MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSON
HELD ON THE 2nd DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2026

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

Mr. Jones gave the invocation, and Mr. Epperson led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ADDITIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Jones,** seconded by Mr. Cothran, *that the agenda be expanded and Special Resolution of Recognition for Leon Joseph* be added under New Business.

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 71118. Now, you were speaking to the resolution that you're contemplating adding to the agenda. Can you, I did not understand what it was the resolution was to be addressing. Can you share that, please? [Mr. G. Young provided a brief explanation of the potential Special Resolution recognizing Major Leon Joseph.] I just wanted to know the name that you were recognizing, that individual. Leon Joseph. Okay. Thank you.

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. Jones' motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Gage-Watts, Kracman, and J. Young being absent.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

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

Jon Glover, 9100 Walker Road, Apartment 217, Shreveport, Louisiana, zip code is 71118. It was not my intent to stand here before you all, because my commissioner was going to address what I was asking questions about, hopefully before it was time for citizen comment, but it seems that he won't be able to have an opportunity to do that until after the fact. So, I thought it best that I stand before you all and bring to you all's attention some concerns that I had about two of your ordinances that you are scheduled to advance for introduction. The first one was the housing choice voucher. Now, when I looked at that document and I looked at the background information, there were no particulars that told me what was being addressed. So, I wanted to know what it is that finance is bringing before you all asking you all to support. Again, there was nothing specific to say what this housing voucher is going to address. Number two, Ordinance 6679 where there is an act of $125,000 for the Northwest Louisiana Food Bank and understanding that in times past you all have allocated funds for that. Last year the funds were allocated because of a situation. It was an emergency, the SNAP program. This year, what is it that you all are doing that may not meet that same criteria that was met last year? If you could share that information with me as well, I would appreciate it. And then number three, the conveyances of the state agency leases. I wanted to know the specifics of that. How much are these leases worth? Where are those dollars being allocated? Or even what budget are they being assigned or aligned to, if you could provide that information. I thought it best that I asked these questions upfront, that way before you all got to the engloboing that you could provide me some substance of what you all are asking yourselves to consider. Though these three items are going to be held over for two weeks, still I would like to know what it is that you're proposing. Thank you.

Dr. Woodrow Wilson came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good evening, President Young, Commissioners, Administrator Bryant. I'm glad to be back home among you all again today. It certainly is a privilege to see you all and actually a pleasure to be in your presence today. I rise today to talk about the Friends of the Parish of Caddo. We were the political action committee responsible for generating revenues and putting out literature to the community on the viability of the new proposed sports complex before them tomorrow at the ballot. And to my surprise they far exceeded my expectations and certainly I'm very much appreciative of that. The citizens are very informed. They're very engaged and the ones that I've met that I talked to are very excited about this project. Every one of my family members, we have a lot of family members that live in here. My wife grew up here in this area among five sisters, and they all have roots here and everybody in the family is excited about this project. And I don't stand up here to sell a project again. The project sells itself. We have to continue to make investments in our future. And if we don't, we will be disappointed, extremely disappointed to get to the future and it will look not like what we want it to look like. We have to start making these investments in infrastructure. And I applaud the commission for over the years doing a great job at addressing the things

you have primary responsibility for like the roads, the buildings that you are responsible for. Those things are in immaculate condition and I challenge anybody in the audience to find a bad road in the Parish of Caddo that the Caddo Parish Commission is responsible for. We do a great job with that. But right now, the opportunity to do another major project just like we did at the nature park. The nature park was built back in the 70s. We had events. We had 1500 people show up for one event. We didn't have the capacity to even park the cars. We had to bus people in. We were able to go before the citizens and they approved graciously to allow us to keep the bond levels the same and we were able to leverage those funds and build a bran new, state-of-the-art center that now everybody's proud of. We have folks that come from Arkansas, East Texas, all northern Louisiana parishes to use that facility. Now we find ourselves here yet again with another opportunity, almost one too good to pass up. And it's not a political agenda, it's a community agenda. I call it a social, cultural endeavor that we have to continue to build a community that not only keeps people here, but attract businesses and people to come here. And the sports center is being considered by a lot of communities. Even Baton Rouge is talking about trying to build one. Arkansas built one. Revenues for the first year were $6.5 million dollars. So, why wouldn't we put this before the citizens and no tax increase, no new taxes, the same amount of operating money. Thank you all for your time. I appreciate it.

Anouk Brumfield came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

I have spent 32 years in corporate America and I had the opportunity to travel across the world and see so many things and I've seen communities thrive, and what I saw that was common for communities that thrived is that they did not stay still even when they didn't have all the answers. They invested into their community. So, I truly support the sports complex because it's an investment for our future. It's an investment for our children. It brings economic impact and it's really saying that people will come to us versus us going away to other things. And also a mother that used to travel with a very young son. He was in AAU sports. We traveled and traveled and traveled and spent a lot of money. And so I've seen a lot of complexes in a lot of different cities and a lot of other states and I would just like to see that here in Caddo Parish now that I've relocated back home. I recently moved back here from Maryland. And it would just be so nice to see us invest in something like that sports complex here in Caddo Parish. Our future is riding on that. Our children need that and it's so much economic development and so much that we'll bring to Caddo Parish with this sports complex. Thank you.

Carol Smith came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

My name is Carol Smith. I live at 2630 Kent Lane, and I came to give my support on the sports center. And just like the other people just spoke about investing in our future, this is what we have to do because there's nothing here for the young people and it's time for us to stop looking at what we can do for the older people. It's time to look for the people that are now coming from babies on up. What do we have to offer them? And this sports complex I know will be great. I think about what we have to do when we go when our kids at Green Oaks have to go out. Thee parents have to raise money and stuff for the kids because they're not able to do like other people do. And if we have it here, then we won't have to be paying the bus driver and this and that and the other. And I'm 100%, 200%, a thousand percent in support along with my other people that came along with me. Let's get this sports complex in Shreveport, Louisiana. Alright.

Gisele Proby-Bryant came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good afternoon to President Young, the distinguished members of the Commission, our administrator, Mrs. Erica Bryant, and those who assemble. We're not really visitors. We come all the time, check in, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated. But we did want to pause to encourage you, as we normally do when we come. Thank you for your work. Thank you for your trajectory. It is very important that we see a body that's governmental that is moving the needle forward and considering what is in the best interest in our parish as we expand and try to bring more individuals to reside in the Parish of Caddo. There are not many opportunities that we get to speak, particularly before an election, and hopefully all of you have voted. If you have not, then you know what tomorrow is. It is a voting day throughout these United States of America so that we can continue to protect and defend our democracy. As you move forward in your agenda and you plan for years to come, as you have, you've been very good stewards. I have to commend Mrs. Bryant of her leadership and the Commission, how you have invested dollars to ensure that we have a very stable future as a collective body of educated women. Our chapter represents more than 355 local Shreveport local alumni. But nationwide, Delta Sigma Theta is globally recognized with more than 350,000 members. And what is true to our heart is our community. Most of the women that you see in red, we're homebred. This is home. And what we want is what best opportunities we can provide for our future generations like the opportunities that many of us had that our parents did not have. So, when we see the vision for new infrastructure that will impact not just Caddo Parish but the Ark-La-Tex and probably beyond, because many of us have had children in many organizations and have had to travel. It is refreshing. My son had the opportunity to work briefly at Walter B. Jacobs and I know that that had been in plans for many years, but as a retiree from Bossier Parish Schools with more than 35 years of service, we used that facility frequently and there were opportunities when many days we had to tell the children we could not come because the space was not available. So, it is just encouraging. I want you to continue to do the work you do and to keep the citizens at heat as we keep you in our prayers lifted that you will move forward collectively and, again, in the best interest of Caddo Parish. We wish for you a very happy Thanksgiving from our family and a safe holiday. God bless.

Sandra Lister came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good evening. My name is Sandra Lister, 6128 Shadow Wood Drive, Shreveport, Louisiana 71107. Commissioner Young and all the commissioners assembled, hello and greetings from the Parish of Caddo where I live. I want to come to express my appreciation for the vision of the sports complex. I want to come to express my appreciation for the vision of the sports complex. There is a scripture in the bible that some of you are familiar with, which says, “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” And I’m thankful for the Parish of Caddo for having the vision to bring opportunities for the young people to stay here, because a lot of people are economically disadvantaged and cannot afford to travel out of state to participate in different sports and other events. And bringing it home to Shreveport, it would ease the burden, especially with the price of gas, that we can just do it right here in Shreveport. I think the revenue, potential revenue would be good for the city of Shreveport as a whole. And Mrs. Bryant did an excellent job attending community meetings and answering questions. I was skeptical at first. Your last meeting at the David Raines center. You stayed and chitchatted and had information, so it was very well laid out, very well planned, and I hope the voters of Caddo Parish supports it.

There were no Visitors.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- Juvenile Detention Center census

Administrator Bryant said that there are 22 children in the Detention Center, four of which is OJJ. There is one 17 year old. There are 413 children on probation. Seventeen juveniles are at CCC.

- Budget Retreat

Administrator Bryant announced that the budget retreat is scheduled for November 10th.

- Executive Assistant to Administration

Administrator Bryant introduced Mrs. Yazmin Harper as the Executive Assistant to Administration.

COMMISSION REMARKS

- Mr. Atkins responded to Ms. Glover’s questions regarding oil and gas leases, explaining that lease revenues typically support the Oil and Gas Fund, which provides funding for nongovernmental organizations and economic development projects. He indicated that he did not know the specific lease amounts but believed the leases reflected market rates.

Regarding housing funding, Administrator Bryant explained that the grant award had increased and that the additional funds must be appropriated before they could be expended. Mr. Atkins clarified that the budget amendment would allow the Parish to receive and distribute the additional U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funds for housing projects.

There was no President’s Report nor Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

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

- *Ordinance No. 6678 of 2026, an ordinance amending the 2026 Budget to amend the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Housing Choice Voucher Program Fund and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6679 of 2026, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Oil & Gas Fund to provide an appropriation to Northwest Louisiana Food Bank and to otherwise provide respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 60 of 2026, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to approve the assignment, bill of sale, and conveyance of State Agency Leases No. 22386 and No. 22387 from Cypress Energy Partners, LLC, to Apex Natural Gas, LLC, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Special Resolution Native American Heritage Month and Honoring Chief Jake Rivers of the Choctaw Apache Tribe of Ebarb*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition Sam Mattox, America’s Oldest Living Veteran*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition Louisiana State Fair’s 120th Anniversary*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition District 3 War on Litter Volunteers*

- *Special Resolution of Recognition Leon Joseph*

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

COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Jones encouraged citizens who had not yet voted to exercise their right to vote on November 3, despite the anticipated inclement weather. He emphasized the sacrifices made by those who fought for voting rights, noting that many never had the opportunity to vote themselves. Mr. Jones wished his colleagues luck in their respective races, clarifying that his remarks did not constitute an endorsement of any candidate.

Mr. Jones requested that the Clerk provide available dates during the next meeting cycle so he could call a Special Projects Committee meeting.

- Mr. Burrell recognized the State Fair of Louisiana's 120th anniversary, noting that it was established in 1906. He expressed hope that a representative would attend Thursday's meeting for formal recognition.

Mr. Burrell highlighted the State Fair's contributions to the community, including attracting visitors from throughout the region, hosting livestock auctions, rodeos, concerts, and sporting events, and providing employment opportunities for area residents. He described the fairgrounds as a centrally located community asset and encouraged investment in the area.

- Mr. Cothran reported attending a senior musical at A. B. Palmer featuring approximately six to seven choirs from area recreation centers. He commended the performances and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to visit with participants.

Mr. Cothran announced that the Southern Hills Neighborhood Association would meet that evening at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Cothran also reported attending a presentation by civil rights activist David Dennis the previous Friday, during which Commissioner Thomas delivered greetings and Mr. Cothran presented a proclamation. He reflected on his childhood connection to Mr. Dennis through the Cedar Grove community and recognized his contributions to the civil rights movement. Mr. Cothran encouraged continued recognition and support of individuals making meaningful contributions to their communities.

- Mr. Thomas reported that he and Governmental Liaison Valerie Jameson attended the Bossier Chamber of Commerce's State of the Community report presentation. He highlighted investments and accomplishments across the healthcare, energy, transportation, defense, cyber technology, and education sectors, emphasizing the connections among these industries. Mr. Thomas stated that the report reflected growth in regional investment from an average of approximately $550 million over the past five years to approximately $18 billion. He also cited approximately $186.1 million for Interstate 20 rehabilitation projects. He encouraged Commissioners to obtain the report and continue advocating for investment while promoting the community's strengths and welcoming economic opportunities.

Mr. Thomas encouraged citizens to vote despite the anticipated inclement weather and urged those who had already voted to assist others with transportation and access to the polls. He asked citizens to check on at least 10 individuals to ensure they had an opportunity to vote. He acknowledged the sacrifices made to secure voting rights, thanked early voters, and stated that early voting participation demonstrated the need for additional satellite voting locations and greater convenience for voters.

- Mr. Epperson announced that the Veterans Celebration Committee would host its 16th Annual Veterans Recognition Program on November 13 at 5:00 p.m. at the LIVE! Casino Event Center in Bossier City, featuring retired U.S. Army General Russel Honoré as guest speaker. The program would recognize veterans for their military and community service, honor elderly veterans, and include presentation of a distinguished service award. He noted that the event was free and open to the public. Mr. Epperson also announced the 16th Annual Veterans Parade on November 15 at 2:00 p.m. at the Louisiana State Fairgrounds. He identified Mr. Sam Archie Mattox, who recently celebrated his 107th birthday, as grand marshal and described him as the nation's oldest living World War II veteran. He encouraged families to attend and recognize Mr. Mattox's service.

Mr. Epperson encouraged participation in Operation Green Light from November 5–11 by displaying green lights in support of veterans. He stated that the Caddo Parish Courthouse would be illuminated in green, noted anticipated participation by the Bakowski Bridge, and encouraged other municipalities to participate.

Mr. Epperson thanked the Animal Services Department for responding to concerns about potentially ill foxes in the Timberline neighborhood and setting traps before Halloween.

Mr. Epperson reported asking the Public Works Department to convey concerns to the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development regarding unused railroad crossings on major thoroughfares that were causing vehicle damage. He requested consideration of removing unused crossings and smoothing the affected roadways.

- Mr. Cothran inquired about reports of an unidentified animal near a daycare center in Southern Hills and asked whether Animal Services had located it following visits to the area. Animal Services Director, Mr. Travis Clark requested a specific address, reported that an injured coyote had been recovered but could not confirm its location, and offered to investigate further.

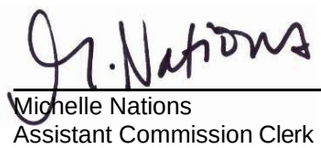
Mr. Cothran also asked whether the Parish website provided guidance on requirements for securing animals in residential yards, citing concerns for children's safety. Director Clark confirmed that the applicable ordinances were available online through links to Municode.

There were no Citizens Comments late arrivals.

CONSENT AGENDA

- *Ordinance No. 6648 of 2026, Shreve Memorial Library's 2027 Budget*

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 4:18 p.m.



Michelle Nations
Assistant Commission Clerk