

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 5th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2018

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Work Session, on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., in the Government Chambers, with Mr. Doug Dominick, President, presiding, and the following members in attendance, constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Bowman, Cawthorne, Chavez, Dominick, Jackson, Louis Johnson, Lyndon B. Johnson, Linn, Middleton, and Smith (11). ABSENT: Commissioner Gage-Watts (1).

The invocation was given by Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Middleton.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mr. Ken Krefft suggested that there be at-large Commissioners. He believes that there might be better cooperation if there were a certain number of Commissioners representing the whole parish, not just one district.

Mr. John Settle stated that he is totally opposed to Mr. Krefft's idea. He said there was an at-large form of government at one time in Shreveport, but all it did was exclude minorities. He asked that the Commission "put this idea to bed".

VISITORS

Mr. Laurance Guidry, Caddo Community Action Agency, President & CEO, came before the Commission to request the Caddo Community Action Agency continue to administer the Head Start Program in Caddo Parish. He also said that there is a Head Start facility in every district, but District 12. He hopes to change that in the future.

Mr. Dominick thanked Mr. Guidry for attending the meeting today. He also commended him all of his hard work with the Head Start Program.

OLD BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Linn, *to move Resolution No. 6 of 2018, to form a Banking & Development Task Force and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* to Thursday's Regular Session. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Bowman, Cawthorne, Chavez, Dominick, Jackson, Louis Johnson, Lyndon B. Johnson, Linn, and Middleton (10). NAYS: Commissioner Smith (1). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Bowman**, seconded by Mr. Linn, *to move Resolution No. 7 of 2018, to request the Parish Administrator to direct the Department of Animal Services to strive to have offsite adoptions every week and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* to Thursday's Regular Session.

Answering a question from Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson regarding the costs of additional adoption events, Dr. Wilson stated that Animal Services is already engaging in offsite adoptions.

At this time, Mr. Bowman's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Bowman, Chavez, Jackson, Lyndon B. Johnson, Linn, Middleton, and Smith (8). NAYS: Commissioners Cawthorne, Dominick, and Louis Johnson (3). ABSENT: Commissioner Gage-Watts (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Linn, *to englobe and move the following items to Thursday's agenda:*

- *Ordinance No. 5753 of 2018, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Capital Outlay Fund to provide an appropriation of \$50,000 for the Village of Rodessa to make repairs for the Tyson Water System, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 10 of 2018, authorizing the Caddo Community Action Agency, Inc. to administer the Head Start Program for the Parish of Caddo*
- *Resolution No. 11 of 2018, a resolution proclaiming February as "American Heart Month" in Caddo Parish*

Mr. Chavez pointed out that the Long Range Planning Committee discussed Ordinance No. 5753 of 2018 and approved to recommend to the full body to fund \$50,000 to the Village of Rodessa for the Tyson Water System.

At this time, Mr. Jackson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Bowman, Cawthorne, Chavez, Dominick, Jackson, Louis Johnson, Lyndon B. Johnson, Linn, Middleton, and Smith (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Gage-Watts (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Louis Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to authorize reappointment of Ms. Helen Mazier to the Fire District No. 3 Board, term to expire January 1, 2020 to Thursday's agenda.*

Mr. Louis Johnson stated that she is currently on the board, and there is no opposition for her to continue to serve. He asked that the Commissioners support her reappointment.

At this time, Mr. Louis Johnson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Bowman, Cawthorne, Chavez, Dominick, Jackson, Louis Johnson, Lyndon B. Johnson, Linn, Middleton, and Smith (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Gage-Watts (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- Reminder

All Caddo Parish Commissioners' Legislative Priorities should be sent to Ms. Karen Bell at kbell@caddo.org by 5:00 p.m., Monday February 5, 2018.

Dr. Wilson reminded the Commissioners that the 2018 Legislative Luncheon is scheduled for Friday, February 9 at 11:30 a.m. It will be held at the Petroleum Club—Energy Room C. Please RSVP to Mr. Tione Ivory at tivory@caddo.org by 5:00 p.m., Monday, February 5.

- Ms. Bonnie Moore is the Director of Community Development for the City of Shreveport. The department primarily manages federal, state, and local dollars on behalf of the City. She said there are four different bureaus, but she will be discussing the Bureau of Housing & Business Development, where they administer most of the housing funds on behalf of the City. Some of the programs include homeownership zones, emergency repair program, handicap accessibility programs, and others.

Answering a question from Mr. Dominick regarding funding, Ms. Moore stated that the funds are primarily Community Development Block Grants and the Home Investment Partnership Program through the federal government. She also said that there have been budget cuts, and they have been reduced drastically. In 2017, they received \$1.6M in CDBG and \$600,000 in home, but not all of those funds are used for housing. She explained that the home funding goes towards housing, but only about 50% of the CDBG is used for housing.

Answering another question from Mr. Dominick regarding the number of employees, Ms. Moore stated there are only eight employees under the Housing Bureau. She said that they do not have the capacity to address the needs in the community.

Mr. Chavez wanted more information regarding the Emergency Repairs and Systems Repairs Programs. Ms. Bonnie explained that the Emergency Repairs Program includes imminent danger, i.e. gas leaks, water leaks, sewage backups, etc. She also said that the Major Systems Repairs Program includes plumbing, electrical, roof/floor caving in, etc.

Answering a question from Mr. Chavez regarding the qualifications to apply for this program, Ms. Moore said that they have to meet HUD requirements. She gave an example, a family of four cannot make more than \$43,500 per year. Once they meet that qualification, the person must own their home, be current on their property taxes, and no outstanding obligations to the City or Parish. Currently, there is a three year waiting list for the Emergency Repair Program.

Mr. Bowman wanted to know how long the CDBG program has been in effect. Ms. Moore stated that they have been using it since 1975.

Mr. Jackson asked about the CDBG funding. Ms. Moore stated that in its peak, the City received about \$3.9M in funding, but this year, they only received \$1.6M.

Mr. Jackson also wanted to know if there were any national best practices utilized to fill the gaps. Ms. Moore stated that there are tax credits, housing funds, etc. Mr. Jackson then wanted to know if it is uncommon to see local housing trust funds in place to help fill the gaps. Ms. Moore stated that it was not unusual. Mr. Jackson also wanted to know if there was a roundabout figure that local governments put towards their housing trust fund. Ms. Moore stated that there is a need for resources in this community.

Mr. Jackson also wanted to know if they are having to turn people away due to the lack of resources. Ms. Moore stated that they are only accepting applications for handicap accessibility and Paint Your Heart Out.

Mr. Jackson then asked for additional information regarding affordable housing in Concordia and Shepherd's Place. Ms. Moore said that Shepherd's Place was completed at a time where

home ownership was not available in low to moderate income neighborhoods. She said that the projects are all full and doing well. She also said that the intent of building those housing units was to revitalize those neighborhoods. Ms. Moore said that they are doing exactly what the intent was. She said that the only downfall for these projects was that they had to be the developer. She believes that the government should not be the developer, but their job is to encourage developers to come into the neighborhoods.

Answering another question from Mr. Jackson regarding public-private partnerships, Ms. Moore stated that it has to happen because government cannot do this alone. Mr. Jackson thanked Ms. Moore for coming before the Commission.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know if it would be optimal to create a housing trust fund or to utilize an existing organization. Ms. Moore explained that she is in support of a housing trust fund, but she would like to have further conversations with the Mayor.

Answering a question from Mr. Cawthorne regarding a CHOTO, Ms. Moore stated that it is a community housing development organization. They receive home funds, and it is required that they give them 15% of those home funds to do housing development. They have to create a unit, i.e. rental units, single-family ownership units, etc.

Mr. Jackson asked about the Riverscape Project. Ms. Moore stated that she was a part of the process early on. She does not believe there has been any public subsidy in it.

He then asked about land being donated to projects. Ms. Moore stated that land is used as one of the incentives to encourage developers.

- Animal Services Update

Dr. Wilson provided the following letter to the Commissioners:

Dear Commissioner Bowman,

I am providing you with an update on the actions that I am taking regarding the vacant personnel positions within the Caddo Parish Animal Services and Mosquito Control Department per our discussion on January 30, 2018. I have already instructed the Human Resources Department to initiate a national search for a qualified Director. I will involve members of our local animal welfare community and some other citizens, many of whom have already agreed to assist me in the selection process. The Public Notice will be sent out next week; however, I anticipate that it will take a couple of months to complete the entire process. Once the new Director is in place, he or she will be charged with filling the remaining positions such as a new Shelter Manager and a few Animal Control Officers positions. The new Director will be charged with implementing the recommendations from the upcoming consultants' visit in March 2018.

We are still "on track" for getting the action items addressed which were detailed in my Action Plan to the Caddo Parish Commission, dated January 10, 2018. We will not be using the consultant from Phoenix, Arizona. I have selected Best Friends Animal Society to review our current Operational Procedures, and the great news is that they agree to conduct the shelter review for "free!" The objective of this action is to provide me with an "executable plan" to restructure the existing operations for improved, effective and efficient operational outcomes, and to essentially give us the best guidance for moving forward. The Best Friends Animal Society team members will be here next month to perform their review work. In addition, the PetPoint Consultants will be here on February 27-28, 2018 to evaluate our shelter's administrative and operational processes for automating as many administrative functions as possible.

Please be mindful that the outcome of this process might very well result in us having to install an entirely new software platform and additional equipment for implementation.

As a point of information, the new TNR Test Program implementation is moving forward and Dr. Sara Pizano, from Team Shelter USA, is scheduled to be here on February 13, 2018 to train our ACOs on how to operate and manage this program.

Based on the recent CPAS Feasibility Study, it is more than likely that any privatization initiative will take some time to actually implement providing that a community group or foundation can be created to assume the shelter's management as the report suggests. Some proponents might advocate that we can simply do a RFP and "roll the dice" with the hope of getting someone who will take on the task of managing the shelter operations. Again, I would suggest that any attempt to privatize the CPAS operations should be carefully considered since it serves a vital function for the community. As I stated before, I am not opposed to the idea of privatizing the CPAS shelter operations. It would put the community in a better position to have some type of local foundation to operate the shelter similar to what is being done in Baton Rouge, which appears to be a workable model. I look forward to us continuing to engage the community on any future discussions and actions on the possibility of privatizing the CPAS shelter operations.

Commissioner Bowman, I am pleased to share with you that we are currently partnering with Ms. Erica Callais Falbaum, Founder and Executive Director, of Pep! Pet Education Project, which is an education and outreach program that teaches the core responsibilities of pet ownership. On Friday, February 2nd, several Public Service Announcements (PSAs) were produced regarding pet ownership responsibilities which we believe will be beneficial to our citizens. In addition, we are working toward further partnering this year with this organization to conduct a two-week Summer Camp, focusing again on pet ownership, and targeting urban areas from where there is a significantly high volume of animals coming into the shelter. We are extremely excited about this particular endeavor and look forward to the future with more favorable outcomes.

Very truly yours,

*/s/Dr. Woody Wilson, Jr.
Administrator & CEO*

Dr. Wilson also stated the Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry conducted a shelter inspection on January 24, 2018. Fifty out of fifty-five items were in compliance, he said. The five issues that were identified are currently being worked on. He also said that there was a no notice inspection conducted on February 1, 2018, in which “we passed with flying colors”. He said that the shelter is moving forward, and the goal is to get 100% the next time the inspectors come. Dr. Wilson also said that they have an 85% compliance rate to those individuals that receive vouchers.

Mr. Jackson stated that the report from Dr. Llorens was based on non-profit organizations. He wanted to know if there was any research done on for-profit organizations. Dr. Wilson explained that fees would increase if a for-profit company took over the shelter.

Mr. Bowman commended Administration and Animal Services for all of their hard work on moving the shelter forward.

Mr. Middleton commended Animal Services on their adoption event at the Barkus & Meaux Parade. He also suggested to canvass more neighborhoods with information for the services at the shelter and Robinson’s Rescue.

COMMUNIQUES/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- The Clerk of the Commission read the following notice:

Notice will be given at the Thursday, February 8, 2018, Regular Session, as required by R.S. 42:19.1 to give notice of its intent to consider adopting a resolution ordering and calling an election to be held in Caddo Parish to authorize the renewal of an ad valorem tax.

- Mr. Louis Johnson reminded the Commissioners of the District 12 Annual Information Meeting that will be held on Tuesday, February 6 at 6:00 p.m., American Rose Center. He will also have another meeting at Western Hills Baptist Church on Tuesday, February 20 at 6:30 p.m. He invited all to come to both meetings.

- Mr. Linn announced that the Highland Parade will be on Sunday, February 11 at 2:00 p.m.

- Mr. Atkins announced that there will be an Economic Development Committee meeting immediately following the Work Session.

CITIZEN COMMENTS (late arrivals)

Mr. Billy McBride, Interfaith, came before the Commission to discuss their concerns regarding the tax exemption applications. He stated that he will speak further at the Economic Development Committee.

Mr. James Carstensen came before the Commission to discuss his concerns regarding the tax exemption applications. He does not believe the applicants meet the requirements by state law. He believes the tax credits could be put to better use.

CONSENT AGENDA

- *Ordinance No. 5752 of 2018, to authorize the lease of flood acquisition property located at 595 Tyre Road, Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

/s/ Todd A. Hopkins
Todd A. Hopkins
Commission Clerk