverboat Revenue Fund, with other funding sources used to supplement those dollars when appropriate.

Mr. Thomas announced that the Downtown Development Authority would host a free Lunch and Discover event on October 21, 2026, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. He encouraged residents to explore downtown restaurants and amenities. He also expressed support for the proposed sports complex, emphasizing its potential to stimulate development and attract visitors. He encouraged cooperation, confidence in the administration's review, and greater promotion of the area's identity and location along the I-20 corridor.

- Mr. Kracman stated that residents could support the concept of a sports complex while questioning the proposal's implementation. He emphasized his preference for closely reviewing project information and stated that his upbringing informed his conservative approach to public spending. He reiterated that he remained opposed to the current proposal and that Mr. Hackney's presentation reflected questions shared by other residents.

- Mr. Burrell reported attending a Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development luncheon, where parish Public Works staff and regional transportation representatives provided project updates. He discussed the proposed I-49 Inner-City Connector and passenger rail service, noting that he had secured state funding for feasibility studies during his legislative service. He stated that both projects continued to advance and that a federal record of decision on the connector was anticipated by December. He expressed his belief that both projects could significantly benefit Shreveport.

There was no Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *that the following items be englobed and advanced to Thursday's agenda:*

- *Ordinance No. 6648 of 2026, Shreve Memorial Library's 2027 Budget*
- *Resolution No. 57 of 2026, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to direct and authorize the Louisiana State Mineral & Energy Board and the Office of Mineral Resources to accept nominations, advertise for, accept and award bids, and execute all oil, gas, and mineral leases on certain mineral interests owned by the Parish of Caddo*
- *Resolution No. 58 of 2026, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish*

Administrator to direct and authorize the Louisiana State Mineral & Energy Board and the Office of Mineral Resources to accept nominations, advertise for, accept and award bids, and execute all oil, gas, and mineral leases on certain mineral interests owned by the Parish of Caddo

- *Resolution No. 59 of 2026, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to direct and authorize the Louisiana State Mineral & Energy Board and the Office of Mineral Resources to accept nominations, advertise for, accept and award bids, and execute all oil, gas, and mineral leases on certain mineral interests owned by the Parish of Caddo*
- *Special Resolution Public Service Commissioner Foster Campbell*
- *Special Resolution Huey Robinson*
- *Special Resolution Anita Mills*
- *Special Resolution A.C. Steere's Stella Hernandez*
- *Special Resolution Jeremy Plater*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition Veterans Celebration Week in Caddo Parish*
- *Special Resolution David Dennis*

During discussion, Mr. Jones requested to be added as a sponsor of the special resolutions concerning Veterans Celebration Week, Foster Campbell, and Jeremy Plater. Mr. Burrell also requested to be added to the special resolutions. It was clarified that Resolution Nos. 57, 58, and 59 concerned mineral interest leases and that the remaining items included special resolutions recognizing individuals.

Mr. J. Young questioned the location of parish mineral interests in District 10 and the potential for drilling near residential areas in Cedar Grove. Administrator Bryant confirmed that the proposed leases concerned parish mineral interests and that any City-owned interests would be handled separately. Mr. J. Young requested coordination with City officials and drilling operators to minimize impacts on the surrounding densely populated neighborhoods.

At this time, Mr. Thomas' motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Blake and Gage-Watts being absent.

COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS

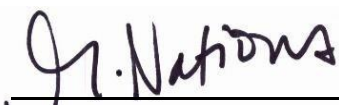
- Mr. Epperson asked that the discussion of Settled Inn Village be deferred until Thursday's Regular Session.

There were no Citizens Comments late arrivals.

CONSENT AGENDA

- *Ordinance No. 6646 of 2026, PZC Case No. 26-26-P, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, by amending the zoning of property located 8600 block of Box Road, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, from C-4 Heavy Commercial Zoning District to R-1-5 Single Family Residential Zoning District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6647 of 2026, an ordinance to authorize the purchase of property in the Manchester Addition Subdivision, Shreveport, in Section 26, Township 18 North, Range 14 West, in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 4:27 p.m.



Michelle Nations
Assistant Commission Clerk