

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE  
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 3<sup>rd</sup> DAY OF June, 2020

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Work Session, on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., via Zoom teleconference, with Mr. 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: (0).

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

AGENDA ADDITIONS

There was one Agenda Addition from Commissioner Epperson, a resolution urging Governor Edwards to consider changes to his disaster declaration that would allow in person meetings with some teleconference participation.

Mr. Chavez asked if there were any public comments for or against the agenda addition and invited anyone interested in commenting to call 318-226-6596. There were none at the time.

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, to expand the agenda to include consideration of the resolution urging Governor Edwards to consider changes to his disaster declaration that would allow in person meetings with some teleconference participation.

Mr. Epperson said that we've entered into Phase 2 and have seen guidelines. It says all persons 65 years of age and older, underlying health conditions and all ill persons should stay at home. That should be an option we should have. Those who want to attend in person, could, and hopefully those of us under those guidelines should be able to participate via Zoom. The Supreme Court uses it and even some of Congress is using teleconference. Mr. Burrell asked if it was possible to do a combined meeting with people in the chamber and some by Zoom. Is that an issue? I support the request. Atty. Frazier replied that under the current Governor's Proclamation is the only authority for having virtual meetings. You cannot have any virtual meeting or partially virtual meeting unless you can certify that you cannot achieve a quorum. That was part of the reason that today's work session was moved. At the present time, the way it is set up, if you are not present at the meeting, you cannot vote. You would potentially looking at a situation where the Commissioners who were not there physically would not be able to vote if there was a blended meeting. My hope is that the Governor will address it in his next proclamation. At this time of going to Phase 2, if he does not extend the possibility of virtual meetings, then no one would be able to meet through Zoom. If the provision for virtual meetings is continued, then it would need to be addressed that the virtual participants would be allowed to count towards quorum and be allowed to vote during an in person meeting with teleconferenced participation. Mr. Chavez echoed that it seems like an all or nothing scenario where we either need to all meet in person or all by Zoom. Mr. Burrell said that he understands that it is the Governor's decision, there is not a local option. Atty. Frazier confirmed that was correct, because the Governor's Proclamation's suspension of parts of the public meetings law is what allows teleconference. Mr. Johnson said Is there any Plexiglas in front? How many people will be able to come into the chamber? Are the people in the chamber tested/screened before they come in? People can be asymptomatic and still have it. And so they could come & they could cough. They could be speaking at the podium and get all excited, and then all that is being blown toward us. What about free circulation of air? Has to air conditioning system been upgraded filter out the particles? I mean there's a lot of questions that have not been answered based upon the public official sitting in the Chamber. If we have a full house, who will make sure to enforce these rules? When they need to sit it because they got to be six feet apart. And

Who will be screening temperatures as they come in? Do people have to have some kind of identification saying that that they are negative before they come inside? I mean we have to look at all of it. We need to conduct the business of the Parish, but at the same time, we need to make sure that we are protected. And if he needs to repeat the questions again, he's open to that. Mr. Chavex mentioned that there was a public comment that had come in by phone to speak on the agenda addition and that Dr. Whyte would be available to answer some of the questions. He continued that he has been in the Chamber and the upgrades are pretty impressive. Public Comment by telephone from Ms Gail Brown said that she agrees with the agenda addition. I think that y'all need to stay at home and continue these meetings through Zoom, not only for your protection, but for the protection of the public. Mr. Epperson said that since atty Frazier had given some protocol about the suspension of in person meetings by the Governor, he'd like to amend his request to ask the governor to put provisions in his future request relative to his concern. MR. Chavez said that he understands and respects Mr. Epperson's concerns, but that he has seen some Commissioners out at other meetings or events and that is concerning. He continued by explaining that our public Zoom meetings do have a cost associated with them. He will support Mr. Epperson's request. Mr. Burrell said that his life is worth enough to be valuable to his family and his constituents. He doesn't have a problem meeting in person, but he had gone to a Covid-19 screening, and legitimately wanted to be screened to keep his family safe. I was thankful that there was one at my church, but that is the only meeting I've been to. I commend those who have been tested. Mr. Johnson said that if one commissioner can't make it in person, we really all should meet through Zoom. No other body has used the chamber yet, the City Council has not used it, the MPC has not used it. Zoom may have a cost, but Administration is using it as well. I haven't been to a screening unless I'm getting tested, because I don't want to expose myself. Let's make sure that our meetings are safe for all and not just some. Mr. Burrell said that he expects the Commission officers to protect our body. He asked what is being accomplished by meeting face to face that cannot be accomplished via Zoom. Is it an image we are projecting? People seem to be becoming lax, but we are leaders and I'm not clear why face to face is accomplishing. Mr. Chavez responded that he reached out to the Medical expert and asked if the meeting would be safe and got the 'go ahead.' The clerk polled the Commissioners on Friday and it appeared there would be a quorum, and there were citizens who wanted to attend. That seemed like enough good reasons. Mr. Johnson clarified that there was a misinterpretation that 4 said Zoom, 2 said they preferred zoom, but would come in, and there was one who said that they preferred in person, but were fine with Zoom. Those 3 were counted towards the quorum. But when they said that they preferred zoom, that should have been counted towards zoom. Mr. Young said there are conditions where it would be prudent for someone to participate via teleconference even if they do not meet the conditions that Commissioner Epperson mentioned. Like if they were coughed on in the store. Is it possible for us to sit further apart to meet in person, but still practice distancing. Mr. Atkins said that he supports the agenda addition as a compromise to protect those who may be vulnerable to the virus, but that it is also important to be leaders and show people that we are getting back to the business of the commission and helping to revive our community and the economy. Many of us in the general population are not at a particularly high risk of death, that being said there are members of our body who may be. Everyone has different risk profile and risk tolerance, this seems like a good compromise.

**Call for the Question by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Jackson. 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 (0). ABSENT (0). ABSTAIN (0)

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 (0). ABSENT (0). ABSTAIN (0)

### CITIZENS COMMENTS

Ms. Jon Glover submitted the following statement:

1) 11.II Authorize Resolution No. 34 Of 2020

What are the "certain exceptions" that are being addressed via Resolution 34 of 2020?

2) 11.IV Authorize Resolution No.36 Of 2020

Why this Resolution 36 of 2020 altogether? What purpose will it address? If there is no pandemic, quarantine, why ask for an extension beyond the normal time that polling places are to be closed? A plan definitely needed should such occur but I'm a bit apprehensive if this can or will be used for other than its intended purposes, i.e. using the approval to circumvent regular guidelines.

3) 11.V Authorize Resolution No. 37 Of 2020

What violations, if any, has prompted Resolution 37 of 2020? Specifics please.

### VISITORS

- LSUHSC Representative- the clerk shared that the representative who was going to attend was called away on medical business, and will need to be rescheduled.
- Dr. Martha Whyte- Pres Chavez thanked her for coming and asked for her medical opinion about where we are at with Covid and what your opinion is about us getting back to government chambers, and what precautions we should take. Dr. Whyte said that there have been some good questions about what has been done to minimize their contact. The partitions are helpful, as well as wearing a mask. I'm not clear if the public will be attending, but if you did that, you would have to minimize the number of people there are require them to wear masks. If they speak, they should wear a mask. The louder we speak, the more passionate we are, the more likely we are to project particles from our mouths that could be transmit virus. The distance between you and them is significant, so the likelihood of those particles reaching you is very low. I would also be more leery about people sitting close in a waiting area. I agree that they should be screened for temperature and we suggest that people ask is visitors have taken any medicine today or if they have exhibited any symptoms. Testing only tells you that you are negative at that point in time, you can get it after the test and still not know. People who have significant health issues need to have a way to protect themselves. You can wear a mask, keep a distance, and you need to have ways to protect those people. Mr. Burrell mentioned a report that he saw from China or Italy where the air conditioning system in a restaurant picked up the virus and spread it throughout the space. Have we checked our system? Dr. Whyte's husband is younger and not identified as a vulnerable population, but that means that everyone is susceptible to this deadly virus. He thinks that we should take this more seriously and that we shouldn't go back to in person simply because we want people to be able to give their comments. Mr. Burrell said that he didn't hear the air conditioning issue addressed. Mr. Chavez acknowledged that Dr. Wilson and facilities know more about that. Dr. Whyte said that her husband was in the hospital for 47 days, he's 50 years old and in good health, so it is correct that we all need to take this very seriously. If anyone takes it seriously, I do. I'm still working to rehab my husband. There is no way to know who will get this virus and do well and who will get this virus and not do well. We need to trust science. I've asked my boss who speaks with the Governor daily to consider your request. I try to lead out of science and not fear. We need to be cautious. Mr. Burrell says that he hopes we follow science and not politics, fear isn't so much the problem. Mr. Johnson asked Dr. Wilson if we have an established protocol for the Commissioners to go back into the chambers. Dr. Wilson answered that they didn't. They met with the City and blocked off seats, put up plexiglass, the air conditioning system doesn't have a biohazard filtration system. We do have one in Animal Services, but not in the Chamber. The recirculated air has some fresh air. We do have temperature scanners for people coming in the chamber. We

haven't asked people's history of medical questions. We have required visitors to wear masks. We still have to decide whether Commissioners will wear masks, but we have not developed that protocol. There is no plexi at the front of each station, because they thought the distance, 12 feet, was sufficient. We could address that. With Phase 2, even more seats will be put back into use from 23 to 46. We have not set those parameters. Mr. Johnson said that he'd like a protocol for the Commissioners to come back to the Chamber. We need something in writing so that we can feel that it will be followed. Mr. Johnson then asked Dr. Whyte how far the Virus float in the air. She responds that speaking normally is where we get the 6 foot rule. Mr. Johnson asked Dr. Wilson if there were any health professionals in the meetings about the preparations? Dr. Wilson said that they used guidelines from health professionals that were available, but there were no health professionals in the meeting. If someone is truly projecting their voice, the potential exists that it could travel 12-14 feet. There is no screen at the podium. Mr. Johnson said that we need plexiglass in front. The public is required to wear masks inside the building, does that mean they are required in the chamber? What about for commissioners? Dr. Wilson said that he thought that would be in the best interest. He also confirmed that the temperature scanner is in place and the chairs are zip tied off. Dr. Whyte also shared that she could send a picture of how to do a front row of plexiglass that might be helpful. Dr. Wilson confirmed that he would appreciate seeing those. Dr. Wilson also confirmed that there are filters on the air conditioning, but not biohazard prevention. Mr. Johnson wants documentation that those filters are changed regularly. Dr. Wilson also confirmed that nothing currently in place will protect from the virus. Dr. Whyte said that a true mask, like an N95, you will not need to worry about the recirculated air. She offered to provide them. They filter anything coming toward you and anything that you may put out. She thinks that it is vital that speakers wear a mask. The cloth ones are 70% effective, but an N95 provides much more protection. Mr. Atkins said that he understands that she is in the risk mitigation business and public safety is her highest concern with respect to corona virus. He feels that there are other risks and mental health risk associated with unemployment? Dr. Whyte said that there is a lot of collateral damage from this virus, but we can recover from financial instability, but we cannot recover if we die- so I put the risk of death and severe illness above that, but it is a concern. Mr. Atkins asked if there is a higher correlation between suicide, unemployment, poverty and mental anguish. Dr. Whyte added that isolation is also a factor. Mr. Atkins said that this is not just a health risk, but an economic risk, and a social risk and there is collateral damage like unemployment, depression and poverty. We should remain careful, but move forward to open up our economy. Mr. Jackson said that the Chamber Sub Committee group should get together and put a plan together. We are getting too far into political bravado. There is a chamber sub committee that can address any legitimate questions. Let's move down the road and use the committee that can meet by zoom and put this issue to rest. Mr. Burrell said that he supports Mr. Jackson's comments, but fails to understand how economic conditions, suicide, depression and unemployment are related to whether we meet in the chamber. It comes back to having concerns to the public not being able to come before us. They seem to be participating more than usual by zoom because they can put their thought in writing. Mr. Atkins said that we all have different views here and just because my view may be different than yours, doesn't mean I'm more or less correct. I feel like showing a presence is important to me and to showing the community that we are moving beyond the virus and establish a normal life pattern which is more healthy for our community and our economy. Mrs. Gage-Watts asked Dr. Whyte if there are not organizations larger than theirs that are continuing through zoom? There are 12 of us and we would be close even with the plexiglass. Are other organizations meeting by zoom? Dr. Whyte responded that she can't speak to the plans that other organizations have, but she has had similar conversations to this with other leaders. The best thing that will protect you if you are going to be in the presence of others is to wear a mask and insist that others do too. Mrs. Gage-Watts shared that social distancing is still a concern in the Chamber, and the School Board has announced future Zoom meetings. Dr. Whyte said that we may need to continue to keep Zoom as an option. Mr. Chavez had a question

from a constituent asking if finding a mask is difficult. Dr. Whyte answered that it should not be difficult and that the flow of PPE has been restored. If there is an issue, we can guide people towards vendors that have them. Mr. Chavez thanked Dr. Whyte and Mr. Chavez and Mr. Jackson both expressed that they were glad to hear her husband was healing.

### **ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Dr. Wilson wanted to make sure that everyone received the responses from LSU Health Science Center on the mobile Covid testing that you all funded. We'll meeting with the Chamber sub-committee to develop some protocols. Mr. Burrell asked for clarification of whether a mixed meeting would be possible. Perhaps the Chamber committee would be able to discuss that. Mr. Chavez said that once Mr. Epperson's newly added resolution passes, that he'll take it and move it forward. Mr. Epperson asked Dr. Wilson or Commission clerk staff. It bothers him that there isn't anything written for the protocol for a zoom meeting. You have to stop and give a phone number and we are at a point with the amount of people that we are having. The commission clerk confirmed that the protocol is posted on the website and on facebook. We even put it in the comments. Mr. Epperson said that perhaps we should contact the media regarding zoom protocol.

### **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 Work 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

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State, in Proclamation Number 41 JBE 2020, Section 13, issued on April 2, 2020, has extended the Stay-At-Home Order until Thursday, April 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Governor John Bel Edwards extended the Stay- At- Home Order until May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

THEREFORE, the Caddo Parish Commission here by certifies that it will not be able to obtain a quorum and convene a meeting in a public forum on June 3, 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: June 2, 2020

/s/Mario Chavez, President

COMMISSION REMARKS

- Mr. Epperson said
- Mr. Cawthorne said there is no secret that there is an ideological divide amongst this body, this state and the nation. That doesn't mean that we can't find middle ground. Mr. Atkins' comments made him recall the United Way's Alice report which included a breakdown of those concerns by Commission district. We should see whether or not we as a commission can resolve our issues like Tip O'Neal and Ronald Reagan. We should be discussing those issues. People that Commissioner Atkins represents are concerned about the economy, whereas people who Commissioner Epperson represents are concerned about people with pre-dispositions staying well. We should have an Ad Hoc committee to address how we can work collectively to resolve concerns of the right and the concerns of the left. The Committee could look at how to use reimbursable expenses to resolved these concerns.
- Mr. Jackson mentioned that Dr. Weinberger, the representative from LSUHSC wasn't able to be at our Wednesday or Thursday meetings, he was available for Monday. Mr. Burrell asked if that was in addition to the questions that were sent out. Mr. Jackson confirmed that they were doing both to cover all bases and Mr. Burrell responded that as one of the ones who submitted questions, I was very satisfied with the answers I got.
- Mr. Atkins acknowledged Mr. Cawthorne's comments and expressed that they have always been able to find the middle ground. I don't want anyone to think that I don't think that health and safety are important. He said that while he has his end of the scale, he sees the other end as well. A balanced perspective is needed.
- Mr. Epperson commended the Administration for submitting the questions that he submitted and he was very pleased with the results and responses. He is satisfied. Mental health, poverty and health issues didn't start in March. These problems have been around, for instance with Veterans, for many years.

## OLD BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, that Resolution No. 28 of 2020, a resolution to amend the Caddo Parish Commission bylaws to require formal requests for Commission appropriations to entities not part of Caddo Parish government, and otherwise providing with respect thereto be advanced and layover to the 2<sup>nd</sup> June meeting agenda. Mr. Hopkins said that this was recommended from the Personnel, Policies & Procedures Committee. 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).

## NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, that the introduction of the authorization of Ordinance No. 5959 of 2020, an ordinance amending the budget of estimated revenues and expenditures for the Oil and Gas Fund for the year 2020 to provide an appropriation for the purchase of masks to combat Covid-19 and to otherwise provide with respect thereto be advanced to Thursday's agenda.

Mrs. Gage-Watts said this ordinance is to help mitigate the spread of Covid-19 in Caddo parish by allocating funds to purchase fabric masks. This is one of the

most important issues and the package will include information from the CDC about the proper use of a mask. These are disposable, but reuseable. This would allow you to protect and educate your constituents. The CDC recommends that each person wear a mask, so she asks commissioners to support. Mr. Atkins said that he isn't opposed to the spirit of this, but after hearing from Dr. Whyte, he's wondering if there is a need for additional masks, and would these all be purchased at once or incrementally? Mrs. Gage-Watts said that there is a need and there will be a second wave and while the medical community will have first access to PPE, it will be important to have available to constituents. 12,000 is a minimum ask to get started. We can also be reimburse through the Cares act for purchasing these masks. Mr. Atkins asked if the plan was to purchase 12,500 masks at this time and what was the cost. Ms. Bryant said that the state has already identified masks ranging from \$1.50-\$4. This appropriation would go through the end of this year should we need to purchase masks after the first distribution. We will ask for reimbursement. Mr. Burrell asked if this had to go out to state bid, he's concerned about low income residents having to be gouged in the market. People didn't know how to get them, where to get them or if they could afford them. Mr. Taliaferro echoed the sentiments of Mr. Atkins and appreciated Mrs. Gage-Watts, the prices may go down, so we should consider that. Some people choose to wear or not wear a mask. He's good with the initial purchase.

**Mr. Hopkins made a substitute motion**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus to advance Ordinance 5959 of 2020 with the appropriation of funds amended to \$100,000.

Mr. Hopkins I'm not against providing masks, but testing was worked down to a smaller number and has been successful. If the limit is \$100,000, then that is enough and if it gets bad enough that it isn't we can revisit that. Mr. Cawthorne asked if the expenditure on masks was reimbursable through the CARES act. Mrs. Bryant responded that it was as far they understand. She continued that the state already bid it out, so we wouldn't have to do another bid. Mr. Jackson asked if the masks were reusable or disposable. It was confirmed they are reusable. This is similar to testing because we are eligible for reimbursement, hopefully some folks see that. Mr. Johnson said that the reduced price may conflict with the body of the ordinance and several areas need to be amended. He sees similarities and differences to the testing. We should have our heartbeat in both. Dr. Wilson asked if 12,000 was the goal. Mr. Johnson said that was the initial order and more could be purchased as the need progresses. Mr. Hopkins said that there are 240k people in the parish, \$55k or so of those people are at or below poverty. That mean at \$2 per mask, there should be enough funding. Atty Frazier said that the dollar amount can be amended to \$100,000 to purchase masks as needed. Mr. Hopkins agreed. Mr. Johnson said he wanted to make sure that they words were cleared. Mr. Jackson asked that it would be made available to all districts, and shared that his district did not receive masks during the Parish's initial mask distribution. He wants them to be equally distributed throughout. Commissioner Hopkins agreed to that. Mr. Atkins said that we need to get masks to those who need them, which may not be equal between districts. Maybe Administration has a way to ensure that the masks get to those who need them.

**Call for the Question by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Jackson. 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 (0). ABSENT (0). ABSTAIN (0)

At this time, **Mr. Hopkins' 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).

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, that Resolution No. 34 of 2020, a resolution authorizing Administration to suspend 2020 NGO payments with certain exceptions and to otherwise provide with respect thereto be advanced to Thursday's agenda.

Johnson said the committee met and based on the guideline we set the parameters to partially fund some of the organizations and suspend others until we see the revenue streams coming back. Since then the Casinos have opened, so we'll continue to watch the revenues coming from there. Jackson asked Ms. Barnett about the Boys and Girls club having not spent their money from 2019. She confirmed that there were funds from 2019 leftover. Mr. Jackson said that he understood it was around \$30k, because they had reached out to ask to move some of these forward. He'll propose legislation at the next meeting to address that.

At this time **Mr. Johnson made a substitute motion**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, to amend his motion to remove Salvation Army based on their unused allocation. Mr. Jackson said he'd be okay with the original. Mr. Johnson said he would like to remove them since they can't get a CEA right now anyway. Burrell said that he had the Salvation Army's Boys and Girls club in his district and they may have had past funding left over as well. Mr. Chavez asked Ms. Barnett to send that information about the Boys & Girls club to Mr. Burrell. Mr. Burrell asked about the letters that went out and Ms. Barnett replied that there wasn't a set date, but she has received a lot of responses. Mr. Burrell said that perhaps a deadline would be good and thanked her for the clarification. Atty Frazier said the Salvation Army had 2019 funds and we don't have a completed report. They were appropriated 2020 funds, but not funds have been expended until their 2019 report is completed. They may have to reimburse the Parish their unused funds. Mr. Burrell explained some of the organizational changes at the Salvation Army. Mr. Taliaferro said that he understands that if we are reevaluating funding for Salvation Army, should we be doing that for all 8? We haven't received any revenue streams coming in, and we may need to give this some time. We should treat everyone the same way. If any of these have unused funds, they need to return those. Atty Frazier clarified that all are required to complete their end of the year reports before they can get new money. And these funds have already been appropriated for 2020, so this isn't new funding. Mr. Jackson said that he only knows about the Salvation Army Merkle Center, he's not familiar with other organizations. Mr. Johnson said the Mr. Burrell would need to put something together before the body to carry forward the funding. Mr. Burrell clarified that he wanted that legislation put together.

At this time, **Mr. Johnson's substitute motion** that Resolution No. 34 of 2020, a resolution authorizing Administration to suspend 2020 NGO payments with certain exceptions and to otherwise provide with respect thereto be amended to remove the Salvation Army Merkle Center carried and was advanced to Thursday's agenda. **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).

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, that Resolution No. 35 of 2020, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to request and authorize the Louisiana State Mineral And Energy Board and the Office of Mineral Resources to accept nominations and advertise for oil, gas and mineral leases, accept bids, and award and execute oil, gas and mineral leases on certain mineral interests owned by the Parish Of Caddo, and otherwise providing with respect thereto be advanced to Thursday's agenda. **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).

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, that Resolution No. 36 of 2020, a resolution urging the State Legislature to authorize the automatic extension of time for voting at polling places that are opened late or suffer delays for unforeseen emergencies, and otherwise providing with respect thereto be advanced to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Epperson said things can happen, like a power outage, and we are asking them to extend the time automatically equal to the time it was closed. This affords everyone the allotted amount of time to vote. Mr. Burrell said this is fair, not political.

This is a friendly resolution. Mr. Chavez said that he agrees that it is not political, but for the last day of voting when the polls are closing, there might be timing issues. Mr. Hopkins said he supports moving this forward, but requests the Registrar of Voters to the meeting. Mr. Jackson clarified that the day-of voting is handled by the Clerk of Court. Clerk confirmed he would reach out to Caddo Clerk of Court Mike Spence or to join us during the Regular Session.

**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).

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, that Resolution No. 37 of 2020, a resolution urging Governor Edwards and the Louisiana Legislature to review enforcement of fines and penalties for violations of Louisiana Ethics Laws, and otherwise providing with respect thereto be advanced to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Epperson said we have to file our reports on time and our disclosures. For the most part the majority of the people do that, but you can look there and see in just 5 pages, that is \$100,000. And some of these are the same people and go back years. It isn't fair to people who turn things in on time. They could use a private collection agency, but there are some things they could do to strengthen those laws.

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).

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, that Resolution No. 38 of 2020, a resolution proclaiming and supporting June as Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month and to otherwise provide with respect thereto be advanced to Thursday's agenda.

Mrs. Gage Watts said.

**Mr. Johnson made a substitute motion**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, to en globo and advance Resolution 38, the reappointments to the Pine Hill Waterworks District No. 8 Board, the reappointments to the North Shreveport Industrial Park and the Special Proclamation recognizing the Senior Class of 2020. **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).

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, that the applications for the Official Journal for the year July 1, 2020 to June 31, 2021 be advanced to Thursday's agenda for selection.

Mr. Epperson said we can go by pervious methods of selection and asked the clerk to have that ready for tomorrow. Mr. Burrell asked for explanation of the process. Mr. Chavez clarified and asked the Clerk to send the previous processes out by email. This option just moves these to tomorrow. Mr. Epperson would be glad to share previous processes and asked for any additional requirements to be shared.

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).

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, that Thursday's Regular Session be conducted via Zoom. **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).

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, that a resolution urging Governor Edwards to consider changes to his disaster declaration that would

allow in person meetings with some teleconference participation be advanced to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Epperson confirmed that the decision about zoom participation is made by the Governor and his deputy chief of staff called and is understanding of this request. Guy Cormier at the Police Jury Association has also reached out as many PJA member Parishes are having difficulty. We need to get our request to the Governor, they understand. Ruth Bader Ginsburg teleconferenced from the Hospital. It is the right thing to do. Mr. Burrell said that he supports it, just wants to know about the technical aspects of this. He asked the clerk to clarify. The clerk shared that IT has been looking at it and is complicated, but they are looking at it. Mr. Taliaferro said he agrees that every commissioner should be able to cast a vote. His question to Commissioner Atkins is do we need to suspend our current plan for in person meetings? Mr. Atkins said yielded to Atty Frazier. She said that they are at an either/or point right now, but the Governor's proclamation should be out on Thursday, so we may know additional options by then. If you don't vote on the resolution tomorrow, it won't reach the Governor's office until after your next meeting. The Governor can amend his proclamation. Mrs. Gage-Watts said it is important for people who are caretakers of those who have compromised immune systems.

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

#### COMMUNIQUES/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Burrell said that he wants to address the situation with the George Floyd murder and the national unrest following it. It is in our community and as community leaders, our constituents are sometimes interested in having us share what we can do to address concerns they are having. There were 2 local deaths under Police custody, and as an urban Commissioner, I have concerns about that. I would like more information. I would like some clarity on our relationship with the Sheriff's office and be comfortable. Sheriff's may feel like this is encroaching on their responsibility, but I would like to hear from them about this issue that is a concern to many. Like Covid, this is disproportionately affecting our minority community who are black and brown. From the Administration, I would like them to find out what options we have to address things like detaining by chokehold, etc. within our Parish. And secondly to the Parish Commissioners who don't look like me, sometimes silence is complicity. I've been in this business over 20 years and sometimes when one group of people are facing issues, the other one stands silent. I don't think that is something we have the opportunity to do right now. Asking colleagues to pray on it and see one another as humans, and try to relate to what is going on.
- Mr. Cawthorne referenced the earlier discussion about the additional cost of hosting public meetings via Zoom and asked if these expenses are reimbursable through the CARES act and would like to know what the cost has been.

#### CITIZENS COMMENTS (LATE ARRIVALS)

Ms. Jill Brown submitted the following comments via email:

I am supporting this agenda addition not only for your safety of the commissioners but for the safety of the public as well. I understand that zoom cost the commission. I also understand that the commission gives away thousands of dollars to different organizations. This is a cost that will keep the public safe and will be well worth it. I have come to many meetings at the Caddo Commission at government Plaza But during this time I would have to refrain from coming to your meetings due to trying to keep my husband and my family safe. So by having the meetings on zoom, I am

able to participate and view your meetings. My prayers are that we all stay safe and take every precaution to do so thank you for hearing me.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

- **Confirm Appointment To The Zoning Board Of Appeals (Commission to select one) CONFIRM APPOINTMENT TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS. TERM TO EXPIRE APRIL 30, 2025.**

1. ALAN BERRY
2. HUEY HORN

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

/s/Jeff Everson

Jeff Everson

Commission Clerk