

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 3rd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2020

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Work Session, on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., in the Government Chambers, with Mr. Chavez, presiding, and the following members in attendance, constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). ABSENT: Commissioner Gage-Watts (1).

The invocation was given by Mr. Epperson, and Mr. Taliaferro led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mr. Bill McCollum came before the Commission in regards to his candidacy on the Industrial Development Board. He gave a brief history of his professional, personal, and educational career. Mr. McCollum said that he is interested in serving on the IDB and asked that the Commission support him to the vacant position.

Ms. Laura Alderman came before the Commission regarding early childhood development in Northwest Louisiana. She said that 59% of children in Northwest Louisiana are not kindergarten ready. She also explained that healthy development in the first five years of life provide the building blocks for educational achievement, economic productivity, responsible citizenship, lifelong health, strong communities, and successful parenting of the next generation. She asked that the Commission support this resolution.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- Update—NLCOG
Mr. J. Kent Rogers, Executive Director

Mr. Rogers listed the mega projects Barksdale Air Force Base Gate Access 1-22 at 1-20, I-49 Inner City Connector, LA 3132 (Inner Loop) Extension, and I-69 Frontage Road (LA 1 to I-4).

He explained that the Barksdale AFB Gate Access will ultimately serve as the new main gate access. Funding for this project has come from different sources, such as \$6M from Bossier City and Bossier Parish, \$12M from NLCOG STP Funds, and \$72M from LADOTD GARVEE Bonds. He also pointed out that this is the first GARVEE Bond project being utilized in Louisiana.

He then talked about the I-49 Inner City Connector. Currently there are two build alternatives, the Build Through Alternative and the Loop It Alternative. In 2017, the MPO unanimously passed a resolution supporting Build Alternative 1. The biggest time delay is with the Cultural Report. They are working to resolve the State Historic Preservation Office's comments and should be ready for submittal to DOTD and FHWA by the end of 2019.

He then talked about the LA 3132 Inner Loop Extension. On Thursday, March 19 from 4:00 PM until 7:00 PM, there will be a public hearing for the project. It will be held at the LSUS Student Center in the ballroom. It identifies Alternative B2 at the preferred alternative with an initial cost estimate of about \$181M.

Mr. Rogers then moved onto the proposed I-69 Frontage Road LA 1 to I-49 project. A portion of I-69 in the area had some frontage road identified within it from Ellerbe to Stonewall-Frierson Road. They will be doing upgrades to Stonewall-Frierson, frontage road to Ellerbe, and additional frontage road from Ellerbe to LA-1 connecting it to the Port. He also explained that there were earmarks left over from over the years for I-69. Federal Highways indicated they were going to do a "sweep" where they take all of the left over monies and rededicate them to other projects. They were able to keep the funding for I-69.

NLCOG also works on the Regional Highway Safety Coalition, which is a CEA between NLCOG, State Police, and all local EMS, fire, and police. The majority is education and outreach for safe driving behavior. The ultimate goal is zero deaths.

He then talked about the Regional Watershed Project. He said that there is a resolution that needs to come before the Commission for approving an agreement with NLCOG, CDC, and LSUS Red River Watershed Management Institute for the purpose of applying for grant funding and acting in support of watershed region management activities and in conjunction with the State of Louisiana Watershed Initiative.

Mr. Burrell explained that the State put \$3M for the study of the inner city connector for I-49, then later added another \$1M or so to it. He wanted to know the status of that fund. Mr. Rogers said that there's approximately \$250,000 left over from that funding. He also explained that the additional work that DOTD and Federal Highways is to be done has to be funded by them. Mr. Rogers said that they

“don’t seem to have a problem with that”. Mr. Burrell wanted to know if there’s enough money to finish that project. Mr. Rogers said that there is not, but DOTD has indicated that they will “put up whatever it takes to get it done”. Mr. Rogers also explained that there is nothing outstanding that is required with NLCOG’s reports regarding I-49.

Mr. Young talked about the Driver Safety Initiative. Mr. Young said that on Kings Hwy bordering the southern portion of Centenary College, there are crosswalks which students have difficulty crossing. Mr. Young asked that those crosswalks have better signage and lighting for those students. Mr. Rogers notated it.

Mr. Chavez wanted more information regarding the public hearing scheduled for March 19. Mr. Rogers said that there will be a public relations campaign regarding the public hearing prior to the meeting. He also explained that there will be a display of information and a timeline explaining how Alternative B2 was chosen for LA 3132 along with public comments.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know how the LA 3132 Inner Loop Extension affects Twelve Oaks, the Bayou, and Esplanade. Mr. Rogers said that there are still some issues that align with the last two plat submittals Mr. Larkin made to the City. He explained that the MPC denied those approvals, then the City overturned that decision and allowed his development to move forward. This happened at the same time as the final draft being submitted to Federal Highways and DOTD. There are still issues waiting to be resolved with Esplanade.

Mr. Burrell said that there was a North and South Fund for I-49. He wanted to know if that fund was still intact. Mr. Rogers stated that it was, and there is still monies each year being allocated to the fund.

Dr. Wilson wanted to know if the State has the authority to expropriate land if needed.

- 2020 Legislative Priorities (hand-out)

Dr. Wilson provided the Commissioners a copy of the Legislative Priorities for 2020. He asked that the Commissioners review this document for any changes needed. Dr. Wilson also said that a legislative luncheon is tentatively scheduled for February 21 at 11:30 a.m., Petroleum Club.

- 2019 Year-End Expenditure Report
Caddo Parish Small & Emerging Business Initiative

Dr. Wilson provided a year-end report of Caddo’s Small & Emerging Business Initiative. Mr. Johnson wanted to know the overall goal for Caddo Parish. Dr. Wilson said that the goal is 25% per department. He also mentioned that some of the departments are meeting expectations, while others are not. He also pointed out that sometimes it is hard to find Small & Emerging Businesses for some of the departments. Dr. Wilson also pointed out that Ms. Gunn, Purchasing Manager, does several expos for business with the Parish.

Answering a question from Mr. Jackson regarding combining the Commission Clerk’s Office and Administration, Dr. Wilson explained that they have different funding sources. Mr. Jackson would also like to know locations of where the businesses are.

Mr. Jackson also suggested having Attorney Malone come down at the next Work Session to discuss the progress of the disparity study.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if this was carried out by Administration or the Economic Development Committee. Dr. Wilson said that Administration carries this out through the Purchasing Manager.

Mr. Atkins thanked Dr. Wilson for this report. He also said that the numbers indicate that it can be challenging for find small and emerging businesses that have the skills and capabilities to do all of the work of goods and services that the Parish requires. He encouraged the Commission to continue to work at that, but he would continue to resist any effort to impose any legislation that would cause the Commission to fall under federal mandates. He supports the Parish being in the competitive marketplace and trying to find small and emerging businesses, but he would like to keep it all competitive without a government overlay.

Mr. Cawthorne requested a copy of the ordinance mentioned in Dr. Wilson’s letter. He also wanted to know if there was a further breakdown regarding the specificities of the businesses. Mr. Cawthorne also asked for clarification regarding Mr. Atkins’ comments. Mr. Atkins explained that there has been discussions in the past regarding a study that would provide data to the federal government who would then give them a reason to state that the Parish had to comply with certain mandates.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if the businesses listed were parish-specific departments or other agencies as well. Dr. Wilson said they are parish-specific departments. Mr. Jackson had questions

regarding CCC or the Health Unit. Dr. Wilson said that they are listed under Facilities & Maintenance since the Parish owns those buildings.

Mr. Jackson also addressed Mr. Atkins. He said that the disparity study is only looking to see if a disparity exists in the community.

COMMISSION REMARKS

- Mr. Epperson requested that Attorney Frazier research if there is a state or parish ordinance regarding threats to appointed or elected officials.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *that Ordinance No. 5942 of 2020, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund in the amount of \$37,000 to provide an appropriation of \$7,000 to Ivy Crown, \$20,000 to Strategic Action Council, and \$10,000 to Stuffed Shrimp Festival and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Substitute motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to move Ordinance No. 5942 of 2020 to the Economic Development Committee to be heard on or before February 18 while simultaneously moving Ordinance No. 5942 of 2020 for public hearing and final passage on February 20, with the following information needed for the committee meetings: applications, presentations by organizations, and economic impacts studies if available.*

Mr. Johnson asked for clarification regarding this motion. Mr. Johnson also wanted to know if a recommendation from the committee would then be forwarded back to the full body. Mr. Hopkins explained that this would move the ordinance forward, but would also allow for the new Commissioners to hear presentations regarding the organizations.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know what would happen if the committee does not vote for the appropriations to these organizations. Mr. Hopkins explained that the committee could vote whether or not to support the appropriations for these organizations, but the full body would still have to vote for or against this ordinance during February 20's Regular Session.

Mr. Cawthorne pointed out that Ivy Crown and Stuffed Shrimp Festival appeared during Appropriations. Mr. Hopkins explained that the ordinance states that all three organizations are coming out of the Economic Development Fund.

Mr. Chavez pointed out that the committee assignments are almost complete. He asked if Mr. Atkins would be able to call an Economic Development Committee during the request time frame since he is the Chair. Mr. Atkins stated that he would be happy to call a meeting, but he is in agreement with Mr. Cawthorne that some of the organizations should go to the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. Epperson wanted to know how many new Commissioners are on the Economic Development Committee. Mr. Chavez said that Mr. Atkins, Mrs. Gage-Watts, Mr. Epperson, and Mr. Young are all on the Economic Development Committee. Mr. Epperson said that he will not be supporting the substitute motion. He believes that the Commissioners could individually obtain the information, if needed.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know what if the amounts change. Attorney Frazier said that a new title would have to be advertised.

Attorney Frazier clarified that the Stuffed Shrimp Festival and Strategic Action Council came out of the Economic Development Committee, and Ivy Crown came out of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. Hopkins wanted to know if the amounts could be amended on the floor on the day of final passage. Attorney Frazier stated that it could if the amounts were not listed in the title.

Mr. Burrell asked for a point of clarification regarding Attorney Frazier's comments. Attorney Frazier explained the amounts are listed in the title, so it would not allow for enough time to advertise in the Official Journal if those amounts are amended on the floor. She explained that Official Journal is a weekly paper.

Substitute motion by Mr. Cawthorne, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *to eliminate the dollar amounts for the organizations in the title of the ordinance.*

Point of Information by Mr. Hopkins. He said that this ordinance has already been advertised.

Mr. Cawthorne wanted to know the challenges of Mr. Hopkins' comments. Attorney Frazier suggested to move the ordinance forward, remove the dollar amounts, and move the public hearing back by a couple of weeks.

Mr. Atkins mentioned that there is confusion surrounding this ordinance. He suggested to vote this ordinance down and restructure it to how the authors would like to see it structured.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know why this ordinance could not be changed. Attorney Frazier explained that the body of an ordinance could be amended, not the title since it has already been advertised in the Official Journal. She also said that resolutions can be amended because there are not publication requirements for resolutions.

Mr. Johnson asked for clarification regarding the Official Journal. The Deputy Commission Clerk explained that the deadline to submit ads for the paper is on Friday by 5:00 p.m. or Monday before noon. Mr. Johnson said that the notice could go into the Official Journal the week the City Council meets. Attorney Frazier explained that there is a 24-hour requirement under State law, but there is a 3-day requirement under Parish ordinance.

Mr. Jackson pointed out that the body of the ordinance could be amended, just not the title. He also mentioned that the ordinance has to be read for introduction during Thursday's Regular Session. Mr. Jackson suggested to move the ordinance forward and just work to resolve any advertising issues.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know if Mr. Cawthorne's substitute motion legitimate. Attorney Frazier stated that it would have to be pushed back by two weeks if the motion stands. Mr. Cawthorne's withdrew his motion.

Mr. Hopkins reiterated that the ordinances are sent to the Official Journal the Friday before the Work Session and is published the day of the Regular Session. It is also read for introduction during the Regular Session, and it has to sit for two weeks between introduction and final passage.

Mr. Johnson explained that ordinances have been amended in the past during Regular Sessions. Attorney Frazier stated that the Commission has changed the bodies of the ordinances, not the titles. She said it would not be an issue to amend the dollar amounts if they were not in title.

Substitute motion by Mr. Chavez, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *to remand the Strategic Action Council and Stuffed Shrimp Festival to the Economic Development Committee and to remand Ivy Crown to the Appropriations Committee.*

Mr. Chavez explained that this would clean this up, and the funding could come from the proper source.

Call for the Question from Mr. Epperson, seconded by Mr. Jackson. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Gage-Watts (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Chavez's substitute motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (8). NAYS: Commissioners Cawthorne, Epperson, and Jackson (3). ABSENT: Commissioner Gage-Watts (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Ordinance No. 5943 of 2020, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund in the amount of \$20,000 to provide an appropriation to Legal Services of North Louisiana, Inc. and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Hopkins thanked Legal and Finance for providing the fact sheet.

Mr. Jackson said that this was supposed to be an amendment during the budget process, but fell through the cracks. He also stated that this is in line with the Expungement Summit that the Parish hosts.

At this time, Mr. Epperson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Gage-Watts (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that Ordinance No. 5944 of 2020, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund and*

the Economic Development Fund to provide an appropriation for the Southern Hills Homeowners Association (SHHA) and to reduce the appropriation for the Southern Hills Business Association (SHBA) and to otherwise provide with respect thereto be removed from the agenda. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Gage-Watts (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Taliaferro, *that Resolution No. 9 of 2020, a resolution in support of fostering and promoting healthy early childhood development throughout Northwest Louisiana be moved to Thursday's agenda.*

Substitute motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *to englobo and move the following resolutions to Thursday's agenda:*

- *Resolution No. 9 of 2020, a resolution in support of fostering and promoting healthy early childhood development throughout Northwest Louisiana*
- *Resolution No. 10 of 2020, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to request and authorize the Louisiana State Mineral & Energy Board and the Office of Mineral Resources to accept nominations and advertise for oil, gas, and mineral leases, accept bids, and award and execute oil, gas, and mineral leases on certain mineral interests owned by the Parish of Caddo, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 11 of 2020, a Resolution of Remembrance to Mr. Willie Burton, Jr.*

At this time, Mr. Jackson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Gage-Watts (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *to move to Thursday's Regular Session the appointment to fill the unexpired term left by the resignation of Mr. Larry Ferdinand on the Industrial Development Board, term to expire August 22, 2025; candidates to be considered Mr. William "Bill" McCollum, Ms. Kay Proby-Waller, and Ms. Earnestine Smith. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Gage-Watts (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).*

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *that the authorization of reappointments of Mr. Carlos Gipson and Mr. Ed Angel to the Caddo Parish Fire District No. 1 Board, terms to expire January 1, 2022 be moved to Thursday's agenda.*

Mr. Johnson wanted to know if these were reappointments. Mr. Hopkins stated that they are.

At this time, Mr. Hopkins' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Gage-Watts (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *that the authorize of reappointments of Mr. Kyle Dill and Mr. David Winkler to the Caddo Parish Fire District No. 5 Board, terms to expire January 1, 2022 be moved to Thursday's agenda.*

Mr. Atkins stated that these are reappointments and both have served the board well.

At this time, Mr. Atkins' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Gage-Watts (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Special Resolution of Remembrance to DJ Star be moved to Thursday's agenda.*

Mr. Burrell said that DJ Star was a young man who died from a tragic accident with an 18-wheeler.

Mr. Jackson requested to be added as a co-sponsor this resolution. He also said that he personally knew DJ Star and offered his family and friends condolences.

At this time, Mr. Burrell's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Gage-Watts (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

The Commission then moved onto the next New Business item *to discuss Charter Review Committee Selection Process*.

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that the Commissioners initiate the process for the Charter Review Selection and to submit names to be considered for the Charter Review Committee during the March 5th Regular Session*.

Mr. Jackson explained that the Charter is reviewed every four years and would like to get the "ball rolling" for this process. He also pointed out that their recommendations are forwarded to the full body to be voted on. If the body approves those recommendations, they are then forwarded to be placed on the ballot for the citizens to vote on.

Mr. Epperson asked that the Commission Clerk's Office and Administration provide a copy of the historical background to all of the Commissioners. Mr. Chavez requested that this information be provided to all Commissioners.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know who sits on the Charter Review Committee. Dr. Wilson said that the committee is comprised of citizens who are engaged in the community.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know how large the committee is. Attorney Frazier said that it is made of six citizens, Parish Administrator, Parish Attorney, and Commission President. She also pointed out that these are public meetings.

Call for the Question by Mr. Epperson, seconded by Mr. Jackson. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Gage-Watts (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Jackson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Gage-Watts (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

COMMUNIQUES/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Epperson announced that he will be hosting a public community meeting on Tuesday, February 25 from 6:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. at the Bill Cockrell Community Center, along with representatives from the MPC to seek input from citizens regarding the Master Plan and UDC. He invited all to attend.
- Mr. Chavez sent the Commissioners the committee assignments and asked the Commissioners to review it. He also said that Mr. Clark is working with the Commission to schedule the UDC Townhall Committee. Mr. Chavez also announced that Mr. Johnson and Mr. Jackson would be serving on the Master Plan Committee.

CONSENT AGENDA

- *Special Resolution of Recognition to Doug Dominick, Matthew Linn, Jim Smith, Kenneth Epperson, and Jerald Bowman for years of service as Caddo Parish Commissioners*

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

/s/ Michelle Nations
Michelle Nations
Deputy Commission Clerk