

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION  
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 16th DAY OF AUGUST, 2021

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Work Session, on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., in the Government Chambers, with Mr. Atkins, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (9). ABSENT: Commissioners Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, and Johnson (3).

The invocation was given by Mr. Taliaferro, and Mr. Epperson led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA ADDITIONS**

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to expand the agenda and add Special Resolution for Vanessa Brown under New Business.*

At this time, Mr. Atkins opened the floor for anyone to speak in favor or against adding this to the agenda. There being no one to speak in favor or against this agenda addition, Mr. Atkins closed the public hearing.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Mickey Jackson came before the Commission and gave the following statement:

**VISITORS**

- Caddo Parish Poet Laureate Presentation  
Pam Atchison, Shreveport Regional Art Council  
Ashley Mace Havird (outgoing Caddo Parish Poet Laureate)  
Poetic X (incoming Caddo Parish Poet Laureate)

Mrs. Atchison introduced Ms. Ashley Havird, the outgoing Caddo Parish Poet Laureate. She also wished her much success on her future endeavors.

Ashley Havird read aloud an original poem titled, *Festival*:

*I watched my small daughter's hands  
plunge into jars of paint on sheets  
Ashley Mace Havird – Caddo Parish Poet Laureate - 5  
that covered the kitchen floor. She was two.  
Play of color, surprise of shape and motion ...  
She made a dance of red, blue, green,  
transformed the sheets, her face, her body.  
And I thought of the hands of ancient cave painters,  
hands palpating stone to life.  
Before play, there was no art.  
Not children but, still, children of the species.  
Eyes fresh enough to see raw beauty  
in the skills of antlers, fangs, wings, claws.  
In season the woods and grasslands grew fat  
with horses and stags, cattle and bison.  
Season of strong days that lifted the sun,  
held it high and long. Season of births,  
a woman's rounding with young.  
Before clay made a pot, it formed a figure.  
Eden Gardens Elementary. Art  
with Mrs. Hackenberg, where my child grasped  
texture, tone, pattern. With brush and paint  
formed what she alone saw. A tree leafing  
stars into a purple sky. The rust-red river  
of the city a snake with flamelike tongue.  
Self-portrait: straight brown hair and bangs,  
shorts and cowboy boots. Inside the box  
of her chest, her heart the yellow shape  
of a dog, our dog who died.  
Before dog was guard or hunter, it was playmate.  
For the painters of the walls of Lascaux,  
Altamira, Niaux, Chauvet, play  
was prayer made visible. Into these caves,  
arteries that fed the deep beating heart  
of the earth, they spirited the sacred animals.*

*Torchlight enlivened them.  
Stampede of bulls, horses at a gallop,  
keen-eyed lions on the hunt. Such magic  
in the story, the dance, the song.  
Before the bow became weapon, it made music.*

Mrs. Atchison introduced Poetic X, Caddo Parish's first spoke word Poet Laureate.

Poetic X said that he is working on a few initiatives. One being Building Poetry from Scratch. He explained that it is taking miscellaneous items and writing about them. He would also like to see poems displayed in different areas around Shreveport and Caddo Parish.

Poetic X read aloud an original poem titled, *Look Up for Education*.

Mr. Jackson commended both Poet Laureates on representing Caddo Parish through the arts. He also suggested working with SRAC and Administration to see how some of initiatives can be put into action.

Mr. Taliaferro has a great appreciation for the arts and commended Poetic X. He wished him much success in the realm of poetry and art.

- American Millennium Project  
Chris Chandler

Mr. Chandler launched a project in January 2000 that teaches local history, culture, and community. He said that the students are taught U.S. History, World History, and Ancient History, but not their local history or culture in Louisiana. He wants to teach young people beginning at sixth grade. Once a student gets to sixth grade, they can join the American Millennium Project or AMP. It is his hope to launch these clubs in every school middle and high school in Caddo Parish, as well as the universities in Caddo Parish.

Mr. Taliaferro asked Mr. Chandler to explain local history. Mr. Chandler said that if people knew the local history, then people would stay in Caddo and invest in Caddo.

Mr. Chandler encouraged all Commissioners to tour any of his sixteen tours he has in Caddo Parish.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if this club would be extended to all parishes. Mr. Chandler explained that it is goal to extend this program to all sixty-four parishes.

Mr. Atkins thanked Mr. Chandler for coming down and sharing this presentation with the Commission.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

The Commission then moved to the first Old Business item, *Discussion related to trash, litter, and aesthetics in the Parish*.

Mr. Epperson said that he's received several complaints regarding the trash all over Caddo Parish. He feels that this issue seriously needs to be addressed. He suggested that a comprehensive plan needs to be developed in collaboration with the City, Parish, DOTD, etc.

Mr. Hopkins agreed with Mr. Epperson. He understands that Public Works is working on a new contract, but it has gotten out of hand. He suggested having a discussion with the constables and justices of the peace. Mr. Hopkins said that litter fines can be a revenue stream for those offices.

Mr. Chavez said that they do a cleanup every quarter in Southern Hills. He suggested that NGOs that the Commission supports should adopt a street to help with the cleanup in the City and the Parish. He said that this is our community, and we should all clean it up.

Mr. Burrell agreed with all that has been said. He said that the litter in the City and the Parish is such an eyesore.

Mr. Young suggested to make it illegal for fast food restaurants to use single use food service items, such as Styrofoam.

The Commission then moves onto the next Old Business item, *Action relative to oil and gas drilling in District 12*.

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to advance this item to Thursday's Regular Session under Old Business*. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Jackson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (8).

NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Hopkins (4).  
ABSTAIN: None (0).

### **NEW BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *that Zoning Case 21-27-P, in regards to Ordinance No. 6102 of 2021, an ordinance 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 on the north side of Ellerbe Road at the end of Redrick 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* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (9). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, and Johnson (3). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that Ordinance No. 6103 of 2021, an ordinance creating the "Amazon TIF District, State of Louisiana;" defining the boundaries thereof from which area local sales tax, property tax, and hotel occupancy tax increments will be determined and used to finance economic development projects in accordance with and as authorized by Part II of Chapter 27 of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended; providing for other matters in connection with the foregoing* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Jackson said that this ordinance is only setting up a TIF district. It does not levy or provide any increases in taxes. He also mentioned that it is only relative to the parish portion of taxes that are collected. He also said that this is just something to help encourage development and infrastructure improvements in and around that particular corridor.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if there will be any voters in this TIF district. Mr. Jackson said that there are no voters in the proposed TIF district.

Mr. Atkins thinks this is a great idea, but suggested to open discussions with Mr. Wolf and the Economic Development Committee. Mr. Jackson would like this to still be moved forward to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

At this time, Mr. Jackson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (9). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, and Johnson (3). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *that Resolution No. 62 of 2021, a resolution to relocate the polling place for Precinct 72 from LSUS Baptist Student Center, One University Place, Shreveport, Louisiana 71115 to University Elementary School, 9900 Smitherman Drive, Shreveport, Louisiana 71115, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Atkins said that LSUS has been growing dramatically, so the precinct had to be moved to another voting location.

At this time, Mr. Atkins' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (9). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, and Johnson (3). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Lazarus**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *that Resolution No. 63 of 2021, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to consent to the assignment of State Agency Leases 19509, 20131, 20133, and 20134, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (9). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, and Johnson (3). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that Resolution No. 64 of 2021, a resolution requesting the Registrar of Voters and Caddo Parish Administrator to take all necessary action to add an early voting location at the Shreve Memorial Hamilton Library, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Atkins explained that the Registrar came to the Commission and had a detailed discussion regarding this item, so this is to move forward with that initiative.

Mr. Jackson suggested that the Commission continue to work with the Legislative Delegation to increase the number of early voting satellite locations.

At this time, Mr. Atkins' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (9).

NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, and Johnson (3). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *that Resolution No. 65 of 2021, a resolution giving notice of intention to create an economic development district, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda.

Attorney Frazier explained that the Notice of Intent has to be published twice prior to voting on the ordinance. The Clerk of the Commission explained that it will be published twice in the Official Journal prior to the next Regular Session Meeting.

Mr. Burrell said that there was an Economic Development District at one time. He wanted to know if this would fall into its purview. Mr. Jackson mentioned that this would only be related to the Parish portion of the taxes, not the City.

Attorney Frazier also mentioned that if the City wanted to draw a district that encompasses part of the Parish, they would need Parish consent or vice versa.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know if the Amazon plant was inside the city limits or outside. Mr. Jackson said that it is inside the city limits. Mr. Chavez also explained that TIF stands for Tax Increment Financing. He explained that this TIF district will not raise taxes, but the parish portion of the taxes would go towards developing that corridor. He then wanted to know what portion can the Parish finance with those funds. Mrs. Bryant said that those monies would be used to improve the area along that corridor.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know if there was an issue with the Parish imposing a TIF upon property that is within the city limits. Attorney Frazier explained that prior to creating the TIF, the Commission will have to get the City's consent because it is creating a district.

Mr. Jackson explained that the monies will be used for infrastructure improvements along that corridor. He also said that everywhere that Amazon has gone, a TIF pops up either before or right after it.

Mr. Hopkins wanted to know if this will be based off property taxes or sales taxes. Mr. Jackson said that it will be based off of property taxes.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if this TIF would encompass other businesses. Mr. Jackson said that it would encompass the North Market Corridor.

At this time, Mr. Jackson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes:  
AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (9). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, and Johnson (3). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *to englobo and move the following items to Thursday's agenda for consideration:*

- *Special Resolution honoring Caddo Centenarian Geneva Moore on her 106<sup>th</sup> Birthday*
- *Special Resolution acknowledging former State Representative Barbara Norton*
- *Special Resolution recognizing August as Children's Eye Health & Safety Awareness Month*
- *Special Resolution recognizing Vanessa Brown*
- *Authorize K.C. Kilpatrick Baird, Jamar "Doc" Myers Montgomery, Jessica Yeates, and Shelia Wimberly to the Juvenile Justice Citizens Advisory Committee*

At this time, Mr. Jackson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes:  
AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Jackson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (8).  
NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, and Johnson (4).  
ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that the authorization to reappoint LaSonya Moore to the Caddo Industrial Development Board (term to expire August 22, 2027)* be moved to Thursday's agenda.

**Substitute motion by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to englobo and move the following appointments to Thursday's agenda:*

- *Reappointment of LaSonya Moore to the Caddo Industrial Development Board. Term to expire August 22, 2027.*
- *Reappointment of Brad Schmidt to the Caddo Industrial Development Board. Term to expire August 22, 2027.*
- *Appointment to the Caddo Industrial Development Board. Term to expire August 22, 2027. Commission to appoint one: Clay Hargett or Matt Wood.*

At this time, Mr. Jackson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (8). NAYS: Commissioner Chavez (1). ABSENT: Commissioners Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, and Johnson (3). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that the joint appointment of Andrew Crawford to the Zoning Board of Appeals to fill the unexpired term left by Brittney Dunn (term to expire April 10, 2024) be moved to Thursday's agenda.*

Mr. Atkins said that he will be abstaining to this vote due to Mr. Crawford being his cousin.

At this time, Mr. Chavez's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (8). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, and Johnson (3). ABSTAIN: Commissioner Atkins (1).

#### **ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

- Confederate Monument Update

Dr. Wilson said that the process is ongoing, and they are continuing to look for a contractor that will relocate the monument within budget. He said that there is some activity taking place in terms of appraising the cost for the project, but are still awaiting the outcome of it.

- U.S. Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Dr. Wilson said that they hoping to receive another draw on the program so they can continue the program.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if there was an update on the eviction piece of the program. Attorney Frazier explained that they will have to contact the attorney and give their consent, so the attorney can verify eligibility with the Parish. They will then let the Parish know who they've helped, so they will be paid.

He also wanted to know if there was a deadline in place for the ERAP applications. Dr. Wilson said that they have not put a deadline on the applications, but there will be sufficient notice, at least a thirty-day notice.

- Juvenile Detention

Dr. Wilson said that there are thirteen youth in the detention center, two of which are OJJ and three are 17 year-olds. There are currently eight youth at the Caddo Correctional Center.

- July 2021 Financials

Dr. Wilson said that the July financials have been placed at each of the Commissioners' desk, as well as have been attached to the agenda.

- 2021 Summer Intern Program—Video

Dr. Wilson said that the Summer Intern Program was very successful this year. Mr. Jackson requested that this video be posted on the Parish's Facebook page. Ms. Krystle Beauchamp said that it will be posted on Facebook and YouTube once this meeting is over.

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

- Mr. Jackson said that he's received several complaints regarding the Facebook Live. The Clerk of the Commission explained that there is an issue with the third-party restream, but they are working to resolve it.
- Mr. Burrell requested an update on the Inner City I-49 Corridor from Administration.

He also said that he will be getting with the President in regards to setting up a Broadband Taskforce.

- Mr. Chavez said that he attended a meeting in regards to the I-49 Inner City Connector. He said that the website is i49shreveport.com if anyone is looking for any information regarding this.

He also announced that there will be a public hearing scheduled for the Inner Loop 3132 Extension on Tuesday, August 17 from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. It will be held at the LSUS Ballroom.

Mr. Chavez also wanted to know if there will be another American Rescue Plan Committee meeting. Mr. Atkins suggested that Mr. Chavez contact the chair of that committee.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- *Ordinance No. 6083 of 2021, Zoning Case No. 21-13-P, an ordinance 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 on the north side of Flournoy Lucas Road, approximately five hundred fifteen feet west of Winderweedle Road, Caddo Parish, LA, from R-A, Rural Agriculture District to R-A-PUD, Rural Agriculture Planned Unit Development District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6099 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the American Rescue Plan Fund to provide an appropriation for vaccine and pandemic coordination efforts, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6101 of 2021, an ordinance amending and re-enacting Section 32-46.1 of the Caddo Parish Code of Ordinances regarding the Carrying of Weapons, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

/s/Michelle Nations  
Assistant Commission Clerk