

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 1st DAY OF APRIL, 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, Jackson, Lyndon B. Johnson, Linn, Middleton, and Smith (11). ABSENT: Commissioner Louis Johnson (1).

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

VISITORS

- Ms. Candice Battiste, Louisiana State Director
Project I.D.

Ms. Battiste came before the Commission to inform the public of a service called Project I.D., which provides transportation to and from the DMV as well as covers the costs to obtain a State ID. She also stated that they provide a comprehensive breakdown of what is on the ballots during elections. The ballots are explained on a 5th grade level for better understanding. Ms. Battiste also said that they provide transportation to obtain a birth certificate or social security card. She also pointed out that there are no income restraints.

Mrs. Gage-Watts wanted to know how would a citizen contact Ms. Battiste. She said that they could go to spreadthevote.org as well as any social media forum.

Mr. Chavez thanked Ms. Battiste for coming and providing the Commission with this information. He suggested putting this information on the Caddo Parish website.

- Ms. Monica Wright, Executive Director
Caddo Council on Aging

Ms. Wright came today to update the Caddo Commission on their programs. She talked about the Meals on Wheels program, which provides meals to seniors at no costs to them. They are serving over 1,100 meals to seniors throughout the Parish, with a waiting list of over 150 clients. Caddo Council on Aging is currently attempting to raise \$50,000 by 5K Runs, private donations, etc.

Caddo Council on Aging also provides other services to seniors such as personal care and homemaker. These services are provided to seniors who do not receive Medicaid. They also provide a caregiver program for those individuals who provide 24/7 care to a senior loved one. The Caregiver Program provides 120 hours of relief per year to those individuals.

Caddo Council on Aging encourages mobile seniors to go the sites and obtain their meals. This way they can socialize with other seniors.

Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson said that the Meals on Wheels program is an excellent program for the seniors in this community. Answering a question from Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson regarding the cost per senior, Ms. Wright said that it costs approximately \$1,200 per year for a senior to receive the Meals on Wheels service. She said that the list is continuing to build.

Mr. Bowman wanted to know if there was any volunteer opportunities with this program. Ms. Wright said that there is always room for volunteers.

Mr. Cawthorne applauded Ms. Wright for all of her hard work. He also thanked Caddo Council on Aging for all of the services they provide to the seniors in this Parish.

Mr. Linn explained that predatory tax sales representatives take advantage of the elderly. He suggested that the Caddo Council on Aging take a look at this to prevent them from taking advantage of our seniors. Ms. Wright said that they could work together to provide information to the seniors as well as posting on social media.

Mr. Chavez asked for contact information for the Meals on Wheels program. Ms. Wright said that seniors could call their office at (318) 676-7900. She said they could also call that number to offer volunteer services.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if some of the services that Caddo Council on Aging provides could be reimbursed back to them. Ms. Wright said that she has had conversations with a few of the insurance companies to see if they could provide a fee for some of the services. She also explained that some of the insurance companies for seniors are required to provide meals to the seniors. She also

said that she is open to any suggestions for different avenues of revenue. Mr. Jackson thanked Ms. Wright and the Caddo Council on Aging for their services to Caddo Parish.

- Ms. Angela Thomas, Southern University
GED Program Presentation

Ms. Thomas came before the Commission to inform them of the GED Program at Southern University-Shreveport. They serve “out of school youth” between the ages of 16-24 years old. Those persons could partake in a program called Youth Network Initiative (YNI), which is a collaborative effort between the City of Shreveport and Southern University. Out of school youth are individuals who have gotten off the traditional high school track, but have taken the initiative to get their HiSET. During this program, these individuals have an opportunity to participate in a paid work experience. They would be making minimum wage and not to exceed 40 hours a week. YNI also provides mentoring, field trips, job training, etc.

Ms. Carla Buntyn stated that she is with Southern University and Education Opportunity (EOC), which helps pay out of school youth with their admission fees and financial aid. She recruits individuals for YNI to help them get to higher education. They have collaborated with the City of Shreveport to conduct their workshops at SPAR parks. Ms. Thomas encouraged anyone to contact SUSLA Intake Center for additional information at (318) 670-9688.

Mr. Cawthorne thanked Ms. Thomas and Ms. Buntyn for providing this information to the public and to the Commission.

Answering a question from Mr. Atkins regarding the capacity of the program, Ms. Thomas said that their capacity is 35 students, and they are currently at 55%.

Mr. Jackson suggested that they talk with Juvenile Services and Mr. Clay Walker. Mr. Atkins suggested that they collaborate with the Armed Services recruitments.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know the biggest obstacle for getting students to enroll. Ms. Thomas pointed out that they provide transportation for the students, so they believe that people just do not know about this program.

- Ms. Carla Buntyn, Southern University
Compassion for Lives

Ms. Buntyn came before the Commission to provide information regarding Compassion for Lives, which provides substance abuse training and workforce development to inmates at CCC. They service over 1,000 men per year. They are currently working to provide a job fair in May for ex-offenders. She said that they are collaborating with Ayers Institute, but they have to open the job fair up to everyone, not just ex-offenders. Ms. Buntyn asked that the Commission help them with conducting a job fair for just ex-offenders in June or July.

Mrs. Gage-Watts believes that this would go “hand-in-hand” with the Expungement Summit.

Mr. Jackson suggested that they get Medicaid certified to enroll those pre-trial detainees into Medicaid. He will provide further information to them if they are interested.

Ms. Buntyn stated that any citizen who would like additional information could reach her at (318) 220-6289.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- Bishop Brandon

Dr. Wilson provided the following letter to the Commissioners:

Dear Commissioner Jackson:

During the Commission’s regular meeting on Thursday, March 21, 2019, you requested that Administration provide you with an estimated cost to bring Bishop Brandon’s Transition Home and the Rutherford House up to the required standard in order for these facilities to be in a position to house children associated with our Juvenile Justice System. On Monday, March 25, 2019, I, along with other key staff members from the Administration, to include Mr. Ted Cox, from the Juvenile Court, and Commissioner Lyndon Johnson, met with Bishop Brandon to discuss the possibility of how we could utilize some of the available space in his facility.

The following topics were discussed during that meeting:

1. *What is the status of Bishop Brandon's Transition Home? Bishop Brandon informed us that he currently has contracts with the State Office of Juvenile Justice (OJJ) and the State Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS). Bishop Brandon has a contract with OJJ to house up to 30 children, and he currently has 13. In addition, there are presently 3 DCFS children at the Transition Home.*
2. *Bishop Brandon's Transition Home is a non-secure facility, and those children who pose a public safety issue, as designated by the Court, cannot house at this facility.*
3. *The use of Parish funds to improve, upgrade, and or renovate Bishop Brandon's Transition Home is prohibited. The Parish of Caddo can only invest in facilities that it owns.*
4. *My Facilities & Maintenance team and I met to discuss what would be the estimated costs of renovating Bishop Brandon's Transition Home and the Rutherford House. We determined that it would cost an estimated \$15 million to be in full compliance with State DCFS' facility requirements. In addition, such a massive renovation project would involve renovating more than seventy-five percent of the existing facility, and this is not feasible, practical, or cost-effective at either location.*

Note: There appears to be conflict between OJJ and DCFS as it pertains to which category of children can reside at Bishop Brandon's Transition Home simultaneously. As a point of information, the facility currently does not house girls.

5. *As to the question of whether the Parish of Caddo can co-own a facility with some other agency, the answer, in most cases, is no. I would not advise such an arrangement; because, the issue of ownership liability must be clear. The only exception to this thought is that Government Plaza is jointly owned by the City of Shreveport and the Parish of Caddo, which are political governmental agencies with shared liability and responsibility.*
6. *Commissioner Jackson, you requested information as to when a bond could be issued. Please see the attached "Bond Commission Meetings Dates" from the Louisiana Treasury Department's website.*

In essence, Bishop Brandon's Transition Home is a nice facility and it appears that it is operated in a highly professional manner. However, the "Raise the Age Law" mandate for housing 17 year-old children in a secure facility cannot be met at this facility without making it more secure, and it would have to meet all of the State's requirements for facility criteria and staffing. I did inform Bishop Brandon that the only thing that the Parish of Caddo could do with regards to this privately-owned and operated facility is to rent daily bed space, if needed for none-secure children.

*Very truly yours,
/s/Dr. Woodrow Wilson, Jr.
Dr. Woodrow Wilson, Jr.
Administration & CEO*

COMMISSION REMARKS

- Mr. Bowman announced that the Appropriations Committee will meet on Thursday, April 4 at 1:00 p.m.
- Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson asked that Mr. Alan Clark, MPC, provide additional information regarding mobile homes. Mr. Clark explained that manufactured housing became special exception uses. In order to place a mobile home on a property, it had to be rezoned or a special exception use permit had to be granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals. Currently, mobile homes are allowed in mobile home subdivisions, mobile home parks, and property zoned for Residential Agriculture. He said that it is a possibility that the property on Lakeshore could be zoned for a mobile home. Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson asked that they take a look at it.
- Mrs. Gage-Watts wanted to know the purpose in a youth expungement summit. Mr. Walker explained that those records would need to be expunged for a person to join the military or other programs.
- Notice of Intent: notice is hereby given that the Caddo Parish Commission of Caddo Parish, Louisiana (the "Parish"), plans to consider ordinances to adopt (levy) the Parish's ad valorem tax millages for properties within the Parish of Caddo, at the meeting on Thursday, May 23, 2019 at 3:30 p.m. at the Government Plaza Building, 505 Travis Street, Shreveport, Louisiana. At this meeting, the Parish

will consider adoption of its General Purpose Millages, Special Purpose Millages, and Debt Service Millage. The Parish will also consider adoption of the values fixed or to be fixed by the Louisiana Tax Commission on all assessments for railways and other public service corporations and consider setting the assessment of property classified as timberlands.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Bowman, *that Zoning Case P-4-19, in regards to Ordinance No. 5865 of 2019, amending the zoning of property located on the southwest corner of Lakeshore Drive and Interstate Two Twenty, Caddo Parish, LA, from R-A, Rural Agricultural District to R-1-7(PUD), Single-Family Residential District* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Bowman, Cawthorne, Chavez, Dominick, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Lyndon B. Johnson, Linn, Middleton, and Smith (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Louis Johnson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Middleton, *that Ordinance No. 5866 of 2019, amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund in the amount of \$15,000 to provide an appropriation for the NORWELA Council, Boy Scouts of America* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Chavez stated that this funding helps the Boy Scout troops in this Parish. He asked that the Commissioners support this appropriation. Mr. Middleton pointed out that this helps the underserved neighborhoods in Shreveport.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Ordinance No. 5867 of 2019, amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund in the amount of \$20,000 to provide an appropriation for the Stuffed Shrimp Festival* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Substitute motion by Mr. Middleton, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to amend the funding amount to \$5,000 for the Stuffed Shrimp Festival.*

Mr. Middleton would like to see more growth with the project before giving more money. He said that the project is in its infancy and believes that \$5,000 would be more appropriate at this time.

Mr. Jackson would like to see the reason for the \$20,000. Mrs. Gage-Watts explained that the original request was \$40,000, but committee decided that \$20,000 would be more appropriate. She also said that the funding request was based on the other festivals in the area. Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson explained that a budget was submitted during committee.

Mr. Chavez pointed out that the director of this organization is in attendance today. Ms. Malviste came forward and briefed the Commission on the budget for this festival. She said that this is the first Stuffed Shrimp Festival. She also explained that they do have a 501c-3 organization, and the purpose for this festival is to send two children from Huntington HS and Woodlawn HS to culinary arts school at BPCC. She said that their budget is actually at \$50,000 or more. Mr. Damien Chapman, Orlandeaux's Café, stated that stuffed shrimp is "uniquely Shreveport".

Mrs. Gage-Watts said that stuffed shrimp was a part of Shreveport's identity. Mr. Chapman and Ms. Malviste agreed.

Answering a question from Mr. Jackson regarding the location of the festival, Ms. Malviste said that it will be held at the State Fairgrounds. Mr. Jackson said that this is another family friendly event. He asked that they support this festival.

Mr. Atkins is supportive of the project at a modest level. He encouraged the organization to seek other sources of funding.

Mr. Cawthorne is in support of this funding level for this festival.

Substitute motion by Mr. Chavez, seconded by Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson, *to amend the funding amount to \$10,000 for the Stuffed Shrimp Festival.*

Mr. Chavez believes this will be a successful event, but the funding should be dialed down a bit.

Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson pointed out that Mrs. Stacy Brown, Shreveport-Bossier Tourist Bureau, could not give an answer to what Shreveport is known for. He said that this could be Shreveport's identity. He believes that this could bring Shreveport national attention and give it an identity. He pointed out that the Committee recommended this funding amount, and asked that the Commissioners support this festival.

Mrs. Gage-Watts said that Caddo Parish was not represented in the Washington Mardi Gras and believes this would be an opportunity to showcase it. She asked that the Commissioners support the original request for \$20,000.

Mr. Linn asked for additional information regarding the scholarships. Ms. Malviste said that the scholarships would send four students total to BPCC to obtain their certificate in culinary arts. Mr. Linn reiterated that with the Parish's \$20,000, four student would be able to go to BPCC. Ms. Malviste stated that was correct. He also asked if there was an entry fee to attend this event. She stated it is a free event. She also pointed out that there are several vendors, food and non-food vendors. Ms. Malviste also said that the vendors are paying to be a part of this event. Answering another question from Mr. Linn regarding the City of Shreveport's funding, Ms. Malviste said that the City is not providing any funding, but the Shreveport-Bossier Tourist Convention is managing the website and advertising. The website address is www.stuffedshrimpfestival.com.

Mr. Jackson encouraged Ms. Malviste to also look into Southern University's culinary arts program.

Call for the Question by Mr. Chavez, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Cawthorne, Chavez, Dominick, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Lyndon B. Johnson, Linn, Middleton, and Smith (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Bowman and Louis Johnson (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Chavez's motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Jackson, and Smith (4). NAYS: Commissioners Cawthorne, Dominick, Gage-Watts, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Middleton (5). ABSENT: Commissioners Bowman and Louis Johnson (2). ABSTAIN: Commissioner Linn (1).

At this time, Mr. Middleton's motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Dominick, Middleton, and Smith (4). NAYS: Commissioners Cawthorne, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Jackson, and Lyndon B. Johnson (5). ABSENT: Commissioners Bowman and Louis Johnson (2). ABSTAIN: Commissioner Linn (1).

Mr. Linn stated that he is abstaining because he does not feel that it is legal for the Parish to give money to a non-profit to use their profits to buy scholarships for schools. He said that if this is the goal, the Parish could just give scholarship to the school.

At this time, Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson's original motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Cawthorne, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Jackson, and Lyndon B. Johnson (5). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Dominick, Middleton, and Smith (4). ABSENT: Commissioners Bowman and Louis Johnson (2). ABSTAIN: Commissioner Linn (1). **Commissioner Smith stated during the meeting that his vote should have been an AYE vote.*

Attorney Frazier pointed out that it is not her understanding that the funding from the Parish will be utilized for the scholarships. It is her understanding that the Parish funding would go directly toward funding the festival. Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson explained that if the festival creates profits, then they will be able to offer scholarships to four students; if not, they will not be able to offer monies towards those scholarships. Attorney Frazier also explained that the Parish does not monitor what the organizations do with their profits.

It was **moved by Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Dominick, *to englobo and move the following items to Thursday's agenda:*

- *Resolution No. 19 of 2019, authorizing the Parish Administrator to request administrative consultant's proposal for services*
- *Resolution No. 20 of 2019, authorizing the Parish Administrator to request engineer's qualifications statements*
- *Resolution No. 21 of 2019, opposition of all proposed legislation that transfers the administration and collection of local Sales & Use Taxes to the Louisiana Department of Revenue*
- *Resolution No. 22 of 2019, to relocate polling place for Precinct No. 139 and Precinct No. 157 from Caddo Fire District 7, Station 5, 122 Croom Street,*

Mooringsport, LA 71060 to Mooringsport Elementary School Gym, 602 Latimer Street, Mooringsport, LA 71060

- *Resolution No. 23 of 2019, proclaiming and supporting April as National Autism Awareness Month*
- *Resolution No. 24 of 2019, proclaiming and supporting April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month*
- *Authorize appointment/reappointment to the Animal Services Board: Dr. Brad Everson (Veterinarian), Ms. Catherine Alfred (Animal Establishment Operator), and Mr. Alfred Barrow (Health Unit Representative).*
- *Authorize Special Resolution of Recognition to the following Shreveport/Caddo Parish Civil Rights Activists: Dr. Harry Blake, Dr. C.O. Simpkins, Sr., Dr. Louis Pendleton, Maxine Sarpy, Jesse N. Stone, Jr., Rev. C.C. McLain, Mamie Love Wallace, and Bernice Smith.*
- *Authorize Special Resolution to Mr. Chris Opp, Local Community Artist.*

Mr. Linn asked for additional information regarding Resolution No. 19 of 2019. Ms. Anita Mills, Finance Department, explained that this is a resolution that must be completed every two years to participate in the LCDBG block grants. They have to advertise for administrative consultants and for engineers prior to proceeding with public hearings to accept projects. She said that they do not know what the projects are until the public hearings are completed. They can only apply for one water or sewer project.

Answering another question from Mr. Linn regarding the Red River, Ms. Anita Mills reiterated that it would be projects for the water and sewer districts.

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

COMMUNIQUES/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Dominick pointed out that there is a Long Range Planning/Special Projects Committee will meet after the Work Session today.
 - Mr. Cawthorne stated that the Economic Development Committee met today. Some of the topics discussed were opportunity zones, Taco Wars, Southern University Workforce Development Project, and establishing a subcommittee for Cross Bayou Development.
 - Mr. Jackson requested that Parks & Recreation contact Mamie Hicks Park regarding their spring event.
- Mr. Jackson also pointed out that the Parish is only entering into discussions with Cross Bayou.
- Mrs. Gage-Watts suggested that Juvenile Services get in touch with Lyft to help with transportation with the juveniles and their parents.

CONSENT AGENDA

- *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
(delayed from March 17 Regular Session)*
- *Ordinance No. 5858 of 2019, an ordinance 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
(delayed for final passage on April 4, 2019)*
- *Ordinance No. 5862 of 2019, in regards to Zoning Case P-4-19, amending the zoning of property located on the southwest 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*

(technical errors in title and description—will need to be pulled from agenda under final passage)

- *Ordinance No. 5863 of 2019, in regards to Zoning Case P-7-19, amending the zoning of property located approximately two hundred and forty (240) feet northwest of Regmar Drive, Caddo Parish, LA, from R-1-7, Single-Family Residential District to C-1, Neighborhood Commercial District*
- *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*

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

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