

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 6th DAY OF July, 2020

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Work Session, on the above date, at 3:32 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. Young, and Mr. Chavez led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ADDITIONS

The Clerk shared that he had received two potential Agenda Additions. One from Commissioner Johnson, a resolution enacting a COVID 19 threat level system within Caddo Parish and otherwise providing with respect thereto. The Second from Commissioner Gage-Watts, Jackson, Johnson & Young, an emergency ordinance mandating masks or facial covering in certain establishments and public places; to provide penalties for the violation of same, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto.

Mr. Young suggested that these items be heard in a Special Session and shared that while he had been a part of authoring the emergency ordinance, they received it very recently and haven't been able to review it yet.

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, Seconded by Mr. Gage-Watts, to expand the agenda to include the COVID-19 threat levels resolution. He provided some information about the threat levels and said that if we are going to require mandatory masks, this helps citizens see why and when masks are required or suggested.

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. The Following Public Comments were received:

- Sharon Green: I would like to ask support for the mandatory masks. When you consider that we're dealing with a virus that can spread exponentially, which means that, wearing the mask not only affects the person who wears the mask, but also affects the general population. So, I don't think it's a lot to ask to have somebody put on a mask if it protects, not just the person wearing it, but also protects everybody around them. So, I think that it would really behoove us to stop the spread of the virus if everyone was required to wear masks. What you want to do like not wear masks, it would be okay if it only affected you not wearing the mask. But you not wearing the mask also affects me. And I don't think that my life should even come close to comparing somebody who just wants to walk free and basically not wear a mask. So, I think in order we save lives and in order that we protect citizens, and in order that we make a difference in the lives of all citizens as It relates to enhance the quality in life. I think that everybody should be required to wear a mask.
- Lashonda Diouf: (comment was received by phone and some parts were not audible) Favor for wearing mask for a number of reasons. First and foremost the number of covid19 cases... and that we do not have a mandate to stay at home...virus. On a person note, both of my parents contracted the virus. My dad spent 26 days on a ventilator. I saw firsthand what this virus actually does to a person's body and to the family. And when we're not wearing a mask you can be asymptomatic and carrying the virus and don't even know it. Happened to my dad. Someone was asymptomatic had the virus and that's how he was infected and in turn he infected my mom. Mandate... the public... Because we are our brother's keeper and that's the only way we can have some type of mandate...have a stay at home order. The

virus does not move, people move. We're the ones that are moving the virus from place to place, person to person.

- Dr. Ashok Rao: My name is Dr. Ashok Rao. I'm a retired physician and anesthesiologist. I am calling in to support the proposal in mandating wearing of masks in all public places. As a long time registered republican, I feel we should be united in this proposal and do what is right for all our citizens. We now know that the virus is primarily sent by air. The risk is higher in both cases. And masks would certainly be very effective in reducing the number of cases, spread and death. Thank you.
- Lawanda Finney: My name is Lawanda Finney with the Save Our Sons Drop the Guns organization. I am in favor of mandating the masks in Caddo Parish.
- Cierra Karambellas: Hi, my name is Cierra Karambellas. I work for the public and unfortunately I am seeing way too many without a mask. And I know too many personally, people who have been affected by it and I'm tired of it. And I think it's negligible for us not to wear masks. So, I'm all for it. Just think it should be mandatory.
- Lashonda Hill: I am in favor of people wearing masks. I know it may be an inconvenience, but I think it will keep everybody safe in the long run.
- Lily Norton: Good afternoon. My name is Lily Norton. And I am in favor of mandatory mask thing because it's more safe. Too many people are out and about not using masks and that is a safety hazard to others.
- Julie Cupp: Hello. My name is Julie Cupp, MD. I trained at LSU and now work here in SBC for Willis Knighton as a breast surgeon, and people need to wear masks to slow the spread of COVID-19. Slowing the spread with masking will help avoid the need for a stay at home order and increase the safety of schools opening in the fall. Let's keep each other healthy and wear our masks. Thank you.
- Meredith DeWitt: My name is Meredith DeWitt Wooster and I am an Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases physician who practices locally in Shreveport. I am a graduate of LSU Medical School in Shreveport (class of 2006) and did all my training here in Shreveport. I own a home here, am raising my family here, and love our community. As everyone else, I am very concerned about the effects of COVID-19 on our community. I want our community and local businesses to be able to open and for citizens to be able to spend time with friends and loves ones, but we need to do so safely. I am in support of a mandate to require universal masking in all public places. My family and I, including my small children, wear our masks anytime we are in public in order to protect our fellow citizens but are usually not offered the same protection from others. Please remember that my mask is to protect you and yours is to protect me. If everyone masks, then everyone is protected. Thank you for your consideration, Meredith Wooster, MD
- Jaya McSharma said: I am writing again to please ask that you pass a mask mandate or encourage the mayor to do so. For those of you who don't know me, I am a local physician hospitalist and have been treating coronavirus since it arrived to our fair city on March 9th. I won't bore you with the details of how novel, insidious, real, and deadly this virus is, but feel free to ask for those details should you need them. I've pronounced many people dead from this disease who would have otherwise lived much longer lives. We are past the window of hoping that people will comply out of compassion, understanding, or altruism. Businesses are not even enforcing their own rules. You will get push back. But nothing outweighs saving lives. There are no medical reasons not to wear a mask if you are an able bodied adult capable of understanding basic instructions. NONE. There is no medical doctor who would put their degree behind a mask exemption for a patient. COPD patients on oxygen wear masks. It literally does nothing to

impede oxygen flow. Below I have attached an internal discussion among doctors regarding the notion of mask exemptions. Please do not base your information off of anything from a cable news network. It is not perfect but masks and social distancing are the only mitigation measures we have in lieu of forcing people to stay home. There are people who will protest out of a lack of understanding, political agendas, or ignorance. They will be loud. That does not mean it's the wrong decision. I would love for the government not to have to be in charge of this mandate, but as a society we have proven we can't do it for ourselves, and every day the number of cases in the hospital go up. We have quadrupled - QUADRUPLED - our inpatient Covid census in a WEEK. Please help. It is PAST TIME. We have already lost lives in the community we all serve that could have been prevented. That is not a burden we should write off lightly. Dr. McSharma

- Neera Chabra: I am a practicing pediatrician in the Shreveport area and have had significant firsthand experience with Covid in our area unfortunately. I've seen some young children and adolescents with Covid infection. One youngster in our community was treated for multisystem failure. With a lot of great medical care, he survived. Several of the adolescents acquired it from outside of their homes and brought it back to their families I cannot underscore enough that at this point, we need to do something simple as mandating mask wearing when in public, to help curb the spread of Covid. There is worldwide evidence now that countries and states here who did this, have curbed the spread of Covid.

Btw I am a registered republican and I endorse this rule. Thank you,
Neera Chhabra

- Sharon Tran: I received a message from fellow doctors to reach out to show my support for a mandatory mask rule for citizens entering businesses. Sharon Tran, MD
- April Abraham: I am in favor of mandating masks in the City of Shreveport. I am a healthcare worker and I do see the need of everyone to be mandated to wear masks for the safety of everyone.
- Chris Kracman: Absolutely NO to a mask/covering mandate!! Regardless of what other counties are doing such, does NOT make it right. You all should always vote "no" to tyrannical mandates!
- Lillian Jordan: I am in favor of mandatory masks because it is more safe, too many people are out and about not wearing masks and that is a safety hazard for others.

At this time President Chavez closed the public hearing and moved on to the vote for the motion at hand.

At this time, **Mr. Johnson's motion failed** as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson and Young (7). NAYS Commissioners Atkins, Hopkins, Lazarus and Taliaferro (4). ABSENT (0). ABSTAIN (0)

Vice President Johnson called for a Special Session on Wednesday. President Chavez suggested voting on that during Communiques and Johnson agreed.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Ms. Jon Glover submitted the following statement: Can someone help me appreciate this legislation? The need to have other than the Commission inform the public, potential rural property owners, about property standards and ordinances to prospective buyers of land in the Parish, why other than the Commission? 11.III Authorize Resolution No. 52 Of 2020- A RESOLUTION URGING AND REQUESTING AREA REALTORS TO INFORM PROSPECTIVE BUYERS OF PROPERTY STANDARDS ORDINANCES, RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS, AND

NEIGHBORHOOD AND HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATIONS OBLIGATIONS AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

Mr. Scott Hughes submitted the following statement: I have reviewed the proposed Resolution in draft form and would offer the following friendly comments and/or suggestions: 1) The proposed Ordinance references 'REALTORS', which are voluntary members of a professional trade association. While the term 'REALTOR' is often seen as synonymous with a person who sells real estate, all licensees are not REALTORS. In Louisiana there are approximately 20,000 real estate licensees as certified by the Louisiana Real Estate Commission, or LREC. Today there are only about 14,000 REALTORS which also includes licensed Appraisers, who are full REALTOR members but are regulated and licensed by the Louisiana Real Estate Appraisal Board. 2) Information about specific property shared by a real estate licensee with a prospective buyer is most often considered a legal disclosure matter. As such, matters of required disclosure are regulated by the Louisiana Real Estate Commission (LREC) and/or State and Federal laws. Established practice and most case law in disclosure is to require the current property owner to be responsible for disclosure of information relating to the property. 3) Property Management, including rental property, does not require a real estate license to manage property that is owned managed. A real estate license is usually only required to manage property for third parties. As such, a high percentage of local rental property is not represented by either a REALTOR or a licensed real estate agent. It is owned and managed by the property owner.

Based on the above issues of license law, please accept the following suggestions as they relate to Resolution No. 52 of 2020: A) Consider changing the word 'REALTOR(s)' to 'Property Owners'. This is where most current case law and regulation places the burden as a part of the legal disclosure process; B) Consider changing the 'Northwest Louisiana Association of REALTORS' to the 'Louisiana Real Estate Commission'. This is the regulatory body in Louisiana who establishes what constitutes disclosure and who enforces Louisiana license laws. Due to industry 'Errors & Omissions' insurance local real estate associations, brokers and agents will simply follow those rules required by the LREC. Exceeding legal requirements creates added liability with no protections under most E&O policies.

On behalf of the Northwest Louisiana Association of REALTORS we welcome conversation and appreciate your consideration of these comments as you seek to improve property standards in Caddo Parish.

The Caddo Alliance for Freedom said: Res.52: Concerning Resolution 52, please consider making known to citizens that their zoning may or may not have changed over two years ago without their knowledge. We are well aware that technology works wonders but not all are privy to technology.

With that said whatever endeavor used to facilitate knowledge, please consider doing so. Let it be know to the citizenry that there are now outlets to re-upzone their property with currently waived fees by the planning staff.

We all represent Caddo Parish and we, the members of the Caddo Alliance for Freedom, are here to help all of us walk into those Codes and Ordinances that will ensure growth economically for and to our parish, build on our financial base and demonstrate that we are all one in unison. Again, God bless you all! Jessica Tullis, Jake Brown, Alison Taylor, Jon Glover, Chris Kracman, The Caddo Alliance for Freedom

The Caddo Alliance for Freedom also submitted the following statement: Good afternoon Commissioners. We, the members of the Caddo Alliance for Freedom, believe the time is now to begin dialogue that will bring forth Codes and Ordinances for property owners in rural Caddo Parish. House Bill No. 697 empowered each of you, the Commissioners of the Caddo Parish Commission, to enact Codes and Ordinances for us, property owners in rural Caddo Parish. As Mr. Clarke, Executive

Director of the Metropolitan Planning Commission has stated on numerous of occasion, this endeavor will take time and it will.

Also, what we all know is this, the time is now to be ready to enact those Codes and Ordinances for property owners in rural Caddo Parish effective January 1, 2022. In our estimation, we have sufficient time to develop those Codes and Ordinances and we only ask that such begin now and not a ninth hour endeavor. In our working together, we can ensure that the Codes and Ordinances indeed address the needs of the Parish and the property owners in rural Caddo Parish alike. God bless you all!

Jessica Tullis, Jake Brown, Alison Taylor, Jon Glover, Chris Kracman, The Caddo Alliance for Freedom

Commissioner Gage-Watts asked for a point of clarification regarding the previous vote to expand the agenda and asked if they had voted on just the Threat level expansion and not the Mask ordinance. President Chavez confirmed that the motion they voted on was only about expanding the agenda for the Threat Level resolution. Commissioner Gage-Watts shared that she thought that commissioner John Paul Young made that. President Chavez and Mr. Young confirmed that he had not made that motion, but rather suggested that it be taken up in a special session. Mr. Chavez clarified that the discussion about the Special Meeting will take place under Communiques.

VISITORS

Caddo Parish Constables

- Ward 3—Constable Roger Harris
- Ward 5—Constable Ken Smith
- Ward 6—Constable Kevin McClure
- Ward 8—Constable Eric Hatfield

Mr. Epperson asked that the Constables who were in attendance to introduce themselves to the Commission.

Attorney Frazier explained that the constables are elected by Justice of the Peace (JOP) wards are primarily enforcement for the JOP courts. Each one is elected in his own district, which makes them their own bosses. They are paid partially by the Parish and partially by the State. The Parish Commission sets the parish portion of the salary and then it is matched by the State. The Parish is also responsible for seeing that the deputy attends necessary trainings, as outlined by the Attorney General. They also receive fees from the services that they do for the Justice courts in addition to their salaries and they have a fee schedule that is determined by state statute. In addition, some constables if they are post certified can act as general law enforcement officers with within the state. Some may be additionally deputized by the sheriff in addition to that, or the marshal or another law enforce general law enforcement agency within the state.

Mr. Epperson thanked the Constables for being in attendance to today's meeting. Answering a question from Mr. Epperson regarding the constables terms, Constable Hatfield stated that they are elected for six year terms and will be on the November 3, 2020 ballot.

Mr. Epperson mentioned that some of the Constables wear uniform and logos. He wanted to know if the Constables were certified to carry weapons. Constable Hatfield confirmed that they are. Mr. Epperson then wanted to know if the Constables were all post-certified. Constable Hatfield explained that the Constable and the Sheriff are both elected officials, so they can act in the same capacity as a law enforcement officer. He also explained that it is not mandatory for a Constable to be post-certified, nor does a Sheriff. Constable Hatfield further explained that both a Constable and the Sheriff, once elected, does not have to be post-firearm certified or post-certified. He

reiterated that it is not required, but most constables maintain it because of insurance purposes.

Mr. Epperson wanted to know if Constable Hatfield has encountered belligerent people while performing his duties as Constable, for example, property standards. Constable Hatfield said that they have not really participated in property standards issues for about five years now because there is no enforcement. He explained that the constables can write a warrant and give a citation, but there's "no backing" for property standards to be enforced.

Mr. Epperson asked for clarification on the enforcement of property standards as it relates to the Constables. Attorney Frazier explained that when the Constables were enforcing property standards were having issues with the Justice courts actually enforcing the citations. She also pointed out that there was special legislation passed for them to write those citations. Now, it is often done by the Public Works employees, and those citations go to District Court.

Mr. Epperson wanted to know if the Parish provided the Constables with cameras. Attorney Frazier stated that the Parish did. Constable Hatfield mentioned that those cameras were distributed several years ago, so the technology is not as current. He said that they mainly use their cameras on their phone to record incidents. Answering a question from Mr. Epperson regarding the need for updated body cams, Constable Hatfield feels that every law enforcement officer should wear a body cam to protect the citizens and the officer. He believes that it is a necessity. Constable Kevin McClure agreed.

Constable McClure also brought up another concern. He requested that "No Littering" signs with a fine posted be installed up and down the roadways to cut down on all the trash. He feels that the signs would alleviate people from littering.

He also talked about the issue with property standards. Constable McClure expressed the same sentiments as Constable Hatfield. He said that the constables have "lots of bark, with no bite".

Constable Roger Harris agreed with the necessity of body cams. He also agreed with Constable McClure with the "No Littering" signs.

Mr. Epperson wanted to know if there are "No Littering" signs posted throughout the Parish. Dr. Wilson said that there are "No Dumping" signs, but he will make a note of it. Constable McClure clarified that he would like "No Littering" signs installed, but was told that he would have to go to the State. Dr. Wilson confirmed that if it is a State road, it would need to be approved by the State first.

Constable McClure gave an example of a citizen going to the compactor site, but it was closed, so the citizen dumps all of their trash up and down the roadways.

Mr. Jackson suggested looking at the Shreveport Environmental Court. He said that the City Court has a loaded docket, so the property standards issues get "pushed down" because they are not as severe. He recommended that a discussion be had with Mr. Terrence Green for a possible cooperative endeavor agreement (CEA) related specifically to address property standards issues.

Mr. Jackson also talked about Mayor Perkins issue a mask mandate for Shreveport. He said that leaves the Shreveport Police Department (SPD) as the enforcement agency. He is concerned with this because he is not sure if SPD would be the proper enforcement authority, especially "since five year olds are being shot in the middle of the day". He wanted to know if the Constables would be ok with helping to enforce a mask mandate, if the Commission approves one for the Parish. Mr. Jackson pointed out that he is "not looking so much for enforcement, but more for education". He also believes that the Commission has an obligation to provide a mask first before a mask mandate is issued.

Constable McClure suggested that guidelines be set so they know what type of consequences are in place. Mr. Jackson suggested to first supply the masks, then education regarding wearing the masks.

Constable Harris wanted to discuss enforcement of property standards. He said that those citations would go through the JOP courts quicker if the JOPs were “given some teeth” to require the violators to clean up their properties. Mr. Jackson suggested discussing the ordinance in a Property Standards meeting.

Attorney Frazier pointed out that they did go to the State Legislature to get special permission for the Justice of the Peace courts to administer a criminal fine or a jail sentence. She said “the teeth are there”. If they do not choose to impose it, then that’s the judge choosing not to impose it. There is legislation on the books that allows for it.

Mr. Lazarus commented on Constable McClure’s request for “No Littering” signs. He said that the area in question is on Colquitt Road, which is a State highway. He said that the Maintenance Department with the State Highways advised him that they would need physical address of where they would like the signs to be installed, and it will be done.

Mr. Taliaferro wanted to know if the Attorney General gives the Constables their “marching orders”. Constable Hatfield confirmed. Mr. Taliaferro explained that any type of enforcement that the Commission decides to implement would have to go through the AG’s Office for approval. Constable Hatfield agreed.

Mr. Taliaferro wanted to know if the constables’ profession could be better explained to the public, since they are the law enforcement arm of the Parish. Constable Hatfield stated that the Commission does a good job by supporting the constables. He agreed that the general public are unsure what constables are and their duties. He also stated that the social media has afforded more opportunities on educating the public of this.

Answering a question from Mr. Taliaferro regarding how the constables obtain their equipment, Constable Hatfield stated that they provide their own equipment. Mr. Taliaferro stated that it is safe to presume that one constable may be outfitted with different safety equipment as another. Constable Hatfield agreed. Mr. Taliaferro believes that it would be beneficial if all of the constables were outfitted the same.

Mr. Taliaferro wanted to know if it would be more beneficial for the constables to be post-certified. Constable Hatfield agreed. He feels that every single law enforcement officer should receive as much training as possible.

Answering another question from Mr. Taliaferro regarding social media, Constable Hatfield said that he does maintain a Constable Facebook where citizens can engage with him.

Mr. Taliaferro wanted to know if the constables receive the necessary support from other law enforcement agencies. Constable Hatfield agreed that they receive support from the Caddo Parish Commission, Shreveport Police Department, State Police, and other agencies.

Constable McClure mentioned that the Sheriff offered additional training in 2015 to the constables. He would like to take the Sheriff up on that offer, if it’s still available. He also said that they do have a great working relationship with the Parish.

Attorney Frazier clarified that the constables are not the law enforcement arm of the parish; the parish does not have a law enforcement arm. The constables are elected to their own district and responsible to their electors supervised by the people that elect them and the Attorney General. She reiterated that there is no law enforcement arm of the Parish.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know who would the Commission reach out to in regards to post-certifying the constables. Attorney Frazier said that as of right now, it would be up to each constable as to whether or not the constable wish to pursue post certification, they

would do that at their own expense. If the Parish was to provide it, it would have to do it through a cooperative endeavor agreement with obligations on the constable and obligations on the Parish, so it is not an illegal donation. Mr. Chavez asked for the cost-measures for this type of training. Attorney Frazier pointed out that it is not a qualification that they must have to run for office. It is primarily to enforce their weapons training. It would empower them to make arrests in a wider jurisdiction. If somebody did not want to be post certified, there is no mechanism by which to make him become post-certified because it's not a qualification at the office.

Constable Harris wanted to know if the deputy constables would be included in the post-certification. Mr. Chavez said that he would like to see them have training on weapons that they carry.

Answering a question from Mr. Johnson regarding the number of deputies each constable has. Constable Harris said that each Constable can have one deputy. Mr. Johnson asked that the constables create a "top 3" wish list, so the Commission can review the requests of the constables. Mr. Chavez agreed and summarized that what he has heard includes body cameras, no littering signs and post certification. Constable Hatfield recapped that there was a time when Constables could have more deputies, but not any longer. Commissioner Epperson Thanked the Constables for participating in the discussion and expressed that he found it productive and informative.

- The next item on the agenda is a video of Mr. Ken Krefft doing a dramatic recitation of the Declaration of Independence. It was moved by Mr. Epperson to watch this at the end of the meeting, seconded by Mr. Young, and passed by acclamation.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

The Commission Clerk advised the Commission that the Certificate for Teleconference is attached to the agenda.

Point of Clarification by Mr. Johnson on who requested to add the Declaration of Independence Recital on the agenda. Mr. Everson confirmed that it was a request by Mr. Chavez to accommodate a citizen's request. Mr. Chavez acknowledged that the citizen expressed interest in sharing the recital with the Commission to which he agreed. Mr. Johnson wanted the Commission to know that for citizen's requests a Commissioner must sponsor it.

Dr. Wilson reported that the June 2020 Financial Report has been sent out by email and to inform him of any questions regarding the report.

Mr. Young asked how many reimbursable claims for the Care's act have been made. Mrs. Barnett clarified that the Parish has requested reimbursement through April 2020 under the Care's Act and the reimbursement amount is around \$80,000. The next application period is estimated at \$150,000 to be reimbursed and as the application periods open then the Parish will submit claims for their expenses.

Dr. Wilson asked when the mobile testing at LSU Health Sciences Center will be reimbursed. Mrs. Barnett stated that they must provide a canceled check for each expense and if it hasn't cleared the bank then they must wait until the transaction has been completed. Then the Parish will request reimbursement when the application process when the expense cleared is available.

Mr. Young also wanted to know if there was a limit for reimbursements. Mrs. Barnett stated unsure whether there is a limit by Parish or entity but there may be a limit by Parish. However, she is submitting requests for all applicable expenses.

MR. Young requested whether there is someone is mediating how much is being requesting across the Parish. Mrs. Barnett responded that there is not but she is doing everything she can to submit reimbursement requests.

Mr. Young states that the Parish should keep track on a total of how much is being requested for reimbursement so the Parish does not spend money assuming that the funds will be reimbursed. Mrs. Barnett confirmed that she will obtain that information and correspond with Mr. Young.

At this time, Mr. Chavez moved to the next agenda item Commission Remarks: Communiques, reports and other items related to Work Session Agenda.

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 July 6th, 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: July 1, 2020

/s/Mario Chavez, President

COMMISSION REMARKS: COMMUNIQUES

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by **Mr. Young** to request a Special Session to be scheduled for Wednesday, July 8, 2020 at 12:30 p.m. to include a special emergency ordinance on the masks and the COVID19 threat level resolution.

Mr. Johnson commented that the Mayor of Shreveport Adrian Perkins has mandated mask wearing for Shreveport and thinks it should include the Parish of Caddo. He also believes the threat level will explain and provide support for the reason of wearing masks for the good of the community.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know whether there was anything that stands out in the June 2020 Financial report. Mrs. Hayley stated that the only thing that differs is a decrease in revenue from the Riverboat Fund.

Mr. Jackson stated that he anticipated some of the other budgeted expenses such as travel, mileage, and gas should balance the revenue. Dr. Wilson confirmed that the oil and gas revenue has gone up.

Mr. Jackson expressed that he also would like to know the total amount in the Care's Act amount for the Parish. He stated that the State placed \$300,000,000 for the small business program and there is \$14,000,000 for the Parish of Caddo altogether. However, they allowed the Sherriff's Office and City of Shreveport has

made requests for reimbursement. He also informed the Commission that unused funds are then dispersed to other Parishes.

Point of Clarification by Mr. Burrell on the issue of threat level. Mr. Burrell wanted to know whether establishing a threat level of COVID19 will be recommended to Parish and City of Shreveport and to the state, as well as, how it will be administered. Mr. Chavez responded that they will go in-depth on his questions during the Special Session.

Mr. Johnson commented that he proposed the ordinance for the Parish of Caddo which includes the City of Shreveport to help justify why they are at this threat level. He did not prepare it statewide although some states are preparing their own orders.

Mr. Burrell also wanted to know whether the Parish will collaborate with the City of Shreveport to administer the threat level warning. Mr. Johnson stated that the Parish will administer the threat level, then ask the City Council to adopt the resolution.

Mr. Hopkins wanted to know whether they are voting on something that is not on their agenda. Mrs. Frazier clarified that the Agenda Addition is an action item and was provided notice at the beginning of the meeting that action would be taken and was pushed to this portion of the Agenda by the Chair. She also informed the Commission that notice will be provided before the meeting on Wednesday so all notice requirements would be met.

Mr. Chavez stated that to expand the agenda to add would be not be successful with one opposing vote and would like to give the agenda items a chance to be addressed timely.

Mr. Young wanted to make sure the time of the Special Session works for everyone.

Mrs. Gage-Watts wanted to reiterate that they must host a Special Meeting after hearing the citizen's comments regarding wearing masks and that the Parish is taking too long to make a decision regarding this time sensitive matter. She expressed that the Parish of Caddo is always last in acting on things causing their actions to be reactive instead of proactive.

Mr. Taliaferro agreed with Mr. Burrell that they should support the City and what they have in place to protect themselves and the Parish.

Mr. Jackson stated that the order that came from the City of Shreveport should have been postponed until after speaking with other governing bodies, such as the Sherriff's Office and the Parish. He requests that Administration speaks with the City of Shreveport to reduce confusion regarding the emergency order.

Mr. Johnson'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: (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Mr. Chavez moved to the next agenda item, President's Report. At this time, Mr. Chavez yielded the agenda item to the Regular Session agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss today.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Young that Introduction of Ordinance No. 5961 of 2020, an ordinance amending and re-enacting sections 4-61 and 4-61.1 and enacting sections 4-63, 4-64, and 4-65, all of chapter four of the code of ordinances of the parish of Caddo, pertaining to permits for the sale of alcoholic beverages and alcoholic beverage handling cards, and otherwise pertaining thereto be advanced to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Hopkins said This will set up a committee to oversee the alcohol violations. It would be a committee of 5 assigned by the President. They'll hear the Sheriff's department information and hear from the businesses and make a

recommendation to the full body. It has become hard in the last few years to get a quorum at alcohol hearings. It will also lower the first and second offense fines, but keep the 3rd offense fine where it currently is. It also allows this committee to meet and develop suggestions for the full body regarding updates to the laws governing alcohol.

At this time, **Mr. Hopkins's motion carried**, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Taliaferro, and Young (7). NAYS: Cawthorne, Epperson, Jackson & Johnson (4). ABSENT: Commissioner Gage-Watts (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, that Resolution No. 51 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.

Mr. Atkins clarified that there is an attempt to lease acreage under road controlled by the Parish. I've reviewed the lease and it has a vertical cue clause and a horizontal cue clause and seems to be well prepared, so I am supportive.

Mr. Young asked if there was a map, it has been brought to his attention that there are some drilling leases on the border of cross lake and they may be controversial because they abut the main supply of drinking water for the City of Shreveport. Mr. Johnson confirmed that Cross Lake is in close proximity to the drill sites. Mr. Young said that the Bureau of Land Management had an open comment process that was somewhat interrupted by the pandemic and notice was not adequately given to the population who would be effected by this. Mr. Johnson said that any drilling in the Cross Lake watershed impacts Cross Lake and there are already wells in the Watershed, so this won't be much different. Mr. Young expressed a concern that the proximity to Cross Lake doesn't leave much time or distance to dilute a spill. Mr. Burrell said that he has concerns about this and hopes that it wouldn't impact the development of I-49. Mr. Chavez asked Dr. Wilson to direct Mr. Glass to prepare a memo for the Commissioners with answers to these concerns.

Mr. Atkins said that it was a good point that had been brought up, and he could be supportive of carving out roads that boarder Cross Lake, but he is also wanting to remind that we are most likely talking about natural gas reserves, dry gas reserves- which do not have the pollutant threat that an oil well would have.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, that Resolution No. 52 of 2020, a resolution urging and requesting area realtors to inform prospective buyers of property standards ordinances, restrictive covenants, and neighborhood and homeowners associations obligations and otherwise providing with respect thereto be advanced to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Burrell asked if Scott Hughes recommendation had been considered. Mr. Epperson responded that he is aware of it and he is good with the resolution as written. He continued that this is very similar to a resolution adopted in 2014, but this one adds Neighborhood Associations and Homeowners Associations. I've gotten a lot of good response to it and homeowners say that having this information helps with their home sales.

Mr. Taliaferro said that as a licensed REALTOR he appreciated Mr. Scott Hughes' insight and his guidance. He would like to see the language that Mr. Hughes suggested be woven into the resolution and continued that it is important to be specific about who this is going to affect. He adds that using REALTOR singles out one organization within the profession.

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 and Young (10). NAYS: Lazarus, Taliaferro, (2). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, to advance Resolution 53 of 2020, a resolution of final acceptance of State Project No. H.013389.6, regarding Caddo Parish bicyclist awareness signage, Caddo Parish and otherwise providing with respect thereto to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Jackson then made a substitute motion, seconded by Mr. Epperson, to englobe and advance Resolution 53, 54 & 55

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

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Young, that the appointment of Mr. Huey Horn to the Zoning Board of Appeals, term to expire April 10, 2023 be advanced to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Atkins said that Mr. Hon is a good business person with experience and has a desire to serve on the ZBA and has a lot of practical knowledge and would be a great addition to the ZBA.

Mr. Jackson made a substitute motion, seconded by Mr. Atkins, to englobe and advance the appointment of Mr. Horn, the appointments to the North Caddo Medical Center Board, the Special Resolutions for CPAS, Muriel Burns, Charley Lester and Sophia Nicolosi.

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

COMMUNIQUES/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Burrell stated that in a private meeting with other Commissioners, including himself, with Sherriff Steve Prator in an attempt to encourage him to come to the Commission to provide public information. Mr. Burrell expressed concern that the Parish does not have a law enforcement entity. Mrs. Frazier explained that like the Chief of Police and the Shreveport Police Department answer to the Shreveport City Council, the Parish of Caddo does not have a law enforcement agency to answer to it. She also explained that the Sherriff is an elected official and

Mr. Burrell expressed that he wants the Parish of Caddo to maintain communication with the Sherriff's office, so they could maintain a bridge of information with law enforcement and the Parish's legislation for the public. He stated that the relationship has been strained in the past and the Sherriff currently is not in support of the idea. Mr. Burrell strongly expressed they invite the Sherriff to their Special Session meeting.

- Mr. Young requested Attorney Frazier provide her legal opinion of the constitutionality of the mask laws and wanted to know whether this is best presented at the Special Session. Mr. Taliaferro acknowledged that he is in support of Attorney Frazier's legal opinion to be spoken

today or at any time. Mr. Chavez confirmed that Attorney Frazier's legal opinion will be presented at the Special Session.

- Mr. Chavez confirmed that Attorney Frazier's legal opinion will be presented at the Special Session.
- Mr. Jackson requested an update on issuing an RFP regarding the Confederate Statue. Dr. Wilson responded that they are waiting on the decision of the court before they could proceed.
- Mr. Jackson expressed concern that there was no injunction given and why they must wait. Attorney Frazier confirmed that there is no injunction and that they have started the process on what needs to be done before they could issue the RFP and having it ready once a resolution has been made.
- Mr. Jackson inquired about the CEPERS case and whether the Commission should ask the court to dismiss the case after five years of fighting the lawsuit. Attorney Frazier informed that they must have an Executive Session to discuss the legal strategy and there has been no updates case.
- Point of Clarification by Mr. Burrell to understand what the Commission is able to do during the interim of the court's decision and what they can do if the decision is no. Mr. Jackson commented that the inquiry would have to be addressed during the Executive Session on the legal strategy. Attorney Frazier stated that she will call Mr. Burrell.
- Dr. Wilson advised the Commission not to get into debate at this time with respect to legal issues.
- Mr. Jackson concluded that he sends his condolences to Commissioner Lazarus and if legal could advise the Commission on handling group texts to all twelve Commissioners and how their phones could be used as public records. Attorney Frazier acknowledged that she will handle it.
- Mr. Burrell sent his condolences to Commissioner Lazarus and wanted him to know if there is anything he can do to support him during his grievance. He also mentioned Dr. Lester and other community leaders who have passed during this time.
- Mr. Lazarus thanked everyone in the meeting for their condolences.

CITIZENS COMMENTS (LATE ARRIVALS)

Jennifer Courtney submitted the following comments:

Dear Commissioners and Mayor Perkins, I am writing to ask you to please pass a mask mandate in Caddo Parish and Shreveport. We are experiencing spread of the coronavirus at levels that are significantly higher than they were in March when Governor Edwards issued shelter-in-place orders. The virus has not changed. It has not gone away. No fancy new treatment has become available. No vaccine has arrived. Nothing has changed since March. In fact, it has gotten worse. We still have to do everything we can to mitigate the spread of this virus. I am a licensed midwife practitioner caring for pregnant individuals and their newborn babies. I would like to highlight the implications for pregnant people specifically. According to the CDC and ACOG, pregnant individuals are at increased risk for developing severe complications from COVID-19 including stillbirth and maternal death. Those who are healthy and giving birth in the hospital are currently having to do so with only one support person. Typically their spouse or domestic partner. They cannot have anyone else with them for support. No sisters, no mothers, no doulas, no best friends. In some hospitals around the nation, people are giving birth with NO SUPPORT PERSON AT ALL. Not even their spouse. When hospitals become overrun with COVID-19 cases, these are the measures they are having to take. For those giving birth out-of-hospital, a midwife like me has to go into their home environment in PPE and remain there for the duration of the labor; immersing the midwife in their environment for sometimes many hours. When a pregnant person is infected with COVID-19, the care team has to make sometimes drastic decisions on how to care for both of them. Babies may be delivered emergently and kept

separated from their birthing parent. This means a new mother may not be able to hold her baby. It means a baby may not be able to be held and fed and cuddled by their mother. Young parents in their childbearing years are not some invisible exception to the population as a whole. This IS our population. Our new babies and their parents need to be safe, and they need their precious bonding time. It is extremely important that we, as a culture, protect them as well as our other at-risk members, essential workers, and medical care providers. Masks are something we can do. Even for those who are NOT at increased risk, the cost of treatment and hospitalization for COVID-19 is exorbitant. Who can afford weeks of ICU care even with good insurance? Who can afford to be out of work even for a couple of weeks with a mild or suspected case? If we're worried about the economy, why not do what we can to prevent people being bankrupted by illness? Masks are something we can do. Easily. There is no medical reason why anyone who is healthy enough to go out in public should be unable to wear a mask. My patients are pregnant, and it is my professional opinion that there is no medical reason why a pregnant person cannot wear a mask. As a medical professional, I have been in situations where I had to wear a medical grade respirator for up to 20 hours at a time. It is hot, it is uncomfortable, but it does not jeopardize my health. I am willing to do it to protect myself and the precious parents and babies I am caring for. There are medical professionals at the hospitals who are spending back-to-back shifts caring for COVID-19 patients wearing medical respirators for long periods of time without complications. We have GENERATIONS of medical professionals who have used masks to protect their patients who are proof that wearing a mask is not dangerous. For those who have medical or philosophical objections to wearing a mask, accommodations exist in the form of delivery and curbside services. Most businesses have already proved their willingness to make those accommodations for people who need them.

Masks are a simple, effective, low-risk, low cost solution with measurable benefits.
Jennifer Courtney, Louisiana Licensed Certified Professional Midwife

Caroline Caperton submitted the following comments:

I am a registered Republican voter in Caddo Parish. I support the measure to enforce citizens to wear masks when going into stores due to the coronavirus pandemic. Thank you. Caroline Caperton, MD, MSPH

Gloria Lee submitted the following comment:

Greetings, My Name Is Gloria Lee And I Live In The Mooretown Section Of The City, This Area Has Been Labeled A Hot Spot For The Coronavirus. My Husband And I Are In That At Risk Age, So We Stay Home Most Of The Time, When We Do Go Out, We Can't Get Back Home Fast Enuf, It's Heart Breaking To See So Many Citizens Out And About With No Mask, Risking The Lives Of Other Citizens By Not Wearing A Mask, I'm In Favor Of Mandating The Mask.

We Elected You Guys To Take Care Of The Citizens Of This Parish, And What A Wonderful Job Each Commissioners Is Doing, You Have Our Prayers And Support. We Are So Thankful And Proud To Have Stormy Gage Watts As Our Commissioner In District #7 She's Doing A Super Job. Respectfully Yours Gloria McCray Lee.

Mr. Chavez brought up the video from Mr. Krefft and Mr. Burrell suggested that we hear it during the special meeting since this meeting has run long. Mr. Chavez agreed.

Mr. Burrell made a motion to move the video to the Special session meeting, seconded by the Mr. Chavez. This **motion carried by acclamation**.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ordinance No. 5960 Of 2020

An ordinance amending the budget of estimated revenues and expenditures for the Riverboat Fund to provide an appropriation for the Salvation Army's Boys and Girls

club for funds remaining at December 31, 2019 and to otherwise provide with respect thereto.

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

/s/Jeff Everson

Jeff Everson

Commission Clerk