

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 3RD DAY OF JANUARY, 2022

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Work Session, on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., via Zoom teleconference, with Mr. Johnson, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12).

Mr. Burrell gave the invocation, and Mr. Chavez led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CERTIFICATE FOR TELECONFERENCE

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Louisiana has declared a statewide Public Health emergency, inclusive of Caddo Parish, in Proclamation Number 25 JBE 2020;

WHEREAS, the Governor, has further extended that declaration via Proclamations Number 158 JBE 2020 and Number 159 JBE 2020; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 42:17.1 allows members of political subdivisions to participate in its meetings electronically under certain limited circumstances.

THEREFORE, in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 42:17.1, the presiding officer of the Caddo Parish Commission hereby certifies that this meeting is to address matters that are:

- (a) directly related to the public Commission's response to the Coronavirus Pandemic and are critical to the health, safety, or welfare of the public.
- (b) that if they are delayed will cause curtailment of vital public services or severe economic dislocation and hardship.
- (c) critical to continuation of the business of the Commission and that are not able to be postponed to a meeting held in accordance with the other provisions of Open Meetings Law due to a legal requirement or other deadline that cannot be postponed or delayed by the public body.
- (d) critical or time-sensitive and have been determined by the undersigned should not be delayed;*

* Consideration of matters under Paragraph (d) will initially require a two-thirds vote of those members present. (This does not affect the vote necessary for adoption or any motion.)

Date: December 30, 2021

Lyndon B. Johnson
Caddo Parish Commission
President

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Jill Brown submitted the following comment:

After having almost an entire year, here we are fighting for our property rights even after hb697 was passed. You all put together an advisory board that you chose and after there hard work, you have decided to ignore there recommendations. Please know that by doing so, that looks bad on you. The people have spoken over and over again and you continue to ignore your constituents. Again, looks bad on you. Let me make myself clear. We DO NOT want the mpc, udc, master plan, 5 member appointed board (that can't be held accountable). We moved to the country for a reason.

David Brown submitted the following comment:

I'm sick and tired of the government trying to tell us how we can and can't live outside the city limits in caddo parish. We live out here for a reason. Not so that someone behind a desk can tell me what I can park in my yard, how many chickens I can have and that they have to have a concrete slab. They are yard birds for Christ sake. How to fix my fence or plant a dang tree. Stop this government overreach and give us what we want. No Mpc or udc. No 5 member appointed boards. Let us just live our

simple lives.

Carla Collins called in with the following comment:

Hi my name is Carla Collins. I'm at 2829 Sycamore Street in Shreveport, Louisiana. Can everyone hear me? This is kind of weird. Okay. So, the reason why I chose to come and speak today as in regards to the rental crisis that is happening in Shreveport. Myself, firstly, with my sister Breka Peoples, have been out feet on the ground assisting those persons primarily in the Woodland Terrace Apartments with everything that's been going on. I don't know how anyone on the panel could have missed it. So, let me advise you there are still ongoing issues and situations. With that being said, I have reviewed the information, because I have been working directly with Commissioner Jackson, as well as, Lyndon Johnson. And I had a conversation with Stefan Jones regarding the situation. And I just-and I know about the mitigation attorneys-with that being said, we are dealing with persons who have very limited ability to move around the City of Shreveport, even with the 2022 free bus rides. Because we have persons who are single parents and cannot afford to leave their children at home unattended. With that being said, I do understand we have the mitigation attorney. So, I'm asking everyone that is assisting with the emergency rental assistance program to meet the people where they are. And by that, if they are not able to go and seek help I think it's time for the people who we voted in to go and seek to help. And with that being said, I think we need more feet on the ground. Not for the cameras, but literally to actually help. I understand the new implementation that wants to put in place for the twelve hundred dollars for family. I appreciate that, but I'm telling you firsthand with being out there with the people, more is needed because that's an average of only 60 families. Although that amount is great, and I understand you guys may feel like you're doing, you know, something good. And you are. I'm not knocking anyone for that, I'm just letting you know more is needed. In addition to that, the monies that were received at these deplorable locations that need to be investigated. Because some persons, a lot of them are is being advised that they are behind on their rent payments and I personally have seen the ledger but they are actually not because the ERAP actually pays them up. Most recently, for the month of December they were trying to evict them for non-payment rent when they actually got their money in December. So, asking you all to help me help them. Help me help you while you guys help them. Because it's everybody's issue. It's not just people in you know the person with Woodlawn Terrace its not just the persons that's off the Cooper Road, nor in the apartments that's next to St. Vincent. This is a Shreveport. If we are Caddo, if we are Shreveport, everyone needs to be included on this.

Calvin Lester called in with the following comment:

Thank you, ma'am. My name is Calvin Lester. My address is 3907 Eighth Place, Shreveport, LA, 71107. I am calling on behalf of my organization Grace Project. I want to thank the Commission for giving me an opportunity to speak. I'll be really brief. On last year, we, Grace Project, and I believe two other organizations responded to the RFP for the American Recovery Act. And we submitted an application for a revitalization program in the community in Caddo Parish. We requested a million dollars and we were excited to get the support of the Commission. You don't always get what you want, but we were very excited to get 60% of what we requested from the Commission. We have not gotten a commitment letter. And in talking to several other of the program participants in other areas, we were at the meeting that similarly came before the Commission, they have received their commitment letters. The three organizations that responded relative to doing affordable housing in the community have not received it. And so, our request was just that we would get our commitment letters. We, again, thank the Commission for their kind support of our efforts for revitalization of our community. We think that getting our commitment letters will help us move forward toward getting our cooperative endeavor agreement and more specifically moving forward on these projects. I think that if given the opportunity to move forward we can resolve some of these issues like the previous caller had. As we know, Caddo Parish has a deficit of about 10,000 affordable housing units. And certainly from our perspective we're looking to take properties that were dilapidated and adjudicated and put them back on the tax roll. Not only can we help with affordable housing, but we can deal with things like blight and disrepair for some of our neighborhoods. And so, we're just asking that the legislation that's been put forward by Commissioner Jackson be approved and that we can get our direct appropriations and commitment letter, so we can move forward with our different and various projects. Thank you very much for your time and, again, we would be remiss if we didn't thank the Commission for their continued support for organizations like ours that are out here doing things for the community in the area of affordable housing. Thank you very much.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that Ordinance No. 6155 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund in the amount of \$5,000 to provide an additional appropriation for the Delta Upsilon Lambda Foundation and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Burrell said that this came out favorably from the Economic Development Committee. He also mentioned that this program has a 100% graduation rate.

Substitute motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *to englobo and advance the following items to Thursday's agenda for introduction:*

- *Ordinance No. 6155 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund in the amount of \$5,000 to provide an additional appropriation for the Delta Upsilon Lambda Foundation and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6156 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund in the amount of \$5,000 to provide an additional appropriation for Dress for Success Shreveport-Bossier, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6157 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Public Works Fund and the Capital Outlay Fund in the amount of \$107,500 to provide an additional appropriation to install welcome signs on I-49, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6158 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund in the amount of \$5,000 to provide an appropriation for Friends In Unity, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6159 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund in the amount of \$10,000 to reduce the appropriation for Playaz and Playettes, Inc., and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6160 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues for the Oil & Gas Fund for the year 2022 to provide an appropriation of \$109,000 to provide Caddo Fire District 7 with a part-time employee, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6161 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues for the American Rescue Plan Fund to provide an appropriation of up to \$30,000 for Red G Enterprises, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6162 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues for the American Rescue Plan Fund to provide an appropriation for counseling in public high schools in Caddo Parish, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6163 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues for the American Rescue Plan Fund to provide an appropriation for Volunteers for Youth Justice for truancy and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6164 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues for the American Rescue Plan Fund to provide an appropriation for Caddo Parish Juvenile Court, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

Mr. Jackson wanted to know the funding amount for Ordinance No. 6162 with regards to counseling in public high schools. He also wanted to know if it will be parish-wide. Mr. Johnson explained that the funding amount is \$100,000, and it is parish-wide.

Mr. Jackson also asked about Ordinance No. 6164 with regards to Juvenile Detention. He asked to have continued discussions with Administration regarding “what is permanent and what is temporary”. Dr. Wilson agreed.

Mr. Chavez said that he received inquiries from one of his constituents regarding the ordinances. His constituent wanted to know if Ordinance No. 6159 of 2021 was a new endeavor, as well as potential COVID impacts. His constituent also asked about Red G Enterprises. The constituent wanted to know what this organization does and what does it provide for the citizens of Caddo Parish. Lastly, his constituent asked about Ordinance No. 6162 of 2021 regarding counseling in public high schools. The constituent pointed out that Caddo Parish has agreements with more than twenty mental health agencies.

Mrs. Gage-Watts asked about some of the items that Mr. Jackson was referring to regarding Juvenile Court. She wanted to know if these items were discussed in committee. Mr. Jackson said that he is not sure if these have been discussed in committee because he has not had a chance to attend a committee meeting. Dr. Wilson mentioned that they are new items.

Mrs. Bryant also mentioned that these items were already passed in the 2021 Budget, but need to be amended for the 2022 Budget.

Mr. Jackson responded to Mr. Chavez’s constituent with regards to Ordinance No. 6159. He explained that it is actually a reduction, not an increase. He also said that it is budget neutral and freed up some funds for other organizations.

At this time, Mr. Johnson’s substitute motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson,

Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0) ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that Ordinance No. 6165 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund to provide an appropriation for ERAP housing quality inspections and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Jackson explained that this ordinance is to provide ERAP dollars for housing quality inspections. He said that this is a new allocation, which is coming from a reallocation. He also said that these inspections are not like the inspections when buying a new home. Mr. Jackson explained that if a tenant has a complaint, an inspector can come out to make sure there is no mold, rodents, pests, poor plumbing, or things of that nature. He said that the Treasury Department does allow for dollars to be utilized to move that person to another safe and sanitary location.

Mr. Jackson said that the ERAP paid Woodlawn Terrace \$300,000 for back rent and forward rent when the living conditions are horrible.

Mr. Johnson said that there are two types of ERAP monies: ERAP1 and ERAP2. He said that one of the pots of money covers relocation, and the other does not. Currently, the Parish does not have the ERAP monies that does cover relocation.

Mr. Jackson said that both ERAP programs allow for relocation assistance, but one of the programs only allows for COVID-19 related relocation; the other does not.

Mr. Hopkins wanted to know who would be qualified to conduct the inspections, and how will it be determined. Mr. Jackson said that the Housing Authority is contracted with the Parish to administer this program. He also mentioned that they initially agreed to do the inspections.

Mr. Chavez asked if Mr. Jackson would have a FAQ sheet for this ordinance before Thursday's agenda. Mr. Jackson said that he would not. Mr. Johnson asked that Mr. Jackson forward the Treasury Guidelines to him.

Dr. Wilson pointed out that there may be difficulty in relocating people due to the qualifications to get into a new dwelling. He said that the majority of the people who qualify for ERAP are unemployed. He mentioned that it would be difficult to relocate those persons to new locations if a qualifications is that they are employed. Mr. Jackson mentioned that they should not assume that they are unemployed. He said that those people could have a mental illness to where they cannot get employment.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that Ordinance No. 6166 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the E. Edward Housing Trust Fund to roll over an existing 2021 appropriation for eviction mitigation into the 2022 Budget and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Jackson said that this is not new money. He also spoke with two of the attorneys who mentioned that this program could be better utilized. Mr. Jackson also said that SUSLA is working with the State and the USDA on eviction mitigation opportunities. He said that this is not providing new funding, and it will be reimbursed by ERAP dollars.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that Ordinance No. 6169 of 2022, an ordinance approving a cooperative endeavor agreement with Tim James, Inc. relative to construction of a privately-owned tollway over the Red River pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statute 48:2037, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Atkins said that this privately-owned tollway has been proposed by a company out of Alabama named, Tim James, Inc. This road would go from the end of 3132 behind Twelve Oaks, between Twelve Oaks and Esplanade, across agricultural fields, over Hwy 1, to a bridge (they will construct) over the Red River, and into Bossier Parish. Mr. Atkins said that there will be no Parish capital involved in this project, but may be some Parish maintenance fees down the road. Twelve Oaks have been informed of this project, and its residents have been working with Mr. James regarding their concerns. He said that Twelve Oaks is in support of this project. The Port has also been informed of this project, and are supportive of it. He asked that the Commissioners support this endeavor.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know the potential maintenance costs of this project. Dr. Wilson explained that they asked for a warranty bond to be established, and the maintenance of the road will be taken into consideration in fifteen years.

Mr. Jackson said that he asked the Parish to consider the maintenance for the right-sizing of Ford Street, but received the reply that the Parish did not want to add to its inventory. Dr. Wilson explained that this is not the same as Ford Street. He said that Ford Street is an existing road that has several problems underneath the surface of the road. Dr. Wilson pointed out that the Ford Street project also included a bridge. He said that this project is different from it because it does not include a bridge, and it is maintaining brand new surfaces with no underlining. Mr. Jackson said that the Ford Street project stopped before the bridge, and DOTD said that they would prefer if the Parish accepted the bridge, but would be ok with the Parish not taking it in. Mr. Jackson asked for a road-to-road scenario from Administration and DOTD comparing both projects. Dr. Wilson also mentioned that Ford Street is in the City of Shreveport, who had just as much opposition to the project as the Parish did due the ongoing maintenance of it. Mr. Jackson disagreed with Dr. Wilson. Mr. Jackson also requested that the CEA be attached to the agenda prior to adoption.

Mr. Atkins said that LADOTD is already evaluating the extension of 3132, but instead of the State spending capital money to extend 3132, Tim James, Inc. will extend 3132 and add a bridge connecting Caddo Parish with Bossier Parish. Mr. Atkins also pointed out that the maintenance of the road will be in place whether the State owns it or Tim James, Inc. owns it. He also said that the project is estimated to cost between \$80M-\$100M which are construction costs that will be injected into our community. Mr. Atkins reiterated that this is a private sector project, not a LADOTD project.

Mr. Burrell suggested that this be vetted further in committee.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know the reason this is an ordinance, not a resolution if there are no dollars involved. Attorney Bernstein said that the State statute regarding private tollways require that the governing authority approve it by ordinance.

Mr. Johnson also wanted to know why the Commission has to approve a cooperative endeavor agreement (CEA). Attorney Bernstein explained that the CEA would include the 15-year clause stating that Tim James, Inc will be responsible for the maintenance. He also said that the CEA would set out the limits of what the Parish will be taking into the Road System. Attorney Bernstein said that it would need to be approved by the Commission. He also explained that normally, it would be a budget ordinance that would be the cause for a CEA, but in this instance, this ordinance generates the CEA.

Substitute motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *that Ordinance No. 6169 of 2022 be advanced to Thursday's Regular Session for introduction, but also schedule a Long Range Planning Committee to discuss this ordinance prior to final adoption.*

Mr. Jackson has additional concerns and would like this to be vetted further prior to voting on it. He is also upset that he's been fighting to have a road right-sized for four years now, but was told that the Parish does not want to take in anymore roads.

Mr. Atkins reiterated that there will be savings since a private company will be extending 3132 instead of the State. He said that those dollars could be used on other projects. In his opinion, this is a clear bargain for the Parish.

At this time, Mr. Jackson's substitute motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Taliaferro, and Young (8). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Hopkins, and Lazarus (4). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Ordinance No. 6170 of 2022, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Oil & Gas Fund for the year 2022 to provide an appropriation for relocation assistance and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Johnson explained that this ordinance deals with relocation assistance. He also said that the Parish is out of ERAP2 dollars, but could be used for relocation. He also explained that ERAP1 dollars deal with rental assistance only. Currently, there are citizens who want to leave their living conditions because of mold, mildew, rodents, etc., but they need help to move from one location to the other. He said that this ordinance also limits the amount of relocation assistance, so that more people can be relocated, if possible.

Mr. Jackson said that the ERAP1 and ERAP2 dollars can both be used for relocation, per the U.S. Treasury Guidelines. He agreed that this is needed and necessary, but feels that the monies could be reimbursed from the ERAP dollars that the Parish has.

Mrs. Bryant explained that this relocation assistance is for anyone, regardless if they are on the ERAP program. ERAP dollars can only be used for persons on the ERAP program. It is their

understanding from the U.S. Treasury Guidelines with regards to ERAP1 is that it has to be related to COVID. She said that the majority of these persons will not be relocating due to COVID, so that is the hang up.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Ordinance No. 6171 of 2022, an ordinance amending the 2022 Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the American Rescue Plan Fund to provide an additional appropriation for Fit for Life Ministries, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Johnson explained that this organization had an event that was cancelled, and these dollars could provide for loss revenues. Mr. Supermann Blount has international people coming into town, but COVID is holding it up. He said that these dollars would help with that event.

Mr. Chavez agreed with Mr. Johnson and is in support of this ordinance.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *that Ordinance No. 6172 of 2022, an ordinance amending the 2022 Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund to provide appropriations for housing projects and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Jackson explained that this more "clean up language" from what the Commission has already done. He said that this is to clarify what the intent is, so the organizations can move forward.

Mr. Johnson disagreed with Mr. Jackson. He said that he made the motion in the American Rescue Plan Committee to move \$2M over to E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund. The reason he did that is so that any other developers that wanted to do housing projects would have the opportunity to do so. He said that E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund has either a committee or process to help vet those housing projects. At that point, they would then come back to the full body with a recommendation in which the Commission would vote on those recommended dollar amounts. He does not believe it "makes too much sense" to give any organization \$1M to do a housing project based on a one-page application. Mr. Johnson feels that there needs to be more vetting and more detailed information to be supplied. He said that is not against giving organizations dollars, but does believe that it needs to go through a process.

Mr. Jackson disagreed with Mr. Johnson. He said there was an application sent to the organizations who submitted the information with the projects and their requested dollar amounts. Mr. Jackson does not feel that it is fair to have these organizations "jump through another hoop or hurdle". They responded to what we put out, he said. Mr. Jackson also mentioned that last year, a grant process be allowed due to the anticipation of American Rescue Plan dollars to be used. A process can be used for the revolving loan; there is no process for American Rescue Plan dollars, he said. Mr. Jackson said that these organizations are not asking for a loan. Mr. Jackson also mentioned that there is not a technical committee for the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund because the Commission voted to remove it.

Mr. Johnson explained that these projects were discussed in the American Rescue Plan Committee and had several questions. In one of the programs, the Parish was going to give an organization adjudicated properties and sell them. The question was, who would get the profit of those homes, which was answered that the Parish would receive it. Another program was regarding rental properties. He agreed that there quality affordable housing opportunities are needed in Caddo Parish, but he wants to ensure that those programs are vetted. Mr. Johnson also mentioned that housing does not go into detail on the U.S. Treasury Guidelines. He also pointed out that if these organizations does not give monthly reports, then the Commission can stop their funding.

Point of Clarification from Mr. Jackson. He said that there is not a technical committee for grants. He said that there is one for the loans, but not the grants. He said that his motion is not to usurp any process that has been established by the American Rescue Plan. Mr. Jackson also pointed out that he did not put together the application that the organizations had to submit.

Mr. Johnson said that he is trying to establish a process to be consistent that goes across the board. Answering a question from Mr. Johnson regarding the total requested amount from the American Rescue Plan monies, Mrs. Bryant said that it was about \$70M-\$100M. Mr. Johnson said that everyone did not receive the money they requested, but the Committee had to utilize the monies the best they could to stimulate the economy in Caddo Parish. He also said that the housing projects were moved to the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund so they could be vetted in a process. Mr. Jackson argued

that there is no process. Mr. Johnson said that there needs to be a process in place to vet those dollars and utilize the funds.

Mr. Hopkins said that he supports doing this type of program because it helps citizens and puts tax base back into the Parish. He suggested moving this forward and remanding it to the Committee.

Mrs. Barnette said that the application was created by Finance and approved by the Committee. She also said that it was never meant to be the final document for any of these organizations. Each project/program has requirements for reporting. She also said that it will all be on a reimbursement basis, and it has to follow the Federal Procurement Guidelines. She said that there is more work and extenuating documentation to be done prior to the first being cut.

Mr. Johnson pointed out that there was not a dollar amount associated with each project. He said that monies were moved from ARP to E. Edward Jones in one lump sum.

Point of Clarification by Mr. Jackson. He said that Finance said that everyone was approved for an allocation. Mrs. Barnette said that the ones that they have listed were approved. She also mentioned that the two organizations listed on this ordinance were not previously approved. Mrs. Barnette agreed that there is additional leg work that needs to be done before dollars are allocated.

At this time, Mr. Jackson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, and Young (6). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Johnson, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (4). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts and Jones (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *that Resolution No. 1 of 2022, a resolution authorizing the Caddo Community Action Agency, Inc. to administer the Head Start Program for the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Gage-Watts (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Point of Clarification from Mr. Burrell. He wanted to know if it is a requirement if a Commissioner is attending the Zoom meeting, if they are required to vote either yea, nay, or abstain. Mr. Johnson explained that it is a Zoom meeting, so they cannot tell if the person is away from their mobile device or not because their video is off.

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *that Resolution No. 7 of 2022, a resolution authorizing the Parish Administrator to retain special legal counsel and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration.

Amendment by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to ensure there is an opportunity for local and minority participation on this counsel.*

Mr. Jackson that he does not have any particular issues with this, but would like local and minority participation to have an opportunity on this counsel as opposed to reach out to New Orleans, Baton Rouge, etc. He said that there is local talent here to grow, learn, and get the experience to working with municipal government. Mr. Jackson said that this is to ensure that "we invest local dollars with local people".

Mr. Chavez wanted to know if an RFP was requested. Dr. Wilson said that an RFP was not requested on this yet. Mr. Chavez suggested getting the Shreveport Bar Association involved to see if there are any local attorneys with this knowledge.

Mr. Hopkins supports Mr. Wolf. He said that Mr. Wolf has the experience and technical knowledge on TIFs.

Mr. Atkins agreed with Mr. Jackson and encouraged the Commission to develop some local talent in this arena and give local people a chance to build their skillset when possible.

Mr. Epperson said that it is "a slight slap in the face" that the local legal establishments were not asked to participate in this.

Mr. Burrell said that he's dealt with these types of economic development issues for many years.

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *to seek a local attorney that can do the TIF; if no local attorney is found, then it would go to David Wolf with a local attorney assigned to work with him on this TIF.*

Attorney Bernstein mentioned that Mr. Wolf's career has been spent dealing with TIFs.

He also said that his partnership with the Parish goes back over ten years. Attorney Bernstein said the David Wolf is one of the top ten subject matter experts in the State. He also said that they are only looking for outside counsel when they need that extra expertise in addition to what is already in-house. Attorney Bernstein further stated that they are not looking to add additional legal staff, and they would only need special counsel who already has the experience and qualifications to give them the guidance that they might need with regards to TIF.

Mr. Johnson said that more attorneys need to be groomed in this region so they can become subject matter experts.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if this was to a specific TIF or if it is to TIFs in general. Dr. Wilson said that it is to TIFs in general. Mr. Jackson said that he is going to be pushing for local talent.

Mr. Epperson suggested that Legal staff take classes on TIFs.

At this time, Mr. Johnson's substitute motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (10). NAYS: Commissioner Hopkins (1). ABSENT: Commissioner Jones (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that a representative from the Juvenile Justice Citizens Advisory Committee be authorized as a visitor for the January 6, 2022 Regular Session.*

Mrs. Gage-Watts said that this advisory board will be reporting to the Juvenile Justice Committee as well as the full body.

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

COMMUNIQES AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- The Clerk of the Commission noted that the Commission will select the 2022 Caddo Commission Officers at the January 6, 2022 Regular Session.

- Mr. Jackson wanted to know if the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund Administrator has been selected yet. Attorney Bernstein said that they should be selected in the next week or so. He also said that he will reach out to them and invite them to attend the next Work Session or Regular Session.

Mr. Jackson also asked for an update on the disparity study. He also asked that Administration provide the road comparison between Ford Street and Extension 3132 to LADOTD, City of Shreveport, Mayor's Office, City of Shreveport CAO, and Councilwoman Tabitha Taylor. He also asked for a traffic count for both roads.

Mr. Jackson wished everyone a Happy New Year.

He also requested that a Long Range Planning Committee be called to discuss the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund.

Mr. Jackson also reminded everyone that the COVID-19 Pandemic is ongoing. He encouraged all to stay safe and get vaccinated.

- Mrs. Gage-Watts asked why Urban Support was not on today's agenda. Mr. Johnson said that it could have been an oversight on his part, but he did not see it. He also said that it could be an agenda addition at Thursday's meeting.

- Mr. Burrell asked for the traffic count for the I-49 Inner City Connector.

- Mr. Atkins asked that the Long Range Planning Committee be called to discuss the 3132 Extension. Mr. Chavez said that he is planning to call a meeting this Friday.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- Demographer

Mr. Cedric Floyd, Demographer, came before the Commission with regards to redistricting. Caddo Parish has a population of 247,849 per the 2020 Census, down from 254,969 in 2010 Census. This reflects a loss of 6.71%. Consistent with LA R.S. 33:1411, the population from the 2020

Census has been applied to the twelve Caddo Commission districts, which is called the Benchmark Plan. The Benchmark Plan shows a deviation of 42.09%. The way the deviation is calculated is by taking the total population of the Parish dividing it into twelve districts; that gives the ideal district size of 19,821. You then subtract the largest district (District 9) from the smallest district (District 5), which equates to 8,343. This is then divided by the ideal district size, which gives the deviation calculation of 42.09%. The goal is to have a 10% deviation, which is federal law. District 2, District 3, District 5, and District 6 are below the ideal district size. District 9, District 10, and District 12 are above the ideal district size. District 1, District 4, District 7, District 8, and District 11 are within the range for the ideal district size. Mr. Floyd explained that the reason for redistricting is that every elected official must be elected from the same number of people with a 10% deviation.

Mr. Floyd also went over the criteria for redistricting:

1. Population equality in each district—10% deviation in the plan.
2. Compliance with the Voting Rights Act.
3. Each district shall be compact as possible.
4. Each district shall be contiguous.
5. Incumbency shall be considered.
6. Consideration shall be given to natural, geographical, and political boundaries.
7. Consideration shall be given to keep intact communities with established ties of common interest and association, whether historical, racial, economic, ethnic, religious, or other.
8. A new apportionment plan must contain whole precincts consistent with LA.R.S. 33:1411 (C).
9. Consistent with the Home Rule Charter, the Redistricting Plan must be adopted by December 31, 2022.

Mr. Floyd said that Data Center is proposing an ordinance for the Commission spelling out the details of the Census and the Redistricting Plan.

Mr. Floyd also said that Data Center is available to meet with Commissioners, either individually or in groups, to determine who needs to gain and who needs to lose. He also mentioned that they have software that they use to plug in data to move forward with a redistricting plan.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know if there was a report showing all ethnicities in the Parish. Mr. Floyd said he will forward it to the Clerk of the Commission.

Mr. Jackson would like to set up a community event for his district.

Mr. Atkins asked how Mr. Floyd would resolve the multi-faceted issues of this Parish. Mr. Floyd said that there would need to be a plan that is representative of the Parish and in compliance with the Voting Rights Act.

Mr. Epperson would also like to set up a teleconference event for his district.

Mr. Burrell asked for clarification regarding the Voting Rights Act. Mr. Floyd explained that Caddo Parish has six black districts, and he will work to retain those six districts.

Mrs. Gage-Watts thanked Mr. Floyd for coming to the Commission and presenting this plan. She would also like to set up a community event for her district.

Mr. Johnson would like to set up a community event for his district, and he would like it to be recorded

- U.S. Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Dr. Wilson said that the program is going along just fine with zero wait. There is currently \$80,000 left. The State informed Administration that they will be receiving \$16.5M. Approximately 14,000 have been helped to date.

- Juvenile Detention

Dr. Wilson said that there are twenty-four children in detention; six of which are OJJ and

seven are 17 year olds. There are nine children at CCC.

- November 2021 Financial Report

Dr. Wilson also mentioned that the November 2021 Financial Report has been sent to the Commissioners.

- COVID Update

There have been sixteen positive cases since December 1, with four contacts. He said that there are more employees testing positive, and it is beginning to impact the organization.

Mr. Epperson wanted to know if there have been reports of COVID from any of the other Parish agencies. Dr. Wilson said that he has not received those numbers yet.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Johnson thanked the Commission for allowing him to serve as President again. He said that 2021 has been a trying year with the resurgence of COVID. Mr. Johnson also said that the COVID numbers are drastically increasing due to the Omicron variant being highly contagious. He also explained that is the reason for meeting via Zoom. He said that they can still conduct the business of the Parish without putting anyone in harm's way.

CITIZENS COMMENTS (late arrivals)

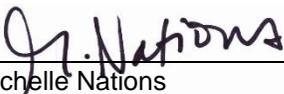
Calvin Lester called in with the following comment:

Yes ma'am and I'll be brief. I appreciate the Commission for giving us an opportunity to speak. And I appreciate the Commission giving us an opportunity to be supported. I think the only comment I want to make is the comment I made in the chat. Our understanding was that once a meeting was adjourned, back then when we when there was a vote on the recovery act money, that we were going to get a commitment letter and that commitment letter would be followed by a further discussion and after that further discussion we would commemorate our arrangement with the Parish in a cooperative endeavor agreement. We, those groups that supported doing housing, just felt like we should be treated the same way. Other folks got commitment letters. They were given opportunity to sit down and meet with Parish officials to reduce to a writing a cooperative endeavor agreement. We understood that there was no, you know. We were not going to fill out an application and submit a proposal and expect a check. No one expected that. We all understand that were processes. I just thought was that our process would be the same as everyone else. It just felt like those of us that were doing affordable housing and receiving funds and support, and we do appreciate the Parish for the support. Because, as you've discussed in this meeting, affordable housing is very much needed. Revitalization in our communities is very much needed particularly given those areas that have lost population. I would argue that a lot of those populations have seen a systemic disinvestment. And, so, our collective efforts to repopulate those areas, I think, we think, they're on point. But, again, our thought was that we were going to get a commitment letter that would have been followed by with the discussion and followed up with a cooperative endeavor agreement, just like everybody else would have. Well, apparently, everyone else but us who was supported with funding at that meeting got and we didn't. And we just didn't understand why we were being treated differently. But we appreciate the Parish support. We don't want anyone to think that we're ungrateful. Because we understand that you have choices to make, but we just believe that our situation is the same and that we should have gotten that same support. And we thank you for your commitment to us. And we thank you for the opportunity. Thank you, madam. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CONSENT AGENDA

- *Ordinance No. 6152 Of 2021, an ordinance to accept the streets in New Territory Subdivision Unit VI into the Parish of Caddo Road System, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6153 Of 2021, an ordinance amending the Caddo Parish Personnel Policy to require that all Parish employees hired, appointed or promoted to Parish Attorney, Assistant Parish Administrator, Parish Administrator/CEO, Department Director or Commission Clerk, must reside in Caddo Parish, 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 p.m.



Michelle Nations
Assistant Commission Clerk