

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE  
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 17th DAY OF JUNE, 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, Cawthorne, Chavez, Dominick, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Louis Johnson, Lyndon B. Johnson, Linn, Middleton, and Smith (11). ABSENT: Commissioner Bowman (1).

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

**AGENDA ADDITIONS**

- It was **moved by Mr. Middleton**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *to expand the agenda and add Special Resolution to Ms. Lisa K. Ivory.*

Mrs. Gage-Watts asked if there was anyone to speak in favor or against this agenda addition. There was no one to speak in favor or against this agenda addition.

At this time, Mr. Middleton's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Cawthorne, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Louis Johnson, Lyndon B. Johnson, Linn, Middleton, and Smith (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Bowman and Dominick (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

- It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *to expand the agenda and add Resolution No. 54 of 2019, a creating a 2020 U.S. Census Complete Count Committee for Caddo Parish.*

Mrs. Gage-Watts asked if there was anyone to speak in favor or against this agenda addition. There was no one to speak in favor or against this agenda addition.

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Cawthorne, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Louis Johnson, Lyndon B. Johnson, Linn, Middleton, and Smith (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Bowman and Dominick (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

- It was **moved by Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *to expand the agenda and add Friends of Rho Omega as a Visitor for the Regular Session.*

Mrs. Gage-Watts asked if there was anyone to speak in favor or against this agenda addition. There was no one to speak in favor or against this agenda addition.

At this time, Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Cawthorne, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Louis Johnson, Lyndon B. Johnson, Linn, Middleton, and Smith (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Bowman and Dominick (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Mr. Bobby Edwards came before the Commission to discuss the moratorium on payday loans and pawnshops. He is in support of the moratorium. He said that these "predatory loan companies" preys on low-income individuals.

**ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

- Update—North Louisiana Economic Partnership (NLEP)  
Mr. Scott Martinez, CECD, NLEP President

In February of this year, NLEP announced SuperATV will invest \$4.35M to develop a manufacturing and distributing facility in Shreveport. There will be 75 new direct jobs with an average annual salary of \$40,000, plus benefits. They anticipate opening in July 2019. This year, there have been 34 projects, many of which are still in activity. 63% of the leads were generated by NLEP. Mr. Martinez was also able to travel to the HAI HeliExpo in Atlanta, Georgia. While there, he leveraged AEROReady Certification to help attract jobs and capital investment to this region. He also traveled to Greenville, South Carolina and met with Global Location Consultants, Quest Site Solutions, Forsythe & Associates Consulting, and InSite Consulting. Sheena Bryant, NLEP VP of Business Development Strategy, attended two Industrial Asset Management Council (IAMC) conferences. She met with economic

development partners and site selectors. The conferences focused on new trends in distribution and warehousing. NLEP also conducts existing industry visits. Currently, they've visited 11 companies. These companies have 2,278 employees and have reported no intent for upcoming layoffs. They also participate in the ACT Work Ready Communities. NLEP Has 62 employers signed up for WorkKeys with over 4,132 WorkKeys Certificates earned in Caddo Parish. NLEP was also involved in the 2019 Legislative Session. Some of the wins include: the repurposing of nearly \$700M in future BP/Horizon payments to the State was approved for the funding of multiple road, bridge, and port projects including \$100M for the I-49 Inner City Connector; Statewide rules were created for Uber and Lyft services; and additional revenue for regional economic development organizations.

Mrs. Gage-Watts thanked Mr. Martinez for the update on the activity for Caddo Parish.

- Update—Legislative Priorities  
Mr. Guy Cormier, Executive Director PJAL

Mr. Cormier introduced himself to the Commission. He said that the PJAL connects local governments with other local governments who are in need. They also provide healthcare and worker's comp benefits. The members of the association have their own insurance companies, so the PJAL provides insurance to parish governments who are looking. The PJAL also lobbies for the parishes on a state and legislative level. The PJAL are also involved in NACo.

He provided an update on the 2019 Legislative Session. The 2019-2020 budget has been approved. It includes \$46.6M worth of Parish Transportation Fund. The gas tax that is being paid at the pumps is coming back to the parishes. \$5M was also awarded to the Louisiana Government Assistance Programs. Caddo Parish qualifies for it, but the City of Shreveport does not. The Community Water Enrichment Fund also received \$5M this year. These monies goes to water districts in the parishes. One of the key issues this year were defeating the central sales tax collection bill.

There were also five bills that would either eliminate or limit the Parishes' authority for the ITEP applications; PJAL was able to defeat all five of these bills, which gave the authority back to the parishes.

House Bill 281 would have eliminated local governing authorities to have stronger gun bills than the State. For example, if the State allowed guns in a local public park, and the local governing authority did not want it, House Bill 281 would have allowed it. This bill was defeated allowing local governments to maintain its authority for gun control.

One of the bills that did not pass, but the PJAL was supporting was a local government infrastructure bank. This would have provided some monies from unclaimed properties to allow local governments to borrow monies, if needed, for certain projects. It failed, but PJAL will try again next year.

He also mentioned that Harrah's is the only land based casino in Louisiana. They were able to cut a deal saying that if the State renewed their 30 year contract, Harrah's would contribute an additional \$5M in the Community Water Enrichment Fund.

House Bill 466 streamlines the adjudicated property process. PJAL supported that bill, and it passed in the House and Senate.

The Transportation Network Bill, a.k.a. the Uber/Lyft Bill, allows Uber/Lyft drivers to take passengers across city and parish lines. PJAL supported that bill, and it passed.

He then talked about the Deep Water Horizon Settlement Package Bill. The I-49 Inner City Connector will be receiving \$100M which will be married to other monies.

He thanked all of the elected officials for serving the citizens of Caddo Parish and the State. He also announced that next PJAL State Convention will be held on February 12-14, 2020 at the Shreveport Convention Center.

Mrs. Gage-Watts thanked Mr. Cormier for attending the meeting and updating the Commission on Legislative Priorities for 2019.

- Dr. Wilson provided the Commissioners with a copy of the quarterly financial reports.
- Interim Assistant Parish Administrator

Dr. Wilson announced that Mrs. Erica Bryant will serve as the interim Assistant Parish Administrator.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *that Ordinance No. 5887 of 2019, amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund in the amount of \$43,000 to provide an appropriation of \$20,000 to Providence House, \$15,000 to Hope Connections, and \$8,000 to NWLA Youth Golf & Education Foundation (First Tee of NWLA) and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Cawthorne, Chavez, Dominick, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Louis Johnson, Lyndon B. Johnson, Linn, Middleton, and Smith (10). NAYS: Commissioner Atkins (1). ABSENT: Commissioner Bowman (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Ordinance No. 5888 of 2019, amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Public Works Fund and the Capital Outlay Fund in the amount of \$50,000 to provide an appropriation to install welcome signs on I-49 and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Answering a question from Mr. Dominick regarding the location of the signs, Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson said that there will be one in North Caddo by the Arkansas Border. The other will be from the Desoto Parish side.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know if there were current signs which identify that a person is entering Caddo Parish. Mr. Glass stated that there are small green signs that say, "Entering Caddo Parish". He also pointed out that they would need DOTD approval, as well as, approval from the federal government before the signs could be installed. Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson said that he would like a brick and mortar with the Caddo Parish logo on it.

Answering another question from Mr. Chavez regarding other parishes with a sign, Mr. Glass stated that Bossier Parish has a sign on private property entering Bossier Parish coming from I-220. Mr. Chavez said that \$50,000 is "high for a sign".

Mr. Middleton would like an American flag associated with the sign, along with the military emblems.

Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson said that there are several nice signs across the Nation welcoming visitors to cities, parishes/counties, etc. He said that the signs are needed because there are no nice "Welcome to Caddo Parish" signs.

Answering a question from Mr. Jackson regarding the funding source, Mrs. Bryant stated that it is coming from the Public Works Fund, which is a Special Revenue Fund. She said that there is approximately \$19M in that fund.

Mr. Cawthorne suggested that the State flag and the Parish flag also be incorporated with the sign.

At this time, Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Cawthorne, Dominick, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Louis Johnson, Lyndon B. Johnson, Linn, Middleton, and Smith (10). NAYS: Commissioner Chavez (1). ABSENT: Commissioner Bowman (1). ABSTAIN: None (3).

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that Ordinance No. 5889 of 2019, declaring certain adjudicated properties to be surplus and to authorize the Parish of Caddo's tax interest in certain surplus adjudicated properties* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Cawthorne, Chavez, Dominick, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Louis Johnson, Lyndon B. Johnson, Linn, Middleton, and Smith (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Bowman (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *that Resolution No. 50 of 2019, urging and requesting the City of Shreveport to enact a moratorium on issuing permits for payday loan shops and pawn shops* be moved to Thursday's agenda.

Mrs. Gage-Watts wanted to know if this resolution included the Parish. Attorney Frazier explained that the Commission would need to draft an ordinance to cover the Parish. She pointed out that there are not any pawnshops or loan shops in the Parish. She also said that this resolution is requesting the City of Shreveport to enact the moratorium.

Mr. Dominick wanted to know if the Parish could legally pass an ordinance to place a moratorium on payday loan shops and pawnshops in the Parish. Attorney Frazier explained that the Commission would have to pass an ordinance—if there is sufficient reason for the MPC zone, which the MPC enforces within the 5 mile radius.

Mr. Jackson clarified that this is a request to the City of Shreveport to place a moratorium on any new permits for payday loan shops or pawnshops. He explained that this is not to shut down any businesses that are currently operating.

**Call for the Question by Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Middleton. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Cawthorne, Chavez, Dominick, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Louis Johnson, Lyndon B. Johnson, Linn, Middleton, and Smith (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Bowman (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Jackson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Louis Johnson, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Linn (6). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Dominick, Middleton, and Smith (5). ABSENT: Commissioner Bowman (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Resolution No. 51 of 2019, to promote investments in young children and families from prenatal to three* be moved to Thursday's agenda. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Cawthorne, Chavez, Dominick, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Louis Johnson, Lyndon B. Johnson, Linn, Middleton, and Smith (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Bowman (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Resolution No. 52 of 2019, declaring Caddo Parish the original home and birthplace of Southern Soul Music* be moved to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Jackson explained that Jackson, Mississippi, tried to claim the title as the original home and birthplace of Southern Soul Music, but Caddo Parish has it documented that the late Stan Lewis and son Lenny Lewis that this is the birthplace of Southern Soul Music. It was brought to Mr. Jackson's attention, and he would like it be corrected as a matter of public record.

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

- *Resolution No. 52 of 2019, declaring Caddo Parish the original home and birthplace of Southern Soul Music*
- *Resolution No. 53 of 2019, proclaiming and supporting June as Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month*
- *Authorize appointment of Mr. Kenneth Mitchell to the Caddo Parish Sewerage District No. 2 Board to replace Ms. Joey Corsentino. Term to expire August 6, 2021*
- *Authorize Special Resolution of Recognition to Ms. Carolyn Jones*
- *Authorize Special Resolution of Recognition to Ms. Lisa K. Ivory*
- *Resolution No. 54 of 2019, a resolution creating a 2020 U.S. Census Complete Count Committee for Caddo Parish*
- *Friends of Rho Omega as Visitor for Regular Session*

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

#### **COMMUNIQES/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mrs. Gage-Watts stated that the Juvenile Justice Committee met today to discuss the Raise the Age Act. The discussions will continue at the next Juvenile Justice Committee meeting.
- Mr. Jackson congratulated Mrs. Bryant on her promotion to Assistant Parish Administrator.

Mr. Jackson talked about unclaimed property. He is concerned with some parishes having more funds with their unclaimed property versus others. He wanted to know if all of the parishes would have the same borrowing capacity. Mr. Cormier stated that there is over \$800M in unclaimed property sitting in the General Fund. He challenged everyone to go to the Louisiana Treasury's website and claim their property. Mr. Cormier further explained that the Louisiana Treasurer would put \$20M in an infrastructure bank that could be used for projects, no matter what parish. He also pointed out that this

would be a loan, not a grant. The funds would be for smaller loans. He said that they will be bringing the bill forward again next year for continued discussions.

Mr. Jackson then talked about the healthcare costs at the jails. He would like to discuss further possibly moving the inmates to Medicaid, if they qualify.

He thanked Juvenile Services for hosting the health fair.

### **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Ms. Barbara Iverson came before the Commission to discuss Resolution No. 50 of 2019 regarding payday loans and pawnshops. She said that it is predatory lending. She said that Resolution No. 50 is long overdue. Ms. Iverson is asking for a halt in issuing payday loan permits until there is a solid plan to address poverty in the low-income areas.

Mr. Marvin Mohammed also came to speak about Resolution No. 50 of 2019. He agreed with Ms. Iverson. He said that these communities need banking institutions, not pawnshops or payday loan shops.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

It was **moved by Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Dominick, *that the Commission will convene into Executive Session to discuss litigation regarding the following case: No. 18-30951, United States Court of Appeal for the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit.*

**Substitute motion by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Middleton, *that the Commission will convene into an open session to discuss litigation regarding the following case: No. 18-30951, United States Court of Appeal for the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit.*

Mr. Chavez asked Attorney Frazier for her opinion on the substitute motion. Attorney Frazier does not recommend it.

At this time, Mr. Jackson's substitute motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Jackson, Middleton, and Smith (3). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Cawthorne, Chavez, Dominick, Gage-Watts, Louis Johnson, and Lyndon B. Johnson (7). ABSENT: Commissioners Bowman and Linn (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Cawthorne, Chavez, Dominick, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Louis Johnson, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Smith (9). NAYS: Commissioner Middleton (1). ABSENT: Commissioners Bowman and Linn (2).

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- *Ordinance No. 5882 of 2019, in regards to Zoning Case P-8-19, to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, by amending the zoning of property located at the northeast corner of Acorn Street and Womack Road, Caddo Parish, LA, from R-A, Rural Agriculture Zoning District to R-MHS, Residential Manufactured Home Subdivision Zoning District*
- *Ordinance No. 5883 of 2019, amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Capital Outlay Fund in the amount of \$55,976 to increase appropriation for the Pine Hill Road Bridge*
- *Ordinance No. 5884 of 2019, amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund in the amount of \$20,000 to provide an appropriation for the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority*
- *Ordinance No. 5885 of 2019, to amend Article VI of Chapter 26 of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo relative to Section 26-182, Schedule A, Speed Limits, on Calumet Drive*
- *Property Standards Case #2: 10497 Ferry Lake Road, Oil City, LA—District 1 (Delayed from May 6, 2019 Property Standards Hearing)*

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

/s/ Todd A. Hopkins

Todd A. Hopkins  
Commission Clerk