

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE  
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 18TH DAY OF MARCH, 2019

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

The invocation was given by Mrs. Gage-Watts, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Chavez.

**VISITORS**

- Judge Paul Young, Caddo Parish Juvenile Court  
"Raise the Age" Update

Judge Young stated that Caddo Parish has the smallest juvenile detention center in the south, which has sufficed until now. He explained that the "Raise the Age" Act could put the judges in a situation where they have to release juvenile delinquents if there are not enough beds to house the 17-year-olds. He explained that he has to release children now that should be in the detention center because there is not enough room.

Answering a question from Mrs. Gage-Watts regarding the available space in the Juvenile Detention Center, Judge Young stated there are 19 juveniles who are currently in the detention center. Mr. Walker said there is one 17-year-old who came to the detention center on new charges. On average, there are 19 juveniles in the detention center.

Mrs. Gage-Watts wanted to know the number of juveniles currently housed in the Juvenile Detention Center who belong to the State. Judge Young said there are two OJJ juveniles currently in the detention center.

Mr. Dominick thanked Judge Young for coming before the Commission. He also explained that OJJ juveniles are those who have been found guilty, disposition has been made, and sentenced. Judge Young also pointed out that OJJ has 14 days to pick up the juvenile.

Mr. Dominick also said that the Parish could build the facility, but the operating costs would be the issue. Judge Young urged the Commission to build the expansion because "the need is that great".

Mr. Chavez welcomed Judge Young to the Commission. Answering a question from Mr. Chavez regarding the number of 17 years olds at CCC, Judge Young said there have been consistently 5-7 17-year-olds in CCC who are alleged to have committee nonviolent offenses "who would come to our doorsteps come July 1".

Mr. Chavez wanted to know, hypothetically, what would be the ongoing operational costs of the Juvenile Detention Center if the expansion would occur. Judge Young said there is an architectural study, which stated it would cost \$12M to build and \$3M to operate. Judge Young also stated that the "budget could be scrubbed and get by with \$2.5M". Answering a question from Mr. Chavez regarding the increase in mills to fund the ongoing operational costs if the expansion were built, Mrs. Barnett said it would be about a 2-mil increase. She also pointed out that this would only fund the additional operating costs.

Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson suggested that the time in which the juveniles are held for trial be shortened. Judge Young explained that the District Attorney needs a certain amount of time to prepare for the cases. He also clarified that in Juvenile Court, a trial must be conducted within 30 days for most offender; and 60 days for the most serious offenders. Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson wanted to know where would the juvenile go once 60 days is up. Judge Young explained that the juveniles who commit the most serious crimes could go to OJJ for secure placement.

Judge Young said if they were to build the expansion, they would have a "comfortable spread where we would have the beds filled that we need without endangering public safety". He also said that there would be a reasonable deterrent for those who violate their probation.

Answering another question from Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson regarding the bed count for the neighboring parishes, Judge Young said Caddo Parish is the smallest detention center in the South.

Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson said that there is a reason why the citizens have turned down this tax four times. Judge Young argued that the taxpayers turned down an increase in the millage for no particular reason stated for the increase.

Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson is also against a citizens committee to audit the books and advise the Commissioners on what should be done. He said that the Commissioners have been elected to make those types of decisions.

Mr. Atkins pointed out that the judge has a focused responsibility, whereas the Commissioners has a much broader responsibility, which included funding all aspects of the Commission Budget. He understands Judge Young's passion for this topic, but the Commission has to keep all aspects of their operation in mind. Mr. Atkins is not in favor of additional taxes for a jail, but he is not opposed to using reserve funding to provide the capital for a jail. He is not opposed to taking a closer look at the budget to review what priorities the Commission has in order to reallocate those dollars to meet the operating costs of a potential facility. Mr. Atkins also said that it is not "fair" to ask the Commission to scrub \$3M out of the budget if the true operating costs is \$2M or \$2.5M. He asked that they provide their best numbers as well as reviewing their priorities to make it the most palatable financial option possible.

Judge Young also pointed out that the Commission has funded Juvenile Services programs which allows us to have 24 beds and survive. He cautioned if those programs are cut in order to pay for operating costs, the Commission would need to triple the detention center. He said that those programs are what causes us to be able to have 24 beds. Cuts to the budget will have serious consequences and require you re-examine the Juvenile Detention Center, Judge Young said. He also said that there is room in the budget, but it would not amount to \$2.5M. Mr. Atkins said that it would have to be a joint effort.

Mr. Bowman wanted to know if there would be visible and viable support from the judges if this were to go to the public for a vote.

Mrs. Gage-Watts stated that it is not her desire to have to juggle whom to incarcerate. She also said that she is not in support of incarceration; she is in support of prevention and education. Mrs. Gage-Watts also pointed out that there are programs in place as alternatives for incarceration, so why the crisis now? She is also against bringing a scare tactic to the public. Mrs. Gage-Watts also explained that the Parish is already running in a deficit, and an additional facility would put the Commission in a further deficit.

Judge Young stated that sometimes incarceration is an important part of the rehabilitation effort. He said that currently, we do not have an adequate Juvenile Detention Center to meet that objective. Judge Young explained that when the 17-year-olds start flowing in, there would be indeed a crisis. He also pointed out that he has been accused of being a "Hug-A-Thug" Judge. He said that he "hugs" them figuratively whether he is letting them out on probation, sending them to a group home, or sending them to prison. He wants to rehabilitate those juveniles so they do not join the adult incarceration system.

Mr. Louis Johnson thanked the judge for being here today. He also said that public safety and the youth are important to the Commissioners. He also said when a solution has been decided, it would come from both bodies working together.

Mr. Middleton also thanked the judge for coming today. He also pointed out that when prevention and education fail, sometimes detention is the next step. The most practical thing at this point would be to build, not to build to fill, but to build to deter, he said.

Mrs. Gage-Watts pointed out that the Commission already has a deficit every year in which they use reserves to cover that funding. How many years can we dip into the reserves until the Parish goes bankrupt, she asked.

Judge Young thanked the Commission for allowing him to come to the meeting today to speak on this matter.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

- Update—City of Shreveport's Permitting System  
**"My Permit Now"**  
Gary Norman, Interim Director  
Public Works Department & Chief Building Official

Dr. Wilson stated that all of the permitting for the Parish is handled through the City's Permitting Department. Mr. Gary Norman introduced himself and Ms. Rhonda Moore to the Commissioners. He is the Chief Billing Official for the City of Shreveport. Mr. Norman explained that the City of Shreveport installed a new permitting process program, MyGovernmentOnline. He also said that this program will be a paperless process by creating an account and applying for a permit. The program also allows payments to be submitted online, so the person does not have to physically come to the permitting office to obtain a permit. Ms. Moore provided a summary of the program to the Commissioners.

Mrs. Gage-Watts thanked Mr. Norman and Ms. Moore for streamlining the process.

- Award Presentation by the Black History Parade Organization of Vivian, LA  
Ms. Linda Carroll

**Award Recipient—Ms. Cattina Williams, Office Specialist  
Caddo Parish Parks & Recreation Department  
(to be presented at the March 21, 2019 Caddo Parish Commission Meeting)**

- Parish of Caddo—Recipient

**“GFOA’s Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting**  
Erica R. Bryant, Director, Finance/Human Resources Department

Dr. Wilson read aloud the following letter:

*The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to the Parish of Caddo by the Government Finance Officers’ Association of the United States and Canada for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. Its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. The award of financial reporting achievement has been awarded to individuals or their department designated by the government as a primary responsible for preparing an award winning CAFR. The CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the higher standards of programs which include demonstrating a constructive spirit of full disclosure to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users to use the groups to read the CAFR.*

He congratulated the Finance Department for receiving this award for the 15<sup>th</sup> year in a row.

- Update—Health Unit. Dr. Martha Whyte, Director of the Health Unit  
**(March 21, 2019 Regular Session)**

#### **COMMISSION REMARKS**

Mr. Linn stated that jail does not serve as a punishment for juveniles and feels that jail should be used to protect society from a possible harmful juvenile. Juvenile Detention in Caddo Parish is a notch in your belt and like a country club, he said. Mr. Linn also explained that the juveniles in the detention center receive three meals a day and are protected from other elements, i.e. cold/hot weather, abuse, etc. He also said that building another jail could send the wrong message to anyone wanting to develop in Caddo Parish.

Mr. Bowman announced that the Appropriations Committee is scheduled to meet on Thursday, March 21 at 2:00 p.m.

#### **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Mrs. Gage-Watts thanked the Caddo Parish Sheriff’s Youth Services Division for conducting their underage alcohol stings and preventing the sales of alcohol to minors.

She also announced the following events:

- Light It Up Blue—2019 Autism Balloon Release event on March 28 at 10:00 a.m.
- Union Baptist Church No. 1, 6029 Buncombe Road
- Ask A Lawyer Clinic Day event on March 18
- 318 Restaurant Week from today until Friday, March 23
- Police Jury Association’s Legislative Day on May 15 in Baton Rouge
- National Association of Women Judges Regional Conference on March 20-22
- Veterans Celebration Committee meeting tomorrow, March 19.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Dominick, *that Zoning Case P-4-19, in regards to Ordinance No. 5862 of 2019, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Uniform Development Code, by amending the zoning of property located on the southeast corner of Lakeshore Drive and Interstate Twenty, Caddo Parish, LA, from R-A, Rural Agricultural District to R-1-7(PUD), Single-Family Residential District, and to otherwise provide respect thereto* be moved to Thursday’s agenda for introduction.

**Substitute motion by Mr. Linn**, seconded by Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson, *to englobo and move the following items to Thursday’s agenda:*

- *Zoning Case P-4-19, in regards to Ordinance No. 5862 of 2019, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Uniform Development Code, by amending the zoning of property located on the southeast corner of Lakeshore Drive and Interstate Twenty, Caddo Parish, LA, from R-A, Rural Agricultural District to R-1-7(PUD), Single-Family Residential District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Zoning Case P-7-19, in regards to Ordinance No. 5863 of 2019, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Uniform Development Code, by amending the zoning of property located approximately two hundred and forty feet northwest of Regmar Drive, Caddo Parish, LA, from R-1-7, Single-Family Residential District to C-1, Neighborhood Commercial District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 5864 of 2019, to close and abandon a portion of a road dedication and a portion of an alley dedication in the Village of Rodessa*
- *Resolution No. 17 of 2019, authorizing Parish Administrator and Parish Commission to enter into non-binding discussions regarding Cross Bayou*
- *Resolution No. 18 of 2019, proclaiming and supporting March 2019 as National Social Work Month in Caddo Parish*
- *Authorize MPC Representative as Visitor to provide first quarter update on 2030 Master Plan*
- *Authorize GDC as Visitor for Regular Session*
- *Authorize Special Resolution of Recognition to Ms. Lauren—2018 Louisiana Champion of Change*
- *Authorize Special Resolution of Welcome & Appreciation to National Association of Women Judges Conference*
- *Authorize Special Resolution of Recognition recognizing women in public office*

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

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- *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*
- *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*
- *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*
- *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*

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

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