

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 5TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2010

The Caddo Parish Commission met in legal and regular session on the above date at 3:30 p.m. in the Government Chamber with Mr. John Escude, President, presiding, and the following members in attendance, constituting a quorum: Commissioners Baker, Cox, Dominick, Epperson, Escude, Jenkins, Linn, Lynch, McCulloch, Pierson, Smith and Thibodeaux (12).
ABSENT: None.

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

It was moved by Mr. Dominick, seconded by Mr. Cox, that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on July 8, 2010, be adopted. Motion carried.

COMMUNIQUES AND REPORTS

Administrator Woodrow Wilson stated that the Administration had just received the formal audit report. He asked Mrs. Erica Bryant, Director of Finance, to comment on the report.

Mrs. Bryant said that Commissioners had been provided the Audit Report as well as the Single Audit Report, which includes federal grants. She said that this year's report is a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The Parish has not issued a CAFR in 16 years, she said, because the Parish has not heretofore been successful in including every Parish component in the Audit Report. A CAFR could not be issued without those component units, but for 2009 they were allowed to be included in the report.

There is an unqualified opinion with the Audit Report, she said, with only two issues being noted. One was a reporting issue with a stimulus grant for Caddo Community Action Agency for timely reporting, but that has been resolved. The other issues concerned the Commission's failure to adopt the 2009 budget by the legal required deadline. The auditors will appear before the Commission if desired, she said.

Mr. Wilson then stated that he wished to present an update in regard to the ongoing discussions with the City of Shreveport concerning the replacement of the leaking roof at the Government Plaza Building. As a result of meeting with City officials within the past couple of days, he said, the process is now under the Commission's control. He asked Mr. Keith McClung, Director of Facilities and Maintenance, to report.

Mr. McClung said that he and his staff had met with Purtle and Associates, engineers, and LeBlanc and Young, architects, on Wednesday. The engineers surveyed this building, he said, and are working on design of the project on heating and air conditioning. The goal is to have prints in three weeks, then advertise for bids and award contracts in mid-to-late October. The project is estimated to take four months, with an estimated completion date of

March, 2011 for both the roofing and the HVAC, he said.

Answering a question from Mr. Pierson, Mr. McClung said that the work is being planned around the seasonable weather of the fall and winter, as cooling capacity in the building will be greatly diminished during construction.

Mr. Wilson thanked the Commission for its support of the Administration's efforts to finally get the roof of the building repaired.

President Escude said that as a result of the Commission's efforts on Monday he, Mr. Cox and the Administration had met with the Mayor, Chief Administrative Officer and other City leaders and had resolved differences with the City over the roof problem. It was agreed that the Parish would take the initiative and the lead in getting the roof and air conditioner repairs done, and the City has assured the Commission that it will work more closely with the Parish in the future to quickly address problems. In light of this agreement, he said, later in the agenda he would ask that the Commission take no action on the resolution that was proposed Monday at the Work Session.

Mrs. McCulloch said that all Commissioners should have a copy of a letter from City Councilman Calvin Lester regarding the sale of a parcel of adjudicated property, and a resolution from the City Council asking the Parish to investigate and consider rescinding that sale. She asked Mr. Jimmy Whittington, Public Works, to comment.

Mr. Whittington said that Mr. Lester had referenced a piece of adjudicated property upon which the Parish had accepted an application through the City's "dollar program", in which adjoining property owners can purchase an adjudicated property for one dollar provided they have kept the property maintained for at least a year

The Parish does not participate in that program, he said, so it took a regular application on the property from Ms. Norma Smith, an adjoining property owner who proposed to buy the property based on its appraised value per an appraisal for which she had paid. At some later time Ms. Green, also an adjoining property owner on the other side, approached the City to buy the property for one dollar. The Parish's agreement with the City is that the Parish processes whichever application arrives first, in this case that being the application of Ms. Smith.

Mr. Whittington said that typically the City will advise the Parish when it has taken an application for an adjudicated property, at which time the Parish would no longer consider applications. In this instance the City failed to notify the Parish, so the Parish was obligated to follow its own rule of accepting the first application received. The property was sold to Ms. Smith, the deed was signed by Mayor Glover and recorded at the Courthouse.

Later the City completed its process and notified Ms. Green that it was ready to conclude the sale of the property. When the deed was sent up to be signed by Administrator Wilson, the City was informed that the property had already been sold, and that the Parish considers the sale final. The City recognized its error and apologized for the grief and inconvenience cause.

Mrs. McCulloch thanked Mr. Whittington for clarifying the incident.

Ms. Lynch then reported that Commissioners had recently attended the National Association of Counties annual conference, and she wished to report on some pertinent matters. Actions of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council are progressing, and NACO is continuing to provide resources and technical assistance.

Also, she said, the Commissioners accepted a NACO Achievement Award on behalf of the Animal Services and Mosquito Control Department. Some 3,000 counties submitted for achievement awards, she said, and it is significant that Caddo Parish is a frequent winner.

Also, she said, Caddo Parish is one of 53 Louisiana parishes that are NACO members. Caddo Parish has the highest number of presidential appointees in the State: Commissioner Baker, sub-committee vice-chair for housing on the Community and Economic Development Committee, and secretary of Women of NACO. Commissioner Pierson, currently serving as President of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana, will be serving on the NACO Board of Directors for the next two years. She said that she is vice-chair of the Juvenile Committee under Justice and Public Safety for the second year, and she was also elected vice-president of the National Association of Black County Officials and chair of the NACO Programs and Services Committee.

Mr. Epperson then commented that he has been told by constituents who watch the Commission's proceedings on television that private conversations carried on by Commissioners seated around the dais are not, in fact, private. They are being picked up by the Chamber's microphones and televised across the City. Some of the conversations are unflattering and disrespectful of other Commissioners, he said. He recommended that such conversations be conducted outside the room.

Mr. Smith then reported that on the evening of August 2 the Commission had attempted to hold a special meeting to discuss the study performed in connection with a proposed Parish ordinance directed at noise produced by the energy industry. Members of the Bossier City Council, as well as interested individuals from the public and the industry were present, he said.

However, Mr. Smith said, shortly into the presentation by the consultants, downtown Shreveport experienced a power failure that compelled the adjournment of the meeting. This meeting will be re-scheduled, he said, so that the public will have adequate opportunity to examine the provisions of the ordinance well-prior to its adoption.

The President then asked if there were any members of the public who wished to address the Commission.

Ms. Jacqueline Hollins, 2608 Leaf Lane, Shreveport, came forward and stated that wished to thank the Commission for its funding and support of the Temple Enrichment Center's

Kids Adventure Camp program. With this help, the organization was able to keep 35 kids off the streets and out of trouble during the summer. They also learned life skills and how to respect themselves and others. She asked the Commission to continue this funding in its next budget.

Next came Mrs. Beth Foster, 6916 Oak Circle, Shreveport. She thanked the Commission for its attention to quality-of-life issues in the region, and for its continued support for programs educating and equipping a community. It is important to emphasize the diminishing of aquatic programs for all ages, she said. Education programs for swimming, boating and life-saving are most important in this area, she said.

A "From the Past to the Future" YWCA reunion program is being planned, she said. It is about group and individual involvement in America's strength. She asked the Commission's assistance in helping plan this event. Its purpose is to share memories of the stories of all the programs that were under the auspices of the YWCA, including its aquatic programs. It will be held at Lake Life Development Center, the former YWCA spa center, under the auspices of the Lake Bethlehem Baptist Church.

President Escude thanked the speakers for their comments.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

Ordinance No. 5001 of 2010, amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Oil and Gas Fund for the year 2010 to provide an appropriation of \$200,000 for Accion Texas, Inc., D/B/A Accion Louisiana, Inc., for a small business loan program, authorizing the Caddo Parish Administrator to execute a cooperative endeavor agreement with the aforesaid company pertaining thereto

Ordinance No. 5002 of 2010, to rescind the sale of certain adjudicated property.

The President asked if there was anyone present to speak in support of or in opposition to either of the above ordinances, and Ms. Lydia Jackson came forward and identified herself as the CRA business development officer for Capital One Bank. She said that she and others from Capital One earlier in the year had made a presentation soliciting the Commission's business as fiscal agent. Many of the questions raised during that request-for-proposals centered around the bank's outreach activities and community activities.

One of the things Capital One promised and touted, she said, was an introduction of Accion Louisiana into the market, Ms. Jackson continued. Capital One is pleased to now state that Accion Louisiana is now operating in Shreveport, with offices at the Southern University Business Incubator. Capital One also will be establishing an office there soon, she said.

Capital One recognizes that there is a special need for niche lending, for those people who need loans who are capable of providing the community with services, businesses or

enterprises that will spur economic development and support the community. That is why the bank is supporting Accion, she said, and it has in fact spent time and resources recruiting the company into Louisiana. They are an outstanding organization; the nation's premier micro-enterprise lender, she said.

Capital One Bank in no way receives any profit from Accion, Ms. Jackson said, even though the bank sends customers it cannot serve to Accion. The bank is simply trying to provide an additional service to its customers that it, for whatever reason in these difficult credit times, cannot provide service to. Accion, a non-profit business, is a welcome alternative to this class of customers, she said.

Ms. Jackson urged the Commission to consider investing in this partnership. Capital One and other regional banks have found that Accion is an excellent working model for extending access to credit to worthy but technically unqualified borrowers.

Next came Mr. Jim Montgomery, executive director of the Carolyn W. and Charles T. Beard Family Foundation. He said it is a non-profit organization that exists to provide grant funds for worthy organizations trying to improve life in the communities of northwest Louisiana.

Among the needs the Foundation has encountered in the past, he said, have been small business people or people were not yet small business people but desperately wanted to be. These people had an idea, the energy and the passion to make a business work, but the lacking ingredient was capital, and a corresponding lack of one or more qualifications that would permit a traditional commercial loan. In some cases banks may have implemented a "lockout" on a particular business sector that excluded the hopeful entrepreneurs.

Many of those people came to the Foundation seeking funds, Mr. Montgomery said, but it cannot give money to individuals or for-profits. At some point Accion presented itself, which was like a gift: at last there was a mechanism by which the Foundation could use its money to help small business people get the loans they need. The hope and purpose is that these people can succeed and within a couple of years would qualify for commercial bank loans.

The Beard Foundation has provided \$150,000 in strictly operating money for Accion to come to Caddo Parish and set up offices. The Community Foundation and the Grayson Foundation have also contributed to operating funds for Accion, based on the company's method of operation and its success rate.

There is an abundance of people in this area who have the requisite personal qualities to make a business succeed, and it is these people who will benefit from an access to capital, he said.

Then came Mr. Steven Bell, president of Accion, who said that Accion Louisiana has been operational in this community for about 30 days, but it already has about \$400,000 in loans in the process of being evaluated. He said he has met with several area bankers who say that because of tightened underwriting guidelines there are industries being locked out of access to commercial bank financing, even though they meet all the criteria for credit-worthiness. Most

of these capital needs are for \$100,000 or less, he said.

He said that he would urge the Commission to consider this proposal, so that Accion can come into the community and help the small business people to grow, to prosper and to create jobs within the community.

The President thanked Ms. Jackson, Mr. Montgomery and Mr. Bell for their comments. There being no others wishing to speak, he declared the public hearing on ordinances to be concluded and directed the Clerk to present those ordinances for final passage..

ORDINANCES: (For final passage)

ord 5001

It was moved by Mr. Jenkins, seconded by Ms. Lynch, that Ordinance No. 5001 of 2010, amending the Oil and Gas Fund Budget for the year 2010 to provide an appropriation of \$200,000 for Accion Texas, Inc., D/B/A Accion Louisiana, Inc., for a small business loan program, authorizing the Caddo Parish Administrator to execute a cooperative endeavor agreement with the aforesaid company pertaining thereto.

Mr. Jenkins stated that his motion would include an amendment to the ordinance as originally proposed, that being in the seventh clause, to add language stating “for terms and conditions set forth in a cooperative endeavor agreement to be executed between the parties.”

Mr. Jenkins said that the amendment embraces some changes that have been agreed upon since the ordinance was originally introduced. He said he would hope that by now this proposal has been in view long enough for Commissioners to learn whatever they need to know about it. He said he would also hope there is no question in anyone’s mind that Accion is among the best, if not the best, in the role of micro-lender.

Mr. Jenkins said that he is attentive to the concerns of his colleagues, and one objection he heard was that there was no provision for the repayment of these funds. Commissioners have now been provided copies of the cooperative endeavor agreement to govern the relationship between the Parish and Accion. This agreement is still a work in progress, but the ordinance before the Commission now is for the appropriation of funds to implement the agreement. No funds will exchange hands until the agreement has been finalized.

The agreement at this point states that all of the funds that will be used for loans will be repaid to the Parish according to a schedule of every 90 days. Also, he said, the actual loans will be collateralized through real estate, equipment or some other object of tangible value. However, the Parish will not be responsible for going out and trying to collect on delinquent loans. The relationship being created is between the Parish and Accion, he said. Accion is willing guarantee repayment of the loans.

Another concern originally was the amount of the Parish’s contribution that would go to administration and operational expenses by Accion. Those were originally to be a grant,

but in this agreement, those funds also will be repaid by Accion beginning in 2011, Mr. Jenkins said. In consequence, he said, these changes mean that all Parish money will be paid back by Accion.

Mr. Jenkins said that the Parish maintains control of this relationship on an annual basis. It provides that the Parish may withhold any and all payments contemplated for 2011 and 2012 for any reason being appropriate, in the Commission's sole judgment. Each year before another appropriation is made, the Parish has the right to continue or discontinue.

Finally, he said, the Parish will not be turning \$500,000 over to Accion at one time. The appropriation for 2010 will be \$200,000, and going into 2011 there are provisions that if those funds have not been expended, the carry-over will go forward as part of the appropriation for the following year. There may never come a time when the Parish has ever put forward \$500,000, he said.

This agreement requires the employees of Accion to be bonded for the amount of \$500,000, Mr. Jenkins said. Given the history of this company, and the safeguards that the Commission is putting in place, the interests of the Parish are being well protected, he said. He said that he would not have it any other way.

These are tough financial times, Mr. Jenkins said, and there are a lot of needs in the community. He said he supports the idea of bringing new major industry and business into the Parish, but the businesses and business prospects that are already here should not be overlooked. The environment is tough for small businesses, he said, and resources and options that were once available to them are no longer out there. The Parish has millions and millions of dollars, he said, and there is no reason not to make \$500,000 available to help the small businesses and people of the Parish. Accion provides that opportunity, he said.

Ms. Lynch stated that the Commission has established a tradition of stepping forward and addressing challenges and doing things in new and different ways. This program offers another opportunity for Caddo Parish to step to the forefront and provide an economic stimulus for this region.

Mr. Jenkins, responding to a question from Mr. Smith, said that as originally proposed part of the Parish funds would have been used as administrative operating funds by Accion. That has now changed, and all of the money appropriated by the Parish will be re-paid by Accion. Initially the money was to be considered a grant with no expectation of repayment; now it is to be considered a loan to be re-paid in full, he said.

Mr. Smith said as he understands the new proposal, Accion will be guaranteeing the loan. Mr. Jenkins said that that is correct.

Mr. Smith asked what assets of Accion can be considered a surety for the loan.

Mr. Bell came forward and stated that the company has an audited financial statement on-line which states the corporation's current assets, those being a portfolio of \$26

million of loans. The company is self-funded by 60 percent currently, so it has equity in its loans. The company also has physical assets—offices, furnishings, equipment and cash. It also recently acquired through a merger another \$60 million in loan portfolios with the City of San Antonio, and \$20 million through a merger with the State of Texas. The company has a proven track record of many years, he said.

Mr. Bell said that when Mr. Jenkins informed him of the Commission's initial concern about appropriating funds as a grant to Accion, he advised Mr. Jenkins that Accion could re-structure the proposal as a loan.

Mr. Bell said that his company views Louisiana and Caddo Parish as fertile ground for a micro-lender to establish itself and be able to help small business people. In his opinion, he said, because of the financial void that currently exists in the community, the Commission's adoption of this ordinance will prove far more important to the people of the Parish than it will to Accion.

Mr. Linn said the changes stated by Mr. Jenkins have been set forth only within the past 36 hours, and they are not part of the documents placed before the Commissioners at this meeting. He said he would be more comfortable tabling the motion until more information can be obtained, as well as input from the public.

Mr. Jenkins pointed out that the terms of the relationship with Accion will be dictated by the cooperative endeavor agreement. There will be adequate opportunity for input into that document before it is finalized, he said.

Mr. Smith said that he cannot approve this plan at this meeting, but he conceded that he does view it more favorably than he did when it was first presented. He said that if he understands correctly under the new terms the only loss to the Parish will be the loss of interest on the principal amount. Mr. Jenkins agreed.

Mr. Smith pointed out that this money is taxpayer funds; the Commission will supposedly be using taxpayer money to fund a worthy cause. He asked if the taxpayers can expect any return on their money, other than hopefully an increase in the number of small businesses.

Mr. Jenkins replied that he believes that return will be sufficiently beneficial to the citizens. He pointed out that the Commission can and will evaluate the program's viability each year, and it decide whether to continue it or discontinue it.

Mr. Escude agreed that the cooperative endeavor agreement can be amended or dissolved by the Commission at any point, should objections arise regarding its implementation and it is considered no longer in the best interests of the Parish. The Commission can stop the program at any time.

Mr. Cox said that he had heard expressions of serious concern from constituents and employees about the micro-loan program when it was first proposed and when the

Commission's participation was to be in the form of a grant. He commended Mr. Jenkins for the work he has done on this program, stating that he has now brought a proposal that can be more favorably viewed by the Commission. He said it is important that the Commission implement this agreement correctly the first time.

Mr. Pierson said that this is a program for the same citizens that pay taxes, and it contains nothing so difficult that the Commission cannot monitor and control it. The program is straightforward and understandable, he said, and there is no apparent reason why it should require more weeks or months of study. Citizens are in need of this program now, he said.

Mr. Escude said that he was initially opposed to this program because of that fact that it was basically a grant of public funds, and an inappropriate use of a grant. With the changes being proposed, now all the Parish is doing is loaning capital to assist community businesses. There will be no help from the state or federal governments, he pointed out.

Hopefully this money will be returned to the Parish in multiples as a result of new sales taxes that might be generated. Mr. Escude also commended Mr. Jenkins for working to make this proposal acceptable.

At this time Mr. Jenkins' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call vote:
AYES: Commissioners Baker, Cox, Dominick, Epperson, Escude, Jenkins, Lynch, McCulloch, Pierson
NAYS: Commissioners Linn, Thibodeaux
ABSTAINING: None. ABSENT: None.

ord 5002

It was moved by Mrs. Baker, seconded by Mr. Epperson, that Ordinance No. 5002 of 2010, to rescind the sale of certain adjudicated property, be adopted. That motion carried, as shown by the following roll call vote: AYES: Commissioners Baker, Cox, Dominick, Epperson, Escude, Jenkins, Linn, Lynch, McCulloch, Pierson, Smith and Thibodeaux (12). NAYS: None. ABSTAINING: None. ABSENT: None.

ORDINANCES: (For introduction, by title)

Ordinance No. 5003 of 2010, amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund in the amount of \$25,000 for the Red River Revel, Inc., for the year 2010

Ordinance No. 5004 of 2010, to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to execute an intergovernmental agreement with the Village of Rodessa concerning recreational services

Ordinance No. 5005 of 2010, proposing an amendment to the Caddo Parish Home Rule Charter for presentation to the electorate

Ordinance No. 5006 of 2010, to deem property surplus (heavy equipment and air filters) and to authorize the sale of surplus property

Ordinance No. 5007 of 2010, to lease a portion of land in Earl Williamson Park for placement of an ice machine to serve park patrons

Ordinance No. 5008 of 2010, to deem property surplus and to authorize the sale of surplus property

Ordinance No. 5009 of 2010 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

RESOLUTIONS:

reso 37

It was moved by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Dominick, that Resolution No. 37 of 2010, authorizing Caddo Parish Waterworks District No. 7 to incur debt and to ratify a taxable promissory note not to exceed \$86,000, be adopted. That motion carried, as shown by the following roll call vote: That motion carried, as shown by the following roll call vote: AYES: Commissioners Baker, Cox, Dominick, Epperson, Escude, Jenkins, Linn, Lynch, McCulloch, Pierson, Smith and Thibodeaux (12). NAYS: None. ABSTAINING: None. ABSENT: None.

reso 38

It was moved by Mr. Escude, seconded by Mrs. Baker, that Resolution No. 38 of 2010, to establish the Caddo Parish Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, be adopted. That motion carried, as shown by the following roll call vote: AYES: Commissioners Baker, Cox, Dominick, Epperson, Escude, Jenkins, Linn, Lynch, McCulloch, Pierson, Smith and Thibodeaux (12). NAYS: None. ABSTAINING: None. ABSENT: None.

Reso 39

It was moved by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Pierson, that Resolution No. 39 of 2010, to support the preparation of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Public Housing Authority Plan for Fiscal Year 2011, be adopted. That motion carried, as shown by the following roll call vote: AYES: Commissioners Baker, Cox, Dominick, Epperson, Escude, Jenkins, Linn, Lynch, McCulloch, Pierson, Smith and Thibodeaux (12). NAYS: None. ABSTAINING: None. ABSENT: None.

It was moved by Mr. Escude, seconded by Mr. Pierson, that Resolution No. 40 of 2010, regarding the roof and HVAC equipment at Government Plaza located at 505 Travis Street, be withdrawn from the agenda as the matter it addressed has apparently been resolved. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

It was moved by Mr. Dominick, seconded by Mr. Cox, that Mr. David Hale, Mr. Elmer E. Moreau, Mr. Vernon Jennings and Mr. Charles Barr be reappointed to the Black Bayou

Watershed Commission, new terms to expire August 14, ?? effective immediately. Motion carried.

Mr. Dominick pointed out that a fifth member, Mr. Gary Wolfe, has resigned. His expired term will be filled in the near future, he said.

NEW BUSINESS:

It was moved by Mr. Jenkins, seconded by Mrs. McCulloch, that Commissioners be authorized to attend the Louisiana Police Jury Association Black Caucus' 2010 Economic Empowerment Summit' to be held in Shreveport August 19-21.

It was moved by Ms. Lynch, seconded by Mr. Epperson, that Ms. Njeri Camara be appointed as Caddo Parish's representative on the board of the Human Service District. Motion carried.

It was moved by Mrs. McCulloch, seconded by Mr. Jenkins, that Mrs. Maxie Smith be appointed to the Board of Commissioners of Caddo Parish Lakeview Waterworks District to fill the unexpired term (March 17, 2014) of Ms. Mary Morris, effective immediately. Motion carried. (Vote was unanimous)

It was moved by Mrs. McCulloch, seconded by Mr. Dominick, that Mr. Gerald Fussell be appointed to the Board of Commissioners of Caddo Parish Sewerage District No. 2 to fill the unexpired term (September 11, 2012) of Mr. Ronnie Davis, effective immediately. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

John Escude
President

Jerry C. Spears
Commission Clerk