MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 5th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 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, Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Jones, Kracman, Lazarus, Thomas, and G. Young (9). ABSENT: Commissioners Blake, Gage-Watts, and J. Young (3).

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

AGENDA ADDITIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas,** seconded by Mr. Jones, *to expand the agenda and add Special Proclamation in recognition of Love Dat at Fountain of Life Kingdom Church* 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 Commissioners Blake, Gage-Watts, Kracman, and J. Young being absent.

There were no Citizens Comments nor Visitors.

ADOPT REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Jones,** seconded by Mr. Thomas, *to englobo and adopt the following items:*

- *Regular Session Minutes—October 22, 2026*
- *Special Session Minutes—Budget Intro—October 29, 2026*
- *Special Resolution Recognizing Native American Heritage Month and Honoring Chief Jake Rivers of the Choctaw Apache Tribe of Ebarb*

Chief Jake Rivers expressed appreciation for the recognition and shared information about his tribe's history and heritage. He explained that the tribe enrolls members under 21 family names and that its elders have consistently described their origins by stating, "We've always been here." He stated that he represents the second-largest state-recognized tribe in Louisiana, with more than 11,000 members.

Chief Rivers discussed the displacement of tribal families following the creation of Toledo Bend Lake, noting that many relocated to the Shreveport-Bossier area while maintaining ties to their tribal community. He invited Commissioners and the public to attend the tribe's heritage and veterans' celebration that weekend at its powwow grounds and to experience other cultural events in Zwolle.

Chief Rivers also discussed the tribe's pursuit of federal recognition and requested support from local officials and congressional representatives. He emphasized the substantial expense associated with the recognition process and offered the tribe's assistance with cultural activities.

- *Special Resolution of Recognition for Sam Mattox, America's Oldest Living Veteran*

Mr. Epperson requested a correction to the special resolution recognizing Mr. Sam Mattox to reflect that, according to additional research, Mr. Mattox was the oldest living veteran in Louisiana at age 107 and the second-oldest known living veteran in the United States.

Mr. Epperson stated that Mr. Mattox's planned attendance at an event in Washington, D.C., had been canceled and emphasized the importance of honoring him in Louisiana. He announced that Mr. Mattox would serve as Grand Marshal of the Veterans Parade on November 15, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at the Louisiana State Fairgrounds.

Mr. Epperson also highlighted the 16th Annual Veterans Honor Ceremony at LIVE! Casino that Friday, where 13 veterans would be recognized for their military and community service and the Distinguished Colonel Steven dePyssler Award would be presented. He noted that three centenarian veterans—two Army veterans, age 101, and one Navy veteran, age 102—would also be honored. He encouraged attendance and asked the Clerk to make the requested corrections to the resolution.

- *Special Resolution recognizing the 120th Louisiana State Fair*

Mr. Russell Adams, Marketing Director for the State Fair of Louisiana, accepted the special resolution recognizing the fair's 120th anniversary. He noted that the fair was established in 1906 at its current location and would continue through November 15, 2026.

Mr. Adams highlighted activities planned for November 15, including the Veterans and Military Appreciation Day Parade at 2:00 p.m. and Faith at the Fair, hosted by Word of God Ministries, at 5:00 p.m. He stated that veterans and active military personnel would receive free admission with military identification.

Mr. Adams discussed improvements to the fair, including a new carnival operator, enhanced landscaping and lighting, and increased safety and security measures. He commended the Shreveport Police Department, Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office, and City Marshal's Office for their assistance. He thanked the Commission, particularly Commissioners Burrell and Epperson, for supporting the fair and invited everyone to attend.

Mr. Burrell thanked Mr. Adams and recognized the contributions of current and former fair leadership. He shared historical information about the fairgrounds, including its grandstand, former racetrack and amusement attractions, and its history as a venue for notable musical performances. He described the fairgrounds as a crown jewel of Shreveport and emphasized the importance of preserving and supporting the facility.

- *Special Resolutions of Recognition for District 3 War on Litter Volunteers*

Mr. Thomas During the presentation of the special resolution recognizing District 3 volunteers, a volunteer thanked the Public Works Department for its assistance with neighborhood improvements and encouraged greater participation from residents.

Mr. Thomas commended the volunteers and Rachel Jackson for their work with the Stoner Hill Neighborhood Association. He described Stoner Hill as an example of residents taking responsibility for their surroundings and addressing neighborhood concerns. He also acknowledged the City of Shreveport's Public Works Department for its responsiveness and emphasized the Parish's commitment to combating litter. He expressed hope that the volunteers' efforts would encourage residents throughout the parish to become involved in improving their communities.

Mr. Bailey, a Vietnam veteran, discussed the difficulties he experienced obtaining employment in Shreveport after returning from military service. Mr. Thomas thanked him for his service, offered to speak with him further, and encouraged his participation in upcoming Veterans Celebration Committee activities.

Mr. Burrell commended Stoner Hill residents for their longstanding community involvement and housing development efforts, recalling his service to the neighborhood as a state representative and city council member.

Ms. Jackson emphasized the importance of publicly recognizing the volunteers whose work often occurs without recognition. She thanked the men for their dedication to neighborhood beautification.

Mr. Epperson acknowledged Ms. Jackson's service on the Veterans Celebration Committee and asked that she ensure Mr. Bailey was included in the upcoming activities.

- *Special Resolution of Recognition for Leon Joseph*

- *Special Proclamation in recognition of Love Day at Fountain of Life Kingdom Church*

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

SPECIAL RESOLUTION
NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission proudly recognizes November 2026 as Native American Heritage Month, a time to honor the rich histories, diverse cultures, enduring traditions, and extraordinary contributions of Indigenous peoples to our nation, our state, and our local communities; and

WHEREAS, long before the establishment of the United States, the State of Louisiana, or the Parish of Caddo, Native American peoples inhabited and cared for the lands and waterways of this region, developing sophisticated societies distinguished by agricultural knowledge, craftsmanship, commerce, spiritual traditions, and enduring connections to the natural world; and

WHEREAS, the very name of Caddo Parish honors the Caddo people, whose ancestral homelands extended across portions of present-day Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma, and whose communities, including the Kadohadacho of the upper Red River region, played a defining role in the early history and cultural identity of Northwest Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Indigenous heritage of Northwest Louisiana also includes the Adai people and the Choctaw-Apache Tribe of Ebarb, whose distinct histories, ancestral connections, and continuing cultural traditions reflect the remarkable diversity and resilience of Native American communities throughout our region; and

WHEREAS, the Choctaw-Apache Tribe of Ebarb, whose community is centered in western Sabine Parish near Zwolle, traces its heritage to generations of Indigenous families, including Choctaw, Apache, Adai, and other peoples whose histories became intertwined along the colonial frontier of Louisiana and Texas, creating a distinctive cultural identity that has endured for centuries; and

WHEREAS, officially recognized by the State of Louisiana in 1978, the Choctaw-Apache Tribe of Ebarb continues to preserve and celebrate its unique cultural heritage through the traditions, knowledge, family relationships, community gatherings, and educational activities passed from one generation to the next; and

WHEREAS, throughout North Louisiana, ancient archaeological sites, historic settlements, and cultural landmarks bear witness to the ingenuity and accomplishments of Indigenous peoples, including the ancestral Caddo communities of the Red River Valley, the historic Native American presence surrounding Caddo Lake, and the monumental earthworks of Poverty Point in northeastern Louisiana, which stand among the most extraordinary achievements of ancient North American societies; and

WHEREAS, the history of Native American peoples also includes profound hardships resulting from colonization, displacement, the loss of ancestral lands, and efforts to suppress Indigenous cultures and traditions, yet Native communities have demonstrated extraordinary perseverance in maintaining their identities, strengthening their institutions, and ensuring that their heritage remains a living and vital part of our society; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission recognizes that Native American history is not simply a record of the distant past, but an ongoing story reflected in the lives, leadership, accomplishments, and cultural contributions of Indigenous peoples who continue to enrich the communities of Louisiana and the United States; and

WHEREAS, in this spirit, the Commission is especially pleased to recognize **Chief Jason "Jake" Rivers**, who was elected in 2026 to lead the Choctaw-Apache Tribe of Ebarb, accepting the important responsibilities of tribal leadership, community representation, cultural preservation, and service to the members of his Tribe; and

WHEREAS, prior to his election as Chief, Mr. Rivers demonstrated his commitment to the preservation and celebration of Native American heritage through his involvement with tribal cultural activities and youth programs, including his support of the Rising Sun Youth Group, which helps introduce younger generations to traditional Choctaw-Apache dance, ceremonial customs, and the importance of maintaining a meaningful connection to their ancestral identity; and

WHEREAS, his dedication to engaging young people in the traditions of their ancestors reflects an understanding that the continued vitality of Indigenous communities depends upon the preservation of cultural knowledge, the strengthening of relationships between generations, and the encouragement of young people to embrace their heritage with pride and confidence; and

WHEREAS, as Chief of the Choctaw-Apache Tribe of Ebarb, Mr. Rivers assumes a position of significant responsibility and opportunity, helping guide the Tribe's efforts to preserve its cultural identity, support the well-being of its members, strengthen community institutions, and create opportunities for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission recognizes that effective tribal leadership requires a deep appreciation for the past, a sincere commitment to the needs of the present, and a thoughtful vision for the future, and commends Chief Rivers for his willingness to undertake these responsibilities in service to his community; and

WHEREAS, Native American Heritage Month provides a meaningful opportunity for the citizens of Caddo Parish to learn more about the Indigenous peoples of Northwest Louisiana, to appreciate their distinct histories and cultural contributions, and to recognize the importance of respecting the identities, traditions, and leadership of contemporary Native American communities; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further recognizes the importance of preserving historic and archaeological resources, encouraging accurate and respectful education, and supporting opportunities for Native American peoples to share their own histories, experiences, and cultural traditions with the broader community; and

WHEREAS, in commemorating Native American Heritage Month and celebrating the election of Chief Jason “Jake” Rivers, the Caddo Parish Commission affirms its respect for the Indigenous peoples whose histories are inseparable from the story of Northwest Louisiana, and its appreciation for those who continue the important work of preserving their heritage and strengthening their communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission, in regular session convened, does hereby proudly recognize and commemorate

NOVEMBER 2026 AS NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

in Caddo Parish, honoring the rich histories, diverse cultures, enduring traditions, and invaluable contributions of Native American peoples to our Parish, our state, and our nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission extends its sincere congratulations and special recognition to **CHIEF JASON “JAKE” RIVERS** upon his election as Chief of the Choctaw-Apache Tribe of Ebarb, commending his commitment to cultural preservation, youth engagement, and community service, and expressing its best wishes for wisdom, success, and fulfillment as he undertakes the responsibilities of tribal leadership.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission expresses its respect and appreciation for the Caddo Nation, the Adai people, the Choctaw-Apache Tribe of Ebarb, and the many other Indigenous peoples whose histories and continuing contributions have enriched the cultural heritage of Northwest Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission encourages all citizens, educational institutions, community organizations, and public agencies to observe Native American Heritage Month through learning, reflection, cultural appreciation, and meaningful efforts to preserve and share the histories and traditions of the Indigenous peoples who have shaped our region.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this Special Resolution be presented to **Chief Jason “Jake” Rivers** as an expression of the congratulations, admiration, and respect of the Caddo Parish Commission and the citizens of Caddo Parish, and as a lasting affirmation of the Commission's appreciation for the enduring heritage, cultural contributions, and continued vitality of Native American communities throughout Northwest Louisiana.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION
SAM MATTOX

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission takes immense pride in recognizing extraordinary Americans whose lives embody the highest ideals of courage, patriotism, perseverance, and selfless service, and whose sacrifices have helped secure the freedoms enjoyed by generations of Americans; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sam Archie Mattox, a distinguished United States Army veteran and proud son of Louisiana, has reached the extraordinary milestone of **107 years of life**, standing among the nation's oldest surviving World War II veterans and representing a living connection to one of the most consequential chapters in American history; and

WHEREAS, born in 1919, Mr. Mattox answered his nation's call to duty during World War II, entering the United States Army on December 12, 1942, and serving approximately 26 months overseas in the Pacific Theater, including Australia, New Guinea, the Philippines, and Japan; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Mattox performed demanding and dangerous duties in support of Allied military operations, earning recognition that included two Bronze Stars before his honorable discharge in December 1945, and returned home to build a productive career in construction and masonry, remaining active in his profession well into his nineties; and

WHEREAS, throughout his remarkable life, Mr. Mattox has remained steadfast in his Christian faith, devotion to family, and commitment to hard work, offering younger generations an enduring example of humility, gratitude, resilience, and kindness; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mattox has received widespread recognition for his distinguished military service and exceptional longevity, including honors as Louisiana's oldest living World War II veteran, Grand Marshal of the Northwest Louisiana Veterans Parade, and recognition in the United States Congressional Record; and

WHEREAS, as the ranks of World War II veterans diminish with each passing year, Mr. Mattox reminds us that America's freedoms were preserved through the extraordinary courage of ordinary citizens who answered their nation's call, and that his 107 years represent not merely exceptional longevity, but a lifetime of service, sacrifice, wisdom, and perseverance worthy of celebration;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission, in legal and regular session convened, does hereby extend its highest commendation, heartfelt gratitude, and warmest congratulations to **CORPORAL SAM ARCHIE MATTOX, UNITED STATES ARMY, WORLD WAR II**

VETERAN, in celebration of his extraordinary 107 years of life and distinguished service to the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission proudly recognizes Mr. Mattox as Louisiana's oldest living World War II veteran and one of the nation's remarkable surviving members of the Greatest Generation, honoring his courage, devotion to duty, and enduring contributions to his family, community, and country.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission joins the Northwest Louisiana Veterans Celebration Committee, veterans organizations, and grateful citizens throughout our region in celebrating Mr. Mattox's extraordinary legacy, and directs that this Resolution be presented as a lasting expression of admiration, appreciation, and respect, with sincere wishes for continued blessings and happiness.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and caused the seal of the Parish of Caddo to be affixed in the year Two Thousand Twenty-Six.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION
120TH LOUISIANA STATE FAIR

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission takes great pride in recognizing the organizations, institutions, and traditions that have contributed to the rich cultural heritage, economic vitality, and community spirit of Caddo Parish and Northwest Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the State Fair of Louisiana, established in 1906, celebrates its 120th anniversary in 2026, marking twelve decades of bringing families, friends, businesses, and communities together through entertainment, education, agriculture, commerce, and the celebration of Louisiana's unique heritage; and

WHEREAS, since its founding, the State Fair of Louisiana has grown into one of our region's most cherished annual traditions, welcoming generations of fairgoers to Shreveport and Caddo Parish and creating lasting memories through its exhibitions, livestock competitions, agricultural displays, midway attractions, musical performances, and distinctive fairground foods; and

WHEREAS, the State Fair has long served a purpose beyond entertainment, providing an important showcase for Louisiana agriculture, industry, craftsmanship, and innovation, while offering educational opportunities for young people, including generations of 4-H and FFA participants who have developed leadership, responsibility, and practical skills through their involvement; and

WHEREAS, throughout its remarkable history, the State Fair of Louisiana has witnessed extraordinary changes in transportation, technology, entertainment, and American society, yet has remained a beloved gathering place where traditions are passed from one generation to the next and the shared experiences of our community are celebrated; and

WHEREAS, the State Fair also represents an important economic and cultural asset to Caddo Parish, attracting visitors from throughout Louisiana and neighboring states, supporting local businesses and vendors, creating opportunities for entrepreneurs, and contributing to the identity of Shreveport as a regional destination for recreation and entertainment; and

WHEREAS, the Commission recognizes that the enduring success of the State Fair of Louisiana is a testament to the vision of its founders and the dedication of generations of board members, administrators, employees, exhibitors, volunteers, sponsors, and community partners whose collective efforts have sustained this treasured institution for 120 years; and

WHEREAS, as the State Fair of Louisiana celebrates this historic milestone, the Caddo Parish Commission expresses its appreciation for an institution that has enriched the lives of countless residents, strengthened the bonds of community, and demonstrated that some of our most meaningful traditions are those that bring people of all ages and backgrounds together in celebration;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby recognize and congratulate the **STATE FAIR OF LOUISIANA ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 120TH ANNIVERSARY,** celebrating its extraordinary legacy of service to the people of Caddo Parish, Northwest Louisiana, and the State of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission extends its sincere appreciation to all those who have contributed to the Fair's success throughout its distinguished history and offers its best wishes for continued growth, prosperity, and another century of unforgettable experiences for the families and communities it serves.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this Special Resolution be presented to the leadership of the State Fair of Louisiana as a lasting expression of the admiration, gratitude, and congratulations of the Caddo Parish Commission and the citizens of Caddo Parish.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION
DISTRICT 3 WAR ON LITTER VOLUNTEERS

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission takes great pride in recognizing individuals whose selfless service, community pride, and commitment to improving their neighborhoods make Caddo Parish a cleaner, safer, and more welcoming place to live; and

WHEREAS, **Delores Adger, Robert Baylor & Dennis Mahoney ,** longtime residents of the historic Stoner Hill neighborhood for more than 50 years, have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the well-being and continued improvement of the community through countless hours of volunteer service and neighborhood advocacy; and

WHEREAS, as active supporters of the District 3 War on Litter, Delores Adger, Robert Baylor & Dennis Mahoney have devoted considerable personal time and energy to keeping the streets of Stoner Hill clean and safe, whether by personally collecting litter and debris or contacting appropriate agencies to ensure that neglected areas receive the attention they deserve; and

WHEREAS, these efforts extend far beyond occasional neighborhood cleanups, reflecting a daily commitment to maintaining the beauty, safety, and dignity of Stoner Hill and demonstrating that meaningful community improvement often begins with the determination of a single individual willing to take action; and

WHEREAS, Delores Adger, Robert Baylor & Dennis Mahoney also actively support neighborhood initiatives designed to strengthen relationships among residents, promote unity, expand educational opportunities, and encourage greater community participation in the care and improvement of Stoner Hill; and

WHEREAS, guided by the simple but powerful personal motto, “Someone has to do it,” Delores Adger, Robert Baylor & Dennis Mahoney exemplify the spirit of servant leadership, recognizing a need and taking responsibility for addressing it without seeking recognition, compensation, or personal reward; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission recognizes that strong neighborhoods are built not only through public investment and government services, but also through the dedication of residents who take personal ownership of their communities and inspire others through their example; and

WHEREAS, the Commission, and particularly District 3 Commissioner Victor Thomas, expresses its sincere appreciation for Delores Adger, Robert Baylor & Dennis Mahoney and the invaluable contributions made toward advancing the District 3 War on Litter and fostering a cleaner, safer, and more connected Stoner Hill neighborhood;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission, in regular session convened, does hereby proudly recognize and commend Delores Adger, Robert Baylor & Dennis Mahoney for outstanding volunteer service, unwavering neighborhood pride, and exceptional dedication to the beautification, safety, and continued improvement of the Stoner Hill community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission extends its heartfelt appreciation for the countless hours devoted to neighborhood cleanups, community advocacy, and initiatives that strengthen the bonds among residents, recognizing that such selfless contributions make a meaningful and lasting difference in the quality of life throughout District 3.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this Special Resolution be presented to Delores Adger, Robert Baylor & Dennis Mahoney as an expression of the admiration, gratitude, and respect of the Caddo Parish Commission and the citizens of Caddo Parish, with sincere appreciation for demonstrating that the simple conviction, “Someone has to do it,” can inspire extraordinary acts of service and lasting positive change.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION
LEON JOSEPH

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission takes great pride in recognizing outstanding individuals whose dedication to military service, professional excellence, and community involvement exemplifies the highest ideals of leadership, patriotism, and service to others; and

WHEREAS, **Leon Joseph**, a native of Shreveport, Louisiana, and son of distinguished biochemist and author **Dr. Linda Bobby Johnson**, has built an admirable legacy of achievement through more than two decades of honorable military service, educational advancement, and meaningful contributions to communities across our nation; and

WHEREAS, following his graduation from North Little Rock High School in 1999, Mr. Joseph attended the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, where he was commissioned as an officer in the

United States Army through the Golden Lion Battalion in 2003 and earned his Bachelor of Science in Physical Education in 2004; and

WHEREAS, throughout his distinguished military career, Mr. Joseph demonstrated exceptional courage, discipline, and leadership, successfully completing four overseas combat command tours and earning the **Meritorious Service Medal** in recognition of his outstanding performance and dedication to duty; and

WHEREAS, during more than 20 years of service to the United States Army, Mr. Joseph assumed important leadership responsibilities, including serving as a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Equal Opportunity Program Manager for the Army National Guard and as a U.S. Army liaison to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Natural Disaster Response Support Center, helping coordinate critical support during times of national need; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the importance of continued professional development, Mr. Joseph furthered his education by earning a Master of Business Administration from Columbia Southern University, demonstrating his commitment to lifelong learning and effective leadership; and

WHEREAS, beyond his military accomplishments, Mr. Joseph has demonstrated a genuine passion for helping others through his sponsorship of the Dallas Independent School District Special Olympics, volunteer service supporting women residing in a domestic violence shelter, and the organization of clothing drives benefiting individuals and families in Washington, D.C., demonstrated his commitment to fellowship, brotherhood, and community involvement through his membership in **Busy Bee Masonic Lodge No. 345** in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and as a Fall 2002 initiate of the **Gamma Sigma Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated**; and

WHEREAS, following his retirement from the United States Army after more than two decades of dedicated service, Mr. Joseph stands as an inspiring example of the accomplishments that can be achieved through perseverance, educational achievement, personal integrity, and an unwavering commitment to serving one's country and fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission is especially proud to recognize this Shreveport native whose distinguished military career and continuing dedication to others reflect favorably upon his hometown and serve as an inspiration to future generations of young people throughout Caddo Parish;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission, in regular session convened, does hereby extend its sincere congratulations, appreciation, and special recognition to **LEON JOSEPH** for his distinguished service to the United States Army, his exemplary professional accomplishments, and his enduring commitment to improving the lives of others.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission expresses its profound gratitude for his more than 20 years of military service, including four overseas combat command tours, and commends his continued dedication to education, community service, and the principles of leadership and civic responsibility.

SPECIAL PROCLAMATION
LOVE DAY

WHEREAS, Apostle Carl A. Franklin and Pastor Hattie Franklin are being honored by Fountain of Life Kingdom Church for thirty-eight years of faithful ministry, dedicated leadership, and compassionate service to individuals and families throughout the Shreveport community; and

WHEREAS, Apostle Carl A. Franklin answered the call to ministry in 1988 and, together with Pastor Hattie Franklin, co-founded Fountain of Life Kingdom Church in 1989, nurturing a fellowship that began with nineteen believers gathered in a home into a lasting source of spiritual guidance and community support; and

WHEREAS, through worship, biblical teaching, prayer, counseling, and mentoring, the Franklins have encouraged faith, resilience, restoration, and leadership while helping individuals and families navigate life’s challenges; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Hattie Franklin has provided devoted leadership as co-pastor and church administrator, supported women through conferences, retreats, and health fairs, and established the vision for “Christmas in Candy Land,” an outreach bringing toys, bicycles, and holiday encouragement to children and families; and

WHEREAS, their shared commitment to serving others extends beyond the church walls through food, clothing, practical assistance, family support, and compassionate outreach to incarcerated individuals and their families; and

WHEREAS, Fountain of Life Kingdom Church will celebrate Love Day 2026 on November 15, 2026, under the theme “Faithful in Service, Worthy of Honor,” providing an opportunity to express appreciation for the Franklins’ enduring contributions and legacy of faith, love, and service;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Caddo Parish Commission that November 15, 2026, is hereby recognized as

APOSTLE CARL A. FRANKLIN & PASTOR HATTIE FRANKLIN DAY

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, in recognition of their thirty-eight years of faithful ministry, steadfast leadership, and dedicated community service.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the Caddo Parish Commission extends its sincere congratulations and appreciation to Apostle Carl A. Franklin and Pastor Hattie Franklin and offers best wishes for continued blessings and success in their ministry.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Administrator Bryant thanked Caddo Parish voters for considering the proposed sports complex. While expressing disappointment with the election outcome, she acknowledged voters' concerns and stated that the administration would assess those concerns in determining its next steps.

Administrator Bryant described the proposal as an opportunity to invest in young people, strengthen the local economy, attract visitors, and expand recreational opportunities for families. She thanked the Commission for its leadership and the community partners, organizations, and residents who participated in developing and considering the initiative.

Administrator Bryant emphasized that the effort had generated valuable discussions about community opportunities and residents' concerns. She affirmed the administration's commitment to pursuing responsible economic development, recreational opportunities, and investments that improve residents' quality of life while maintaining the Parish's fiscal stability.

COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Epperson announced plans for a fall cleanup campaign in Timberline, Deer Creek, and Colonial Heights, coordinated with Public Works Director Weaver, who would arrange for trash bins. He also announced a property standards sweep of those neighborhoods during November 16–20, 2026, in cooperation with Property Standards staff and neighborhood associations. The effort would inform residents of property standards violations and applicable homeowners association requirements.

Mr. Epperson requested Administrator Bryant's assistance in arranging a meeting between residents and Amazon representatives responsible for the proposed data center at Resilient Technology Park. He emphasized that representatives should listen to residents' questions and concerns and return with responses.

Mr. Epperson also requested a mailing list for the Dawson Road community to organize a meeting concerning the proposed Dawson Road extension. He noted that funding had been appropriated and expressed concern about increasing project costs.

Mr. Epperson urged unsuccessful candidates in the November 3 election to promptly remove their campaign signs from District 12. He emphasized neighborhood cleanliness and stated that signs left in place would be collected and their removal documented in his newsletter.

Mr. Epperson discussed ongoing difficulties securing polling locations and stated that Calvary Baptist Church had agreed to continue serving as a polling place through the December 12, 2026 election. He reiterated his legislative priority of increasing compensation for polling facilities and election commissioners to encourage participation.

He suggested exploring the purchase of Gracepoint Church of the Nazarene, located at 6825 Pines Road, for a multipurpose satellite center. He proposed that the property could accommodate services provided by the Assessor's Office, Sheriff's Office, and Clerk of Court, as well as provide a permanent polling location to consolidate precincts currently housed at other facilities.

He also requested that the appropriate entity be contacted regarding the deteriorated railroad crossing on Industrial Loop, south of the General Electric plant. He reported receiving numerous complaints of vehicle damage and asked that, if the crossing was no longer in use, it be removed and the roadway repaired.

- Mr. Thomas requested that Mr. Walker's office contact the Registrar of Voters to obtain a report on issues encountered during the November 3 election, how those issues were addressed, and measures to better inform voters before the next election.

Mr. Thomas stated that he received calls from voters reporting difficulties casting their ballots and referred them to the Registrar of Voters and Clerk of Court. He specifically cited reports from residents in the Cherokee Park area, Precinct 3-3-2, who indicated that they could vote for City Council but could not select a candidate for mayor. He also referenced voting equipment concerns in other

precincts, including Blanchard.

Mr. Thomas emphasized the importance of protecting all citizens' ability to vote and requested a comprehensive review of the reported concerns to help improve future elections. Mr. Walker indicated that his office would follow up on the request.

- Mr. Atkins stated that a team was scheduled to begin collecting his campaign signs and that he would assist over the weekend. He asked Commissioners to notify him by text of any signs remaining in their neighborhoods or districts so he could arrange for their removal.

- Mr. Burrell commended Mrs. Gage-Watts and Mr. John-Paul Young for their mayoral campaigns. He congratulated Mrs. Gage-Watts on advancing to the runoff and recognized Mr. John-Paul Young's campaign efforts and performance in his first mayoral race.

Mr. Burrell also reported receiving a video complaint indicating that only one voting machine was functioning at Fair Park School. He stated that the complainant also reported being prevented from addressing elderly voters who had questions about the proposition on the ballot.

Mr. Burrell congratulated Mr. Atkins on his election to the Louisiana Public Service Commission, District 5, and commended his campaign efforts.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President G. Young also congratulated Mr. Atkins and praised both him and his opponent for conducting a civil and respectful campaign. He emphasized the importance of celebrating one another following elections and maintaining mutual respect despite political differences. President Young expressed appreciation for Commissioner Atkins' guidance when he first joined the Commission, commended his dignity and service, and invited him to offer remarks.

Mr. Atkins thanked President G. Young and his colleagues for their kind words and support throughout his successful campaign. He described the election process as challenging but rewarding and expressed appreciation for the respectful treatment he received from participants at campaign forums, including those who held different views. Mr. Atkins also commended Councilman Green for their cordial relationship throughout the campaign, noting that they offered one another assistance and maintained mutual respect.

President G. Young President Young commended Clerk of Court Mike Spence and Administrator Bryant for coordinating efforts to accommodate voters during inclement weather. He noted that Administrator Bryant contacted the Clerk's Office about providing indoor waiting areas and that Mr. Spence visited polling locations to ensure those arrangements were communicated.

President G. Young emphasized the importance of fair and open elections, mutual respect following political contests, and listening to residents' concerns. Regarding the sports complex proposition, he acknowledged disappointment with the outcome and stressed the need to provide greater clarity about proposed initiatives. He also encouraged Commissioners to report election issues to the appropriate authorities as they occur so they can be addressed promptly.

Mr. Burrell asked whether polling locations are required to have a minimum number of voting machines. President Young stated that he would look into the matter. President Young also requested that Mr. Burrell convene the Policies and Procedures Committee the following week to address outstanding issues.

Mr. Kracman commended Mr. Spence for promptly responding to ballot and voting machine issues at Blanchard Elementary and Donnie Bickham schools. He stated that, to his knowledge, the issues were resolved on site and affected voters were able to cast their ballots. He expressed concern about aging voting equipment and emphasized the need for an early voting location in the Blanchard area to alleviate crowding.

President G. Young stated that he had discussed a potential early voting location with Blanchard staff and encouraged Commissioners to work together to expand access in northern and western Caddo Parish. Mr. Kracman stated that the Parish currently had two early voting locations, was approved for three, and needed four.

Mr. Epperson requested that Mr. Spence attend the next work session to provide an assessment of the issues encountered during the election. President G. Young directed the administration to coordinate the request.

There were no Public Hearings on Zoning Ordinances & Cases.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES

President G. Young opened the floor for anyone to speak in favor or against the following ordinance:

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

There being no one to speak in favor or against this ordinance, the President closed the public hearing.

ORDINANCES (for final passage)

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson,** seconded by Mr. Cothran, *that Ordinance No. 6648 of 2026, Shreve Memorial Library's 2027 Budget* be adopted. Motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Blake, Gage-Watts, and J. Young being absent.

ORDINANCE NO. 6648 OF 2026

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE BUDGET OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE **SHREVE MEMORIAL LIBRARY** FOR THE YEAR 2027

BE IT ORDAINED by the Caddo Parish Commission, in legal and regular session convened, that the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the **Shreve Memorial Library** for the year 2027, is hereby adopted and appropriated as follows, to wit

2027 BUDGET

Revenues	
Ad Valorem Taxes	$ 21,634,000
State Revenue Sharing	320,000
Interest Earned	600,000
Other Receipts	320,000
Fines and Forfeitures	5,000
Total Revenues	22,879,000
Expenditures	
Shreve Memorial Library Maintenance & Operation	22,157,500
Library Debt Service	-
Capital	9,885,000
Total Expenditures	32,042,500
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues	(9,163,500)
Over Expenditures	-
Fund Balance at Beginning of Year	36,944,615
Fund Balance at End of Year	$ 27,781,115

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that any time during the year the Shreve Memorial Library Board of Control shall have the authority to transfer part or all of the unencumbered appropriation from one budget category to another budget category within the Library Fund.

There were no Zoning Ordinances for Introduction by Title.

ORDINANCES (for introduction by title

- *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 Fun and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

- *Ordinance No. 6679 of 2026, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund and the Oil & Gas Fund to provide an appropriation to Northwest Louisiana Food Bank and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

It was **moved by Mr. Jones,** seconded by Mr. Cothran, *that the following items be englobo'd and adopted:*

- *Work Session Minutes- November 2, 2026*

- *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*

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

RESOLUTION NO. 60 OF 2026

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

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

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo is a Lessor in that certain oil, gas and mineral lease from the Caddo Parish Commission to Cypress Energy Partners, LLC, in State Agency Lease #22386, dated September 9, 2026, and recorded at Registry No. 3065010 of the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo is a Lessor in that certain oil, gas and mineral lease from the Caddo Parish Commission to Cypress Energy Partners, LLC, in State Agency Lease #22387, dated September 9, 2026, and recorded at Registry No. 3065011 of the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has received a written request from Cypress Energy Partners, LLC, seeking approval from the Parish of Caddo of an 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

WHEREAS, this approval is expressly granted and accepted subject to the requirement that all terms and conditions of the basic lease will be fulfilled, including but not limited to the full payment of rentals and royalties, regardless of the division of leasehold interests resulting from the instrument.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Parish of Caddo, in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Administrator is hereby authorized 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED if any provision or item of this resolution 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 resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

There was no Old Business nor New Business.

COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS

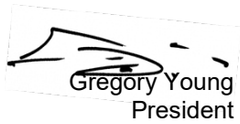
- Mr. Burrell reflected on the recent election, stating that he viewed the results as a call from voters for a change in direction. He expressed hope that elected officials would work together to address the country's challenges and overcome political division.

Drawing on his experience in the state legislature, Commissioner Burrell recalled a time when legislators could disagree on issues while maintaining personal relationships. He expressed concern about increasing partisan division and urged officials to listen to one another and respond to voters' concerns.

There were no Citizens Comments (late arrivals). There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.



Michelle Nations
Assistant Commission Clerk



Gregory Young
President