

CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
505 TRAVIS STREET, GOVERNMENT PLAZA
PUBLIC NOTICE
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA
Streaming at www.caddo.org
August 1, 2022
3:00pm

1. ROLL CALL:

Commissioners:

Hopkins	District 1	Gage-Watts	District 7
Johnson	District 2	Taliaferro	District 8
Jackson	District 3	Atkins	District 9
Young	District 4	Chavez	District 10
Burrell	District 5	Lazarus	District 11
Jones	District 6	Epperson	District 12

2. INVOCATION:

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

4. AGENDA ADDITIONS:

5. CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Citizens who wish to address the Committee, please submit a completed comment card either by clicking [HERE](#) in advance of the meeting or completing the form in the foyer and submitting to the Commission Clerk during the meeting. Individual comments are limited to 3 minutes.

6. ORDINANCE (For Final Passage):

6.I. Ordinance No. 6240 Of 2022

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT SECTION 12-27 RELATIVE TO OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES, ENACTING PROVISIONS REGARDING VIDEO POKER TRUCK STOPS, PARI-MUTUEL FACILITIES AND OFF TRACK WAGERING FACILITIES, TO PROHIBIT WITHIN A CERTAIN DISTANCE FROM PARTICULAR FACILITIES OR PROPERTIES, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

(Hopkins, Long Range Planning Committee)

Documents:

7. ADJOURN:

To all persons desiring to attend and observe a meeting of the Caddo Parish Commission, or who wish to present information to the body: If you have physical limitations that require special accommodations in order for you to attend and participate in a meeting of the Caddo Parish Commission, please contact the office of the Caddo Parish Commission Clerk at (318) 226-6596, at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting so that an effort can be made to provide those accommodations.

ORDINANCE NO. 6240 of 2022

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT SECTION 12-27 RELATIVE TO OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES, ENACTING PROVISIONS REGARDING VIDEO POKER TRUCK STOPS, PARI-MUTUEL FACILITIES AND OFF TRACK WAGERING FACILITIES, TO PROHIBIT WITHIN A CERTAIN DISTANCE FROM PARTICULAR FACILITIES OR PROPERTIES, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, video poker truck stops, pari-mutuel facilities, and off-track wagering facilities are located in and about our communities;

WHEREAS, the Parish desires to protect certain areas of our communities such as churches, parks, and education institutions;

WHEREAS, the Parish desires to preserve the property values and character of surrounding neighborhoods, deter the spread of urban blight, protect the citizens from increased crime, preserve the quality of life, and protect the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Parish desires to protect those community areas such as churches, parks and educational institutions by establishing regulated boundaries and measurements to OTB, OTR, video poker, and other gaming establishments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that Section 12-27 of the Code of Ordinances is hereby adopted to read as follows:

Section 12-27. Qualified Video Poker Truck Stop Facility, Pari-Mutuel Facilities, and Offtrack Wagering Facility locations; prohibited distances; prohibited structures .

No Occupational License shall be granted to any qualified video poker truck stop facility, pari-mutuel facility, or offtrack wagering facility located, at the time the original application is made for a license to operate a video poker truck stop or offtrack wagering facility, within one mile from any property on the National Register of Historic Places, any public playground, any residential property, or a building used primarily as a church, synagogue, public library, or school. The measurement of the distance shall be a straight line from the nearest point of the proposed video poker truck stop, pari-mutuel facility, or offtrack wagering facility to the nearest point of the property on the National Register of Historic Places, the public playground, residential property, or a building used primarily as a church, synagogue, public library, or school. This ordinance does not apply to a qualified truck stop facility, a pari-mutuel facility, or an offtrack wagering facility that is operational on the date this ordinance is passed. Such location shall be eligible for a qualified truck stop facility license, a pari-mutuel facility, or an offtrack wagering facility license

without reference to the prohibitions of this Section unless after having obtained a license, a qualified truck stop facility, a pari-mutuel facility, or an offtrack wagering facility has not been licensed at that location for thirty-six consecutive months and application for licensing is not made within that thirty-six-month period.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any provision or item of this ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this ordinance shall take effect upon adoption.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved as to legal form:

Parish Attorney

Date

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S
LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 6th DAY OF JUNE 2022

The Caddo Parish Long Range Planning Committee met in legal session on the above date, at 2:00 p.m., in the 1ST Floor Conference Room, with Mr. Hopkins, Chairman, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, and Young (6). ABSENT: Commissioner Gage-Watts (1).

Mr. Chavez gave the invocation, and Mr. Young led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

NEW BUSINESS

- *Discuss and Make Recommendation Regarding Ordinance No. 6237 Of 2022.*

Mr. Hopkins said the previous Long Range Planning Committee did not have a quorum, but they did have a lengthy informal discussion on this agenda item. Mr. Hopkins informed the Committee that Mr. Eric England from The Port and Mr. David North from LADOTD are present today.

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded to Mr. Jackson, *to recommend to the full body Ordinance No. 6237, an ordinance regarding an exchange of roadways with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development in connection with extending LA. 3276 to LA. 1, to authorize the exchange of certain portions of parish roads in return for certain portions of state highways; to authorize the Parish Administrator to execute agreements as necessary to accomplish that exchange, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto, for consideration.*

Mr. Young asked about the certainty that I-69 will be built according to the drawn map. Mr. David North responded that he is highly confident as long as construction is established along the I-69 corridor in a timely manner. He also said that Texas is wanting I-69 to be a Texas highway instead of a Louisiana interstate or highway. Mr. North further stated that there are forces in place to hinder I-69 in North Louisiana. Mr. Young wanted know the estimated cost of the I-69 project. Dr. Wilson responded that the total project will cost approximately \$40 million, and Caddo Parish is funding \$2.5 million. Dr. Wilson also said that Bossier Parish, DeSoto Parish, Caddo Parish, and the Port are also put funding towards the project, but majority of the project funding is from the State. Dr. Wilson further explained costs kept increasing since COVID and now the parishes are seeking a grant to cover the gap. Mr. Young wanted to know if the funding is for frontage roads. Dr. Wilson acknowledged that the project budget is to build service roads that would preserve a path for the future corridor.

Mr. North mentioned that the roads they are building are an investment in itself and will benefit the area even if the I-69 project does not happen. Mr. Young inquired if the interstate would cross the river. Dr. Wilson responded that the future I-49 project includes a bridge. Mr. Young clarified that the I-69 project would have a bridge over the river eventually if I-49 builds it. Dr. Wilson said yes.

Mr. Chavez asked for clarification about Texas stealing I-69. Mr. North responded that Texas is actively building along the I-69 corridor and relabeling Texas Highway 59 signs as the future corridor of I-69. Mr. Chavez wanted to know how they can guarantee I-69 in Louisiana. Mr. North responded that he is not sure who has final say, but Texas received 35 times more funding than Louisiana. Mr. Eric England explained that the State of Texas committed \$64 billion to the I-69 project and that I-69 has multiple routes throughout their state. He advised the committee that an I-69 service road will go through The Port based on the SIU 15 decision. I-69E will go to The Port and I-69W will go to Texarkana. This will provide Louisiana the connection through SIU 16 which will carry I-69 into Texas. Mr. Chavez wanted to know if Texas could change their interstate number. Mr. England responded depends on a numbering system and the Eisenhower interstate system. Mr. England stated it is the connection that is important, not the name.

Mr. Jackson asked if the DOTD has targeted any grants from the infrastructure bill. Mr. England explained that their approach to I-69 project is in three parts: two outer parts and a middle part. The middle part is funded by the State. The two outer parts Caddo-Bossier Parish Port Commission applied for an infra-grant to cover the costs of an 80% price increase in roadway construction. He also said that grant recipient results will be disclosed in the fall. Mr. England further explained the infra-grant is a part of the IIJA (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act). Mr. Jackson wanted to know if they have any letters from the State Congress. Mr. England responded they have received a letter of support from Senator Cassidy and Representative Johnson. Mr. Jackson asked when will the Parish know that the I-69 project was successful. Mr. England responded that of the infra and mega category of the IIJA, NLCOG developed a plan for the I-69 SIU 15 with intention to apply for the IIJA mega category.

Mr. Jackson commented that some things get caught up in the environmental part of the project. Mr. England explained the I-69 project has already gone through the NEPA process and with that record of decision, they are ready to go.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know how the project will receive the funding. Mr. England responded it will be routed and they have a letter of support from the LADOTD Secretary Shawn Wilson for the I-69 Service Road. At this time, Mr. Jackson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson and Young (7). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

- *Discuss Off Track Racing Ordinance*

Mr. Hopkins commented that the Senate passed an off-track racing bill that would allow local communities to set distance requirements. Mr. Hopkins recommended that the ordinance be exactly like the Caddo Parish's gaming ordinance so that gambling is not within 500 feet to a church, synagogue, school, hospital, etc.

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded to Mr. Jackson, *to forward the proposed off-track racing ordinance* to full body for consideration.

Mr. Jackson requested clarity on land use regulation. Mr. Hopkins responded that they will regulate and protect Caddo Parish schools, synagogues, churches, and hospitals. Attorney Bernstein explained this ordinance will prohibit off-track betting parlors and video pokers from receiving an occupational license if the location is within a set number of feet of schools, etc. Mr. Jackson asked if this would apply to all of Caddo Parish. Attorney Bernstein responded it will apply to the unincorporated areas. Mr. Jackson expressed his support of this ordinance.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know if an established business could be grandfathered in under this ordinance. Attorney Bernstein responded the previous state statute provided distance requirements, but the recently adopted bill provided that distance limitations would not apply if a racing license was bought by a certain date. Attorney Bernstein explained that the bill is very specific and appears to focus on Northwest Louisiana. Attorney Bernstein stated that this ordinance would add a distance limitation to sensitive areas that would prohibit businesses to receive an occupational license.

Mr. Johnson confirmed that the National Register of Historic Places, public playgrounds, residential property or building used primarily as a church, synagogue, public library or school would be protected by the distance limitation. He suggested there should be a grandfather clause in the ordinance. Attorney Bernstein pointed out there is language in the ordinance that says "this ordinance does not apply to a qualified truck stop facility, para-mutual facility or off-track wagering facility that is operational on the date this ordinance is passed".

Mr. Atkins asked for clarity on whether offsite betting is relative to new construction or an activity at existing businesses. Mr. Hopkins explained that it could be a new construction, a refurbished new or old building, or a facility historical for horse racing and off-track wagering.

At this time, Mr. Atkins' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson and Johnson (6). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Young (1). ABSTAIN: None (0)

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:31 p.m.



Linda J. Montgomery
Administrative Specialist I