MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 29th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2026

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Special Session, on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., in the Government Plaza Chambers, 505 Travis Street, Shreveport, with Mr. G. Young, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Gage-Watts, Jones, Lazarus, Thomas, and G. Young (9). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson, Kracman, and J. Young (3).

The invocation was given by Mr. Jones, and Mr. Cothran led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were no Citizens Comments.

Administrator Bryant presented the proposed 2027 Operating and Capital Improvement Budget. She reported that Caddo Parish remained in a strong financial position due to sound fiscal management, conservative budgeting, strategic investments, and responsible stewardship of public resources.

The proposed budget included approximately $119 million in revenues, representing a 3% increase, and $149 million in expenditures, representing a 2% increase. Property tax revenues were projected to increase by 5.2%, while sales tax revenues were expected to increase by 9%. The projected fund balance was approximately $215 million. Administrator Bryant emphasized the importance of maintaining financial discipline while using public resources to improve citizens' quality of life.

Property and sales taxes comprised approximately 69% of total revenues. Intergovernmental revenues, representing approximately 23% of total revenues, were projected to decrease by 8%, primarily due to declining recognition of American Rescue Plan Act revenues. Gaming revenues continued to decline; however, Parish operations did not depend upon those revenues. Oil and gas revenues were projected to remain stable, while interest revenues were expected to increase by approximately 27%.

Administrator Bryant stated that expenditure increases were primarily attributable to salaries and benefits. The proposed budget included a 2% cost-of-living adjustment, merit increases of up to 3%, and 446 budgeted positions, including agency positions. Seven additional positions were proposed to address grant administration, Head Start oversight, Adult Drug Court participation, legal services, parks maintenance, and commercial vehicle enforcement. She explained that grant-funded positions would be contingent upon continued grant funding.

Administrator Bryant discussed continuing operating deficits in the Juvenile Justice, General, and Detention Facilities Funds. Projected deficits totaled approximately $4.5 million, $5.5 million, and $2.9 million, respectively. Approximately $10.5 million in operating subsidies would be provided through the Criminal Justice Fund. She explained that previously rededicated property tax revenues supported transfers to funds with criminal justice expenses. She further reported that the inmate population at Caddo Correctional Center had reached nearly 1,700 and emphasized the need to work with partner agencies to address overcrowding and rising costs.

The proposed budget continued investments in roads, drainage, parks, public facilities, and solid waste infrastructure. Identified improvements included approximately $5.2 million for parks, $3.4 million for drainage, $1.5 million for Caddo Correctional Center, $2.5 million for other buildings, and $3.6 million for solid waste compactor system upgrades. Administrator Bryant commended the Public Works Department for its ongoing road maintenance efforts and highlighted collaborative park projects with local municipalities.

Administrator Bryant reported that the Reserve Trust Fund was projected to reach nearly $48 million by the end of 2027. She highlighted anticipated employment growth at SLB, projected data center property tax revenues of approximately $14 million, and continued economic development partnerships. She also acknowledged a population decline of approximately 7% since 2020 and emphasized the importance of attracting investment, creating jobs, expanding the tax base, and maintaining essential services.

The proposed budget did not include expenditures for the proposed sports complex. Administrator Bryant stated that, contingent upon the outcome of the November 3 election, related budget amendments would be presented for adoption on December 1.

Administrator Bryant announced that the budget public hearing would be held on November 19, 2026, at 3:30 p.m., with budget adoption scheduled for December 1, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. She thanked Haley Barnett, the Finance Department, department directors, Commissioners, and citizens for their contributions and support throughout the budget process.

President G. Young explained that the purpose of the meeting was to receive the proposed budget and that Commissioners would have opportunities for further discussion during the November 10

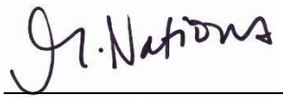
budget retreat and the November 19 public hearing.

Mrs. Gage-Watts thanked Administrator Bryant and staff for the presentation and expressed support for receiving the proposed budget and establishing the public hearing and adoption dates.

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts, seconded by Mr. Cothran,** *that a public hearing for the 2025 Operating & Capital Improvements Budget ordinances be set for November 19, 2026 at 3:30 p.m., and those ordinances will be considered for final adoption at a special meeting scheduled for December 1, 2026 at 3:30 p.m*. Motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Epperson, Kracman, and J. Young being absent.

Ordinance Nos. 6649 through 6677 of 2026, concerning the proposed 2027 Operating and Capital Improvement Budget, were introduced. Commissioners were advised that copies had been provided, the budget advertisement had been submitted to the official journal, and notice had been posted in the building. The public hearing, budget adoption, and budget retreat dates were reiterated.

There being no more business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 3:54 p.m.



Michelle Nations
Assistant Commission Clerk



Greg Young
President