

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 23rd DAY OF JANUARY, 2020

The Caddo Parish Commission met in legal and regular session, on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., in the Government Chambers, with President Gage-Watts, presiding, and the following members in attendance, constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). ABSENT: None (0).

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

**SELECTION OF 2020 CADDO COMMISSION OFFICERS**

Mrs. Gage-Watts stated it is now time to select Caddo Commission Officers for the 2020 year.

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts opened the floor up for nominations for President of the Caddo Parish Commission.

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *to nominate Mr. Chavez for the 2020 Caddo Parish Commission President.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Jackson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to nominate Mr. Johnson for the 2020 Caddo Parish Commission Vice-President.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Jackson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to nominate Mr. Atkins for the 2020 Caddo Parish Commission Parliamentarian.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Jackson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, the newly elected officers took their seats.

Mr. Chavez presented outgoing President, Mrs. Gage-Watts, with a plaque for her year of service as President. He said that Mrs. Gage-Watts was an exceptional leader who always set him up for success when he had to go to an event for her. Mr. Chavez said that she would even pre-type speeches for those events.

**AGENDA ADDITIONS**

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to expand the agenda and add Resolution No. 8 of 2020, a resolution of endorsement of Kenneth Epperson, Sr. as a candidate for an Executive Member-At-Large position on the Executive Board to the Police Jury Association of Louisiana, and otherwise providing with respect thereto.*

Mr. Epperson ask that the Commissioners support his candidacy for PJAL Member-At-Large.

At this time, Mr. Chavez asked if there was anyone to speak in favor or against adding this to the agenda. There being no on to speak, Mr. Chavez closed the public hearing on the agenda addition.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *to add Resolution No. 8 of 2020 under Resolutions.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Jackson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Ms. Patricia Smith came before the Commission concerning the Unified Development Code (UDC). She provided the Commissioners with a copy of her research. Ms. Smith spoke to over 150 people in North Caddo Parish regarding property rights. She said that they are concerned about their property rights and provided in her research packet those thoughts. Ms. Smith said that the Commissioners represent all of the constituents of Caddo Parish and would like them to take those citizens in consideration.

Mr. Jake Brown addressed the Commissioners who have citizens within the city limits of Shreveport. He believes that the MPC has been a burden for builders and developers. He also said that numerous studies have shown that too many regulations contribute to poverty because they have aggressive effects on the lower income communities by slowing entrepreneurial growth, increasing income inequality, and raising the price of goods. Mr. Brown believes that the 2030 Master and UDC will mainly hurt low and middle income households. He also said that the 2030 Master Plan outlines plans for establishing an administrative court to deal with code violations. He said that this court could possibly take clear title to property for nonpayment of fines. He also described the Master Plan as promoting smart growth by building up and not out. He believes the reason for this type of construction is because single-family homes and the right to own property is a threat to the planet. Mr. Brown said that the Caddo Alliance for Freedom is in the process of informing the citizens of Shreveport of the UDC.

Ms. Jessica Tullis described true private property rights as:

1. The owner's exclusive authority to determine how private property is used;
2. The owner's peaceful possession, control and enjoyment of his/her lawfully purchased, real private property;
3. The owner's ability to make contracts to sell, rent or give away all or part of the lawfully purchased/real private property;
4. That local, city, parish, state and federal governments are prohibited from exercising eminent domain for the sole purpose of acquiring lawfully purchased/real private property so as to resell to a private interest or generate revenues;
5. That no local, city, parish, state, or federal government has the authority to impose directives, ordinances, fees, or fines regarding aesthetic landscaping, color selections, tree and plant preservation, or open spaces on lawfully purchased/real private property;
6. That no local, city, parish, state and federal government shall implement a land use plan that requires any part of lawfully purchased/real private property be set aside for public use or for a Natural Resource Protection Area directing that no construction or disturbance may occur;
7. That no local, city, parish, state or federal government shall implement a law or ordinance restricting the number of out buildings that may be placed on lawfully purchased real/private property;
8. That no local, city, parish, state or federal government shall alter or impose zoning restrictions or regulations that will devalue or limit the ability to sell lawfully purchased/real private property;
9. That no local, city, parish, state or federal government shall limit profitable or productive agriculture activities by mandating and controlling what crops and livestock are grown on lawfully purchased/real private property;
10. That no local, city, parish, state or federal government representatives or their assigned agents may trespass on private property without the consent of the property owner or is in possession of a lawful warrant from a legitimate court of law. This includes invasion or property rights and privacy by government use of unmanned drone flights, with the exceptions of exigent circumstances such as protection of life, limb, or the private property itself.

Mr. Brian White came before the Commission regarding the UDC. He has concerns about property rights. He believes that the UDC is an infringement on their property rights and should not have been since they live outside the city limits. He said that the UDC was forced upon those citizens without their knowledge until enforcement began. He cautioned that the inner city does not know the impacts of this code. He is concerned with the administrative court that is in the 2030 Master Plan and the effects it could have on the inner city areas. He also said that his family was in the process of building a small scale farm on property he owns outside of the city limits, but have since halted due to the restrictions from the UDC. Mr. White would like to have chickens on his property, but the UDC only allows eight hens. He would also like to build a lighted play area for his children, but the UDC only allows a certain type of light for that area.

Mr. Ron Gray to discuss the UDC. He heard talks about a chemical plant moving into a residential area's backyard if there are no zoning restrictions. He stated that was not the case because the chemical plant would have to go through a process to obtain permits to move to those types of areas. He believes that some form of zoning would still be beneficial.

Ms. Laura Neubert came before the Commission regarding the MPC appointment. She said that her professional experience is diverse, and she has an educational background that is applicable to this appointment. Ms. Neubert also pointed out that she does live in the planning zone for the MPC. She asked that the Commission consider her for this appointment.

Ms. Sharon Flournoy came before the Commission on behalf of support for Ms. Neubert for the MPC appointment. She said that Ms. Neubert is her friend, and she's known her for several years. She complimented Ms. Neubert on her fairness, integrity, and character. She asked that the Commission support Ms. Neubert for the MPC appointment.

Mr. Shelton Henderson also came before the Commission on behalf of Ms. Neubert. He has known her for 20-30 years. He said that she gives to the City of Shreveport and is an all-around good person. He asked that the Commission support Ms. Neubert for the MPC appointment.

Ms. Deanna Geisler met Ms. Neubert about 10 years ago. She said that Ms. Neubert is a well-respected business owner. She also said that she has great work ethic and great communication skills. Ms. Geisler also said that Ms. Neubert produces solutions and gives back to the community. Ms. Geisler also said that Ms. Neubert is a great mentor and gets the job done. She asked that the Commission support Ms. Neubert for the MPC appointment.

Mr. Kent Orrell has worked with Ms. Neubert for over 20 years. He said that she understands that people make the company. He also said that she always takes the high road and is fair in everything that she does. He said that she strives to do the right thing in all that she does. He asked that the Commission support Ms. Neubert for the MPC appointment.

Mr. Chavez pointed out that the 15 minutes has expired for the citizens to speak on one subject. At this time, it was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to allow the remaining citizens 15 seconds to speak on Ms. Neubert.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: Commissioner Jackson (1). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Mr. Justin James came to the Commission on behalf of Ms. Neubert. He said that she is character driven.

Mr. Jacques Brooks came before the Commission on behalf of Ms. Neubert. He said that everything that was said about Ms. Neubert was true. He asked that the Commission consider her for this appointment.

Mr. Danny Bernard came before the Commission on behalf of Ms. Neubert. He said that her family treats him and his family like family. He gave her the highest regards.

Mr. Tuan Nguyen came before the Commission on behalf of Ms. Neubert. He has worked with Ms. Neubert on several projects and speaks very highly of her.

#### **ADOPT REGULAR SESSION MINUTES & SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES**

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to englobe and adopt the following minutes:*

- *Regular Session Minutes—January 9, 2020*
- *Special Session Minutes—December 21, 2019 Selection of Commission Clerk*
- *Special Session Minutes—January 13, 2020 Swearing In of Commissioners 2020-2024*

At this time, Mr. Hopkins' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

#### **SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS**

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that Special Resolution of Recognition to Lowder Baking Company, 2020 King Cake Resolution* be approved. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Mr. Chavez commended the Lowder family for all that they do for Caddo Parish.

#### **RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION LOWDER BAKING COMPANY**

*WHEREAS*, it is the desire of the Caddo Parish Commission to give appropriate acknowledgment and recognition to individuals and institutions that have rendered invaluable service to the citizens of Caddo Parish; and

*WHEREAS*, Lowder Baking Company and Preston & Sarah Lowder have shared with the community their unbelievably delicious King Cakes and fresh baked goods these past few years; and

*WHEREAS*, Lowder Baking Company was deemed 2019's No. 1 Bakery by SB Magazine, and now have found their name as the No. 1 spot for Louisiana's Best King Cakes by Louisiana Cookin' Magazine; and

*WHEREAS*, Lowder Baking Company has always strived to make sure the citizens of Caddo Parish are provided a premium product by making their baked goods from scratch with the highest quality ingredients each and every day; and

*WHEREAS*, the Lowder Baking Company's passion for high quality baked goods is enhanced by the Lowder's dedication to their community. By partnering with other Caddo businesses they highlight the best of our community. Their incredible products, relationships with other businesses, and the example that they provide as a family rooted in faith and sharing in success have been a benefit to the Parish of Caddo.

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*, that the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal session convened this 21st day of January, 2020, that it does hereby convey its deepest and most sincere congratulations to LOWDER BAKING COMPANY.

#### **COMMUNIQUES/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mr. Epperson asked that Administration to tentatively put on their calendars, March 8 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., the annual District 12 meeting. It will be held at the Greenwood Baptist Church, 9500 Greenwood-Springridge Road.

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Chavez thanked the Commission for electing him as president for 2020.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES**

Mr. Chavez asked if there was anyone to speak in support of or in opposition of the following ordinance:

- *Ordinance No. 5941 of 2020, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund in the amount of \$10,000 to provide an appropriation for the Showtime Boxing event and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

Mr. Kelly Wells said that the Sports Commission is supporting this event with \$20,000. He asked that the Commission also support this event.

Ms. Amber Bishop said that this event will be internationally televised on Showtime. She said that there are boxers coming in from all over the world.

Mr. Chris Grant introduced himself as an intern for the Shreveport-Bossier Sports Commission.

- *Ordinance No. 5940 of 2019, to authorize the Parish Administrator to execute a termination of right of first refusal on Lot 1, North Shreveport Industrial Park, Unit No. 2, being a resubdivision of Lots 9 and 10, North Shreveport Industrial Park, Unit No. 1, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

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

#### **ORDINANCES (for final passage)**

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts *that Ordinance No. 5941 of 2020, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund in the amount of \$10,000 to provide an appropriation for the Showtime Boxing event and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if the event was a local event. Mr. Wells explained that Bishop Promotion is a local promotions company. She's partnered with a national promoter who has ties with Showbox, an international and national company that televises fights on Showtime. Mr. Burrell said that

he is interested in working with those groups. Mr. Wells also explained that this event was sold out last year, so they decided to move it to a bigger venue.

Mr. Atkins appreciates Mr. Wells' discretion when coming to the Commission for funding requests. He also appreciates the economic impact study provided by the Sports Commission. He will be voting to support this ordinance.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if the numbers on the economic impact study was estimates or actual numbers. Mr. Wells said that the actual numbers are based on the expenses paid during last year's event, but the estimated numbers are based on the tickets sold. Mr. Jackson said that he will get with Mr. Wells offline regarding the numbers on the economic impact study.

Mr. Chavez thanked Mr. Wells for all of his hard work in bringing sporting events to the area.

At this time, Mr. Johnson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

### **ORDINANCE NO. 5941 OF 2020**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000 TO PROVIDE AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE SHOWTIME BOXING EVENT AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Showtime Boxing Network will televise a full line-up for a fight night at the Hirsch Coliseum on January 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Hirsch Coliseum will be transformed into a mega boxing arena where local and international fighters will compete; and

WHEREAS, the event will be televised nationwide and in the Ukraine to an audience of millions; and

WHEREAS the Shreveport-Bossier Sports Commission would like to obtain \$10,000 in funding from the Caddo Parish Commission to assist with local advertising and costs to reopen the Hirsch Coliseum for the Showtime Boxing Event; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund for the year 2020 is hereby amended as follows:

Budget Increase (Decrease)

**Riverboat Fund**

Allocation to Other Entities

    NGO Appropriations

        Sports Commission – Showtime Boxing Event

        \$10,000

Fund Balance

(\$10,000)

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.

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *that the Work Session Minutes from January 21, 2020 be approved.* Motion carried.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Resolution No. 2 of 2020, a resolution to amend the Caddo Parish Commission By-Laws to require resumes for Commission*

*appointments, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be postponed. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Resolution No. 6 of 2020, a resolution to relocate polling place for Precinct Nos. 88, 114, 133, and 163 from Calvary United Pentecostal Church, 6811 Woolworth Road, Shreveport, Louisiana 71129 to Walnut Hill Elementary Middle School, 9360 Woolworth Road, Shreveport, Louisiana 71129, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

#### RESOLUTION NO. 6 OF 2020

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION TO RELOCATE POLLING PLACE FOR PRECINCT NOS. 88, 114, 133, AND 163 FROM CALVARY UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH, 6811 WOOLWORTH ROAD, SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71129 TO WALNUT HILL ELEMENTARY MIDDLE SCHOOL, 9360 WOOLWORTH ROAD, SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71129, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the established polling location for Precinct Nos. 88, 114, 133, and 163 is Calvary United Pentecostal Church, located at 6811 Woolworth Road, Shreveport, Louisiana 71129; and

WHEREAS, the owner of the polling place has stated that they no longer wish to be a polling place; and

WHEREAS, Walnut Hill Elementary Middle School, located at 9360 Woolworth Road, Shreveport, Louisiana 71129 is available to serve as the polling place for Precinct Nos.88, 114, 133, and 163; and

WHEREAS, Walnut Hill Elementary Middle School meets all requirements for polling Places and is located 1.7 miles from Calvary United Pentecostal Church.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby change the polling location for Precinct Nos.88, 114, 133, and 163 from Calvary United Pentecostal Church, 6811 Woolworth Road, Shreveport, Louisiana 71129 to Walnut Hill Elementary Middle School, 9360 Woolworth Road, Shreveport, Louisiana 71129.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that notice of this change shall be published in the official journal of the parish in accordance with La.R.S. 18:535.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that 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 of this resolution 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.

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *that Resolution No. 7 of 2020, a resolution to recognize the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Booker T. Washington High School, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

#### RESOLUTION NO. 7 OF 2020

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, Booker T. Washington High School in Shreveport opened on January 23, 1950, on a 33 acres campus in the Lakeside/Allendale Community. The new school building situated

within a thriving African-American neighborhood immediately became a community icon and demonstrated that place matters; and

WHEREAS, Booker T. Washington offered basic high school and college prep academic courses in english, literature, music, social science, health, general science, biology, algebra, geometry, chemistry and physical education as well as numerous vocational courses; and

WHEREAS, numerous graduates of Booker T. Washington High School have become prominent educators, doctors, lawyers, politicians, business professionals, writers and many have become prominent in other crafts and professions; and

WHEREAS, because of the dedication and competencies of the school's principals, teachers and staff since 1950 and the contribution that its students have made to this State and Nation, in 2015 Booker T. Washington High School distinguished heritage and tradition qualified it to be registered in the National Register of Historic Places.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in regular and legal session convened, that it does hereby recognize the 70th Anniversary of Booker T. Washington High School and the many contributions that its faculty and students have made to the State and Nation during those 70 years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall become effective immediately.

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that Resolution No. 8 of 2020, a resolution of endorsement of Kenneth Epperson, Sr. as a candidate for an Executive Board Member-At-Large position on the Executive Board to the Police Jury Association of Louisiana, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. Epperson said that the Caddo Parish Commission is a member of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana. He also explained that the executive board meets and lobbies for issues that they are for or against. Mr. Epperson also said that the NWLA Veterans Cemetery was culminated through this type of lobbying.

At this time, Mr. Epperson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 8 OF 2020**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION OF ENDORSEMENT OF KENNETH EPPERSON, SR. AS A CANDIDATE FOR AN EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE POSITION ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD TO THE POLICE JURY ASSOCIATION OF LOUISIANA, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Police Jury Association of Louisiana has Executive Board Member at Large positions on its state executive board; and

WHEREAS, at its annual convention there will be an Executive Board Member at Large vacancy; and

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish is a member in good standing of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Epperson, Sr. is entering his twenty-second year of service with the Caddo Parish Commission; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Epperson, Sr. has previously served as a Police Jury Association of Louisiana Executive Board member; and

WHEREAS, if elected Kenneth Epperson, Sr. would serve the Police Jury Association of Louisiana as an excellent and effective Executive Board Member at Large on its Executive Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby endorse Kenneth Epperson, Sr. for election to an Executive Board Member at Large position.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution, along with the candidate's announcement, be sent to all other Louisiana Parishes humbly requesting that they support and endorse,

Kenneth Epperson, Sr. as a candidate for Executive Board Member at Large on the Executive Board to the Police Jury Association of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that 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 of this resolution 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.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mr. Lazarus**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to appoint Mr. Mickey Gilcrease to the Caddo Fire District No. 4 Board to replace Ms. Susan Stevenson, term to expire January 1, 2022.*

Mr. Lazarus explained that this fire district is in his district, and he would like Mr. Gilcrease on the board. He also explained that Ms. Stevenson's term expired at the first of this year. He asked for the support of the Commissioners.

At this time, Mr. Lazarus' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to vote on each candidate, Ms. Lasonya Moore and Ms. Laura Neubert, in alphabetical order for consideration as an appointment to the Metropolitan Planning Commission.*

Mr. Chavez asked that Mrs. Gage-Watts explain the process of voting. Mrs. Gage-Watts explained that the nominees are taken in alphabetical order, and if a Commissioner would like to vote on the candidate, they hit the YES button; if not, they do not push anything.

Mrs. Gage-Watts also asked that a video for Ms. Moore be played since she could not be in attendance today. During Ms. Moore's video, she listed her educational background, professional experiences, and her interest in serving on the board.

Mr. Hopkins wanted to know if Ms. Moore lived in the city limits or in the planning area. Mrs. Gage-Watts explained that was not in the requirements to be on this board. She does not believe there is enough diversity on the board, and the requirement is that she be a resident of Caddo Parish. Mr. Hopkins agreed that there is not enough diversity.

**Substitute motion by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to postpone MPC appointment.*

Mr. Burrell explained that he would like to know more about the makeup of the board before he votes on either candidate.

Mr. Hopkins understands that it is not required to live in the planning area for this appointment. He also explained that the one board member who does live in the planning area is resigning. Mr. Hopkins believes that there needs to be representation for those citizens who live outside of the city limits.

Mrs. Gage-Watts said that she does not have anything against Ms. Neubert, but this is about correcting the board as it is right now. She said that the board is 6-3 and does not believe that is enough diversity. She also said that she knows Ms. Moore very well and knows that she is a strategic planner and is a people person. Mrs. Gage-Watts believes that she would be a good candidate for this position. She asked that the Commissioners support Ms. Moore.

Answering a question from Mr. Burrell regarding the position, Mr. Chavez said that it is an at-large position, not district specific. Mr. Burrell also wanted to know about the planning area. Mr. Chavez explained that the planning area is the MPC area outside of the city limits of Shreveport.

**Call for the Question by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Epperson, Gage-

Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: Commissioner Chavez (1). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Burrell's substitute motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Johnson, Taliaferro, and Young (10). NAYS: Commissioners Hopkins and Lazarus (2). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *to confirm appointment of Mr. Marvin Muhammed to fill the unexpired term left by Mr. LeMar Flukers on the Industrial Development Board, term to expire August 22, 2025*, be approved.

Mr. Jackson mentioned that Mr. Flukers provided a letter of resignation and would like Mr. Muhammed to fill his unexpired term. He asked that the Commission support this appointment.

At this time, Mr. Jackson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *that William C. Bradford, Ernestine Smith, and Kay Proby-Waller be considered to fill the expired term of Mr. Roger DeKay on the Industrial Development Board, term to expire August 22, 2025*.

Mr. Epperson spoke on behalf of Ms. Proby-Waller. He said that she is a retiree of the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office and is on numerous community boards. He said that Ms. Proby-Waller is not an issue-oriented person. He asked that the Commissioners support her as a candidate for this position.

Mr. Atkins spoke on behalf of Mr. Bradford. He said that Mr. Bradford understands contracts, municipal issues, and private sector issues. He also said that Mr. Bradford is a well-rounded candidate for this position and asked that the Commissioners support him.

Mr. Taliaferro spoke on behalf of Ms. Smith. He has known Ms. Smith for a number of years. He said that she is a business owner, entrepreneur, and professional developer. He asked that the Commissioners support her as a candidate for this position.

Mr. Jackson noted that Ms. Smith is his constituent and would like to be considered for Mr. Ferdinand's unexpired term if she is not successful in this appointment.

Mr. Epperson mentioned that Ms. Proby-Waller does live in the Parish.

Mr. Burrell asked for a point of clarification regarding how to vote. Mr. Chavez explained that the candidates will be taken in alphabetical order. If the Commissioner would like to vote for him, press YES; if not, do not press anything.

At this time, the Commissioners voted on each candidate:

Mr. William C. Bradford received six (6) Aye votes: Commissioners Atkins, Cawthorne, Chavez, Hopkins, Lazarus, and Young.

Ms. Ernestine Smith received two (2) Aye votes: Commissioners Burrell and Taliaferro.

Ms. Kay Proby-Waller received four (4) Aye votes: Commissioners Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, and Johnson.

No candidate received the majority of the Commission votes, so the body moved to Round 2 taking into consideration the top two candidates: Mr. William C. Bradford and Ms. Kay Proby-Waller.

Mr. William C. Bradford received seven (7) Aye votes: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Hopkins, Lazarus, and Young (7).

At this time, Mr. William C. Bradford was appointed to the Industrial Development Board to fill the expired term of Mr. Roger DeKay.

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *that the request to LADOTD to perform a traffic study at the intersection of LA 1 North and MLK for left turn going north* be approved.

Mr. Jackson said that he spoke with Mr. Jim Olea advised that the request be sent to LADOTD.

At this time, Mr. Jackson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *to confirm the Parish Attorney to request an Ethics Opinion regarding Jeff Everson's employment as Caddo Parish Commission Clerk* be approved.

Mr. Hopkins wanted to know if this would delay the process of hiring the appointed Commission Clerk. Attorney Frazier explained that this letter would be considered in conjunction with the letter that was already submitted

**Amendment by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to amend the language to reflect that funds provided by Caddo Parish Commission or the Parish of Caddo are not used to pay for operational expenses of Robinson's Rescue, such as salaries of Mrs. Everson.*

Mr. Jackson stated that he read and compared the differences between the letters from the Parish and the one submitted by Mr. Everson. He believes that the context regarding the funds not being used for Mrs. Everson's salary should be added to the letter submitted by the Parish.

Attorney Frazier pointed out that she submitted the contract that shows that the funding does not go to Mrs. Everson's salary. Mr. Jackson wanted to know if it was highlighted in the contract. Attorney Frazier said that all of that information is attached. Mr. Jackson said that he would withdraw his motion if that information was highlighted.

Mr. Jackson withdrew his amendment.

Mr. Chavez withdrew his second.

Mr. Jackson believes that this context is information that the Ethics Board should know upfront.

Mr. Atkins pointed out that if the body confirms the request to send the letter, it would need to be sent by 5:00 p.m. today. Mr. Jackson mentioned that he contacted the Ethics Board, and it can be submitted by midnight tonight.

Mr. Johnson explained that the reason for the Parish Attorney to submit a request for an ethics opinion is that it would be unbiased. He asked that the Commission keep the letter unbiased.

Attorney Frazier said that she is not comfortable with changing her letter. She also said that she would like this to be sent off by 5:00 p.m. Attorney Frazier pointed out that the context is attached in the information she will submit.

**Call for the Question by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Johnson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Cawthorne, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (8). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Jackson, and Young (4). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

### **COMMUNIQES AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mr. Jackson thanked Mr. Wesley and the Parks & Recreation staff for their support on the MLK event.

He also said that Reinvest Caddo has a meeting scheduled on Tuesday, February 25.

Mr. Jackson also addressed some of the comments that were made during Citizens Comments. He said that he would like to sit down and have a conversation with Mr. Danny McCormick, who was not in attendance today. He explained that the MPC was established by a Louisiana Legislature. He also said that this body does not have the ability to make changes to state law. Mr. Jackson also said that Mr. McCormick has the opportunity to put legislation forward regarding this matter. He said that the filing deadline is February 14.

Mr. Jackson asked that Administration set up a meeting with Mr. McCormick and possibly a Legislative Luncheon.

- Mr. Epperson said that he received an invitation from the Caddo Alliance for Freedom at Western Hills Baptist Church. At this time, Mr. Epperson sent his regrets. Mr. Epperson also said that his focus is specifically on what is under the Caddo Parish Commission's jurisdiction. He also said that if there is a concern, to please address it respectfully and intelligibly; he will not respond to any threatening or sarcastic emails. He also mentioned that he is researching this information and will disseminate the information once received.

Mr. Epperson also requested that a clause regarding contractual obligations or if any members of their family be added to applications for new hires.

Mr. Epperson also thanked Mr. Hankins and Public Works for helping him with flooding issues in his district.

- Mr. Gage-Watts thanked Mr. Chavez and the Commission for her award as President for 2019. She also thanked the Commission for allowing her to serve as Commission for 2019.

She thanked Mr. Travis Clark and Animal Services for all of their help with the animal issues in her district.

Mrs. Gage-Watts announced that the Police Jury Association—Black Caucus will host its annual meeting in Shreveport on February 13 at 11:00 a.m., Room 203, Shreveport Convention Center. She will be forwarding additional information to all of the Commissioners.

She asked that the Commissioners provide their names for the Complete Count Census Committee. More information regarding this committee will be forwarded.

- Mr. Hopkins said that he spoke to Representative McCormick's Office. He said that Mr. McCormick is working on legislation regarding the MPC. He also said that Mr. McCormick would like to meet with the Commissioners.

- Mr. Burrell talked about the 5-mile radius outside of the city limits. He asked for clarification regarding this issue. Mr. Chavez explained that he and Attorney Bernstein would bring him up to speed on this matter after the meeting.

- Mr. Chavez thanked Ms. Neubert for attending the meeting today.

He also said that the committee assignments for this year will be forthcoming.

#### **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Mr. Marvin Muhammed thanked the Commission for their support in appointing him to the Industrial Development Board. To his knowledge, he is the first Muslim in Caddo Parish to serve in an appointed position.

Mr. Chris Krackman came before the Commission regarding the Caddo Alliance for Freedom (CAF). He said that the Commission can repeal the UDC. He also said that Mr. McCormick is just an ally of the CAF, not a board member. He requested that Act 189 be provided to the citizens. He also said that Mr. Danny McCormick will be attending a meeting with Mr. Clark on January 30. He also said that Mr. McCormick does not see the sense in attending the Commission meetings because he is not a representative of the CAF. He said that there five board members on the CAF and they are average citizens.

There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting was adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

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Mario Chavez  
President

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Michelle Nations  
Deputy Commission Clerk