

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 23RD DAY OF MAY, 2020

The Caddo Parish Commission met in legal and regular session, on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., via Zoom teleconference, with President Chavez, presiding, and the following members in attendance, constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). ABSENT: None (0).

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

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Mr. Melvin Smith sent in the following statement:

Hello, my name is Melvin Smith, I am a homeowner in West Shreveport. The Caddo Alliance for Freedom does not speak for me. I would like to see the MPC remain as a joint endeavor of the Caddo Commission and the Metropolitan Planning Commission. I am afraid that setting up another office will only create more layers of government WASTE and BUREAUCRACY. The people who are upset about the Commission and the MPC seem only concerned about how this will affect their property. I do not want trailers, run down cars, tow trucks, chicken barn, horse stables, and God only knows what else next to our home. If you all don't get anything right for heaven's sake I hope you all will get this issue right. Is the MPC perfect? Absolutely not but I do not want my zoning and planning being determined by elected officials who live in Houma or Catahoula. I beg you all to come the table and find a solution to this problem. NO MORE GOVERNMENT SPENDING!

Francis Young sent in the following statement:

As a resident with significant investment in this area and region, I am opposed to having Baton Rouge legislator have a say in how we develop our community. I have been fortunate enough to do business in all areas of Caddo Parish and Northwest La. I attended as many public meetings as I could and attended meeting hosting by Chamber of Commerce to resolve issues with UDC. It is not perfect but repealing it with nothing in place can hurt property values. I am asking you to please stand up and vote yes to Resolution 32.

Ken Krefft sent in the following statement:

The last parish wide vote to raise funds for a badly underfunded juvenile justice program was a new 0.1% sales & use tax to run 10 years starting 1/1/07, held 11/7/06, a mayoral runoff between Cedric Glover & Jerry Jones. Although 32,838 folks voted for it, there were 35,502 who cast no ballots, a defeat of 51-49%. Let us undertake a serious and deliberative discussion about trying to develop a reasonable juvy justice funding proposal, maybe at the next committee meeting for that purpose. The state handed every parish another unfunded mandate when the 17 year olds, under the adult legal system, were swapped to the juvy system. My question remains: how much longer are we going to expend roughly \$3M yearly to subsidize juvenile justice? It's time to act. Very respectfully submitted, Kenneth J Krefft

Mr. Baylor Smith sent in the following statement:

More Government spending to create more government positions will not solve the problems of the unincorporated areas of Caddo Parish or any part of Caddo Parish. I do not want my tax dollars going to pay for more staffing at the Parish when we have the highest tax rate in this area. My home is just across the street from line that separates the city and the parish. Removing the Commission from the MPC and banning the UDC will create uncertainty and confusion for business owners and residents in and out of the Parish. I fear that if the two are not consistent anything can pop up across neighborhoods. Most of my neighbors are working class professionals who have worked extremely hard to live where we do. The threat of two separate planning and zoning boards is both inefficient and extremely scary. We should respect property rights without duplication in government and excessive government spending. The UDC is a result of the 2020 Master Plan that both Caddo Parish Commission and the City of Shreveport agreed to do after months and years of meetings. It is not wise to have this undone in less than 30 days from the legislature with very little input and vetting. Please vote to protect property taxes and not more government spending.

Jon Glover sent in the following statement:

"As I looked over Resolution 32 of 2020 again, I knew why the fight was well worth fighting. Government fighting against "we the people", who does that and yet that's what Resolution, to me, represents, government fighting against the very "we the people" it was elected to represent. So, I pray that the legislation, Resolution 32 of 2020 will gain no traction, in other words, no support for it sends

a clear and precise message, politics and no "we the people" being represented." As always, thank you for your service and if I need to direct future communications to other than you, please provide that contact information. Again, thank you for all you do and continue to do to help our elected officials of the Caddo Parish Commission. God bless!

Ms. Virginia Evans sent in the following statement:

I live out in the city and the parish. I'm calling about HB697 bill. Someone called me and said that they are sending out emails and fliers to the public concerning this. My concern is, are you using public funds to lobby against this bill. And if so, do the taxpayers have something to say about this?

Ms. Jean Woods sent in the following statement:

Dear Commissioners: My name is Jean Woods. I am a homeowner and longtime resident of West Shreveport. I have attended numerous community meetings and spoke with many residents in our community. **Therefore, we are asking you to please "Vote in Favor of Resolution 32"** We appreciate the great work you and we thank you for taking care of our communities and city. Sincerely, Jean Woods

Ms. Jayne Tappe sent in the following statement:

This is concerning the commissioners that are coming against HB 697. Commissioners, I can not express enough how disappointed I am. In you, as the Commission. You told us to approach this issue thru the Legislative Process. We did. Now, you are crawfishing. You are backing up. You are playing POLITICS. You don't represent the people. You say you do. But you don't. You represent YOU. If you live in a district that is 99% in the city limits, then your people in that district that are not affected by the UDC and that don't live outside of the city limits should NOT be the ones that you are listening to. While, yes, they can have an opinoin, you should be reaching out and listening, LISTENING, to the people outside of the city that you are attempting to castrate. You should be listening to those of us who are affected. You should be listening to those that your rules and restrictions will affect. You are not listening. You are playing word games. You are doing what benefits YOU somehow. Not what benefits, affects and changes the lives, YES, the livelihood of thousands of people. Not the 1,200 or so that were actually told about the UDC way back in 2017. Not the few that you have listening to your bidding. Or that you can tell partial facts to and expect them to support your ideas. But the people that are actually affected by your rules and laws trying to govern us in the Parish. You are trying to take advantage of the lack of the ability for the people to come before YOU as a body. You are trying to slide things in under the guise of a proper meeting and the ability for all the people to see and know what you are doing. You know exactly what you are doing. We will not stop this fight. You will not prevail. We will fight for our freedoms and our rights and the fact that you are not listening to us when all this time you tried to make us thing you were listening. Shame. Shame on you as a body. Now, obviously, I am not talking to those of you who are in support of the people's rights and those siding with the passing of HB 697. It's the rest of you. We can just call you what you are, Louisiana CRAWFISH. Backin' up. We will remember who you are and when it comes time, we will address you individually as you attempt to run for your position again. Who do you serve? Do you serve the people? I think that answer will be revealed today by your vote.

Ms. Patricia Smith sent in the following statement:

Resolution 32 is nothing more than Mr. Jacksons attempt to say that the constituents of Rural Caddo Parish are not smart enough to cooperate with THEIR commissioner on these issues. This commission has had ample time to correct these issues. HB 697 will give the rural parish residents a voice and any commissioner who votes with Mr. Jackson proves their loyalty.

Ms. Jessica Tullis sent in the following statement:

REAL NEWS UPDATE: UNDERSTANDING HB697 WHAT IS HB 697? HB 697 will remove the city of Shreveport's Metropolitan Planning Commission's (MPC) authority over the rural 5 mile planning limits and return the authority to our "elected" Caddo Parish Commissioners doing away with the city controlled "Appointed" MPC Board. AS A RESULT ... The City of Shreveport's Vision, the "2030 Master Plan" and the Unified Development Code will no longer infringe upon the property rights of its rural citizens. Our elected officials, the Caddo Parish Commissioners will draw up and approve a more appropriate rural planning/zoning code for its citizens. WHO IS EFFECTED BY HB 697? Everyone living within the 5-mile planning limits that extend beyond Shreveport's city limits. UNDESIRABLE LAND-USES WILL STILL NOT BE ALLOWED If the law passes, our elected Caddo Parish Commissioners, WILL STILL PROTECT US from undesirable land uses. A few of these undesirable land-uses include, but are not limited to: Rendering, Plant, Hog, Farm, Mobile Home Subdivision, Sexually Oriented Business, Junkyard or Salvage Yard, Bar or, Liquor Store. WHY THE EXISTING LAW DOESN'T WORK FOR THE

RURAL CADDO CITIZENS! The MPC currently enforces two zoning ordinances—the Shreveport UDC and the Caddo Parish UDC: BOTH ARE PRACTICUALLY THE SAME AFTER THEY REZONED IN 2017 WITHOUT OUR KNOWLEDGE OR APPROVAL. Currently the MPC has many fence and structure regulations and limitations: The number of structures as well as height, space and size is regulated. Fences require permits to build and repair. Driveways now require asphalt or concrete, gravel no longer allowed, and they must be maintained. Your carport, garage, greenhouse and shed have restrictions and must meet standards as well. Boats, RV's, trailers, 4-wheelers, and farm equipment can't be seen from the road and must have proper storage. WE ARE ALL CURRENTLY BREAKING THESE REGULATIONS!!Currently The MPC regulates Caddo's rural agriculture: Horses and chickens will require yearly registration and inspection, Chickens (maximum 8) are to be maintained on non-permeable surface, no roosters and no culling. Horses and other livestock require minimum living and grazing area appropriations. SHREVEPORT NOW KNOWS BEST FARMING PRACTICES!!Currently the MPC has "aesthetic" requirements: Regulations they continuously ignore within the city limits of Shreveport yet now try to impose on rural Caddo Parish residents. These same often ridiculous restrictions are heavily imposed holding up new business growth. EX: BUSH, TREE & PARKING REQUIREMENTS Currently the MPC plans to hinder business growth outside the city limits: *Should HB 697 not pass, the Shreveport 2030 Master Plan proposes to limit natural business growth in the outer 5mile area with impact fees imposed on any new business outside the city-limits to encourage only inner city growth.* -Without HB697 all offenses listed above will be subject to citation and enforcement-SHOULD HB 697 BECOME THE LAW? Yes! With the many citizens of Caddo Parish behind us we are almost there! With the determination and support of Representative Danny McCormick and the hard work from Caddo Alliance for Freedom and so many others, we will restore your property rights and rural Caddo codes and ordinances to our area. FOR MORE INFORMATION & TRUTH CONTACT CADDO ALLIANCE FOR FREEDOM.

Mr. Robert Tucker called in and gave the following statement:

What else can I say after listening to the flyer that was read off? We live in rural Caddo Parish. There's no reason for us to have those laws put on us. I mean, we got tractors; we got boars; we got trailers and all kinds of stuff. We work hard, and we pay our taxes. Now you want us to build some kind of building to cover up everything we own? It's just not a good fit. Anybody that says it is has lost their mind. This just doesn't make any sense. You go into the city of Shreveport, and you look at the condition of the city of Shreveport. Who in the world thought it was a good idea to come out to the parish and start fining us? I just don't understand that. There are tens of thousands of violations in the City of Shreveport, and you're out here messing with us over lightbulbs and trailers on our property when we have 18-20 acres? I just don't get it I don't understand why anybody would wake up in the morning and say, I think—I don't get it. I just don't understand it. I'm very confused with y'all. This misrepresentation that was given to us by some parties up there telling us to go to the State. Then now everybody doesn't want to go to the state? That is wrong people. That is wrong. There ain't no way you can slice that and make it right with us. That's all I got.

#### **ADOPT REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *that the Regular Session Minutes from May 7, 2020 be adopted.* Motion carried.

#### **SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS**

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *that Special Proclamation proclaiming May 2020 as Women's Health Month in Caddo Parish be adopted.* Motion carried by acclamation.

Mrs. Gage-Watts reminded all women to take some time for themselves and take care of their health.

#### **PROCLAMATION WOMEN'S HEALTH MONTH**

Whereas, the importance of Women's health care is of paramount importance to the Parish of Caddo, where the majority of residents are women; and

Whereas, though great strides have been made in improving equal access to healthcare for women, still barriers exist; and

Whereas, Women can take steps to a healthier life by visiting a doctor for wellness screenings and preemptive tests, enjoying an active lifestyle, eating healthy foods, focusing on mental health such as proper sleep and stress management, and avoiding unhealthy choices like smoking, and distracted driving; and

Whereas, public support for policies, practices and cultural norms that encourage healthcare referrals, nutritional education, issues related to pregnancy and childcare, domestic violence and better access to healthy choices will save the lives of women and their children;

Whereas, Women's Health Week is celebrated nationally during the Month of May and was described by former President Barack Obama as, "an opportunity to refocus our commitment to advancing women's health and ensuring a healthy future for all our Nation's women and girls."

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, by the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal and regular session this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020 that it does hereby proclaim May 2020 as:

**'Women's Health Month'**

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and urges all citizens to join with the Parish in recognition of this important month.

Be It Further Resolved, that during Women's Health Month, the Caddo Parish Commission honors those we have lost, lends our strength to those who advocate for Women, and pledge to educate ourselves and our loved ones about this; and

Be It Further Resolved, that during Women's Health Month, the Caddo Parish Commission would like to also recognize those women who are on the front lines of serving and protecting citizen's during the covid-19 pandemic, their heroism deserves to be recognized; and

Be It Further Resolved that we stand with the mothers, daughters, sisters, aunts, and friends who seek healthier lives, and we recognize the ongoing efforts of dedicated advocates, researchers, and health care providers who strive each day to improve the health of Caddo Parish's women and girls.

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that Special Proclamation observing Monday, May 25, 2020 as Memorial Day in Caddo Parish* be adopted.

Mr. Epperson reminded the Commissioners that the significance of the Memorial Day is to honor our fallen men and women at various cemeteries and praying for peace. He encouraged the citizens of Caddo Parish to continue practicing social distancing when at Memorial Day events this weekend.

**PROCLAMATION  
MEMORIAL DAY 2020**

Whereas, since our nation's inception, brave men and women have given their lives to protect our freedoms in service to our great nation, and we have strived to honor their sacrifice through historic burial grounds and battlefields, memorials, and other tributes that recognize the fallen; and

Whereas, in 1967, federal law declared that the last Monday in May is designated as Memorial Day, beginning in 1971; and

Whereas, memorial day is a day of remembrance and celebration in honor of the heroism and valor of the members of the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force, and National Guard; and

Whereas, the Parish of Caddo pays tribute to the fallen, our veterans; and

Whereas, on this day, in our communities across the united states of America will remember loved ones who have given the ultimate sacrifice as part of ongoing conflicts, as well as those who fell during previous conflicts and war; and

Whereas, on this day, and throughout the year, the Parish of Caddo, joins citizens in their sorrow and pride for the fallen and in giving thanks to those who made the ultimate sacrifice to keep our nation free.

Be it Resolved, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, please observe all safety measures regarding social distancing and other CDC guidelines.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved, by the Caddo Parish Commission, in due and legal session, that it does hereby proclaim the 25<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020 as

**"Memorial Day"**

in Caddo Parish and commend its observance to all citizens.

**COMMUNIQES/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- NOTE: Certificate for Teleconference

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Louisiana has issued Proclamation Number 33 JBE 2020, stating that, due to the current Public Health emergency declared in the Governor's Proclamation Number 25 JBE 2020, and citing the provisions of La. R.S. 29:721, et seq., granting him the authority to control the "ingress and egress to and from a disaster, the movement of persons within the area, and the occupancy of premises therein; and,

WHEREAS, the Governor, in Proclamation Number 33 JBE 2020, has limited all gatherings of 10 or more people, for public safety purposes; and,

WHEREAS, Governor has issued a general stay at home order "unless performing an essential activity," 33 JBE 2020, Section 3; and,

WHEREAS, attendance at a Caddo Parish Commission Regular Session meeting is not stated in the list of essential activities, listed in 33 JBE 2020, Section 3; and,

WHEREAS, the usual conduct of the meeting would require travel and the presence of a number of persons in excess of ten (10); and,

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State, in Proclamation Number 30 JBE 2020, Section 4, issued on March 16, 2020, has invoked the aforementioned statutes authorizing him to allow attendance at essential governmental meetings via teleconference or video conference during the pendency of this emergency; and,

THEREFORE, the Caddo Parish Commission hereby certifies that it will not be able to obtain a quorum and convene a meeting in a public forum on May 25, 2020 due to the Governor's proclamations, and will be required to meet by video conference, and, if necessary teleconference, on that date as allowed by law and the Proclamations of the Governor listed above. Date: May 20, 2020

/s/Mario

Chavez  
Caddo Parish Commission President

- Dr. Wilson advised the Commissioners that they received the 2020 April Financial Reports via email.

- Mr. Epperson announced that he called a Veterans Celebration Committee at his home this morning to discuss Memorial Day and its significance. The Committee sent out an email to all members and other contacts to decorate their mailboxes in commemoration of Memorial Day.

- Mr. Johnson understood that the Personnel Policies & Procedures Committee met Monday to discuss Resolution No. 28 of 2020. He said that there was discussion regarding some items that the resolution was not to cover, for example, economic development. He explained that the intent of the resolution was not to include businesses coming to the Parish for economic development. He further explained that this resolution was to create a policy that would require an organization requesting funds to do so on letterhead with the authorizing agent's signature, not by email or by a third-party. He feels that this would be prudent with the taxpayers' dollars and provide a paper trail from the beginning.

Mr. Johnson also heard recently that Benteler Steel was laying off employees. He asked that Administration look further into this matter. Dr. Wilson said that there were employees furloughed, but it is their intention to bring those individuals back at a later time once things go back to normal. He also said that he would provide further research and get back to Mr. Johnson.

- Mr. Burrell stated that provided questions in an email regarding the mobile testing. He asked that those questions be answered. Mr. Epperson said that he also had questions for LSU and will be forwarding it to Administration.

Mr. Burrell offered condolences for the family and friends who have lost their lives due to COVID-19.

- Mrs. Gage-Watts congratulated the Class of 2020. She commended the graduates and offered prayers for a prosperous life.

She also thanked Animal Services for handling all of the complaints her constituents had.

Mrs. Gage-Watts also said that the Juvenile Detention Center has remained steady during the pandemic. She understands that the numbers escalated earlier this week, but that was due to

the overflow belonging to other entities. She said that the Juvenile Services Committee will convene after the pandemic.

She reminded everyone to stay safe during this pandemic.

- Mr. Hopkins said that the Personnel Policies & Procedures Committee met on Monday, and there was discussion regarding Resolution No. 28 of 2020. He said that the Committee had several questions. He would like to schedule another meeting with Mr. Johnson in attendance since he is the author of the legislation.
- Mr. Jackson asked that the Clerk of the Commission read aloud the letter received from the City of Shreveport:

Dear Chair Peterson and Members:

The undersigned members of the Shreveport City Council oppose the adoption of HB 697. We support the comments of Mr. Paul Farmer concerning land use best practices which were provided to members of the Legislature earlier, and we join the opposition to HB 697 by the Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce.

While agreeing with earlier points raised in opposition to the adoption of HB 697, our strongest opposition centers on the harm the adoption of this legislation could cause hundreds of residents of the City of Shreveport who are also citizens of Caddo Parish and the State of Louisiana.

There are forty-one residential subdivisions in the City of Shreveport locate adjacent to unincorporated land in Caddo Parish, one of the largest of which is Southern Trace with a championship golf course, tennis courses, and other country club amenities. The residential subdivisions are attached. If HB 697 is adopted these citizens will lose zoning and regulatory protections that have been in place since 1954. If HB 697 is adopted, uses such as rock crushing, dirt pits, landfills, heavy industrial facilities, night clubs, truck stops, salvage yards, and other heavy business entities will not be prohibited from locating adjacent to these subdivisions. Uses with external effects such as loud noise, dust, smoke, noxious odors, vibrations, and disturbing lights will not be prohibited. The adoption of this legislation could prevent the tranquil and peaceful enjoyment of their properties by the owners of existing homes and negatively affect their property values.

Another fact essential to this discussion is the following: Shreveport's Unified Development Code does not regulate any land outside the corporate limits of Shreveport. The Unified Development Code for Caddo Parish is an entirely separate document that was adopted by the Caddo Parish Commission, and it can be, and is frequently amended by the Caddo Parish Commission. The three Caddo Parish Commissioners who support HB 697 state that the adoption of HB 697 is a necessary first step for the Caddo Parish Commission to create zoning regulations and a master plan for Caddo Parish. The Caddo Parish Commission, however, now has the authority to create zoning regulations that protect the rights all citizens of Caddo Parish in an orderly fashion without putting any citizens at great risk.

We urge you to consider the hundreds of citizens who will be adversely affected by the adoption of HB 697, and to defeat this legislation.

Signed: /s/James Flurry District E, /s/Tabatha Taylor District A, /s/LeVette Fuller District B, /s/John Nickleson District C, /s/Grayson Boucher District D, /s/James Green District F, /s/Jerry Bowman, Jr. District G

Mr. Jackson pointed out that there is also a listing of residential neighborhoods available for the Commission.

#### ***PRESIDENT'S REPORT***

Mr. Chavez commended CPAS for handling the situation dealing with some citizens who could not have their mail delivered to them due to some dogs.

He also gave the following statement regarding Resolution No. 32:

To the Citizens:

We've had many debates about the MPC and the UDC, the 5-mile planning area, and the rights and restrictions of the Caddo Parish Commission. Today, we'll be voting on Resolution No. 32, urging the State Legislature to vote against HB 697. The title of this bill sounds very user-friendly on the side of my constituents, especially on the part that says "to allow local planning and zoning issues to be resolved by local governing entities and opposing legislation to the contrary". However, unfortunately, as I have learned to politics the fancy words don't always sum up the actual intent of the meaning of this specific legislation we may be voting on that day. As I go over HB 697 in the digest section, which helps

cuts through all of the legal terms and identifies the summary of the bill—this can be found on pages 25 through 27, and they identify current law and proposed law. There really only two proposed laws that really stick out to me, to see the change with HB 697 besides how the MPC setup is arranged. Those two sections state, “removes the territory of Caddo Parish from the jurisdiction of the Shreveport Metropolitan Planning Commission and restricts the Master Plan to areas inside the city limits of Shreveport”. Now we have some new Commissioners that have come onto the Commission, so they were not purvey to the endless hours and town hall meetings we have attended and the many meetings citizens have come down in front of us protesting the MPC and the UDC. Before I give a recap of those meetings, I would first like to say that the current MPC Director, Alan Clarke, has inherited this huge fiasco we call the UDC and has been more receptive and patient that I think most any citizen would have been. I am thankful he has not given up and walked out on us yet. I also understand in politics besides having to figure out the true meaning of words, you also find yourself working together with many people you’d rather not deal with getting accused cussed out and or yelled at for things you had no part in setting up. My hat’s off to you Mr. Clark. Regardless of Resolution 32 or HB 697, I want you to know that I know how hard you and your team have worked to fix this issue, and whatever the outcome I know we will still need you and your team to perform some duties to help the parish with zoning because there isn’t another local zoning entity we can go hire, and I applaud you for all the work you have done and are willing to continue to do. Today, we will hear a lot of information on both HB 697 and Resolution No. 32. I want to give my personal opinion as I have witnessed countless citizens that have come to be and address their desire to live freely their rural life. We will probably hear conversations today about chicken coops, driveways, trailers, and homebased businesses. We will also hear about unequal representation. There are currently about MPC board members, all members live in the city except one. So to that argument, yes they are extremely unequally represented, and I have a feeling that member will most likely get out voted many times. I applaud her for offering of her service to the parish. We will hear arguments for and against both resolutions. I can say the amount of face to face comments and emails from those citizens out in the Parish wishing to be outside of the control of the MPC, outside of the city border, has far outweighed any requesting to keep it. Matter of fact, I think only within the last three days, have I received any emails to the contrary. I know we will hear a lot of info on cost analysis and budgeting that we may or may not save \$50,000 a year if we do one or the other, but my stance is rock solid on this, I have heard from enough individuals over the last two years to know they demand their property rights, and do not want government telling them what to do with their land. What that looks like going forward will obviously depend on HB 697, however, I hope everyone on this meeting understands it’s our job to give the people what they want. We’re given our power by the people, and in turn, we are elected to serve the people. That concludes my President’s Report.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES**

Mr. Chavez asked if there was anyone in favor or against the following ordinances:

- *Ordinance No. 5956 of 2020, an ordinance authorizing an expenditures for the Reserve Trust Fund for the year 2020 to provide LSUHSC an appropriation of up to \$175,000.00 to perform COVID 19 testing and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 5957 of 2020, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund to provide an appropriation for Project Grace and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

Mr. Scott Martinez spoke in favor of Ordinance No. 5957 of 2020. He said that this is a call center contemplating Shreveport, and is in competition with another community in Texas. He also mentioned that this would allow the creation of about 400 jobs for the City of Shreveport and Caddo Parish. He also said that they hope to gain occupancy in the space on July 1. He asked that the Commission support this Ordinance.

- *Ordinance No. 5958 of 2020, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund to provide an appropriation for Southern University and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

Mr. Rodney Ellis spoke in favor of Ordinance No. 5958 of 2020. He thanked the Commission for their continued support over the years. He asked that the Commission support the funding for the aviation, nursing, and MSKICK programs at SUSLA. He reminded the Commission that the request for the nursing program is for the expansion of the nursing program. He also said that the request for the aviation program has decreased over the years. Mr. Ellis also mentioned that the MSKICK program provides free meals for those individuals in the Allendale area while cultivating an entrepreneurship program in the culinary field.

There being no one to speak for or against these ordinances, the President closed the public hearings on ordinances.

**ORDINANCES (for final passage)**

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that Ordinance No. 5956 of 2020, an ordinance authorizing an expenditures for the Reserve Trust Fund for the year 2020 to provide LSUHSC an appropriation of up to \$175,000.00 to perform COVID 19 testing and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted.

**Substitute motion by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *to englobo and adopt the following ordinances:*

- *Ordinance No. 5956 of 2020, an ordinance authorizing an expenditures for the Reserve Trust Fund for the year 2020 to provide LSUHSC an appropriation of up to \$175,000.00 to perform COVID 19 testing and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 5957 of 2020, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund to provide an appropriation for Project Grace and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 5958 of 2020, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund to provide an appropriation for Southern University and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

Mr. Johnson mentioned that he was not in favor of the funding for LSU on the dollar amount, but if LSU will be funded for testing, then SUSLA should be as well as Project Grace. He said that this area needs as many job opportunities it can get.

**Substitute motion by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to vote on each ordinance independently.*

Mr. Cawthorne said that he is in support of each one of the organizations. He is in favor of Mr. Johnson's substitute motion.

At this time, Mr. Hopkins' substitute motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Hopkins, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (6). NAYS: Commissioners Burrell, Cawthorne, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, and Johnson (6). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Mr. Jackson mentioned that Dr. Kevil, LSUHSC, is on the line for any questions.

Mrs. Gage-Watts would like the record to reflect that she is employed by Oschner/LSU Shreveport, but these funds are for the LSU Foundation.

At this time, Mr. Johnson's substitute motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Cawthorne, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, and Johnson (6). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Hopkins, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (6). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Jackson's original motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: Commissioner Johnson (1). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

**ORDINANCE NO. 5956 OF 2020**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN EXPENDITURE FOR THE RESERVE TRUST FUND FOR THE YEAR 2020 TO PROVIDE LSUHSC AN APPROPRIATION OF UP TO \$175,000.00 TO PERFORM COVID 19 TESTING AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, COVID 19 is a national pandemic in the United States; and

WHEREAS, national, state and local health emergencies have been declared due to the COVID 19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish citizens are contracting COVID 19 in large numbers; and

WHEREAS, testing for COVID 19 is necessary to slow the spread of the disease and to create informed public policy; and

WHEREAS, LSU Health and Sciences Center Shreveport has decided to deploy its Partners in Wellness Mobile Units to test for COVID 19; and

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish has \$350,000.00 appropriated for emergency aid in its Reserve Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish can assist in funding the mobile testing, thus reaching more Parish citizens, especially rural citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Reserve Trust Fund for the year 2020 is hereby allocated as follows:

Up to \$175,000.00 (one-hundred seventy-five thousand dollars) to LSUHS to reimburse for Partners in Wellness Mobile Testing in areas identified as community clusters of COVID19 spread and in rural areas of Caddo Parish. Individuals must meet CDC guidelines for testing with an income not to exceed 138% of the federal poverty level or meet CDC guidelines for testing and receive unemployment assistance. The Administrator will pursue any and all FEMA reimbursements for which these funds may be eligible. LSUHSC is to make draws in \$87,500.00 (eighty-seven thousand, five-hundred dollar) increments; the first \$87,500.00 is to be based on receipts for the first 30 days of the program and then provide the other \$87,500.00 after the first 30 days.

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 all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that Ordinance No. 5957 of 2020, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund to provide an appropriation for Project Grace and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. Epperson mentioned that the Industrial Development Board met on Thursday and voted in favor on backing the Commission up on the \$300,000.

At this time, Mr. Epperson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

**ORDINANCE NO. 5957 OF 2020**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND TO PROVIDE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PROJECT GRACE AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the North Louisiana Economic Partnership (NLEP) partners with the Caddo Parish Commission on economic development initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the NLEP has been working with a national site selector for Project Grace; and

WHEREAS, Project Grace represents a call center for a reputable client supporting bank transactions and is affiliated with 400 new direct fulltime jobs; and

WHEREAS, a site in Caddo Parish is the only site in Louisiana being considered and is now one of two finalists in the site selection process; and

WHEREAS, the Economic Development Committee of the Caddo Parish Commission recommends providing a \$300,000 appropriation for Project Grace over 5 years; 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 Economic Development Fund for the year 2020 is hereby amended as follows:

	<u>Budget Increase (Decrease)</u>
<b><u>Economic Development Fund</u></b>	
Allocation to Other Entities	
NGO Appropriations	
NLEP – Project Grace	\$112,500
Fund Balance	(\$112,500)

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. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *that Ordinance No. 5958 of 2020, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund to provide an appropriation for Southern University and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know the funding requests for SUSLA. Mr. Johnson said that the Nursing Program is requesting \$100k; the aviation program is requesting \$15k; and MSKICK is requesting \$20k. Mr. Johnson said that the initial request was \$600k, and now the request is for \$140k.

At this time, Mr. Johnson's motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Cawthorne, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, and Johnson (6). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Hopkins, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (6). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *that the Work Session Minutes from May 18, 2020 be approved. Motion carried.*

### **RESOLUTIONS**

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Taliaferro, *that Resolution No. 31 of 2020, a resolution to proclaim May 22, 2020 as National Maritime Day and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

### **RESOLUTION NO. 31 OF 2020**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION DECLARING MAY 22, 2020 AS NATIONAL MARITIME DAY, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, on May 22, 1819, the steamship *The Savannah* set sail from Savannah, Georgia on the first successful transoceanic voyage under steam propulsion, thus making a material contribution to the advancement of ocean transportation, and

WHEREAS, on May 20, 1933, the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled and approved that May 22 of each year shall be designated and known as National Maritime Day, and

WHEREAS, during WW II in what became the world's largest sealift operation, more than 250,000 members of the American Merchant Marine served their country, with more than 6,700 giving

their lives, hundreds being detained as prisoners of war and more than 800 ships being sunk or damaged, and

WHEREAS, waterways have enabled much of the commerce that has expanded America's economy, sprouted cities near waterways and facilitated vast domestic and international commerce crucial to our economy today, and

WHEREAS, merchant mariners have served America with distinction throughout our history, but especially at critical moments of war and natural disaster, and

WHEREAS, the United States Merchant Marine and thousands of other workers in our Nation's maritime industry continue to make immeasurable contributions to our economic strength and our ongoing efforts to build a more peaceful world, and

WHEREAS, the United States Merchant Marine also shepherds the safe passage of American goods, move exports to customers around the world, support the flow of domestic commerce on our maritime highways, strengthen our Nation's economy, bolster job creation and, along with the transportation industry, employ Americans on ships and tugs, and in ports, like our Port of Caddo Bossier, and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Caddo-Bossier Parishes Port Commission to increase the awareness of the maritime industry within Caddo and Bossier Parishes and the State of Louisiana.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby joins the President of the United States of America in proclaiming May 22, 2020, as National Maritime Day and calls upon the citizens of Caddo Parish to celebrate this observance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED 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. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *that Resolution No. 32 of 2020, a resolution urging and requesting the Louisiana Legislature to allow local planning and zoning issues to be resolved by local governing entities and opposing legislation to the contrary and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. Taliaferro gave the following statement:

Ben Franklin said justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are. You know, perhaps this is the most inspiring passionate subject matter I've had the privilege of discussing, both with my colleagues and the citizens who are directly affected. I observed the process of exchanging ideas through respectful dialogue and the civil expression of differences of opinion to achieve a better understanding of the lifestyle and the needs of our rural constituents. In all fairness, I'd like to express my great appreciation to Mr. Clark and his entire staff for their resolve for being fully engaged in listening to the concerns of our citizens within and beyond the limits of the five mile radius. Their total engagement in this process listening to their fellow citizens, recognizing the unfairness of the current UDC to our rural residents, and their willingness to resolve those issues of concern are commendable. Charged with a monumental task of repealing and replacing those ordinances which have for years gone unnoticed, but nonetheless been unfair to our rural constituents, was a challenge that he and his team were willing to assume. To Mr. Clark and to the developers and planners of the MPC, I thank you and your efforts have not gone unnoticed. Which brings us to the core of the matter. The rights pertaining to land ownership and the limited government overreach and infringement on those rights. Those citizens directly affected have been abundantly clear of their opposition to the current applications of the UDC. The inequity of representation on the MPC and their passion for living their lives in a rural setting. Their love of the land and their freedoms which come with that ownership is part of who they are. They are content in their choice to be country with their own self-identified benefits with limited regulations and restrictions. In essence, they desire peer representation from their local parish government. Now that they have reached out to us, because we are their advocates to exercise their will. Whether we personally agree or disagree on any matter, Our responsibility is to those who placed us in this position as a public servant. To those of our constituents who have received warnings of HB 697 passes, we are doomed to returning to the lawlessness in the Wild West and that the State will be making our decisions for us going forward and where regulations existing protecting your property and your way of life, I'm here to assure you that as your neighbor, your Commissioners are forward thinkers. We value the rights of all our citizens and the location that you have

chosen to call home and raise your families. Why? Because we live here as well. We ask you for your trust to be there for you and make the best decision for the future of Caddo, all of Caddo.

Mr. Burrell stated that this issue was facing the Commissioners with a lobby full of supporter, the Caddo Alliance for Freedom. Their greatest concern was the UDC, he said. Mr. Burrell also understands the importance of planning. He cautioned that this can affect an area economically. He also mentioned that Mr. Clark drafted a document, the Planning Area Development Code that is a "watered down" version of the UDC and addresses the concerns of those citizens who voice their opinions of the UDC. At this point, Mr. Burrell does not see the need to "break away" from the MPC.

Mr. Atkins understands that there are two sides of this issue. He agreed with the other Commissioners in regards to the excellent job Mr. Clark has done with the MPC. Mr. Atkins also said that the rural citizens still have concerns with regards to underrepresentation on the MPC board. He envisions a future where there is representation on the board for issues out in the Parish.

Mr. Jackson stated that Resolution No. 32 was drafted because there was a committee meeting, and the legislators wanted to know where the resolution of support/opposition was from the Caddo Parish Commission. He also said that this resolution is not an attack on anyone's property rights nor an attack on HB 697. Mr. Jackson also pointed out that he requested that Attorney Bernstein use language in the resolution that was not confrontational. He also said that he would not have a problem with this legislation, but the local body did not have the time to go through the process to address this issue. He also explained that the issues came before the Commission on November, and at this time, the Commission was transitioning to a new Commission body, then COVID-19 happened. He said that the process was started to addressing these issues, but was not completed. He asked that the Commission support this resolution. He also pointed out that HB 697 is not needed to create a planning commission.

Mr. Cawthorne asked Mr. Jackson which panel of legislators it was. Mr. Jackson said that it was every member on the House panel, including the Chairperson. He also said that it has passed the House side, and the Senate hearing has not been scheduled yet.

Mr. Johnson said that since Mr. Clark has been in place, he has worked with the citizens to try and address their concerns with the UDC. He also pointed out that the code that is in place currently is not truly a UDC because there are some differences between the City codes and the Parish codes.

Mr. Johnson also talked about the citations the citizens received. He explained that the major difference from the past practices and the most recent practices with the citations was additional resources. He further explained that the MPC, which is governed by both the City and the Parish, hired additional persons to go out and write citations. Mr. Johnson said that prior to the UDC, people out of compliance would have received citations if there were enough resources to write them.

Mr. Johnson said that there are several neighborhoods closer to the city limits that want some type of laws in place to protect the values of their homes. He also understands that the residents who live further away from the city limits are more rural and do not want the UDC in place. He feels that the UDC needs to be reviewed and amended to address the concerns with all citizens.

Mr. Burrell said that he does not "have a dog in this fight". He said that he asked some of the people who were in opposition of the UDC if they would be ok with the old code. Mr. Burrell said that those individuals would like to go back to the original code and not the UDC. He also pointed out that the MPC does not have authority beyond the planning area. He feels that the Planning Area Development Code would address the issues that the people who live in the planning area.

**Call for the Question by Mr. Lazarus**, seconded by Mr. Young. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: Commissioner Burrell (1). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Jackson's original motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Cawthorne, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, and Johnson (6). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Hopkins, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (6). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that Resolution No. 33 of 2020, a resolution to authorize the acceptance of the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire* be adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

**RESOLUTION NO. 33 OF 2020**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE  
LOUISIANA COMPLIANCE QUESTIONNAIRE

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission is required to complete the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire which addresses the Commission's compliance with various State and Federal laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, upon completion of the questionnaire, the questionnaire must be presented to and adopted by the Commission by means of a formal resolution in an open meeting; and

WHEREAS, the completed questionnaire and a copy of the adoption instrument must be presented to the Commission's auditor at the beginning of the audit which is anticipated to begin in May 2020; and

WHEREAS, the questionnaire has been completed and is now hereby presented for adoption; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, in due, legal and regular session convened, hereby accepts the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire as presented and accepts full responsibility for the Commission's compliance with the laws and regulations addressed by the questionnaire.

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 resolution or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

The Commission then moved onto the next Old Business item, *to confirm appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Term to expire April 30, 2025 (1 to be selected):*

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *to add Mr. James Carstensen's name to the list of candidates for the Zoning Board of Appeals.*

At this time, Mr. Chavez's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (10). NAYS: Commissioners Epperson and Jackson (2). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Mr. Chavez explained that there are now three nominees for the Zoning Board of Appeals appointment.

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to vote for the candidates in the following order: Alan Berry, Huey Horn, and James Carstensen, and the candidate will be selected by plurality.*

Mr. Johnson said that he is in support of Mr. Alan Berry because some of the members of the Zoning Board of Appeals sent the Commissioners a letter of support for Mr. Berry. He also explained that Mr. Berry provides an historical perspective on the board. He also mentioned that there is an open position on the ZBA due to the resignation of one of the members.

Mr. Atkins thanked Mr. Berry for his twelve years of service on the board, but he feels that twelve years is a sufficient amount of time to serve in this role.

Mr. Cawthorne said that the Chairperson of the ZBA reached out to him requesting that Mr. Berry serve for one more term on the board. Mr. Cawthorne also asked for clarification for the majority or plurality of the votes.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know the relationship between the ZBA and the MPC. Mr. Alan Clark, MPC Director, explained that the MPC is the policy board who is responsible for re-zonings, special use permits, master planning issues, etc. The ZBA primarily deals with variances and appeals made by him and the Zoning Administrator. Mr. Jackson wanted to know what would happen to the members if the Parish of Caddo is no longer a part of the MPC. Mr. Clark said that members would shift or be cancelled. Mr. Jackson said that he will not be voting for any of the candidates due to the vote for Resolution No. 32.

He said that if the Commission is not going to be a part of the MPC, then there is no reason for the Commission to appoint a member to the ZBA.

Attorney Frazier pointed out that the procedures mentioned before called for a plurality, not a majority.

**Call for the Question by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Cawthorne, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (9). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins and Burrell (2). ABSENT: Commissioner Young (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Epperson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Jackson and Young (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

The Commission then moved onto the vote for the appointment for the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Mr. Alan Berry received five votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Cawthorne, Epperson, Gage-Watts, and Johnson (5). ABSENT: Commissioners Jackson and Young (2).

Mr. Huey Horn received five votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Hopkins, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (5). ABSENT: Commissioners Jackson and Young (2).

The Clerk advised that at this time, all members who were presented had cast their vote, and there was a tie between Mr. Berry and Mr. Horn.

It was **moved by Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *to postpone this item to the second Regular Session in June*. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Chavez, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (6). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Cawthorne, and Johnson (3). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson, Gage-Watts, and Young (3). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Attorney Frazier clarified that Mr. Alan Berry will remain on the board until a decision is rendered.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mr. Lazarus**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to confirm appointment of Mr. Lonnie Dunn to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Jimmy P. Edwards on the Waterworks District No. 7 Board (term to expire December 4, 2024)*. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (8). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Epperson, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Young (4). ABSTAIN: None (0).

### **COMMUNIQUES AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mr. Jackson congratulated the Class of 2020, from preschool to professional degrees. He said that their hard work is not in vain.

He also provided a report to the Commissioners in regards to the law school and would like to continue that discussion.

Mr. Jackson also thanked Animal Services for all of their hard work. He also commended Administration for all of their support for the mobile testing.

He also said that he is disappointed in the outcome for Resolution No. 32 of 2020. Since the vote, he has received at least four different text messages from legislators asking if the Commission will be providing a resolution in support of HB 697. He said that he can only put out what he is advocating for. He also pointed out that there was not a conversation with the City of Shreveport, Caddo Commission, or MPC regarding this bill.

- Mr. Cawthorne said that there was a COVID-19 testing at Morning Star, and approximately 150 tests were conducted. He also mentioned that the COVID-19 testing with LSU is reimbursable to the Commission through the CARES Act, as well as any expenditures out of the normal budgetary process due to COVID-19.

He echoed Mr. Jackson's sentiments for the Class of 2020. He also encourage everyone to practice social distancing during the Memorial Day weekend.

- Mr. Burrell pointed out that HB 697 is only permissive. He explained that the City of Shreveport and Caddo Commission have to agree on it.

***CITIZENS COMMENTS (late arrivals)***

Mr. Jason Letlow submitted the following statement:

Honorable Commissioners, I am writing to ask you to keep Caddo Parish as apart of the MPC. Planning and zoning is something will guarantee to piss someone off. If Caddo Parish creates its own board and separate zoning code, you will be guaranteed to piss someone off. Subsequently, will you abolish that board and create something else? I urge each of you to take your time and give our local citizens a say in this after all we will be paying this bill. The MPC worked very hard with local developers, the Chamber of Commerce, Manufacture Managers Council, and Committee of 100 to fix concerns and we stay actively engaged when problems arise. A drastic change of this nature should have been a process imitated at the local level. Allowing two different planning process and entities will create planning and confusion for businesses who will need simplicity more than ever. I am currently apart of the team building the new Planned Residential Subdivision of 90 new homes(inside the city limits). We were in the process of planning for Phase 2 (outside the city limits) until we learned of this effort that could change the zoning and planning. Decisions have consequences and I ask that you all take the decisions you make very seriously. Jason Letlow

There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

---

Mario Chavez  
President

---

Michelle Nations  
Deputy Commission Clerk