

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 7TH DAY OF MAY, 2009

The Caddo Parish Commission met in legal and regular session on the above date at 3:30 p.m. in the Government Chamber with Ms. Stephanie Lynch, President, presiding, and the following members in attendance, constituting a quorum: Commissioners Baker, Dominick, Epperson, Jenkins, Linn, Lynch, McCulloch, Pierson, McCulloch, Smith and Thibodeaux (10). ABSENT: Commissioners Cox and Escude (2).

The invocation was given by Pastor English of Calvary Baptist Church, and Mr. Jimmy Couvillion led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was **moved by Mr. Thibodeaux**, seconded by Mr. Smith, *that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 23, 2009, be adopted.*

COMMUNIQUES AND REPORTS

□ Administrator Woodrow Wilson came forward and stated that Mr. Kent Rogers, executive director of the Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments, was present to update the Commission in regard to provisions of the federal stimulus program.

Mr. Rogers said that the American Recovery Reinvestment Act was passed by Congress, providing some \$787 billion in funding. Only about 6.1 percent of that amount was for transportation and infrastructure, contrary to what the American public was told, he said. Of that, \$27.5 billion is for highways. There is a discretionary “pot” of \$1.5 billion, but it has numerous stipulations on how that money can be used.

The \$27.5 billion highway fund is further diminished by allocations to national parks and roads, forestry, and after other “take downs”, there is left only \$26.6 billion for the whole U.S., Mr. Rogers continued. Of that, \$430 million is designated for the State of Louisiana; 67 percent goes directly to the State, which has discretion on how to spend that money. Of that 67 percent, 50 percent had to have been obligated within 120 days of the awarding of the money. A sum of \$42 million has been directed to I-49 north, he said.

The \$7.9 million sub-allocation for the Shreveport metropolitan area carried a list of things on which the money can and cannot be spent, he said. Local planners first looked at projects on the books ready to be done; of those some were ready to be let but money was already allocated for them. It would have served no purpose to replace the money already allocated because there was no other project specifically qualified for the money allocated. It was decided to do a project split among the four main jurisdictions and work from there.

Another important restriction on spending the federal money, Mr. Rogers said, is that the law specifies what kinds of roads the money can be spent on: urban collector roads, or above, which have followed federal guidelines for environmental and engineering work, and the projects have to be ready to go within a strict time line. Those restrictions produce a short list of eligible projects, he said.

A good feature of these grants is that they are 100 percent money; unlike other highway projects they do not require a 20 percent local match, he said. The bad feature is that the grants are reimbursable after-the-fact: the local entity has to spend its own money up front.

Mr. Rogers said that his office has developed a Plan A and a Plan B on how to spend the money. Plan A is to take roughly \$5.25 million and apply it to I-49 north, Section I—the first section of I-49 north that is within the urban area, and the only area ready to be let for construction within the one-year time frame. Plan A would also include \$1.2 million for Stockwell Road rehabilitation, \$750,000 for Greenwood Acres Boulevard, and \$700,000 for Woolworth Road—projects that can be done within the time frame.

Plan B would come into play if it proves impossible to do the I-49 north project, which is a possibility due to some environmental issues, Mr. Rogers continued. In Plan B the City of Shreveport has identified several concrete panel replacements and some overlay projects throughout the City.

Mr. Rogers said that the guidelines for spending the money are strict, and 95 percent of all preliminary plans must be completed by mid-June. That is a very short time to get projects selected, placed in the Transportation Improvement Program and approved. Many jurisdictions are opting for the concrete panel, overlay and maintenance-type projects because they can be done quickly as opposed to new construction.

He then said some of the funds in the mass transit sector, some \$4.7 million, will be used to begin purchasing buses fueled by natural gas and to install a compressed natural gas fueling station.

The goal is, over a long period of time, to replace all City buses with CNG clean-air buses, he said.

Answering a question from Mrs. Baker, Mr. Rogers said that the best chance for Caddo Parish to get additional highway money from the stimulus program is from its \$1.5 billion discretionary funds. The State has agreed that the only project it will support for submission in the discretionary program is I-49 north, and it anticipates asking for the entire cost to complete the road, some \$230 million. All the stipulations for that program are as yet unknown, he said.

Mr. Jenkins said that while he does not wish to criticize money being brought into this area, he is still concerned that this stimulus program's stated purpose of putting people back to work is not being achieved. The projects outlined by Mr. Rogers are worthy projects, he said, and the money amounts are significant, but he does not want to lose sight of the stimulus program's objective of getting people back to work. It was not supposed to be about buying concrete or asphalt or paying money to contractors who are already getting Parish and City jobs.

Mr. Rogers said that he shares Mr. Jenkins' frustration. This \$1 trillion package was sold to the general public on the basis that it would rebuild America and put people back to work reconstructing roads and other infrastructure. However, road and infrastructure money is only six percent of the entire \$1 trillion program, and that amount is further restricted by the accompanying guidelines to the point that there are very few things the states and cities can do with it.

Mr. Jenkins said that repairing local streets and roads is good, but as an elected official he thinks the program will come up short insofar as putting people back to work. He said he does not want to accept any excuse as to why that is not part of the goal, especially from the Parish standpoint. The Commission needs to get involved in this issue, and its ad hoc committee needs to review it and make sure the voices of the Commissioners and their constituents are being heard. The program outlined at this meeting does not contain a single category that gave any projections about jobs or putting people back to work.

Mr. Rogers said that his feeling is that over a three to five year period, each state will see about two to three projects done that might not have been done without the stimulus program in that time frame. That is not a lot of projects, he said. He said he does not know how to solve the dilemma.

Mr. Linn asked if any funds have been allocated to extend Amtrak from Marshall, Texas, into Bossier City, and if plans are being formulated. Mr. Rogers said that the plan contains funds for high-speed rail, but the portion allocated specifically to Amtrak will be used to make up operating losses caused by previous cuts. If firm plans to effect the link can be completed during the eligibility period they will be applied for, he said. The funds, if obtained, would be to lay a dual line of tracks on existing railroad right-of-way so that Amtrak would not have to share a track with freight trains.

Answering another question from Mr. Linn, Mr. Rogers said that the chances for the Amtrak link are improving. One reason, he said, is that rail costs about \$1.9 million per mile, versus \$15 million per mile for interstate highway. The long-term desired connection is from Marshall to Meridian, Mississippi, he said. It would fill a gap that now exists between Dallas and the eastern states.

The President thanked Mr. Rogers for his presentation.

□ At this time Mr. Dominick stated that he wished to report on the meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee that had met earlier in the day. The committee received an update on the Parish's parks and discussed doing a bus tour. It was decided that the first tour, of the parks in the north end of the Parish, would be on June 8. A second tour of the southern parks will be scheduled later, he said.

Mrs. McCulloch asked if the tour includes the North Shreveport Industrial Park. Mr. Dominick said that the industrial parks have nothing to do with recreational parks, which are operated and maintained by the Parish.

Mrs. McCulloch said she had asked that the NSIP be included in the tour because she has some issues coming up in the future that concern this industrial park.

□ The Clerk then presented a letter from Lakeview Waterworks District requesting appointment of Ms. Mary K. Tallant to replace Mr. J.D. Campbell on the Board.

□ At this time Parish Attorney Charles Grubb came forward to present a status report on legislature currently before the Louisiana Legislature and to seek consensus on the Commission's stance in regard to certain bills. He pointed out that the Commission generally resists bills that cost the Parish money or that inhibit its authority to do its job on a local basis.

He said that the single most important subject in this session has involved ad valorem taxation, particularly in two major ways. There are several bills that affect local government's ability to

roll forward taxes, and one controversial proposal would allow appointed boards to roll forward taxes. He pointed out that the Commission rarely if ever rolls forward taxes, but under current law it has the ability to do so, and it might not wish to relinquish that right.

Mr. Grubb said that another item of interest concerns changing the homestead exemption. Some prominent legislators, primarily from south Louisiana, are pushing for an increase by various means, including one that would index the exemption to inflation. Another would tax the first \$10,000 value on everyone's home, with the exemption then coming into effect up to some higher number.

Raising the homestead exemption would mean an automatic roll-forward of the millages, Mr. Grubb said. The changes would not affect the Parish's revenue, but the tax burden would be shifted from residential owners to businesses and the owners of high-end residences, he said. There are other bills in the session which would eliminate this automatic provision.

Mr. Grubb said he would assume, unless instructed to the contrary, that the Commission's position on these bills would be that nothing should pass that would cost the Parish money, but otherwise to take no position.

Ms. Lynch said that this early in the session it might be difficult to take a position, because the content of the legislation can change rapidly and drastically.

Mr. Grubb said that there are also a number of bills in the Legislature that affect the film industry's tax credit, which is expiring. There is a movement to not only renew the credit but to increase it upwards from 25 percent. He said that he would assume the Commission would support these bills, which would help the local film industry.

The Parish will also be working to get certain funding, primarily for Juvenile Court—Star Boot Camp, Drug Court, Volunteers for Youth Justice Program, and others, he said. These funds are very important to the Parish, he said, but State funds are going to be difficult to obtain in this session.

VISITORS

Mr. Ray McCann, 3417 Bruce Drive, Shreveport, came forward. He stated that in the morning after the recent storm that hit the Lakeview area he had awakened to discover that his driveway and lawn were obscured by some 15 large oak trees that had fallen. His adult children all appeared with chain saws and began removing the debris and moving it out to the road.

He said the Parish then moved onto the scene with an array of men and equipment and in short order the trees and limbs were removed. It was a very efficient effort on their part, he said, and the Commission can be proud of the members of that department.

Mr. Dominick said that he appreciates hearing complimentary reports on the Parish's efforts, and he asked that Administrator Woodrow Wilson convey that message to members of the Public Works Department.

Mrs. McCulloch, speaking as Commissioner for the Lakeview District, also expressed her appreciation for both Mr. McCann's remarks and for the performance of the Public Works crews.

Next Mr. Mike McTeirnan, 174 Rustic Way, Shreveport, came forward. He stated that his experience has not been so positive. He said that as he has informed the Commission on previous occasions, his neighborhood has once again been flooded and he has come to plead for attention to the fact that he and his neighbors need assistance.

He urged Commissioners to check the bridge on Mayo Road, because it has been washed away once again. He said he has a letter from Caddo Parish Public Works Director Robert Glass which states that a survey was done which placed the problem on Mr. Mayo's property. The servitude there was just a bit too low there for the water to have any flow pressure, the survey said.

That is untrue, Mr. McTeirnan said. The problem is that I-49 serves as a very effective dam to make water back up in the neighborhood, and it has since it was constructed in 1992. A pond that was supposed to act as a retaining basin was supposedly dug out to enlarge it, he said, but the pond

was actually made smaller than it was two years earlier. The level of the land on the backside was raised so water would get into the pond quicker, but it also goes across his back yard faster. He and his neighbors have been asking for help for years but no one, including the Commission, will do anything. He said he is formally requesting that the Commission take a field trip to the Mayo Road area to observe that the water has no place to go.

Mr. Thibodeaux stated that he is Commissioner for that area, and he has visited the site. However, he said, he cannot speak for all Commissioners as to whether they would consent to a field trip.

Mr. Thibodeaux said that when he spoke to Mr. McTeirnan by telephone several days earlier Mr. McTeirnan had stated that he realized this was a problem created by the State, and that it would have to be remedied by the State.

Mr. McTeirnan differed, pointing out that the problem was created by Shreve Land Development Corp, the actions of which had to be approved by the Metropolitan Planning Commission and the Caddo Parish Commission.

Mr. Thibodeaux countered that as Mr. McTiernan had earlier stated, the root of the problem is that I-49 acts as a huge dam that prevents the natural flow of water for the entire area.

Mr. McTiernan said that the letter he received from Mr. Glass in December, 2008, stated that the pond had been lowered, but the pond dam's elevation did not change. He questioned who made that determination; there was no dredging operation to lower the depth of the pond.

Mr. Thibodeaux said he would be glad to invite the entire Commission to come inspect the problem, but he cannot force them to, nor can he imagine what solutions they might construct.

McTiernan then stated that the new subdivision has been approved, because houses are being built. However, the development has constructed an open-top sewerage lift station within ten feet of Mayo Road. There is no sewage in the station yet, he said, but when there is, it will also wash down the creek bed. Someone needs to correct that situation now, he said.

Mr. Thibodeaux said that he would consult with Mr. Glass, and hopefully someone with the State. Ultimately the problem will have to be solved by the State, he said.

At this time the President asked representatives from SABIS Charter Schools to come forward.

Mr. Gard Wayt, 705 Cobblestone Drive, Shreveport, came forward and stated that he represents Charter School, Inc., which was recently granted by the State the opportunity to operate Linwood Middle School, heretofore to be known as Linwood Public Charter School, effective August 17. Because the Commission is a body of political and community leaders, the school's officials wished to outline their plans for Linwood and respond to any questions.

Mr. Wayt said that Linwood was one of 10 Caddo Parish schools taken over by the State for failure to achieve minimum standards. After months of deliberation the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education decided to allow the Caddo Parish School Board to continue to operate eight schools with memoranda of understanding. On the other two—Linwood and Linear---the State took bids from private groups to operate them as charter schools.

He said that the group he represents won the bid on the Linwood School, and they are grateful for the opportunity for this venture. The charter school's board, the members of which serve with no compensation, sets policy for the school, but it has hired SABIS Educational Systems to run the school. SABIS is a 123-year-old company that operates 61 schools on four continents, with 47, 000-plus students and more than 4,000 employees.

He then introduced Mr. Robert Giordano, the lead SABIS executive at Linwood School.

Mr. Wayt said that these schools were rated unacceptable for five consecutive years, and that is why his group is now involved. He said that currently some 40 percent of students in certain schools will never graduate from high school. In contrast, he said, SABIS has achieved 100 percent graduation rates in some similar educational environments. This is the kind of opportunity that is being offered to Caddo Parish, he said.

Rev. Willie Phillips, 1204 Hassett, Shreveport, came forward and identified himself as a member of the Linwood Charter School board. He said he is involved for only one reason: concern for the quality of education for students in the area, which needs to be improved. He said it is no secret that the students involved have historically been challenged and are being left behind.

He said that since the issue of charter schools entered public discussion the Caddo Parish School Board has stepped forward with some changes that have already taken place. He said

that while he is reluctant to use the word “competition” in this environment, he does like the spirit of competition that the community, the Parish, the State are exhibiting. This is a good way to start a regeneration of education and the way in which quality education will affect the entire world.

Even so, he said, he does not consider Linwood Charter School to be in competition with the Caddo Parish School Board or with the State Department of Education. His only concern is that the students there get a better education. The charter system does not select students; all students are welcome, but the school is very particular about the educators who are hired.

Rev. Phillips said that he believes the charter system will become a turning point for the educational system in the City, Parish and State, and that people will see children become assets who would formerly have grown to become liabilities in adulthood.

Mr. Giordano said that the Brown vs. Board of Education Supreme Court ruling, now some 55 years old, had as its goal to create an educational system that gave every child the opportunity to become a successful, contributing member of society. Everyone realizes that goal has not been achieved, he said, and there is a segregated system in cities throughout the country.

Mr. Giordano said that SABIS did not instigate or promote the State’s decision in regard to Linwood School; when the State took over the school SABIS merely presented itself as an organization that has a proven record of running schools throughout the nation.

He said that when 50 percent of young black men and women are not graduating from high school, and when over 70 percent of the students at Linwood Middle School are failing to perform at a basic educational level, there is a problem. It is not the State’s fault, and it is not the parents’ fault. A mother who is working two jobs to keep the family together cannot spend time to educate her children after school. The charter school will take responsibility, and this concept presents an opportunity to solve that problem, he said.

Every student who wants a strong education can come to Linwood, he said, regardless of previous background, and the education is free. It will be a highly academic program, and the academic standards are rigorous and the expectations are high.

The understanding and support of the community is essential, Mr. Giordano continued. The information that has been put out in the community is only partially true. Contrary to reports, any student can come to the school, until capacity is reached. It is not a magnet school, taking only the cream of the student populace. During the month of May, any student who currently goes to Linwood has first choice to attend. They do not have to take an entrance exam; all they have to do is complete an application. The only requirement is that the student wants to be educated, he said.

Mrs. McCulloch said that she is an educator at Linear school, one of the ten schools taken over by the State. She asked why Linear and Linwood, the two highest performing schools of those ten schools, would be chosen as the charter schools if the State’s concern is for the best interests of the community.

Mr. Wayt said that he does not know; nor does he know why it took the State four months to decide after the plan was constructed. Also, he said, he does not know why his group has not yet been allowed access to the school buildings or to the superintendent. There is much about the system that he does not understand, he said, and he and his group are as frustrated as anyone.

However, he said, it is a fact that both Linwood and Linear had been rated academically unacceptable for five straight years, and there is now an opportunity for those schools to have a world-class college prep curriculum.

Mrs. McCulloch said that in regard to the failure rate among African-American students, it must be realized that a lot of these students are from poverty-stricken families in poverty-stricken communities. She said she does not agree with the statement made earlier that the failure of these students is not the fault of their parents. There are a few parents who are working, she said, but the rest are out on the streets, hooked on drugs or engaged in some form of negative behavior. These sub-standard schools do not get the parental support they need in order for the students to succeed.

Also, she said, these parents will not send money to school to support unbudgeted student activities or projects, as parents in more successful schools might do. If parents would become more concerned and involved, their children would do much better in school.

Mr. Wayt said that Mrs. McCulloch’s observations are correct, and the reason the SABIS program has worked in similar communities is because the first thing they do is make a contract with the parents, and they try to frame and put in perspective how important it is for the student to have an

environment at home in which they can study.

Mr. Pierson said that he is not a fan of charter schools, because ultimately the enrollment is selective, and their curriculum is college-prep even though a significant number of the students will not go to college. His concern, he said, is that schools do not take exams—children do. The fact that Linwood and Linear have been unacceptable is because the children, not the schools, took the exams by which the school was evaluated. Now the school system will have to create two new schools to accommodate the students who are not accepted into the charter schools.

He said that the only way he would be swayed is that if every student who currently goes to Linwood would have to stay at Linwood for the next school year. It was stated that the children must apply for the new school, he said. As there are children who do not retain their zoning for that school, it is essentially a magnet school.

Mr. Wayt said that the students must apply for the charter school, but only to make their preference known. The only reason the current Linwood students would not return is if their parents chose otherwise. The other schools that were created by the School Board were created to compete for those Linwood and Linear students.

Mr. Pierson said that those schools would not have anything to compete for if the children were zoned for those schools. Mr. Wayt responded that they are zoned for the schools.

Regarding the college prep program, Mr. Wayt said he considers that a bonus for the students. If a child completes a college-prep education curriculum, but then does not go to college, that child still has a college-prep education. They still can do the math and the science and language arts, plus speak a foreign language. The education will not be lost or wasted, he said.

Mr. Pierson said he hopes the charter schools will be successful, but many questions remain.

President Lynch thanked Mr. Wayt, Rev. Phillips and Mr. Giordano for their presentation. She encouraged all Commissioners to learn more about the charter school program. She said that from her observations of other programs the charter school concept has promise. The Obama administration is committed to expand the charter school system throughout the U.S., and it will be expanding. She said that while locally the concept is meeting some hostility, in other states it is by now considered just another educational option.

Mr. Giordano said that Ms. Lynch is correct—charter schools give parents another option for their children, to give them more choices than they have had. They are also about closing the achievement gap, which is also a discussion among all senior educators and business leaders throughout the country. It is an economic gap and a race gap and it can be closed. It has been closed completely in Massachusetts, he said.

At this time there came forward Mr. Frank B. Gilbert, Senior Field Representative for the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington. The NTHP is a private, non-profit organization chartered by Congress in 1949 with the responsibility to help develop protection of historic buildings, landmarks and districts throughout the nation. He said his job is to help local governments with this effort.

He said he appreciates the invitation to come to Shreveport and Caddo Parish to discuss developing a local historic preservation program. He said he has been very impressed with the number of historic buildings and neighborhoods he has found locally. Historic neighborhoods such as Fairfield and Highlands are a valuable asset to be protected.

He said that a historic preservation program can help achieve the goals of local government. The Supreme Court has ruled that the preservation of historic buildings is an entirely permissible governmental goal.

A local program would involve the designation, by the Parish Commission or by municipality councils, of one or more local historic districts and one or more individual landmarks. It would call for the appointment of a Historic Preservation Commission submission to oversee implementation of the program's objectives, which are primarily to preserve the character and historic structures of a neighborhood while at the same time finding appropriate ways to meet the needs of the people who live and work in these districts.

The vision of tomorrow must include the lessons and the spirit of the past, Mr. Gilbert said. The success of a local preservation program will be important in indicating the type of environment a community wants and seeks to achieve, he said.

Mr. Jenkins said that he has concerns that at some point these districts have some negative effects by placing severe restrictions on property owners, almost to the point of expropriation.

This concept does warrant the Commission's consideration, he said, but he would like for the Legal Department to carefully examine this concept before any proposals are made.

Mr. Gilbert said that the property owners must be treated fairly in these programs, and those involved always keep in mind that they are working with someone else's property. He said he is certain that the people selected by local government to serve on these volunteer commissions will be aware of and sensitive to the concerns of property owners. The record of the program around the country can offer convincing evidence, he said.

President Lynch thanked Mr. Gilbert for his presentation.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES

- Ordinance No. 4879 of 2009 amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Juvenile Justice Fund for 'Family in Need-Services' in the amount of \$15,000 for the year 2009

Ordinance No. 4880 of 2009 declaring certain adjudicated properties to be surplus and to authorize the Parish Administrator or a designee to sell the Parish of Caddo's tax interest therein

The President asked if there was anyone present to speak in support of or in opposition to either of the above ordinances, and there was no one. She declared the public hearing on ordinances to be concluded.

WORK SESSION MINUTES

It was **moved by Mr. Dominick**, seconded by Mr. Thibodeaux, *that the April 20, 2009 Work Session Minutes be ratified.* Motion carried.

ZONING ORDINANCE: (For final passage)

ORDINANCE NO. 4874 OF 2009

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 51 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE PARISH OF CADDO, AS AMENDED, THE CADDO PARISH ZONING ORDINANCE, BY REZONING PROPERTY LOCATED ON THE SE CORNER OF LINWOOD AVENUE AND MCCARY, CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA, **FROM R-A, RESIDENCE/AGRICULTURE DISTRICT, TO R-3, URBAN, MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENCE DISTRICT** AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

BE IT ORDAINED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that Chapter 51 of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo is hereby amended and re-enacted to read as follows, to wit:

The official Zoning Map of the Shreveport Metropolitan Planning Area of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, be amended by rezoning Lots 196, 197, and 198, Suburban Acres Subdivision, located on the SE corner of Linwood Avenue and McCary, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, be and the same is hereby changed from R-A, Residence/Agriculture District, to R-3, Urban, Multi-Family Residence District.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the rezoning of the property described herein is subject to compliance with the following stipulations:

1. **Development of the property shall be in substantial accord with the site plan submitted with any significant changes or additions requiring further review and approval by the Planning Commission.**
2. **Development of the property shall begin within a period of two (2) years from the date of the adoption of this ordinance and the failure to comply with such stipulation will cause the rezoning herein described to become null and void, and the zoning classification will automatically revert to R-A**

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any provision or item of this ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications

which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after publication in the official journal.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

It was **moved by Mr. Thibodeaux**, seconded by Mr. Smith, that Ordinance No. 4874 of 2009, in regard to Zoning Case P-5-09, Calvary Baptist Church, applicant, requesting re-zone property located on Linwood Avenue at McCary from R-A to R-3 for a proposed adult living facility, be adopted. That motion carried, as shown by the following roll call vote: AYES: Commissioners Baker, Dominick, Epperson, Jenkins, Linn, Lynch, McCulloch, Pierson, Smith and Thibodeaux (10). NAYS: None. ABSTAINING: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Cox and Escude (2).

ORDINANCES: (For final passage)

ORDINANCE NO. 4879 OF 2009

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE JUVENILE JUSTICE FUND TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE VOLUNTEERS FOR YOUTH JUSTICE

WHEREAS, Volunteers for Youth Justice (VYJ) mission is to train volunteers to provide intervention and advocacy for youth who are at-risk for serious involvement in the juvenile justice system; and

WHEREAS, VYJ administers several programs including Families In Need of Services (FINS); and

WHEREAS, VYJ needs an additional appropriation of \$15,000 to fund operational expenses for 2009 ; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Juvenile Justice Fund for the year 2009 is hereby amended as follows:

	Budget Increase (Decrease)
Juvenile Justice Fund	
Family In Need-Services	\$15,000

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any provision or item of this ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this ordinance shall take effect upon adoption.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

It was **moved by Mr. Linn**, seconded by Mrs. Baker, *that Ordinance No. 4879 of 2009, amending the Juvenile Justice Fund budget in the amount of \$15,000 for the 'Families In Need of Services' program for the year 2009.*

Answering a question from Mrs. McCulloch, Mr. Linn said that at one time the Parish supported this group by providing them with automobiles and insurance. The program received a \$250,000 federal grant to increase the number of FINS officers, so they now have more officers than automobiles. It is essential these people get out into the community, so this ordinance allows them to file for mileage reimbursement for using their own automobiles, he said.

Mr. Linn's motion then carried, as shown by the following roll call vote: AYES:

Commissioners Baker, Dominick, Epperson, Jenkins, Linn, Lynch, McCulloch, Pierson, Smith and Thibodeaux (10). NAYS: None. ABSTAINING: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Cox and Escude (2).

ORDINANCE NO. 4880 OF 2009

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING CERTAIN ADJUDICATED PROPERTIES TO BE SURPLUS AND TO AUTHORIZE THE PARISH ADMINISTRATOR, OR A DESIGNEE, TO SELL THE PARISH OF CADDO'S TAX INTEREST IN CERTAIN SURPLUS ADJUDICATED PROPERTIES, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the hereinbelow described properties are no longer needed for public purposes and should be declared surplus properties; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has received offers to purchase its tax interest in the hereinbelow described properties as indicated below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that the hereinbelow described properties are no longer needed for public purposes and are surplus properties.

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has a tax interest in the hereinbelow described properties which have been adjudicated for the non-payment of Parish property taxes; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby authorize the sale of its tax interest in the hereinbelow described properties for an amount not less than the offer as indicated below.

Property No. 1: Lot 13, McCain Creek Estates, Unit 1, a subdivision of the City of Shreveport, Caddo Parish, LA as per map recorded in Book 1300, Page 101 of the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, LA (GEO 181416-056-0013)

PURCHASE PRICE: \$267.00 APPRAISED VALUE: \$400.0

Property No. 2: Lots 15, Willer & Woolbert Subd., a subdivision in the City of Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, as per plat recorded in Book 650, Page 267 recorded in the conveyance records of Caddo Parish, LA (GEO #181420-004-0015)

PURCHASE PRICE: \$301.00 APPRAISED VALUE: \$450.00

Property No. 3: Lot 59, Victor Subdivision, Unit No. 2, a subdivision of the City of Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, as per plat filed for record in Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, Louisiana (GEO #181420-007-0059)

PURCHASE PRICE: \$334.00 APPRAISED VALUE: \$500.00

Property No. 4: Lot 21, Blk 13, Oakview Subd., Caddo Parish, Louisiana as per plat filed for recorded in Book 150, Page 279 of the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, Louisiana (GEO #171425-036-0021)

PURCHASE PRICE: \$881.00 APPRAISED VALUE: \$1,320.00

Property No. 5: Lot 41, Pecan Farms., a subdivision of Caddo Parish, Louisiana as per plat filed for recorded in Book 1600, Page 193 of the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, Louisiana (GEO #141603-002-0041)

PURCHASE PRICE: \$2,702.66 APPRAISED VALUE: \$4,000.00

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Caddo Parish Administrator, or his designee, shall be authorized to do any and all things and to sign any and all documents, including Acts of Cash Sale, in a form acceptable to the Caddo Parish Attorney necessary to effectuate the purposes set forth herein.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any provision or item of this ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after publication in the official journal.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are

hereby repealed.

It was **moved by Mr. Pierson**, seconded by Mrs. Baker, *that Ordinance No. 4880 of 2009, declaring certain adjudicated properties to be surplus and authorizing the Administrator to sell the Parish's tax interest therein, be adopted.* That motion carried, as shown by the following roll call vote: AYES: Commissioners Baker, Dominick, Epperson, Jenkins, Linn, Lynch, McCulloch, Pierson, Smith and Thibodeaux (10). NAYS: None. ABSTAINING: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Cox and Escude (2).

ORDINANCES: (For introduction, by title)

- Ordinance No. 4881 of 2009 amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Building Maintenance Fund for security costs for Government Plaza in the amount of \$60,000 for the year 2009

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 19 OF 2009

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION URGING SUPPORT FOR SOLUTIONS AND ACTIONS WHICH COALESCE TO ACHIEVE, BY WHATEVER MEANS NECESSARY, THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE AND OPERATION OF THE GENERAL MOTORS TRUCK PLANT IN CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA

WHEREAS, while the Caddo Parish Commission has been keenly and painfully aware of the adverse economic forces affecting the financial stability of this nation, generally, and the automotive industry in particular; and

WHEREAS, the General Motors Shreveport Assembly Plant has for nearly 30 years been a cornerstone of the economy of the northwest Louisiana region, providing employment for not only GM employees but also to employees of numerous industries that are suppliers to the plant; and

WHEREAS, in its Caddo Parish location General Motors has enjoyed a favorable industrial environment and benefited from a large pool of skilled, motivated and productive workers, who in turn enjoy the quality-of-life advantages this area offers; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission has enjoyed a long and mutually-beneficial relationship with GM that has not diminished through the years. General Motors' presence in this community was made possible by this body's provision of an industrial park site, with additional land concessions being granted in the course of the years to accommodate the plant's expansion needs; and

WHEREAS, General Motors has recognized the inherent aesthetic, economic and strategic advantages of its Caddo Parish facility, and has made repeated substantial investments into the plant to enlarge and enhance its capabilities and to maximize its potential, to the point that it is one of the company's most modern and efficient manufacturing centers; and

WHEREAS, the continued existence of this facility now appears to rest upon forces, factors and decisions that to a large degree are beyond the control of General Motors management.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission, in full recognition of the General Motors Truck Plant as a vital component of this area's economic well-being, does hereby urge all those parties in whose hands rest the decisions and deeds that affect this facility to exert all efforts toward a course of action that will ensure its continued operation as a valuable asset of both General Motors and the Caddo Parish region.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the United States, his Cabinet members, the members of the northwest Louisiana Congressional Delegation, the Governor, the Legislature and the members of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana are hereby entreated by this resolution to expend their most urgent energies to shape and effect the legislative and management remedies that will work toward this end.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Commission does recommend that all these parties be amenable to the recognition that natural gas, which this region and this State contains in abundance, is a clean, sensible, logical and economical energy source which can easily and quickly be used to power this nation's automobiles and trucks while research and development continues on other useful transportation technologies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this body does further believe that a serious and

concerted effort to manufacture vehicles fueled by compressed natural gas will go far in solving the systemic weaknesses currently plaguing the automotive industry, while at the same greatly reducing this nation's dependency on fuels imported from nations which have no concern for our well-being.

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mrs. McCulloch, *that Resolution No. 19 of 2009, expressing support for the General Motors plant to remain in operation in Caddo Parish, be adopted. That motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call vote: AYES: Commissioners Baker, Dominick, Epperson, Jenkins, Linn, Lynch, McCulloch, Pierson, Smith and Thibodeaux (10). NAYS: None. ABSTAINING: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Cox and Escude (2).

RESOLUTION NO. 20 OF 2009

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION URGING THE LEGISLATURE TO ADOPT HOUSE BILL 110/SENATE BILL 26, TO INCREASE THE USE OF COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS (CNG) AS TRANSPORTATION FUEL, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission finds it beneficial to promote clean transportation fueled by CNG, a fuel source that is clean, abundant, affordable and American with large domestic reserves located in the Haynesville Shale in Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, CNG is the cleanest commercially available fuel for transportation today and emits up to 70% less nitric oxide pollutants up to 90% less toxic pollutants and reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 20% - 30% compared to gasoline and diesel vehicles; and

WHEREAS, 98% of natural gas used in the United States is produced in North American and new technologies have allowed the rapid emergence of gas shales as a major energy source for U.S. energy supplies with a 120 year supply of natural gas in the United States as documented by the American Clean Skies Foundation; and

WHEREAS, CNG costs on average over one-third less than conventional gasoline at the pump, making it the most economical alternative fuel available today; and

WHEREAS, America purchases 70% of its oil from foreign nations which threaten our economy, our environment and national security by sending billions of dollars out of this country resulting in the greatest transfer of wealth in the history of mankind; and

WHEREAS, the exploration and production of natural gas in the Haynesville Shale has attracted some of our nation's leading independent natural gas companies who have invested capital in our economy and created quality jobs in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, legislation by Representative Jane Smith and Senator Nick Gautreaux will enhance the existing income tax credits, both corporate and individual, for the cost of qualified clean-burning motor vehicle fuel property as it relates to the conversion of a motor vehicle to Compressed Natural Gas, the installation of fueling equipment to service Compressed Natural Gas and the purchase of a vehicle equipped by the vehicles' manufacturer to run on Compressed Natural Gas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission strongly supports and encourages the Louisiana Legislature to approve House Bill 110/Senate Bill 26 in order to take a leadership role in using a truly clean, abundant, affordable and American fuel for transportation purposes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

It was **moved by Mr. Smith**, seconded by Mrs. Baker, *that Resolution No. 20 of 2009 urging the LA Legislature to adopt House Bill 110/Senate Bill 26 to increase the use of compressed natural gas (CNG) as transportation fuel, be adopted. That motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call vote: AYES: Commissioners Baker, Dominick, Epperson, Jenkins, Linn, Lynch, McCulloch, Pierson, Smith and Thibodeaux (10). NAYS: None. ABSTAINING: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Cox and Escude (2).

RESOLUTION NO. 21 OF 2009

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH ADMINISTRATOR TO RETAIN SPECIAL LEGAL COUNSEL AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Department of Juvenile Services has initiated a judicial commitment and anticipates the need to periodically involve itself in judicial commitments other proceedings pending in Caddo Juvenile Court; and

WHEREAS, the Parish Attorney has recommended to the Commission that it would be in the best interest of Caddo Parish for it to retain the services of Michelle D. Brown as Special Counsel to represent the Caddo Parish in these matters and provide advise and counsel to the Commission concerning its responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, Attorney Michelle D. Brown is a highly competent attorney with extensive experience in the area of judicial commitments and interdictions; and

WHEREAS, the Commission does hereby concur in the Parish Attorney's recommendation to retain Michelle D. Brown as Special Counsel in the aforesaid matter.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session concerned that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby authorize the Parish Administrator or his designee to retain on behalf of Caddo Parish Michelle D. Brown at an hourly rate not to exceed the rates authorized by the Louisiana Attorney General (currently \$175.00 per hour), with other terms of the engagement being set forth in a retainer agreement to be negotiated between the Parish Attorney and Ms. Brown.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVE that if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provision of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolution or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

It was **moved by Mr. Linn**, seconded by Ms. Lynch, *that Resolution No. 21 of 2009, authorizing the Parish Administrator to retain special legal counsel for Juvenile Services, be adopted. That motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call vote: AYES: Commissioners Baker, Dominick, Epperson, Jenkins, Linn, Lynch, McCulloch, Pierson, Smith and Thibodeaux (10). NAYS: None. ABSTAINING: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Cox and Escude (2).

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mrs. McCulloch**, seconded by Mr. Dominick, *that Mr. Lonzo Stewart be appointed to the Board of Commissioners of Fire District No. 2, to replace Mr. Hugh Dean as requested by the Board, term to expire January 1, 2011; effective immediately. Motion carried.*

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mrs. Baker, *that Mr. John H. Stewart be appointed to the Board of the Coordinating and Development Corporation. Motion carried.*

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

/s/

Stephanie Lynch
President

/s/

Jerry C. Spears
Commission Clerk