

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 4TH DAY OF MARCH, 2019

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Work Session, on the above date, at 9:00 a.m., in the Government Chambers, with Mr. Doug Dominick, President, presiding, and the following members in attendance, constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Bowman, Dominick, Jackson, Louis Johnson, Lyndon B. Johnson, Linn, and Middleton (8). ABSENT: Commissioners Cawthorne, Chavez, Gage-Watts, and Smith (4).

The invocation was given by Mr. Bowman, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Dominick.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- Queensborough Tornado Update

Mr. Randy Lucky provided a handout to all of the Commissioners regarding the request for information from Mr. Jackson pertaining to assistance allocations for 2018 Queensborough Tornado victims. Mr. Lucky pointed out that this was the allocations from the City of Shreveport.

- Answering a question from Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson regarding requested tax millage information, Mrs. Bryant stated that all of the information should be available by Thursday's Regular Session. Mr. Dominick requested that it be sent to all of the Commissioners.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson stated that Mrs. Gage-Watts was absent today, so he will be acting as president per her request.

OLD BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Bowman, *that Ordinance No. 5840 of 2019, amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Capital Outlay Fund in the amount of \$350,983 to provide funding for the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Dominick asked for clarification regarding the funding of the E. Edward Housing Trust Fund. Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson stated that this ordinance would just allocate the funds.

At this time, Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Bowman, Dominick, Jackson, Louis Johnson, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Linn (7). NAYS: Commissioner Middleton (1). ABSENT: Commissioners Cawthorne, Chavez, Gage-Watts, and Smith (4). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Middleton**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that the appointment/reappointment candidates, Captain Thomas Murphy (I) and Mr. Stephen V. Calloway, to the Caddo-Bossier Port Commission (term to expire March 31, 2025)* be moved to Thursday's agenda. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Bowman, Dominick, Jackson, Louis Johnson, Lyndon B. Johnson, Linn, and Middleton (8). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Cawthorne, Chavez, Gage-Watts, and Smith (4). ABSTAIN: None (0).

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Bowman**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Ordinance No. 5859 of 2019, amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund in the amount of \$15,000 to provide an appropriation for the Global Mixed Gender Basketball Game* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Bowman, Dominick, Jackson, Louis Johnson, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Middleton (7). NAYS: Commissioner Linn (1). ABSENT: Commissioners Cawthorne, Chavez, Gage-Watts, and Smith (4). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Bowman**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Ordinance No. 5860 of 2019, amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund in the amount of \$3,000 to provide an appropriation to Community Renewal for the Allendale Food Co-Op* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Bowman, Dominick, Jackson, Louis Johnson, Lyndon B. Johnson, Linn, and Middleton (8). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Cawthorne, Chavez, Gage-Watts, and Smith (4). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Ordinance No. 5861 of 2019, to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended,*

the Caddo Parish Uniform Development Code, by amending Section 15.1 Application, to allow waiver of application requirements in certain cases; by amending Section 18.4 Nonconforming Lot, to delete the provision on common ownership of substandard lots of record; by amending Section 18.5 Nonconforming Site Elements, to increase the size and nature of grandfathered parking lots be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Bowman, Dominick, Jackson, Louis Johnson, Lyndon B. Johnson, Linn, and Middleton (8). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Cawthorne, Chavez, Gage-Watts, and Smith (4). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Middleton**, seconded by Mr. Bowman, *that Resolution No. 11 of 2019, establishing a Citizen Advisory Committee of the Juvenile Justice Committee* be moved to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Middleton stated that he would like to move this resolution forward and get citizen participation regarding the Raise the Age Act.

Amendment by Mr. Dominick, seconded by Mr. Middleton, *that the advisory committee be comprised of one appointee per Commission District, a representative from the Legal Department and Finance Department be present during the meetings, and that the subcommittee present their recommendations to the Commission body in 3 months.*

Mr. Dominick would like Finance and Legal to be present due to the confusion of moving money from one funds to another because they are dedicated funds. He also pointed out that all of the books are open. Mr. Dominick also explained that Caddo is one of the few parishes that has a distinction between the juvenile court system and the district court system.

Mr. Louis Johnson suggested that a representative from the Juvenile Justice Department be present at the subcommittee meetings.

Amendment by Mr. Atkins, seconded by Mr. Dominick, *that the advisory committee be comprised of one appointee per Commission District; a representative from the Legal Department, Finance Department, and Juvenile Justice Department be present during the meetings; and that the subcommittee present their recommendations to the Commission body in 3 months.*

Mr. Atkins agreed that twenty-four people would be too cumbersome.

Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson is against a citizen advisory committee. He believes that this would just "kick the can down the road". He also said that the Commissioners are elected to represent their citizens in their respective districts.

Mr. Middleton believes that the Commission has "kicked the can down the road" since the Raise the Age Act was brought to their attention. He also said that the Commission probably has the funds to build a facility to house the 17 year olds, but understands that the operational costs is the major concern. He also pointed out that Caddo Parish is running below most of the other parishes in the State.

Mr. Jackson asked that Mr. Clay Walker, Juvenile Justice Director, to come forward to answer a few questions. Mr. Walker said that the Raise the Age mandate was implemented on March 1, 2019. Mr. Jackson asked for an update since the implementation. Mr. Walker stated that they have not seen a 17-year-old come into the Juvenile Facility yet. He anticipates that there will be on a day or every other day. He also explained that the issue is going to be with the processing and how quickly they will be processed out. For example, if a judge is concerned that they will run, they will hold them in the Juvenile Justice Facility, and that could cause the facility to be backed up.

Answering a question from Mr. Jackson regarding GPS monitors, Mr. Walker said that they have been purchased and are waiting for the influx. His concern is with April, May, and October when the judges will have to make the decision on who will be released. Those juveniles will be followed to see if they maintain safety. He also explained that they would update the Commission after those high influx months.

Answering another question from Mr. Jackson regarding alternative facilities for juveniles, Mr. Walker explained that there is no other option to send children to "rent" beds, such as Bossier Parish. He also said that there are local centers that some of the kids could go. He also explained that they have not seen any hysteria regarding the Raise the Age Act. He also said that there could be issues in the future if they have to hold a kid for a while and release others to make room, but as of right now, they have not come across that.

Mr. Walker reiterated that the kids being released would be followed to ensure and maintain safety. He said that if safety were not maintained, they would report to the Commission and update them.

Mr. Dominick wanted to correct some things that were said in the media. He said that the Commission does have the money in the reserves to build the jail, but they do not have the continued operating costs. He also pointed out that some of the monies in the other funds are dedicated funds and cannot be used to build a facility.

Mr. Dominick understands Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson's point of view regarding the Commission ultimately making the decision on this matter, but he also sees Mr. Middleton's point of view regarding citizen participation.

Mr. Dominick also stated that the Juvenile Justice Department is one of the most important functions that the Caddo Parish Commission has, yet it is the least recognized and appreciated by the people of Caddo.

He also said that since the Raise the Age Act has been brought to the Commission's attention, there has been several efforts to address it. He said Juvenile Justice Department presented five different options regarding the Raise the Age Act. The Commission ultimately chose to increase GPS monitors and additional staff at Detention.

Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson pointed out that the citizens cannot call for a tax increase, but it could be recommended to the full body. He also explained that the books are open and anyone can review it at any time with a public records request. Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson is also against additional beds because he would like to look at alternatives to incarceration.

Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson also explained that if a 17 year old commits a violent crime, they will be held at CCC, not the Juvenile Justice Detention Center. Mr. Dominick disagreed. Mr. Walker explained that the more serious crimes, i.e. murder, armed robbery, rape, can be charged as an adult, but they would stay at the detention center until the hearing on probable cause. Mr. Walker also pointed out that the law states that the parish could house those juveniles, but it would be up to the district court judge.

Mr. Atkins thanked the Juvenile Justice Department for all of their efforts regarding the Raise the Age Act. He also pointed out that the judge requested that the Commission look at a Citizen Advisory Committee.

It was **moved by Mr. Louis Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Dominick, *to suspend the rules and allow Mr. Middleton to speak for the third time.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Bowman, Dominick, Jackson, Louis Johnson, and Middleton (6). NAYS: Commissioners Lyndon B. Johnson and Linn (2). ABSENT: Commissioners Cawthorne, Chavez, Gage-Watts, and Smith (4). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Mr. Middleton pointed out that the "hiccup" would be when the judge has to determine who should be out on the streets and who should be housed when there are no more beds.

At this time, Mr. Atkins' amendment carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Bowman, Dominick, Jackson, Louis Johnson, and Middleton (6). NAYS: Commissioners Lyndon B. Johnson and Linn (2). ABSENT: Commissioners Cawthorne, Chavez, Gage-Watts, and Smith (4). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Amendment by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Linn, *that 4. Alternatives to Incarceration be added to the resolution under Review the following issues related adding seventeen year olds to the Caddo Juvenile Justice System.*

Mr. Jackson would like to add this to the resolution to further review alternatives to incarceration, instead of locking up individuals. He feels that if the Commission adds twenty-four more beds, they will find a way to fill those beds at all times.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if there were ever a time where every bed was not filled. Mr. Walker stated that Friday, there were only seventeen incarcerated. He said that the average is nineteen beds filled. Mr. Jackson fears "if we build it, we will fill it".

Mr. Louis Johnson believes that this should be addressed by the subject matter experts, not the citizens advisory committee.

Call for the Question by Mr. Linn, seconded by Mr. Jackson. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Bowman, Dominick, Jackson, Louis Johnson, Lyndon B. Johnson, Linn, and Middleton (8). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Cawthorne, Chavez, Gage-Watts, and Smith (4). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Jackson's amendment carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Bowman, Dominick, Jackson, Lyndon B. Johnson, Linn, and Middleton (6). NAYS:

Commissioners Atkins and Louis Johnson (2). ABSENT: Commissioners Cawthorne, Chavez, Gage-Watts, and Smith (4). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Middleton's original motion carried as amended by Mr. Atkins and Mr. Jackson, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Bowman, Dominick, Louis Johnson, and Middleton (5). NAYS: Commissioners Jackson, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Linn (3). ABSENT: Commissioners Cawthorne, Chavez, Gage-Watts, and Smith (4). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Middleton, *that Resolution No. 12 of 2019, encouraging Caddo Parish's young people to follow a life script that minimizes their chances of living in poverty* be moved to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Atkins stated that it was not his intent to offend nor single out any demographic with this Resolution. His intent was to encourage young people to follow a life script in order to reduce the risk of them falling into poverty. This life script is to complete an education, gain employment, find a spouse, and only then have a child. He would like to see this life script repeated often throughout the community by parents, pastors, teachers, etc. to "take life one step at a time".

Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson opposes that any governing body or politician will tell people how they should live. He followed several threads on social media regarding this resolution. In his findings, several people posted "how does the Commission have a right to do this". He pointed out that this would not implement any law; it would only be on the books saying that the Commission voted for or against this resolution. Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson also said that there are several reasons in which a person could not follow this life script, but have still become successful people.

Mr. Middleton said that former Commissioner Epperson brought to schools and events a similar document explaining to kids how to be a good citizen and obtain their education. Mr. Middleton also said that this resolution at least opens up the discussion regarding poverty.

Amendment by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Bowman, *to add as a recommendation for eliminating poverty: raising the minimum wage, efforts to provide affordable housing, and increasing minority and fair share participation in businesses as of means to reduce poverty.*

Mr. Jackson pointed out that former Commissioner Epperson brought his "Student's Oath of Commitment to Education" to this schools on his own accord, not in the form of a resolution approved by the full body. He also pointed out that he knows countless single mothers that are doing well. He also knows several people who followed this script who are not successful. Mr. Jackson said that this is a "slippery slope" with no policy attached to it. He feels that these are "empty words on a piece of paper" and could be offensive to the victims of poverty. Mr. Jackson also pointed out there are several people who are born into poverty and become victims of their environment, or they break out of it and become successful. He said that it is ok for the Commissioners to have their own personal convictions and beliefs, but does not feel that the body as a whole should legislate this.

Mr. Dominick pointed out that this resolution is not legislating or mandating. It just simply says 'encourages' all of our young people to follow this script, he said.

Mr. Bowman said that there are circumstances in which people cannot follow these steps. He suggested that more resources be available to the indigent neighborhoods.

Mr. Louis Johnson explained that this is a potentially uncomfortable subject, but is addresses important issues. He said that these are not the only issues that concern poverty and understands that some people may be offended. Mr. Louis Johnson stated that he is not offended by this resolution and encourages this "checklist" for his daughter.

Mr. Atkins reiterated that this resolution was not intended to offend. He said that these are very important and moral issues of who we are. Mr. Atkins also explained that it was not his intention to dictate how someone should live his or her lives. It was his intention to provide guidelines or a path for someone who may face challenges moving forward. Mr. Atkins also pointed out that he was not trying to approach this from a moralistic standpoint, but an economic standpoint. He said that these conversations are important conversations to have and bring to light. Mr. Atkins also explained that if someone were to violate any of the four points, listed in the resolution, does not mean they could not have a happy and successful life. He reiterated that he is only providing some "food for thought for our young people as they think about their future".

Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson understands that Mr. Atkins' is not "trying to shove this down anyone's throat". As a father, uncle, and mentor, he encourages these things, but does not feel that this should be a legislative piece approved by the Commission body.

Call for the Question by Mr. Middleton, seconded by Mr. Dominick. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Bowman, Dominick, Jackson, Louis Johnson, Lyndon B. Johnson, Linn, and Middleton (7). NAYS: Commissioner Atkins (1). ABSENT: Commissioners Cawthorne, Chavez, Gage-Watts, and Smith (4). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Jackson's amendment failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Bowman, Jackson, Louis Johnson, and Linn (4). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Dominick, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Middleton (4). ABSENT: Commissioners Cawthorne, Chavez, Gage-Watts, and Smith (4). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Mr. Jackson appreciates the discussion that has taken place. He also explained that this resolution could be offensive to some people.

Call for the Question by Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Dominick. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Dominick, Louis Johnson, Lyndon B. Johnson, Linn, and Middleton (6). NAYS: Commissioners Bowman and Jackson (2). ABSENT: Commissioners Cawthorne, Chavez, Gage-Watts, and Smith (4). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Atkins' original motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Dominick, Louis Johnson, and Middleton (4). NAYS: Commissioners Bowman, Jackson, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Linn (4). ABSENT: Commissioners Cawthorne, Chavez, Gage-Watts, and Smith (4). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Resolution No. 13 of 2019, a resolution proclaiming and supporting March 4-8, 2019 as National School Breakfast Week in Caddo parish and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda.

Substitute motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Dominick, *to englobe and move the following items to Thursday's agenda:*

- *Resolution No. 13 of 2019, a resolution proclaiming and supporting March 4-8, 2019, as National School Breakfast Week in Caddo Parish and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 14 of 2019, a resolution proclaiming and supporting March 10, 2019, as National Women & Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in Caddo Parish and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 15 of 2019, authorizing the Pine Hill Waterworks District No. 8 of the Parish of Caddo, State of Louisiana to proceed with the issuance and delivery of its not to exceed \$750,000 of Revenue Refunding Bonds, in one or more series*
- *Authorize appointment of two members to fill vacancy of open seats to the Caddo Parish Sewerage Board No. 7. Kerry Lyles, to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Elizabeth Miller, new term to expire 12/4/2022. Bobby Bass, to fill the unexpired term left vacant by the resignation of Ms. Winnie Antoine, unexpired term ends 8/6/2020*
- *Authorize appointment of Mr. Anthony Starks to the Pine Hill Waterworks District No. 8 to fill the unexpired term left vacant by the death of Mr. Leon Samuels. Term to expire 5/20/2020*
- *Authorize Mr. Joe Mann, retired ATF, as a Visitor for Regular Session for presentation regarding personal safety for individuals*

At this time, Mr. Jackson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Bowman, Dominick, Jackson, Louis Johnson, Lyndon B. Johnson, Linn, and Middleton (8). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Cawthorne, Chavez, Gage-Watts, and Smith (4). ABSTAIN: None (0).

COMMUNIQUES/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Linn thanked everyone who attended the Highland Parade. He said it was well attended and everyone had a good time.

CONSENT AGENDA

- *Zoning Case P-2-19, in regards to Ordinance No.5856 of 2019, amending the zoning of property located on the south side of Blanchard Latex Road, 1,320 feet west of Quiet Acres Road, Caddo Parish, LA from R-A, Rural Agricultural District to R-MHS, Residential Manufactured Home Subdivision District*
- *Zoning Case P-3-19, in regards to Ordinance No. 5857 of 2019, amending the zoning of property located on the southwest corner of Flournoy-Lucas Road and*

Wallace Lake Road, Caddo Parish, LA, from C-1, Neighborhood Commercial District to C-2, Corridor Commercial District

- *Ordinance No. 5845 of 2019, amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the General Fund in the amount of \$20,000 to provide an appropriation for crime prevention and citizen participation*
- *Ordinance No. 5858 of 2019, amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the General Fund and the Capital Outlay Fund in the amount of \$45,000 to provide an appropriation for a Cosmetology Program at the re-entry facility at CCC*

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

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