

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 4th DAY OF JANUARY, 2021

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Work Session, on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., via Zoom teleconference, with Mr. Chavez, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). ABSENT: Commissioner Jackson (1).

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

TELECONFERENCE REQUIREMENTS

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to approve consideration of items under La.R.S. 42:17.1. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, and Young (9). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts, Jackson, and Taliaferro (3). ABSTAIN: None (0).

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; *

Date: December 30, 2020

/s/Mario Chavez
Caddo Parish Commission President

- * *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).*

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Troy Phillips submitted the following comment:

Dear Caddo Parish Commission members, My name is Troy Phillips, I am the owner of All Dogs Unleashed in Shreveport and the property owner of 8595 Greenwood Springridge Rd and also a Disabled Vet. I am asking for your vote to allow the zoning to be approved for an Animal Care Facility. I am also asking to be given a fair chance by not only the neighbors but my commissioner, Mr. Epperson. This could be the factor of closing my business and/or losing the house. My property has had large numbers of dogs on it since before buying the property. There are no known cases where anyone was harmed or a case of a loose dog. The property has several fences that do not allow the dogs to have access to the exterior fence that the neighbors are concerned with. I have submitted plans with requirements from the city and I have gone above and beyond what was asked of me. The new fence will not block the neighbors view as it will be around the training building and the dog area. Dogs will not be left alone outside, and training is conducted primarily inside also assuring for safety of the dogs and neighbors.

There is currently a dog training facility up the road called Canine Country who does boarding and training on the property of their residence and have less measures to keep dogs contained or even control noise. This location is also in Caddo Parish. I am mentioning this to show that it can be done on

my property safely. Mrs. Woodson mentioned how my fence to her property is in disrepair. This is not the case. It can be repaired. Mr. Alen Clarke from the MPC came to the property and agreed there should be no issue. All repairs will be done once approved. The other neighbor is concerned about his chickens and horses. I saw a coyote in the yard the other night. What prevents them from getting his chickens? He is worried the dogs will dig under them. He is also concerned about his senior horses. There is wildlife out there that could be of more harm. Mrs. Woodson mentioned she likes to enjoy her morning coffee or afternoon beverage of choice and watch the deer from her porch but will not be able to do this. Yes, Mrs. Woodson could. Let it be known that if this zoning does not pass, I can take down the fences around the perimeter of the property as I would like. I also moved out there not to just move my business but enjoy the view as well. If I do take the fence down, the neighbors would then need to build their own fence to keep their animals off my property. In regard to noise, there are barking dogs on one of the adjacent properties that continuously barks though the day and night. I have videos with sound to show my dogs are inside with me. If I am not outside my dogs are not lose and are inside in the evening. I am not here to cause problems. I am asking for a fair chance. I should not have to feel restricted on my own property. There are rumors of Mrs. Woodson and I suing each other. As far as I know they are rumors. At this time there is no attorney but there may be in the future. I am asking for a fair chance here. I understand there will be some ordinance changes in January of 2022. Those changes have not been made public at this time. I encourage anyone on the Commission to visit my property before Thursday's meeting. I would like for you to see the property itself and how it has already been used in the past and what the future would look like. Please give me a call if you would like to set up a time. Thank you for your time, Troy Phillips All Dogs Unleashed

Jacqueline Sue Woodson submitted the following comment:

Honorable Commissioners, I am writing to you as a concerned citizen and neighboring land owner of above-mentioned request. I live at 8988 Meadow Creek Dr., Shreveport, Louisiana, 71129. My property borders the applicants property, (855 feet, on the south side) requesting this Zone Change 20-16-P. As a concerned property owner and taxpayer, I am **AGAINST** this Zoning Change and have concerns. Were Policy and Procedures properly followed concerning the Zone Change Sign and the letter informing all neighbors affected by this proposed Zoning change? The sign was not posted or visible for all to see and several members of the community did not receive letters from the Metropolitan Planning Commission informing them of the hearing on December 2, 2020. Only after it was brought to Alice Correa's attention was the sign posted. (After the MPC meeting of December 2, 2020) The P.U.D. staff reports states: Nearby neighborhoods only included Westpark? There is not a Westpark Subdivision near this location. Our subdivision is referred to as Meadow Creek Estates. What about Cherry Hill and Summerwood subdivisions? Both are less than a mile away. In the remarks of the staff report it states "Per the UDC, dog training falls under the Animal Care Facility use, which is not permitted in any residential zoning districts. Animal Care Facility use is only permitted in commercial and industrial zoning districts and are not suitable for rural residential areas. We are an old established neighborhood with most of us living here for more than 30 years. Raising our children and enjoying our retirement. This is not a suitable or feasible situation for anyone. We would like to keep our homes and surrounding property without a dog training, boarding, commercial business or any business in the middle of our neighborhood. It also states in the P.U.D Staff Report the applicant agrees to provide substantive amenities that benefit the surrounding area. What does this actually mean and is it spelled out what amenities applicant is required to provide? Is applicant required or has applicant just agreed to provide? He now is stating he will go bankrupt if this is not passed. How is he going to afford to do the things he is required or has agreed to do if he is close to Bankruptcy? Mr. Phillips has had his RE agent intercede with his case by emailing Mr. Epperson. This agent has blatantly attacked my character along with Mr. Epperson and the MPC. The agent also has many facts wrong or slanted and has gone public on social media. It is also stated applicant will offer or add aesthetic benefit. How can a dog training facility with 15 or more dogs, delivery trucks, employees, parking lot, and dog owners coming and going add aesthetic benefit? In the site plan submitted with this application, shows the existing conditions of the property, which are in need of repair. The enclosed structures shown were used for horses and the last owner converted to a few dog kennels for her own personal use. Ms. McDowell raised and showed dogs and never used as a training or boarding facility. I have a statement from her which you should find in the original objections brought forward during the meeting on the 2nd of December. The P.U.D. staff report also states the proposed training/boarding facility structures are at the rear of the property, not readily visible from the street and set at least 50' from the nearest property line. They are very visible from my back yard and surrounding neighbors' yards. The kennels will be less than 50' from my property line. I cannot sit or walk in my yard now without applicant's personal dogs barking and running the kennel fencing. This property is referred to several times in original application as a 11.5-acre track giving the impression it is land in the middle of the country. It is **3 subdivision lots** connected together totaling 11.5 acres. Applicant proposes to add aesthetics to alleviate the potential for negative impacts to nearby residences? What are the exact aesthetics and who makes sure what is promised or required is kept to specifications? By **NOT** granting applicant's request would alleviate the negative impacts to the neighborhood and community. "ALL DOGS UNLEASHED" is a franchise. All franchise have requirements that must be met. Size of Signs, Colors, License, etc. What happens if franchise license are revoked or not renewed? What kind of sign is required? What do they require of applicant to keep this franchise? This was not addressed in original application. If he loses franchise does this become a boarding facility or doggie day care? I feel there are many unknowns that have not been clarified. I am asking you to please consider the impact of allowing a business of this magnitude into our small neighborhood community. I moved here to get away from traffic, noise, and the hustle of the city. I along with many of my friends and neighbors love the peacefulness of rural living. I am certain you would not want this type of facility and business in your neighborhood or for a neighbor. I AM NOT IN FAVOR OF

THIS ZONING CHANGE....Thank you for giving me the opportunity to address this issue with you and I appreciate your time. Sincerely, Jacqueline Sue Woodson

William Porter submitted the following comment:

These comments concern the proposed vote to rezone the property located at 8595 Greenwood Springridge Road in Shreveport, LA. Item 11.III. Authorize Introduction Of Ordinance 6023 Of 2021 In Relation To Zoning Case 20-16-P on the agenda for 1/4/2021. As a landowner near the proposed dog training facility, I oppose the request to change the zoning. I am concerned that change from R-A to R-A(PUD) will create a situation that changes the dynamic of the rural agricultural neighborhood that many of us enjoy. There will be increased traffic, increased noise, and disruption from the normal day to day activities that the local residents have become accustomed to over the years. There is also a potential to devalue the property from the potential nuisance a dog training facility may create. While Commissioner Epperson, who represents our district, has voiced his opposition, I encourage you to think critically and consider if you would want a facility such as this in your neighborhood or backyard. If the answer is no, then please help us by voting no on the proposed zoning change to help maintain the integrity of our neighborhood.

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Brice submitted the following comment:

CASE FILE FOR ORDINANCE 6023 OF 2021.PDF Please deny the rezoning of the Meadow Creek Drive neighborhood near Greenwood. As requested in our previous email to each of you, it would be devastating to us to allow businesses to open near the home we have lived in for thirty-eight or more years and worked so hard to have, not only because it would disrupt the idyllic atmosphere, but because it would devalue our property, particularly if other businesses were to open in our area. The potential to resale for what our home is worth would decline. This in turn would affect our retirement income. We ask you to please consider our concerns. Sincerely, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Brice

Julie Stackhaus submitted the following comment:

Dear Mr. Epperson: I would like to extend my support for All Dogs Unleashed (ADU) Shreveport's request to relocate to their new 11.5-acre property to expand their business. This item is on the Commission's agendas for this coming week. ADU provides a much-needed service in our area and helps, when it can, to support local non-for-profits that aid our community. There are currently full-time animal rescues located in neighborhoods around Shreveport with no incidents and no complaints from neighbors. ADU is neither a rescue nor a shelter but trains dogs in how to properly behave and, thus, should pose no inconvenience to surrounding property owners. Its future neighbors' concerns about safety and noise are understandable but unfounded. Would these same neighbors complain if a Starbucks or a gas station was built in their neighborhood? Likely not, yet any convenience business would bring far more noise, traffic and safety risks than a pet training facility will. Also, in a time when small businesses are closing in droves due to the pandemic, Shreveport and Caddo Parish should be encouraging its thriving small businesses, rather than hindering their growth. Finally, Shreveport and Caddo have for years lost businesses to Bossier and surrounding parishes. We should do all we can to keep our loyal small businesses here. Thank you for your time and consideration, and I hope you will award ADU the approval it seeks.

Ronnie and Terry Ennis submitted the following comment:

Mr. Epperson, It has been brought to our attention that Troy Phillips, Owner of All Dogs Unleashed requested for our area in the Meadow Creek Estates to be rezoned from R-A to R-A (PUD). The following comments are our concerns. 1. We would no longer have the peacefulness and safety of our neighborhood. These two factors are why so many of us moved to this area. 2. 20+ years ago we built our home and now for the request to rezone. What comes next, a used car lot, a welding business? 3. Property devaluation 4. We are land owners and taxpayers in Caddo Parish. We Urge the members of the MPC to deny the request. We totally OPPOSE the rezone request. Thank you. Ronnie and Terry Ennis

Pam Ward submitted the following comment:

Dear Mr. Epperson, This email comes to voice my complaint regarding the noted zoning change in District 12 that will soon be coming before the Caddo Commission. This will allow a canine training/boarding kennel to operate in my neighborhood which will drastically change this quiet, country setting. I humbly ask that you vote against this change. I'm sure you would not welcome such a noisy business in the vicinity of your home. Me and my neighbors moved to this area to enjoy the peace and quiet of a rural setting and certainly don't want the additional traffic through the neighborhood that will occur if this zoning change occurs, not to mention the noise of multiple dogs 24/7. Thank you for your consideration when voting on this issue.

Billie F. Brice submitted the following comment:

I am writing to implore you to intervene and stop the rezoning of our neighborhood. My husband and I chose a rural community and built our home on Meadow Creek Dr., Shreveport, LA, 71129, in 1982. We have enjoyed the solitude and beauty away from the din of urban traffic and

accompanying interruptions for thirty-eight years. However, we recently noticed that rezoning of our area had been approved for a dog training/kennel business. We are very concerned that this will not only bring a cacophony of persistent barking and constant traffic but will allow future businesses in our area. This would devastate the ideal surroundings and, most importantly, devalue our property. (I have personally experienced the shrill, continuous barking of the three or four dogs currently living at the property in question; they bark incessantly when they see me walking and are heard by me as I walk a half a mile away from their location. It is very loud. I cannot imagine the distress of listening to more than three or four.) My husband and I are in our seventies, as are most of the residents here. Our plans were to live the remainder of our functional years in the ideal setting we worked so hard to have and have enjoyed for so long. When the time comes, we hope to sell our home and property to provide for long-term care expenses. That hope would be destroyed if rezoning devalues our property. PLEASE do what you possibly can to speak on our behalf and stop the rezoning of our cherished neighborhood. Your efforts would be appreciated more than you realize. Sincerely, Billie F. Brice

Billy Flowers, Charles V. Gallette, Pam Ward, Daniel & April Schnebelen, Herman Palmer, Jim & Kayla Berge, John Border, Loraine Adams, Jr., Terry Ennis, Jacqueline Sue Woodson, Ronnie Ennis, Cleve Jackson, Yvonne Gullette, Joyce McCoy, Simon Walker, Jerry Stuarde, J. Gullet, Juanita Akard, Lydia Rich, Duct C. Hall, Lucky Lid, Cua McDonald, Norma Geins, Josh McDonnell, Cory Hinton, Fred Boykin, Wesley Cates, Jack Boyd, Patricia Mann, Michael Penn, Austin Quinn, Heather Penn, David Boykin, Bob Penn, Penny Ivie, Jerry Walton, Sharlotte Sharbeno, Mr. & Mrs. Brice, William Porter, Nina Stevens, Gary & Esther Morris, May Bus, Margaret Corley, John Folder, Roy Prim, Michele Gullet, Gary Parth, and Shelly Moren signed the following petition:

We, the undersigned citizens of Meadowcreek and surrounding neighborhoods, petition the Caddo Parish Commissioners. We respectfully request the commissioners reconsider the MPC's request for approval on case No. 20-16-P for rezoning. We are asking the commissioners to vote NO to the request based on the following reasoning. First - Most of our neighbors moved to this quiet area and neighborhood to get away from the noise, pollution and crime associated with the city. We feel that no matter how tall a fence or dense the shrubbery you can't negate the noise of 19 barking dogs. Second- We are concerned with increased car and truck traffic ingress/egress. Again, a potential noisy situation with increased traffic risk. Third - While we welcome Mr. Phillips as a member of our neighborhood, we do NOT welcome Mr. Phillips' business. We frankly think Mr. Phillips should have considered what his neighbors think about his proposed business before he attempted a rezoning request. Fourth - During these turbulent and often divisive times, we would hope the commissioners would consider the unity and cohesiveness of a neighborhood. Granting this request would certainly create negative and harsh opinions against Mr. Phillips going forward. Note to the commissioners: EVERY SINGLE HOUSEHOLD within ¼ mile (and many further away) has signed this petition against this proposed rezoning. Our district commissioner, Mr. Ken Epperson has expressed his concern and voted NO to this request. He certainly has his finger on the pulse of his constituents and has sided with what he considers the best thing for our neighborhoods. Fifth - We think the MPC has exceeded its original intent to consider what's best for Caddo Parish and her citizens. During the MPC hearing Mr. Phillips was obviously well coached and prepared with his presentation. We citizens were unfamiliar with the MPC agenda and were blindsided by the proceedings which seem to favor Mr. Phinips. We are concerned that Mr. Phillips as he stated "spent almost half a million dollars and spent a year searching for this perfect property". This seems an enormous risk going forward unless one has a reasonable expectation of getting a rezoning request approved. We wonder how this rezoning confidence came about? Does this pass the smell test? We thank the Commissioners for their time and attention to this matter. The Citizens of Caddo Parish's Meadowcreek and surrounding neighborhoods.

Pam Elder called in with the following comment:

I am a board member for the Humane Society of Northwest Louisiana and I've known Troy two years. He has trained 14 of our dogs. Three for the Caddo Parrish Sherriff's department for free and two of them are working dogs now. They're used for drugs and they're doing great. I know that Troy has got a fire in his gut for working with these dogs. An I think we would be remiss not to let him have the opportunity as a small business to have his pace out there. There will be no problem. He has improved on the property, expenses are secure. He's also improved the inside of the property. He's a disabled navy veteran for our country. When we can't support people like Troy that want to do nothing, but be a part of Shreveport, which he's already invested in with Caddo Sherriff, with us, with the community in Shreveport and Bossier. He brings money from Arkansas Texas, Oklahoma, all over. The people out there that are afraid of Troy are saying they're scared that his dogs are going to hurt their grandkids or whatever. That is so unfounded. If you go out there and look at his property and you see him and see what he does, you will see that that is not going to be the case at all. In his current location on Shreveport-Barksdale Highway, he has had no complaints and he backs up to a residential facility, I mean a residence. I just can't say enough about him. He's the kind of person that we need in Shreveport. This is what we're trying to attract is people like him that are already invested in the community and are doing good things. We should do everything we can to get him here and to keep him here. Otherwise, we're going to lose him to another state or to Bossier City. And to have All Dogs Unleashed in Shreveport is an opportunity that I just do not want to see us miss. And also, it concerns me as because he is a disabled vet, that he's not being. I would just encourage if there's anybody listening that are neighbors, go up and meet this guy. Go look at his property. You will see that there is not a finer human being on the planet and I just would encourage you to do your due diligence before you say no to any rezoning out there, because Troy has

done everything that you've asked him to do and I want to see it work for him, because we need it. We need to keep people like him here. I would pay to have him as my neighbor and honestly, all those people out there go meet him and I guarantee you they're not going to be worried about one thing. And you'll be glad that you go to know somebody of his character. And also, he has trained 14 of our dogs that we thought were just hopeless and they all have homes and are doing well. And without him here we could not have helped those dogs either so. And I'd be glad to answer any questions from neighbors if they want my phone number. I'd be glad to tell them anything that I can about Troy. Thank you for this opportunity.

Troy Philipps called in with the following comment:

Hello. My name is Troy Phillips. I'm actually the property owner of and the owner of All Dogs Unleashed. We're gonna do sorry I'm hearing lagging on the computer so that's my fault. I'm actually the owner of 8595 Greenwood Springridge road and the owner of All Dogs Unleashed here in Shreveport. In regards to the high traffic that they're talking about, my business has very limited traffic coming in and out as into I pick up the dogs and drop the dogs off. Okay. I just want a fair chance of this. My neighbors haven't spoken with me. Mr. Epperson hasn't spoken with me. I sent him an email briefly that talks about introducing myself and the only confirmation I think I heard back from him was not the information thing. I would appreciate if I had the fair chance where somebody can come see my property s Mrs. Elder just said. Okay. I understand the neighbor's plans and safety. I have a clean track record. This property has had dogs on the property for the last several years without incident. There are several barriers the dogs have to get through already to get to the exterior perimeter. Okay. That the neighbors are concerned about. I'm updating all that according to the permits and stuff and requirements that I'm asked to do and going above and beyond. All right. Also with the neighbors they need to understand, they have horses, chickens, swine, but that is my perimeter of the fence that I bought. And if it doesn't go through, I have no problem taking the perimeter of my fence down and they can put their own fence up to keep their horses off my property. I moved out there to enjoy it just as much as they want to. And we can do that together if they give us a chance. Okay. I encourage any of you guys on the commission to come out to my house. Give me a call and we'll set up a time before Thursday. I am asking for a fair chance. I've put my heart and soul into this business and it's either gonna cause me to lose my home, my business or possibly both. That's all I'm asking for. I do so much for this community. I don't do it for the praise or rewards. I do it out of the kindness of my heart, but at the same time this is how I'm being treated and looked upon without one chance because of one neighbor stirring the pot for everybody else. Please, just come out to the property. Call me, give me a chance. I have neighbors behind me 40 feet out my back door without one complaint and one fence keeping me from them. You guys have any questions for me before I just I don't know. Any questions for me. Oh Okay yep not a problem. Yes. Thank you.

Quinton Corey called in with the following comment:

Yes ma'am. My name is Quinton Corey. I was actually the acting realtor for Mr. Phillips through the purchase of the property. I also spoke at the MPC Meeting. I'm speaking on his behalf of course to, to allow this to happen. I've been with the man at hand through this whole process, you now, as a realtor in the City of Shreveport, Bossier, North Louisiana, specifically Shreveport. It's important that I can relate to my client's process if they need to go through this and the process they would go through the Commission and the MPC and what that process is like. Up until this point it has not been a great process. Not just because I am representing somebody who wants a certain way, but the whole process in general. Before the last meeting, one of the District 12 Commissioner in an email prior to the meeting urging his opposition without even hearing Mr. Phillips' uh what he's going to be doing to improve the property or his speech or anything. Didn't give him an opportunity to speak at all. Their letter of oppositions that were misguided sent in and that there was no remedies listened to on Mr. Phillips' behalf. Addressing some of those things that um letters of opposition that were sent in, 98% of the time Mr. Phillips' dogs are going to be indoors. They're trained indoors and they're boarded indoors. They're only let outside to use the restroom. And when they're outside their going to be behind three layers of fencing. One of them is a 10-foot tall fence. So, for you know, horse being chased, chickens being gotten, people running up to the fence and scaring children. None of that is going to be happening. Also, he picks up and delivers all of his animals of maybe about well not about 90% of his animals. He picks up and delivers. So traffic to the property is not going to happen either. None of these messages are being delivered to the neighbors of who are opposing this. And so, I'm calling in to give facts of how he's going to be representing his business He deserves an opportunity. He deserves a fair shot. And relationships between neighbors and people on the board should not overshadow the opportunity this man should be given. So, I'm speaking in favor of approval of this. So, he can show what type of neighbor he can be and the tens of thousands of dollars he's going to be investing into this property to make it safe for all his surrounding neighbors. There's a dog business right up the block that does the exact same thing in the same district. There's already a precedent set for this. This property has been used by the previous two owners for the same thing. But it was their personal hobby and they had multiple dogs on the property with less restrictions and safety for the neighbors surrounding. So, the precedent's already been set for dogs to be on this property. It's 11 and a half acres. So please come out to the property and visit the spread. His worst situations like the that just got shut down in Bossier for people mistreating animals. This man is one of the most kindest heart person I've ever met. I know I'm probably exceeding my three minutes. Thank you for allowing me to speak.

Terry Catlett called in with the following comment:

Hey Hi. My name is Terry Catlett and I met Troy two years ago with All Dogs Unleashed. My name is Terry Catlett. He trained our rescue dog and um Sorry. Anyway, when we met he trained our rescue and it was a success. We did the board and train. And that was two years ago. Um since then Troy has I've come to know him but I would encourage all of his neighbors that seem to be opposed to this, to visit his current place and interview the businesses around and the neighbors around. There's nothing to be afraid of. He doesn't mistreat the dogs. He is dogs are his passion and his community and his country. So again I with everybody else that I feel like he needs to be given the opportunity and it would be a huge mistake to lose him. So, I appreciate your time and uh I hope that happens.

Vicky Hall submitted the following comment:

I understand this issue will come up for a vote next week. Please listen to the residents in this area. We DO NOT want this change. We have lived & enjoyed our peace & quiet out here for many, many years. We are not interested in a business that would severely alter this. I'm asking for a vote of "no". Thank you.

Gilbert & Latricia Hayes submitted the following comment:

Dear Commission Members, I am writing to urge the members to deny the request for rezoning for the property purchased by Mr. Troy Phillips for the purpose of kenneling and training dogs. There is a great deal of research to support that dogs bark when experiencing separation anxiety; for example: those separated from their owners, as per the case with a dog kennel. Please understand, many home owners in this area have dogs and horses and are in fact pet lovers. What we do not want is a constant cacophony of dogs barking to disrupt the peace and quiet we moved out here for. No amount of fencing and pampas grass as suggested by Mr. Phillips will prevent this kind of noise. Please put yourselves in our shoes; think about living next to or behind a neighbor whose dogs bark constantly. Then multiply that number by thirteen dogs. Do you really think that is what a residential area needs? There are many areas that are zoned for commercial businesses, which we encourage. This however, is not one of these areas.

When Mr. Phillips purchased the property, he did so with the knowledge it was clearly zoned residential. This should prompt all members to vote no and keep the integrity of this neighborhood and all residential neighborhoods in Shreveport. Lastly, if zoned commercial, what would prevent other businesses from buying up available property and changing the integrity of this residential neighborhood? There are too many commercially available buildings empty in the city of Shreveport; please require him to utilize what is available. Thank you, Gilbert & Latricia Hayes

Pam Ward submitted the following comment:

This email comes to voice my complaint regarding the noted zoning change in District 12 that will soon be coming before the Caddo Commission. This will allow a canine training/boarding kennel to operate in my neighborhood which will drastically change this quiet, country setting. I humbly ask that you vote against this change. I'm sure you would not welcome such a noisy business in the vicinity of your home. Me and my neighbors moved to this area to enjoy the peace and quiet of a rural setting and certainly don't want the additional traffic through the neighborhood that will occur if this zoning change occurs, not to mention the noise of multiple dogs 24/7. Thank you for your consideration when voting on this issue.

Jerry Stratton submitted the following comment:

Commissioners, I wish to go on the record as unequivocally opposing the zone change. Case no. 20-16-P. Thank you, Jerry Stratton, Shirley Francis Rd. Shreveport, La. 71129

Pam Elder submitted the following comment:

This is Pam Elder with the Humane Society of Northwest Louisiana. I am in STRONG SUPPORT for rezoning of ADU. Troy is a huge asset to Shreveport, as a board member I can vouch for how he has trained numerous dogs for us. Several he trained for free and are now working dogs for CADDO PARISH SHERIFF. He will be a considerate neighbor and someone who will add to the community. Please let us encourage his work ethic and let him grow his business. We NEED him and would be remiss in forcing him to leave because the community is ignorant if what he does and who he is. Thanks for your time and consideration. Most Sincerely, Pam Elder

Cody McKellar submitted the following comment:

I wanted to write you to express my opinion on the upcoming zoning hearing for All Dogs Unleashed. First of all, I am a resident at Providence Rd in Shreveport, which I believe is your district. Second, I am a past client of Mr. Phillips and All Dogs Unleashed. I have a dog that I was literally embarrassed to go out into public because of the behavioral issues he had. After working with Mr. Phillips, he has become a completely different dog. We were even able to take him to Pooches on the Pond (Mudbugs game) last year. Mr. Phillips changed my dog's life and has made my life considerably better. It is a huge mistake to let someone like Mr. Phillips leave our city. He constantly volunteers his time to help Caddo Parish Animal control, including free training to help place dogs. I urge you to

consider approving the zoning change for All Dogs Unleashed. Mr. Phillips, and his business, is an asset to Shreveport and it will be a shame to drive him out. Thanks, Cody McKellar, Providence Rd., Shreveport, LA 71129

Kathy Burton and Carolyn Welch submitted the following comment:

We are writing to you today on behalf of Troy Phillips, the owner of All Dogs Unleashed. We truly want you to know and understand the man who is Troy Phillips in our opinion. My partner and I have adopted three dogs from the Humane Society of Northwest Louisiana. We so strongly believe in the mission of the HSNWLA that we support them as much as we can. Now please understand that we live in Sterlington, LA in Morehouse Parish. We first adopted two young female boxers about 4 months apart. When we brought these two boxers home with us we started having behavioral issues with one of the boxers. We reached out to the board at the HSNWLA for their assistance and expertise. They immediately referred us to Mr. Phillips at All Dogs Unleashed. When we contacted Troy he did not hesitate to offer to drive two hours to us to evaluate our two dogs and their behavior in our home. He spent 2.5-3 hours in our home for an evaluation. Now mind you this was on a Sunday of which I am sure is to be his day off. He spent a total of 6-7 hours with travel time included on our boxers and us with no guarantee or financial commitment that he could help our situation. There are not many business owners that we know of that would invest that much time without financial incentive up front. Not only did he evaluate our dogs, he took the time and patience to reassure us as pet owners. He wanted to make sure that we felt comfortable with both dogs before he left. He gave us tools and recommendations to use until we decided if training was necessary. We ultimately decided to board and train both of our dogs with Troy. We took the dogs to All Dogs Unleashed in Shreveport on Shreveport-Barksdale Highway. We were astonished that it was very close to a residential area and other businesses. When we went inside of the business, it was very clean, quiet and secure. A video monitor was on the wall with numerous camera views of the entire facility. We did not hesitate to leave our dogs in his very capable hands. When we picked up our dogs from All Dogs Unleashed, we were shown to a practice/conference room. The dogs were brought from the storefront to the practice/conference room. I mention this because there is a business that occupied the space in between the storefront and the practice room. The business was an auto repair shop. The bay doors were open at all times and employees and customers were present. The dogs were in very close proximity to this business and the residential neighborhood behind All Dogs Unleashed. In addition to this, Shreveport-Barksdale Highway has a high volume of traffic. It is our understanding that there has been no prior complaints regarding this type of business in this specific area. Troy has now purchased a 11.5 acre piece of property with the closest neighbor being over 100 yards away. We would like to reassure the concerns of noise and safety that the Caddo Parish Commission may have. With Troy's expertise and knowledge we feel confident that he would make safety his first priority at this location. Caddo Parish and the surrounding communities would greatly benefit from his entrepreneurial services. We stand behind Troy Phillips and All Dogs Unleashed and we pray for a positive resolution for all parties involved. With warmest regards, Kathy Burton and Carolyn Welch

Jackie Bush submitted the following comment:

My name is Jackie Bush. While I don't reside in the state of Louisiana, I support the Greenwood/Shreveport/Bossier market as a neighbor residing in Waskom, Tx. I am also the Vice President of the Humane Society of NW Louisiana a private no kill dog rescue in Caddo Parish (not affiliated with the National Humane Society.). I attend church in Bossier (Airline Drive Church of Christ). So while I can't vote in your area- you get my \$\$; efforts; time; and support. I come to you today for 2 reasons. 1) to see if you really are a man of integrity that will read and respond to the mail you receive- as a professional should. 2) to implore you to allow the zoning for All Dogs Unleashed to move their facility to the 11 .5 acres they have purchased. It's sad how Mr. Phillips has had to fight for the right to have his small business that literally saves dogs. The HSNWLA has sent numerous dogs through the dogs program offered at ADU with amazing results. I challenge you to find a dog behavioralist program in your community that has the successful results Troy offers. Please, allow this veteran to operate his small business doing that which he is skillfully trained at; on the 11 acres he has purchased. I could (almost) understand the concern if he was wanting to move his business to an area of town that is heavily populated—oh wait- he is already established there!! But to deny him the right to use his 11 .5 acres for his small business is pathetic. It's not as if anyone will be able to hear what's going on during training sessions. There's too much land space in between for that to be a problem. Sincerely Jackie C Bush, HSNWLA Vice President

Carla White submitted the following comment:

I'm writing to show my support for All Dogs Unleashed to be allowed to open as a business on Greenwood Springridge Rd. All Dogs Unleashed is a very successful dog boarding and training business. Clients even include the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Department. All Dogs Unleashed, currently sits off of Shreveport Barksdale Hwy, right next to a heavily populated neighborhood. The neighbors there are thankful for a local small business who has managed to keep their business open during these horrible times where so many have been affected by the covid pandemic. The property Troy Phillips has bought on Greenwood Springridge Rd was previously zoned for a business of dog breeding. A successful dog boarding and training business would be a very positive business to bring to this area. All Dogs Unleashed is a business that brings customers from all over the ark-la-tex, even customers from Texas and Mississippi. Mr. Phillips has helped so many in our area with training their dogs and providing

them a clean, safe environment to boarding their dogs. Mr. Phillips is very involved in our community. In his free time, he has helped many of us catch loose/stray dogs. He has helped fellow neighbors clean up from major storms. He also used his free time to collect items for the Hurricane Laura victims in Lake Charles, LA, even transporting the donated items down himself on two different occasions. Mr. Phillips is an asset to our community and I would hate to see him leave our area, if his business doesn't get approved at the Greenwood Springridge Rd location. Please vote and encourage the others to vote to approve the new location of All Dogs Unleashed on Greenwood Springridge Rd. Thank you

M. Rena & Watson Brittenham submitted the following comment:

Please accept mine and Watson's letter in support of Troy Phillips and All Dogs Unleashed Shreveport. I am a resident of Bossier Parish and I am will not be available to speak via zoom at the meeting. Let me share with you how Mr. Phillips and his business has helped me. I discovered All Dogs Unleashed Shreveport shortly after adopting a dog, Watson from Humane Society of Northwest Louisiana(HSNWLA). Watson was wonderful and had a great personality but was slightly ungovernable and had security issues. Rescue dogs often have issues from their lives before rescue. Knowing what a great dog he was, I worked with him, but realized we needed professional help. I contacted the HSNWLA who recommended All Dogs Unleashed Shreveport and Troy Phillips. I contacted him and his business, I was impressed with his professionalism and his willingness to make arrangements to get Watson in to training. When meeting with him at the business location it was clean(inside and outside) and did not smell. Mr. Phillips and his employees were concerned about my dog. My experience with him and his business was first class. When Watson came home, he was governable and his security issues were decreased. After completing training with All Dogs Unleashed, Mr. Phillips has provided support when an issue came up with Watson. Had I not had this option of training available in our area, I might have had to return Watson to the rescue. Since my experience with All Dogs Unleashed was a positive one, I have recommended multiple friends to him and his business. I have heard nothing but praise from everyone I have referred to him and his business. Of the recommendation I have made, I think he has trained about 5 or 6 of my friend's dogs. Everyone was very happy with their experience and their dog after training. I understand that he has helped HSNWLA with dogs that needed help to be adoptable. I am aware that he has provided support by collecting food/supplies for animal shelters in the southern part of the state during our hurricane season. Businesses that give back and support their community are important. I cannot say enough good things about my experience with Mr. Phillips and All Dogs Unleashed Shreveport since my first experience with him. Let me add that Mr. Phillips is a disabled veteran who chose to stay in our area and then chose to open a business. It is my opinion that Shreveport/Caddo Parish needs more businesses that are willing to locate here and grow their businesses. This business has grown and will continue to grow. During the pandemic, pet ownership has increased and training will be needed more than ever. At a time when our economy is in shakiness, it would be a shame to lose another employer and tax paying business from our area. I am sure that it is a scary time to be a small business owner, yet you have a small business trying to grow their business and have made an investment in property in our community. It would be a shame for our community to lose this business. Please consider voting in favor of Mr. Phillips and his business All Dogs Unleashed Shreveport. I believe this will be a welcome addition to the area where he plans to relocate. He will be a good neighbor in the area. Thank you for your consideration of my letter and if I may be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me. Respectfully & Pawfully yours, M. Rena & Watson Brittenham

Susan Fant Votaw submitted the following comment:

Good Afternoon, I am reaching out to you about Troy Phillips and his business All Dogs Unleashed. It is concerning: No commissioner has actually reached out to Troy to visit the facility (new or old) I feel that if each commissioner would actually visit the facility, they would be able to understand that there will be 3 layers of fencing securing the dogs with a 10' ft fence around the inside fences, which is 2' taller than required. You would also realize that these dogs are not in any way going to be allowed to run the entire property freely. Training is serious and it's not playtime for the dogs. It is discipline and learning time. I feel that the commissioners cannot make an intelligent decision without actually seeing and knowing what is actually being planned. Shreveport (Caddo) is the 2nd most shrinking mid-size city in the nation. This is a veteran from up north who moved here to be closer to family and opened an amazing national franchise. Troy has helped tremendously in the community and not just dogs. He actually took a dog from CPAS to make a full assessment of the dog outside of the shelter. He was contacted by Travis Clark and at no charge, Troy went to the shelter to help. He has worked with CPSO training dogs, at no charge. He has repaired fences for people when their dogs keep escaping at no charge. He has trained dogs for rescues at no charge. He voluntarily went to Beaumont to help when it flooded and actually collected food, clothes, generators, water, food and filled a trailer twice and took to Lake Charles and surrounding areas. He supports many local charitable organizations for children, women, and the homeless. Why would we want to lose someone who gives so much and is so valuable to this community? There are dogs that he has trained, that without his training, would have likely ended up at the local shelter because families were frustrated with the dog's behavior. Troy is a very meticulous person. His facility is kept clean and spotless. Troy is a rule follower, he does the right thing. He would never compromise the serenity of the neighborhood. If anyone ever had a complaint, he would listen with an open mind and find a way to come to an agreeable solution. This is his business. This is how he makes a living and he is passionate about what he does. In conclusion, I implore each commissioner to contact Troy and visit his facility and see for yourself the planning that has gone into All Dogs Unleashed. Maybe Mr. Epperson could hold a small meeting with the neighbors that are upset and let them meet their new

neighbor and let Troy personally address any concerns. This might put their minds at ease with all the what ifs. Thank you for your time.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- 2020 November Financials

Dr. Wilson mentioned that the November 2020 financials have been attached to the agenda.

- Confederate Monument Update

Dr. Wilson advised the Commissioners that they received the final technical review for the monument and are now incorporating that into an RFP. He also said that it should be forthcoming in three weeks.

Mr. Epperson asked about the verbiage that is to be placed on the wall surrounding the monument. Dr. Wilson received a quote of \$980 for the verbiage and asked for a same of the work prior to proceeding with the project.

- COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout Program

Dr. Wilson also mentioned that he will be participating in a COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout Program meeting with Dr. Whyte tomorrow to discuss the State's plans relative to helping get the vaccines out to citizens.

Mr. Epperson said that he would step aside and allow the first responders, senior citizens, and nursing home staff to receive the vaccine first. Mr. Burrell said that he would volunteer to receive the vaccine first.

COMMISSION REMARKS

- Mr. Burrell wished everyone a Happy New Year.

- Mr. Epperson thanked all of the frontline workers who are working diligently during this pandemic. It is his prayer a speedy recovery to all who have contracted the virus. He also offered condolences for those who has lost a loved one to the virus. The United States currently has over 20 million COVID-19 cases and over 350,000 deaths related to the virus. Many hospitals are at capacity. Louisiana has over 321,000 COVID-19 cases with over 7,500 deaths related to the virus. Caddo Parish is number four in the State with over 18,000 positive COVID-19 cases and 584 deaths. Mr. Epperson further urged everyone to continue to wear their masks properly, over the nose and mouth.

Mr. Epperson said that our military forces have been deployed to hot zones to help combat the coronavirus, on top of natural disasters and training.

Mr. Epperson also announced that his townhall meeting will be held digitally on January 14 beginning at 6:00 p.m. He provided the following information to attend the meeting:

Call in number (425) 436-6370
Access Code 2339690#

Mr. Epperson also asked that Dr. Wilson provide an update on Libby Glass at its next meeting.

Mr. Epperson thanked the Public Works Department for sending pre-application conference information from the MPC to him. Everything that goes on in my district, I'd like to know about; no matter how big or small it is, Mr. Epperson said.

He also asked for an update on the digital application process with the MPC, as well as the virtual process for their meetings.

- Mr. Hopkins thanked everyone for their prayers and well wishes during his time of illness. He said that he's got a ways to go, but things are looking up. He also thanked Public Works for all of their hard work during the holidays.

- Mr. Atkins wanted to know if ACOs were always on duty, even during the weekends. He said that he had a constituent who had some concerns with not being able to get through to Animal Services. Dr. Wilson said that they have ACOs on duty during normal hours and after hours. He also explained that they have an answering service for after hours.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that Ordinance 6021 of 2021, in regards to Zoning Case 20-15-P, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, by amending the zoning of property located on the east corner of Ellerbe Road and Stewart Drive, Caddo Parish, La., from R-1-7, Single-Family Residential District to C-1, Neighborhood Commercial District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Jackson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that Ordinance 6022 of 2021, in regards to Zoning Case 20-12-P, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, by amending the zoning of property located on the north side of N. Market Street approximately one thousand one hundred sixty five feet northwest of Roy Road Extension, Caddo Parish, La., from R-A, Rural Agriculture District to C-1, Neighborhood Commercial District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Jackson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *that Ordinance 6023 Of 2021, in regards to Zoning Case 20-16-P, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, by amending the zoning of property located on the east side of Greenwood Springridge Road, approximately seven hundred feet north of Meadow Creek Drive, Caddo Parish, La., from R-A, Rural Agriculture District to R-A (PUD), Rural Agriculture Planned Unit Development District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Jackson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Chavez, *to englobe and move the following resolutions to Thursday's agenda:*

- *Resolution No. 1 of 2021, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to request and authorize the Louisiana State Mineral & 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 to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 3 of 2021, 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*
- *Resolution No. 4 of 2021, a resolution approving the amended 2020 of North Louisiana Criminalistics Laboratory Commission and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 5 of 2021, a resolution urging and requesting the Louisiana Legislature to support, encourage, and work to provide high speed internet for rural Louisiana, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*

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

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *that Resolution No. 2 of 2021, a resolution ordering and calling a special election to be held in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, to amend the Caddo Parish Home Rule Charter; making application to the State Bond Commission in connection therewith; and providing for other matters in connection therewith* be moved to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Johnson explained that this resolution would call for a special election that would cost approximately \$200,000 for the Charter amendments. He said that those changes are not warranted to charge the taxpayers for this special election. Mr. Johnson suggested that these changes be on the ballot for the next regularly scheduled election. Mr. Atkins agreed with Mr. Johnson.

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

None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that the 2021 Audit Schedule as follows: 1. Information Systems: Information Systems Security, Disaster Recovery & Business Continuity Planning, Remote Access; 2. Human Resources: Disciplinary Process; Compensation, Benefits Administration and Open Enrollment; Regulatory Compliance* be moved to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Atkins explained that this was discussed in the Finance & Audit Committee. Surveys were sent out to Commissioners and key employees to assess the importance and risk components associated with these various issues. Based on those ratings, these items were selected.

Substitute motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *that the following items be moved to Thursday's agenda for consideration:*

- *2021 Audit Schedule as follows: 1. Information Systems: Information Systems Security, Disaster Recovery & Business Continuity Planning, Remote Access; 2. Human Resources: Disciplinary Process; Compensation, Benefits Administration and Open Enrollment; Regulatory Compliance*
- *Reappointment of Glenda E. Britton to Waterworks District No. 7 Board. Term to expire January 8, 2026*
- *Reappointment of Mike McCullough to Fire District No. 6 Board. Term to expire January 1, 2023*
- *Resolution of Remembrance for Andrea Michelle Shyne*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition for Roseview Nursing & Rehabilitation Center*
- *Representative from Overton Brooks VA Medical Center as Visitor at its next Regular Session*

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

COMMUNIQUES/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- The Clerk of the Commission reminded the Commissioners that they will selection the 2021 officers at its next Regular Session.
- Dr. Wilson pointed out that there have been issues with the phone lines, but that issue has since been resolved.
- Mr. Cawthorne wished everyone a Happy New Year.

CONSENT AGENDA

- *Local Assessment Ordinance No. 61 of 2020, an ordinance accepting improvements and paving of Winder Drive, Winder Circle West, Winder Circle East, and Cashmere Circle being located in Fredola's Place and Windermere Estates Subdivisions, Phase 1, Unite 2, Phase 3 and Unit No. 4, all location in Section 25, Township 17 North, Range 15 West, of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and providing for the assessment of all abutting real estate in the amounts respectively due and providing for the imposition of liens and privileges in favor the Parish of Caddo and providing for the terms of payment, 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 5:07 p.m.

/s/Michelle Nations
Assistant Commission Clerk