

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF  
THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 21st DAY OF JANUARY, 2021

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Regular 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, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). ABSENT: None (0).

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

**AGENDA ADDITIONS**

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Atkins *to expand the agenda and to approve the consideration of items under La.R.S. 42:17.1.*

At this time, the President of the Commission opened the floor for any public hearings for or against adding this item to the agenda. There was no one to speak in favor or against this agenda addition.

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, Jackson, Johnson, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: Commissioner Lazarus (1). ABSENT: None (0). 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; and,

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).*

Date: January 20, 2021  
/s/Lyndon B. Johnson  
Caddo Parish Commission President

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

James & Karen Small submitted the following comment:

We write in SUPPORT of the proposed zoning legislation for the ALL DOGS UNLEASHED facility to train and board dogs. Franchise owner, Troy Phillips boarded and trained 2 of our rescue dogs, and helped them to become happy, content members of our home. He is a truly compassionate teacher whose goal is to improve the relationship between dogs and people. Troy has a talent to rehabilitate dogs with behavior issues, as well as to start positive training with healthy puppies. Safety is paramount at ALL DOGS UNLEASHED. Multiple mechanisms are in place at doors and fences to ensure all dogs remain with trainers for their learning sessions. Dogs are supervised, and often with multiple trainers. During the day, barking would be a behavior that the trainers address and reduce. At nighttime, the dogs remain inside the

facility to ensure safety and serenity for neighbors. Dog owners make appointments at ALL DOGS UNLEASHED, where they settle in their dog for 2 weeks of boarding. At the end of the training period, the owners come in for a half-day appointment to receive training on what their dog has learned. Any additional vehicles would be negligible, and traffic would NOT be an issue. We are incredibly fortunate to have someone of Troy's expertise in our area. Losing ALL DOGS UNLEASHED would mean dog owners would have to travel as far as Dallas or New Orleans for this caliber of training. Our family entrusted our dogs to his care, knowing that they would remain safely in the facility and on the grounds. Troy Phillips is an asset to our community. The compassionate work at ALL DOGS UNLEASHED increases the number of well-trained dogs in our area, and ultimately creates a safer community for our children and pets.

Kathy Kimble submitted the following comment:

Dear Commission Council, I am writing to ask you to please approve resolution 9 at your meeting today. I speak for so many others who need this assistance and are fearful of the future. I was employed at local casino until Louisiana was moved back to a modified phase 2. I wear mask and followed all the rules but I am not in a position where I have already fallen one month behind on rent while also trying to search for a job, fill out unemployment applications which takes forever, and support my young son. Thanks to the help of friends and blood plasma donations, I was able to pay his fees for his extracurricular activities. The burdens are heavy and fear of what is around the corner is heavier. I am embarrassed to tell my son what our reality is right now, and hopeful that relief is on the way. I am asking on behalf of so many who are in this situation, please do not let politics hold this effort hostage.

Karen Bell submitted the following comment:

Good afternoon, Mr. Everson, I am Karen K. Bell, a property owner in Deer Creek Estates Subdivision, and am writing to oppose Zoning Case 20-11-P. I have lived in this "quiet and well kept" subdivision for over 10 years. Many of the homes are valued at \$200,000+ . New construction is currently ongoing with the most recent having been completed in 2018. Several other property owners, in this subdivision along with others, from potentially affected subdivisions, have also voiced their opposition to this Zoning Change by writing letters and/or signing petitions. For your information, it has been documented that "proximity to certain facilities and businesses is among the 10 surprising things that decrease a home's property value". The proposed location of this intended business is a "stone's throw away" from the entrance of the Timberline Subdivision. Deer Creek Estates Subdivision is adjacent to this subdivision where both entrances for these subdivisions abut Greenwood Road, which is a two-laned highway! Deer Creek Estates subdivision has only one entrance which is off of Greenwood Road. There is a great concern about the traffic flow that this and other businesses would generate, if this zoning change is granted. In addition, Westview Church, which has a huge congregation, is located adjacent to Timberline Subdivision, on the corner of McMichael Avenue and Greenwood Road. This church has a large congregation and has several "well attended" services/programs each week, some in the evening, in addition to Sunday Worship Services. We, the property owners, who are in opposition to this zoning change are very concerned about the negative impact on our neighborhoods, should this zoning change be granted. Economic Development is encouraged; however, it should never be at the expense (decrease in property values) of anyone. The proposed zoning change will only open the door for other businesses that could very well negatively impact property values. Please take into consideration the sentiments of the many property owners who are in opposition to this zoning change during your deliberations today.

Jacqueline Paul submitted the following comment:

The 6-million-dollar Rental Assistance Program: Please pass, vote Yes for monies already allotted from the Federal government. How many of the Commissioners can allow 6 million returned because of your inability to agree on the agencies involved. I don't agree with most on the list but the alternative is not an option! Please choose to use those funds and deal with the political details later. This is for your constituents, my community, our children that need the assistance. Thank you.

Paula McDowell submitted the following comment:

I am in an uncomfortable position on this issue since Mr. Phillips bought my house - It was bought as residential and he hoped, but had no guarantee, to have it re-zoned as commercial. However, I also understand the neighbor's concerns. This is a wonderful house and property and is a nice area to live. Most of the residents have been there for many, many years and have enjoyed their peaceful, beautiful homes and property. Their investment in their properties as well as Mr. Phillips investment, should be taken into consideration when determining if a zoning change is beneficial to everyone, and what affect it might have in the future for a gateway to other commercial businesses entering the area. I would be concerned about the height and condition of the current cyclone fencing around the perimeter of the property and the noise level. My dogs have very little drive and desire to go beyond the fence. They were taught to respect their boundaries from the time they were puppies. They also are not jumpers. I still watched them closely if they were outside. Many dogs are capable of jumping or climbing fences that are higher than the current fence. Some dogs will chase or bark at horses and kill chickens if given the opportunity. Barking dogs and increased traffic are the other concerns I have seen listed. My dogs did bark anytime someone drove in the driveway, other than me-- However, I rarely had visitors and my home was very quiet. Increased traffic could affect the amount of barking. My dogs were in more than out. I did not let all of my dogs outside at the same time. I rotated their time outside, usually 3 in and 3 out. I also only had more than 3 dogs for 2-3

years of my time there. I did not let my dogs outside before 8:00-8:30 am and they came inside at dusk, if not before. Too hot, too cold, rain etc. and my dogs were inside. From the comments I have seen, Mr. Phillips has good results and has a good business. He has many supporters of his training so the question is not that he does a good job - I think he does- The question is more complicated than that due to the neighbors' concerns. Please let me know if you have further questions.

Baylor "Bear Smith" submitted the following comment:

Commissioners, I am writing to ask for your support of immediate assistance to the citizens of Caddo Parish. In watching your meeting on Tuesday, it was clear that many of the Commissioners do not do their due diligence and may not be in touch with the urgency of now. There is no doubt that the Parish would be able to place safeguards to ensure implementation to reduce risk factor. Your citizens are in need and you now have the ability to help meet those needs. Please vote to approve the rental assistance ordinance.

Kenneth Krefft submitted the following comment:

"I want to express my concern about the large annual deficit in the Caddo Parish juvenile justice budget. It drains every year a sizable chunk of revenue which, if not plugging the juvy justice hole, could be used to abate the horrible effects of the Covid-19 virus. You should call a juvy justice committee meeting soon to plan what course of action you deem appropriate. A live meeting is better, but a Zoom beats not meeting. The last attempt to raise juvy justice funds was a 0.1 %parish-wide new sales tax election 11 /7/06. That try failed with 32,838 Aye votes, 33,502 Nay. At that time the 17-year olds were not part of our juvenile court system. A change in LA law added these youngsters to an already overworked juvy backlog. Kindly call the meeting when practical. A citizens' committee may build community buy in and support, but that option rests w/ 12 folks. Please do not say you are doing everything you can to fight this pandemic if you allow this large yearly juvenile justice deficit to remain w/o even trying to ask "We, the people" to help resolve it."

Rachida White called in with the following comment:

Okay, this is Rachida White I'm here to make a comment on the \$7 million. I got this written down somewhere don't judge my life- housing. I guess residents still will help people with evictions or whatever. I'm a 29-year-old single mom. I'm not going to say that I will personally benefit from the particular fund. But I do I work for the Caddo Community Action Agency and I have processed a lot of applications for parents-well families can't get the help you need because we have topped out of the funds that we allocate for the family. So, I do feel like any-any type of help for the families that need this just need it. You know I'm not sure what the holdup is or what the stipulations are in regards to where the money goes or how it is split or whatever. I just know that the families just need the information on where they can go and receive the help. And go get the help. I don't- I'm not going to step on a person benefits I know I have been in a situation where I have been evicted-not once but three times. So, I know the feeling of being scared and not, you know, being able to take care of my family. And although I won't benefit from this I know countless of people will. And I know it's a lot of people who have suffered from the pandemic and are still suffering from the pandemic and any type of help that can be given to them or that can be provided to them to help them and their families, I think, should be looked at and voted on. Importantly, thinking about the people it would help. And that's all I have to say. I pray that everybody just does what's best for the people. People that's in need. That's all.

Andreanecia Morris called in with the following comment:

My name is Andreanecia Morris. I'm the Executive Dir-I'm the President of Housing of Louisiana Statewide Portable Housing Network. And I'm here to talk about the item on your agenda today, to approve Shreveport deploying \$6 million in rental assistance to help address the COVID crisis. And I wanted to talk about why that is so important. We have partnered in Shreveport-we've worked with your city's Office of Community Development, Capital One, a number of other partners over the years, to help Shreveport its affordable housing crisis. Much like many parts of the state Shreveport is struggling with the affordable housing crisis that has only been worsened by the COVID pandemic. According to efforts that was done with Enterprise Community Partners using unemployment assistance data that was done early on in the COVID crisis, we estimate that to-in order to keep all of people of Shreveport who have been impacted by COVID that there's a need for \$76 billion in rental assistance. And so, while \$6 million is a fraction of that it's still better than nothing. And so, we urge you to approve this program. And hopefully as we move forward with this stimulus packages, the President announced last week, he intends to ask for another stimulus package. That will bring the grand total that is available to the State of Louisiana from \$40 million to \$700 million. And the need we have forecasted for the entire state is a little over \$1.1 billion so those \$700 million will get us about a third of the way there and Shreveport will be able to take advantage of the second round of funding, we hope, to get more money. We hope that Shreveport can manage its own pot of money while we try to secure funding for to close the gap on that \$76 million that the people of Shreveport need to remain stable through this pandemic. Where in July 2020 first estimate aligned with most-optimistic scenario, frankly about getting everyone vaccinated, but we think that actually going to need increase of re-evaluation of those estimates. We did want to give you guys some idea of the need, the scope and depth of the problem, as you're considering this program and considering of whether or not you will approve this. We urge you all to do so and to make sure that the people of Shreveport-Bossier can take

advantage of this program and you guys can get on the path to getting more resources brought to your community.

Marvin Mohammed called in with the following comment:

My name is Marvin Mohammed. And I am calling in reference to the Caddo Parish anticipating receiving \$6.5 million in rental assistance from the federal government. I want to call in and resort the commissioners and to really look at this very carefully. Look at the list of the individuals and the organizations that would be a part of this. And, before I go to deep in my comment, I do want to take a moment and thank Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Cawthorne, Commissioner Jackson, also Commissioner Chavez for food distributions and energy. Don't know if I omit anyone else, but I know I saw them in the community. During this time that where a lot of people being afflicted with the corona virus type of assistance definitely be in need. And what comes to mind is Romans 12:12 that says, you're directed to be thoughtful in hope, patient and affliction, faithful in prayer. It takes me to a bold representation of Commissioner Stormy Gage-Watts along with City Councilwoman Taylor and Representative Phelps stands on the Plaza of our City and Parish. Who will ship here? But what's crucial here is that. And I heard some of the mumbling. And I'm looking at some of the comments on the thread. They are questioning Northwest Louisiana CDC. They're questioning Grace Projects CDC. Let me remind us these are two non-profits that are affiliated with predominant black churches in the City of Shreveport. Well respected, which is a community. What's very vital here that lot of the citizens and we know fortunately that disproportionately COVID19 virus has affected disproportionately black people more than other nationalities. And it'd be a great service for those who are in pain and who is actually being afflicted actually see those that look like them being able to go to them. Although not directly to the black churches, but through CDC that those churches have set up to aid help and assist those individuals. So, I want to commend and, again, exhort Commissioners to really look at this. This is something that we definitely need to move forward on. Thank you.

Omari Ho-Sang called in with the following comment:

Good afternoon, Commissioners. My name is Omari Ho-Sang and I am a resident of Caddo Parish. And I don't want to belabor or beat a dead horse but I did want to take this opportunity to really-to express my sentiments on how critical this piece of legislation is for so many. And as other callers has indicated there are way too many people in need not to have this legislation. I'm so proud of those on the Commission and within the Parish body that have reached out to obtain this \$6 million of funding for those that are literally deciding whether to put food on the table or pay their rent. And though that is not my personal situation at this time, on this day two years ago I could have very well been someone who would be in the queue to be put on the street. It would be a great disservice to a large portion of this our community, our citizens, our people, to go against or essentially withhold this funding due to a lack of comfort with a couple of agencies. For this discomfort, we have an oversight process. So, I am imploring every Commissioner please vote to approve this rental assistance program so that we can see the benefit that surely outweighs the cost. Thank you so much for listening to me today and that concludes my comment.

Barbara Smith Iverson called in with the following comment:

My name is Barbara Smith Iverson. I am chairman of Unity Education 360. I'm calling on in favor of the \$6.5 million federal dollars to go to help family with their rental needs. I would like to just say that as humanitarians, I feel it is our responsibility knowing that we are in a pandemic to turn around and help other fellow citizens of Caddo Parish. Many of us and other people have paid taxes into this city because we love this city. And so now that the citizens are in ourselves in a compromising position with housing for the Caddo Parish Commissioners to go on and authorize these entities to distribute money to people who are suffering. It has been almost a year and we're still in the pandemic. Many people prior to the pandemic was barely living paycheck to paycheck so I can only imagine what they're going through in this later hour. So, I would say to the commissioners do what's right. Allow these entities to distribute money and whatever else is needed to help get our economy back on track. Thank you.

### **VISITORS**

- Verni Howard

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *to suspend the rules and allow Ms. Verni Howard and Ms. Latori Thomas under the Visitors section of the agenda.* Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Howard, Executive Director, Providence House, is excited about the prospect of helping the community, but she would like to clarify their role. She explained that they received \$112,000 from the Caddo Parish Commission for homelessness prevention and rental assistance, which was awarded to them in September 2020. They expended \$81,000 of those funds for utility and rental assistance. Ms. Howard explained that the need is so great because they are preventing people from becoming homeless and living in a communal environment which could be a "super spreader" for COVID. She also mentioned that providing assistance to those who are eligible has been a tremendous undertaking because some of the applicants were not forthcoming with their information. She further stated that their

books are always open and welcomed anyone to look over them. Ms. Howard also said that they spend a lot of money on making sure their records are impeccable and transparent.

Ms. Thomas, Vice-President of Operations & Community Investment, United Way, said that they would like to continue their partnership with Caddo Parish to ensure that the essential needs of the residents are met. She too said that their books are open and welcomed anyone to look over them.

Mr. Jackson said, “do I or the company I work for have any contractual or financial arrangements with United Way of Northwest Louisiana?”

Ms. Thomas said that they do not have any type financial contract whatsoever. They do have an understanding of referrals though.

### **ADOPT REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *to adopt the following minutes the Regular Session Minutes from January 7, 2021. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

### **SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS**

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *to englobo and adopt the following Special Resolutions:*

- *Special Resolution of Recognition & Appreciation for the Calvary Baptist Cavaliers*
- *Special Resolution of Remembrance to Whayland Harvel W.H. Greene*
- *Special Resolution acknowledging the Winners of the Domestic Violence Trey Hutchison Award for 2020*
- *Special Resolution of Appreciation for Mrs. Bessie Smith*
- *Special Resolution of Appreciation for Timmy Lane*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition & Appreciation proclaiming Sunday, January 31, 2021 as Louisiana National Guard Day in Caddo Parish*

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

### **RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION & APPRECIATION STATE DIVISION IV CHAMPION CALVARY BAPTIST CAVALIERS**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission continues to observe with a growing sense of awe and admiration the annual demonstrations of gridiron prowess exhibited by the football teams fielded by Calvary Baptist, as their achievements reflect great honor and pride upon Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, the Calvary Baptist Cavaliers have now earned the school's 3rd State Division Title and State Division IV (IV) Football Championship by defeating the Ouachita Christian Eagles of Monroe in the Harry Turpin Stadium in Natchitoches on December 29, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Ouachita Baptist may have come into the game with a surprising 2019 win over Calvary in the previous year's Division IV Championship matchup, but the Cavaliers, well coached and prepared, came into the game ready to take the title and break records, both of which it did with a 62-41 win and Quarterback Landry Lyddy compiling a Prep Classic record 464 yards with 4 touchdowns and receiver Jordan Wallace setting a Prep Classic record 64-yard punt; and

WHEREAS, with the win the Cavaliers enlarged a tradition of football excellence that has made their name known statewide. Not only did the Cavaliers continue a storied football tradition, but they also delivered Coach Rodney Guin his first state title after an accomplished 37 year career coaching at Haughton then Calvary; and

WHEREAS, though the team's story continues to be one of some outstanding individual talents, it also continues to be one of a teamwork deriving from a unique bond of brothers “esprit-de-corps”: that of a group of men and boys, coaches and players bound together toward a common objective, and all answering to a higher calling and purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission this 21<sup>st</sup> day

of January, 2021, that it does hereby express its heartiest congratulations to Coach Rodney Guin and the coaches and players of the 2020 DIVISION IV STATE CHAMPION CALVARY BAPTIST CAVALIERS for their demonstrations of football excellence, and for the splendid example they exhibit as representatives of their school, their City and their Parish.

**RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION & REMEMBRANCE  
WHAYLAND HARVEL "W.H." GREENE**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission pauses with sadness and regret to reflect upon the passing of one of North Caddo's legends, as his friends affectionately called him W.H., who went to meet his heavenly Father on Saturday, January 10, 2021; and

WHEREAS, W.H. Greene, was born on February 25, 1925 in Haynesville, LA, to Alonzo and Cassandra Greene. His family moved to Belcher when he was a child where he lived most of his life; and

WHEREAS, at the young age of 18, W.H. enlisted in the U.S. Army where he served overseas through the end of World War II. His military commendations include the Purple Heart, two Bronze Stars, as well as other honors for his service; and

WHEREAS, W.H. married Ms. Jo Ann Smith of Belcher on August 3, 1946. They were blessed with three children: Richard Whayland, Greene, Nancy Greene Camus, and Wayne Smith Greene; and

WHEREAS, W.H. enjoyed keeping in touch with his army buddies and writing about his experiences in World War II. He was a man who exemplified service to his country, perseverance, and commitment to honoring those who served in the military; and

WHEREAS, W.H. and Jo Ann were the driving force behind the Belcher Veterans Memorial Park. Their countless hours of hard work and community support made the Belcher Veterans Memorial a reality on August 7, 2002; and

WHEREAS, the Belcher Veterans Memorial has four granite monuments dedicated to those who served in WWI, WWII, the Korean War, Vietnam War, Gulf War, and the War on Terrorism. Victory & Peace is also inscribed on one of the monuments, as well as a reminder of the attacks on the United States on December 7, 1941 and September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, W.H. was an ambassador for the Belcher Veterans Memorial, the Village of Belcher, and to honoring the service of other veterans around the country.

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby express its deepest sense of sorrow and loss upon the passing of Whayland Harland "W.H." Greene, conveying its sincerest expressions of sympathy and consolation, and the prayer that they will be comforted in the knowledge of the eternal rewards that will be his.

**RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION  
RECIPIENTS OF THE 2020 TREY HUTCHISON AWARD**

WHEREAS, Domestic violence impacts women, men and children of every age, background, and belief. Nearly 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men in the United States have suffered severe physical violence by an intimate partner; and

WHEREAS, victims are deprived of their liberty and security and face tremendous threats to their health and safety. During National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we reaffirm our dedication to forging an America where no one suffers the hurt and hardship that domestic violence causes; and

WHEREAS, Domestic Violence is widespread, affecting over 4 million Americans each year and the threat is even more severe in Louisiana where women are killed by men at a rate which ranks 2nd nationally and, unfortunately children of these victims are 50% more likely to experience domestic violence and trauma in their own lives; and

WHEREAS, Communities must join together to combat this heinous reality and celebrate those whose efforts are reducing or combating domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, Trey Hutchison was a Bossier City Police Officer who gave his life in service on August 11, 2004 while answering a 911 domestic violence call and in his honor recipients are selected by the Caddo/Bossier Domestic Violence Taskforce to receive the Trey Hutchison Award, and its companion award The Charles Rex Scott Civilian of the Year awards in recognition of their contributions towards reducing domestic violence, and

WHEREAS, Detective Stephen Mackey with the Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office and Corporal Kimberly McKenzie of the Shreveport Police Department are the 2020 Trey Hutchison Award

recipients and Ms. Kris A. Barney is the 2020 Charles Rex Scott Civilian of the Year recipient; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal session convened this 21st day of January, 2021, that it does hereby convey its deepest and most sincere Appreciation and Recognition to Detective Stephen Mackey, Corporal Kimberly McKenzie and Ms. Kris Barney and asks that all Caddo citizens joins with them and the other members of the Caddo/Bossier Domestic Violence Task Force in honoring and thanking these individuals for their selfless work toward reducing domestic violence.

**RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION & APPRECIATION  
BESSIE DAVENPORT SMITH**

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Caddo Parish Commission to give appropriate acknowledgment and recognition to individuals that have rendered invaluable service to the citizens of Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, Bessie D. Smith is and has been an iconic personality in Caddo Parish who has contributed indelibly through her career as an educator, her trailblazing leadership as a community organizer with the Stoner Hill Action Council, the wisdom and balance she brings to the Metropolitan Planning Commission, her widely anticipated annual celebrations with Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church and her generous heart as a caring neighbor and friend, just to name a few; and

WHEREAS, Bessie D. Smith's contributions are too many to fully list, additional roles include her service as a Board member for the Caddo Community Action Agency, Inc., the Green Oaks High School Scholarship Board, an officer for the NAACP, National Council of Negro Women, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, Bessie D. Smith's contributions have been recognized in many ways including Caddo Association of Educators' Service Retirement Award, Caddo Parish School Board's Outstanding Service to Education and Community Service Award, and Outstanding Elementary Teacher of America 1972 and 1974; and

WHEREAS, Deacon Willie Dee Smith and Bessie D. Smith, who was "Baybay" to him, loved and cherished each other in their marriage of 47 years and their love continues to honor him after his passing in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Bessie Smith's influence transcends her formal accomplishments to include her ability to connect with and genuinely care for others, her deep and lasting friendships, her loyalty, the respect she has earned and the respect she gives, her ability to encourage and inspire people of any age to do and be just a little better, and her positive, indomitable perspective on life; and

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish's own Bessie D. Smith Park, for many years, has proudly borne her name and seeks to provide a sense of community, a place for peace and reflection, and a place for children to practice joy as a befitting honor to Mrs. Smith; and

WHEREAS, The Parish of Caddo applauds the decision of the City of Shreveport to dedicate Viking Drive in honor of Bessie D. Smith;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal session convened this 21st day of January, 2021, that it does hereby convey its deepest and most sincere recognition and appreciation to Bessie D. Smith.

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION & RECOGNITION  
REPORTER TIMMY LANE**

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Caddo Parish Commission to give appropriate acknowledgment and recognition to individuals and organizations who have rendered invaluable service in its behalf to the citizens of Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, such an individual is Reporter Timmy Lane who worked as a reporter to cover breaking news and keeping the citizens informed throughout the City of Shreveport and Parish of Caddo; and

WHEREAS, Reporter Timmy Lane earned his Associate's Degree in Journalism in 2014 from Southern University Shreveport and recently obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communication from Wiley College in Marshall, Texas; and

WHEREAS, Reporter Timmy Lane moved to Dallas in 2016, but continued to keep the citizens up to date on the events and happenings of the community, free of charge; and

WHEREAS, Reporter Timmy Lane has provided comprehensive coverage on many topics that are important to the citizens of Caddo Parish, including city/parish infrastructure improvements, crime

and violence effects on communities, animal and human interests, and other government-citizen topics. He has also conducted numerous vigils for victims of violence.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal and regular session convened this 21st day of January, 2021, that it does hereby convey its deepest and most sincere expressions of gratitude and appreciation to REPORTER TIMMY LANE for the invaluable contributions he has made during to the citizens of Caddo Parish.

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that Special Resolution of Recognition & Appreciation to the Louisiana National Guard* be adopted. Motion carried by acclamation.

LTC Ebony Carter thanked the Commission for recognizing the Louisiana National Guard. Mr. Epperson said that he will be asking the Governor for a proclamation for the Guard.

### **RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION & APPRECIATION LOUISIANA NATIONAL GUARD**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission recognizes and commends the Louisiana National Guard for their service, commitment, and selfless dedication throughout 2020; and

WHEREAS, during this tumultuous year, the Louisiana National Guard displayed incredible dedication through its efforts to protect the lives and welfare of Caddo Parish citizens and Louisianans; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana National Guard was called to action regarding the COVID-19 global pandemic, as well as responding to devastation left by Hurricanes Laura and Delta; and

WHEREAS, the Guard has stood on the forefront administering tests and delivering personal protective equipment to help combat the dangerous and deadly COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana National Guard has supported missions involving transportation, communications, public works, and generators and power supply to those who were affected by Hurricanes Laura and Delta. The Guard has also cleared nearly 1,800 miles of roadway of hurricane debris; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana National Guard stands ready to protect and assist the citizens of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, for their invaluable commitment this Parish, State, and Country, the Louisiana National Guard has earned their deepest gratitude.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal and regular session this 21st day of January, 2021, that it does hereby proclaim Sunday, January 31, 2021 as:

‘Louisiana National Guard Day’

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby express its sincere appreciation to the Louisiana National Guard who stepped up to the plate during these difficult times and commend the Guard for their hard work, dedication, and lifesaving efforts through 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby extend sincere hopes and wishes that the Louisiana National Guardsmen remain safe and in good health as they continue to serve this Parish, State, and Country.

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that Special Resolution of Recognition for Louisianan of the year, Bob Thames* be adopted. Motion carried by acclamation.

Mr. Chavez thanked Mr. Thames for giving back to the community during this trying time, especially in the service industry.

Mr. Thames thanked the Commission for honoring him today.

### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION FOR LOUISIANAN OF THE YEAR BOB THAMES**

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Caddo Parish Commission to give appropriate acknowledgment and recognition to individuals that have rendered invaluable service to the citizens of Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, Bob Thames’ sincerity, creativity and commitment to his community during times of difficulty have earned him the respect and gratitude of the Caddo Parish community and beyond;

and

WHEREAS, Bob Thames has been named as one of Louisiana Life Magazine's Louisianans of the Year for 2020, an honor extended by the magazine to those individuals who exhibit the best of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Bob Thames, known by many as Bobby Beers, is the Brand Manager for Great Raft Brewing and has used his relationships, communications skills and knowledge of the service industry to turn uncertain times into needed blessings by raising and distributing more than \$27,000 to service industry workers who were affected by the Covid-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Covid-19 pandemic has been extremely challenging for the service industry and many employees had significant income loss due to shutdowns and other cautionary measures taken to promote health and safety during the global pandemic, and they received not only direct financial assistance, but also the sense of hope and reassurance that Bob Thames can't help but infuse into everything that he does; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Life Magazine was right to celebrate Bob Thames as an example of the best of Louisiana, as he is a person who puts others first even as the pandemic burdened his industry and personal life, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal session convened this 21st day of January, 2021, that it does hereby convey its deepest and most sincere congratulations and recognition to Mr. Bob Thames.

#### **ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

- 2021 Adopted Budget

Dr. Wilson said that he placed a copy of the 2021 Adopted Budget in each of the Commissioners' boxes.

- Rental Assistance

Dr. Wilson also said that he sent a copy of the presentation they received from NACO regarding the Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

Mrs. Barnett: Okay. All right well good afternoon Commissioners. As y'all know we became aware of this program on January 7th and quickly put in our application for the money. This wasn't so much a application process but more or less the federal government notifying us that we will receive \$7.1 million in rental assistance grant. Since that time, I have done extensive research on the requirements of the grant. Reporting prioritizing etcetera. From the time January 7th to today, until today, the qualifications requirements are not changing, but they're getting more and more detailed. So as of today, this is some information that I have for you all. We will actually receive \$7, 167, 831. So that's quite a quite a big chunk of change for us to manage. 90% of that must be used for rental payments and utility assistance. Those payments have to be made form the grantee directly to the landlords or the utility provider. There is some instances where you can pay the citizen directly but there is a lot of extra steps in order to do that, but it can be done if we must. 10%, again, goes for housing stability and grant administration costs. These costs are direct costs which means it can't be- we can't use any kind of overhead measurement or any arbitrary dollar figure. It has to be the direct cost that it costs us to run the program. Based on the U.S. Census Bureau, one of the first steps that NACO suggested is for us to do a community needs assessment. And so, they gave us a website to the United States Census Bureau for us to obtain information specifically about Caddo Parish. We have approximately 33,800 rental units in Caddo Parish. Sorry, don't know where that came from. Our average rent in Caddo Parish is approximately \$810 a month. 74% of our renters pay between \$500 and \$1500 a month. Our median-our median income for renters is \$22,370. We have 18,600 estimated population that actually have below 80% of the median income. With all this being said, we have an estimated 10,000 people who are at a high risk of housing insecurity. Which means at any time they can be homeless. So, this project-this-we're very honored to be able to receive these funds. I want to make it clear that we're receiving these funds, this program will happen regardless of the vote today. So, for those people that were concerned about that, fear not the money is coming to the Parish and we should get it in the next week or so. There is a lot that we must do between now and actually process mortgage payment with Treasury federal money. Because there is a lot of guidelines to that, two of those guidelines are the first prioritization has to go to the lowest income group. This is a requirement from the Treasury. And that means regardless of where you live, your color, your race, any of those things, your lowest income and if you've been unemployed for 90+ days, those people receive priority. And so, some mechanism we have to put all of the applications into one pot in order to meet this requirement. In order to make sure that we can document that we gave priority to those people. And also, the Grantee, which is the Parish, must make payments directly to the landlord, the utility provider, or again I said

the renter if certain things are met. The qualification- the requirements as they are written today do not allow for sub-grantees. Again, they are a forever expanding. So, I'm just saying as of right this minute. We also have to create specific policies and procedures that address what our application will look like, the verification, how we'll make the award amounts. And also, there will be a list of data collection requirements that is going to be established by the Treasury as of today that has not been established. And what I want to- I want to remind you all of is that these federal funds if we're ever found in non-compliance it is subject to call back. So, that [inaudible] retrieve all \$7.1 million that they're advancing the Parish, if at any time they see that we are not using the funds properly. The NaCO does encourage community partnerships with organizations to support community outreach, help in reaching citizens, helping them apply and all of those all of those things and again we just need to determine how we're going to address it and how we're going to reach out. The Louisiana Housing Corporation along with the Governor's office and the Office of Community Development actually invited me to a meeting that is happening-started at 4:30 today. They are, they have called all 7 Parishes within the state that received this money or is due to receive this money next week, so that we can all be on the same accord with how we roll this out. This meeting that I have some of my staff on now, since I couldn't attend will provide us an overview of how the state's program was designed, issues that they've had and additional guidance from the Treasury. There are going to be incentives I was told from the L.H.C. that if we work within their guidelines of this program we could receive additional money from the state in addition to what we have received from the treasury. So, again, I've got a quite a lot of information on this program. I've been researching it since the day I had to submit for the money and it is evolving and its exciting. And I'm happy to answer any questions you have. I just want everybody to understand that that Treasury money, federal money, is something that you have to be a very familiar with. And have-it is an exhausting process, as some of the ladies mentioned already. And NACO also encourages us to partner with an organization that has had experience with affordable housing program and has had experience with federal funding. We had to touch on confidentiality of documentation because not only are the applicants going to have to give their personal information they'll also have to give their landlords personal information as far as their tax id their address and all that. So, this is going to be quite cumbersome. But, just know that the staff of the Parish of Caddo is up to the challenge. And if there's any questions or concerns I'm happy to help and give you any guidance that I can. Dr. Wilson that's all I have.

Dr. Wilson: Thank you, Mrs. Hayley. Appreciate the details and thank you for the good work you're doing. And Commissioners I've mentioned before this is a fast-moving train and details are continually coming out every day. Please rest assured that we will make sure we follow all of the prescribed guidelines that will meet the federal mandate of this program.

Mr. Burrell: Thank you Mr. President I just want to ask Mrs. Hayley the same question I actually asked Commissioner Jackson the other day about the bureaucratic red tape, not so much to the issuing agent, but to the customer themselves. Because what I've received in terms of complaints about applying for rental assistance and assistance for utilities that sometimes it seems to be rather incumbering and it's kind of discouraging. So, I was wanting to ask Hayley does she feel or does she know enough that guidelines, were customers to apply, are they less stringent than many of the other programs that are out there. Does she know that?

Mrs. Barnett: Commissioner Burrell, at this time because the treasury has not listed the data collection requirements I can't answer that. We're waiting very patiently for them to make that list available to us. But trust me when I say we would like this to be done quickly. But we want to have to make sure it's done, you know, correctly. And so, until we get that documentation list, I cannot tell you how cumbersome it's going to be. But I do know that the state is trying to make sure that it is as streamlined as possible so that if they apply for something through Parish of Caddo and then they want to go and apply through the state because we can only offer them so much, that it looks the same. I know they want to make it so that they don't have to, you know, get everything done again or try to get a whole different set of forms. So, I do know they are trying to streamline it in case you have to hit several different buckets, you know, to help meet your need. But at this time, I wish I could tell you. But I-it's just too soon.

Mr. Burrell: I just want to make sure it is as customer friendly as possibly, because these people already in distress. I have the experience cause I have a couple of rental properties and it was tough on them. So, basically, I'm carrying the load for them at this point. Just trying to allow them to work it off or what have you because it's so tough trying to get assistance. So, I wanted to-to bring that up on behalf of those who are out there that are having these problems. Thank you, Mr. President.

Barnett: Yes, sir. Thank you.

Mr. Jackson: I'm sorry. Thank you, Mr. President. I appreciate it. I just wanted-I know Commissioner Burrell question wasn't directed to me, but I want to sort of follow up there. I am privileged and fortunate enough to represent this congressional district on the Louisiana Housing Corporation and I had a conversation with our Executive Director Keith Cunningham this

morning. One of the things that I will say with regards to customer service process of the state level application is that, Commissioner Burrell, that application was started out 50 pages long. 50 pages was the application and then the state rolled theirs out and it was an issue. And so, then they came-we came back and think we eventually got it down to a 25 to 30-page application. So, you know, this notion that somebody else can come in and do it better. I think we need to be careful and be mindful of that particular as we talking about making sure that local dollars flow into this local community. The other thing that I also want to I wouldn't say correct because I know people don't like to be publicly corrected but my understanding is that the dollars that the Louisiana Housing Corporation are CARES Act dollars. The dollars that we are receiving are emergency rental assistance which should not be confused. There are going to be people who will- you cannot duplicate benefits. There individuals can receive up to 15 months' worth of rental assistance form the emergency rental assistance program so that there is just this notion that they can come here then go to the state and get money is not correct. If they receive money here they will not be allowed because then that would be what is called a duplication of benefits if you ever worked with a federal housing program. You cannot duplicate benefits. So, I just want us to be very mindful as we are talking because words have meanings, words have power and I just want to make sure we do the right thing for Caddo Parish and we do it as efficiently and effective as we can. And trust the partners that we have here in Caddo Parish to be able to do that for us. Thank you, Mr. President.

Gage-Watts: Okay, so. In December, I felt compelled to do something to help struggling families and, without hesitation, I introduced legislation to provide \$500 to help 500 struggling families or households. Not something that we could do for everyone, but to help those who needed it most. The funds were already there. They were allocated for emergency disaster assistance but nevertheless the legislation failed due to political reasons. However, I never lost my faith that something would happen to assist all citizens. I am very grateful that the federal government has provided assess to assist these families in need. And I'm always for the people as I always say and as I always prove that I am for the people. And because we are obligated to help our citizens, especially during this pandemic. As I do support the legislation that we are discussing I think that there should be some amendments to add additional organizations like Catholic Charities, Morning Star, who has been an apparatus for distributing funds to the community. These are non-profit organizations that meet qualifications trusted by the community and should be included in this legislation. Thank you.

Mr. Cawthorne: Good evening Mr. President. This is directed to Hayley. And this may be a premature question but as I look at the intersection between free market and people who need assistance, I will pose this question. Will that be a mechanism by which for in our parish or city particular persons who own large apartment complexes who probably going to be over route with people who are behind, probably in the province that they live in. Is that going to be some type of intermediary where those people can communicate with us and assisting those tenants and residents through this particular process if you follow the question?

Mrs. Barnett: I think I follow the question. And currently the only prioritization that we have been given is for those people who fall below the 80% AMI and then the people that fall at 50% of the AMI and their rent makes up greater than 30% of their income. Those are the people that will get the priority. So, as far as the size of the apartment complex and that kind of the thing, that-there's nothing in the guidance that covers that.

Mr. Cawthorne: Okay. And-well let me add another to that because that there may be a almost a centralized piece of people who will need that assistance is there a mechanism by which the landlord can assist these people with putting them through the process?

Mrs. Barnett: Well the landlord, one second yeah, the landlord will have to be a part of the process because they have to agree to receive the funds from the Parish. That's what I was saying earlier we can't-we have to do the best we can to get the landlords and the utility providers on board to receive it directly from us. Because in an only way we can pay the renter, we have to prove that we attempted to contact the landlord three different times within 21 days by certified mail, it goes on and on and on with a list of requirements. And so, the landlord would have to be apprised of the information in order for it work for the renter.

Mr. Cawthorne: So ideally my question is essentially what- almost what you eluded to. How do we make this a user-friendly process for both the tenant themselves and the landlord and coordinated with the Parish? That's essentially what I am alluding to.

Mrs. Barnett: Yes, sir.

Mr. Atkins: Thank you, Mr. President. I have a question or two questions for Hayley. Hayley as I understand what you've told us this afternoon these dollars can only be distributed-they have to be distributed on a prioritized need-based basis is that correct?

Mrs. Barnett: Yes, sir that's the requirement by the treasury.

Mr. Atkins: And since its need based, we have to have one list to prioritize. So therefore, there's one

single entity that will be distributing these funds.

Mrs. Barnett: Yes sir. One entity will need to distribute these funds. We can have community partners to help with application process.

Mr. Atkins: I see. Okay and since the Parish is receiving the dollars and only the entity that's receiving the dollars can distribute them, therefore only the parish can distribute these dollars is that correct?

Mrs. Barnett: Yes, sir.

Mr. Atkins: Okay. So, there is room for entities to help citizens in filling out applications, but ultimately the Parish will be receiving the funds and distributing the funds and only the Parish will be receiving the funds and distributing the funds.

Mrs. Barnett: Yes, sir. That is correct. But we have to have community partners to help us with reaching our citizens, citizenry and helping them out with the application process. Cause as they've already alluded to, it's quite-it's not our fault, but it will be quite tedious. And that's when the other agencies can help us.

Mr. Johnson: Okay. Let's see. I'm a go ahead say my little piece and then I'll go to Commissioner Burrell on the second wave. Hayley, I guess from listening form what you was saying that it really wasn't an application process for us it was basically the government notifying us that we had this grant that we could get the money if we wanted to based on filling out a few lines right?

Mrs. Barnett: Correct.

Mr. Johnson: Okay. And there's two major parts of it the reporting and then to make sure that we prioritize how we distribute the funds.

Mrs. Barnett: Yes, sir. The reporting part is every 3 months and then prioritizing the funds. Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Okay. And we will have to have policies and procedures in place and you said something about that we cannot use sub-grantees?

Mrs. Barnett: Yeah, the way they are written at this time, sub-grantees are not allowed. Community partners are allowed. But we cannot use a sub-grantee such as you know see how we operate with CCAA. It doesn't. It's not designed in that manner.

Mr. Johnson: Okay. And the way that you prioritize is by income group and if a person was unemployed 90 days or more?

Mrs. Barnett: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Using the 80% AMI and the 50% AMI. Right?

Mrs. Barnett: Exactly. Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Okay. So, it seems like there are a lot of moving parts to the grant itself. As the resolution is also has some moving parts to it as well and we would have to basically make sure that all of this is carried out to the "T" by either using those organizations that are listed on the resolution or choosing some other means based upon the policies and procedures that are developed.

Mrs. Barnett: Agreed. Yes.

Mr. Johnson: Okay. All right. That's all I had to this was trying to clarify some things for the general public that were listening cause a lot of the comments was that if we-they want us to vote in favor of the resolution in order to get the money to help the citizens. But basically, we've already got the money with or without the resolution. So, I just wanted to clear that up for some of the citizens that are listening. And so, that they may can go do something else that they need to or not. Thank you.

Mr. Burrell: For the second time, I want to reiterate to get something clear for the people that I represent. My customers-what I consider my constituents. Commissioner Jackson had mentioned that the application process went from 50 pages to 25 pages and Hayley stated that at this point she doesn't know exactly what the application process for the end use is. My concern is more about the end-user than the people that are getting declined. It sounds as though the application process now count to 25 pages is more than what the agency has to fill out in order to get the grant. So that's what actually discourages people from actually using these programs. So, based upon that, Hayley, well I'm not sure if Hayley can tell or see who can tell me, there will be assistance to the customer who is applying for the rental assistance, for them to fill that 25-page application out. Cause 25 pages is a hell of a lot of material.

Mr. Jackson: Commissioner Burrell, I said the application that the state did for the CARES act ended up being 25 pages. I didn't say for this. I said for the CARES Act rental assistance ended up being 25 pages.

Mr. Johnson: The application has not been developed yet for the end-user.

Mr. Burrell: Well that goes back to what I asked before. Is it more streamlined than the application that are being made to Providence House through all the other community development and that type of thing? Because that is what I am getting back, Mr. President, from the people who are applying.

Mr. Jackson: Correct.

Mr. Johnson: Well it's going to be the same application that everyone-whatever organization that we use to say we need them help to fill out application the application will be the same. It won't be no different from one organization to the other. All the information has to be consistent in order for this federal money, right? So, the application same. The answers got to be filled out to the "T". And then from there that's where it goes to the next stage in which you have to then prioritize who gets the money. So, it's a tedious process. It's not something that one organization can say we got a one-page process and another one can say we got a 3 page. Everybody go bum rush the one-page organization. No. The org- All the organizations will get their applications from us. And then we'll be moving forward from that. Am I right Dr. Wilson? I want to make sure I'm not giving out-

Dr. Wilson: That is correct sir. As soon as we get the complete guidance from the treasury we will know what the application process will look like. Right now, we don't have all the details to know how long or short it's going to be. But it's going to be consistently used whoever partner we partner with will have to use the same process. And, hopefully that will be a mechanism where our partners can help make the process easier.

Mr. Burrell: and that is to the end user.

Dr. Wilson: yes, sir that's right. That was all about the people. The people that need the help.

Mr. Burrell: That's my concern again they're the one who's complaining. I'm not hearing it from agencies. I'm hearing it from the end users.

Dr. Wilson: Yes, sir. And prayerfully the federal level, Commissioner Burrell, will take that into account that we need to make these folk lives as simple as we can and not be a burden to it. But we have to wait until we see what they actually look like.

Mr. Burrell: That's my only concern. Thank you.

Mr. Cawthorne: I think that what we saying in this conversation right here is that the Parish itself is going to, to use the football analogy, is going to quarterback the bill. And then what they with it inside the administration then they'll be able to pass and shift to where the community partners that needs to be brought to the table to carry this out. Is that correct?

Dr. Wilson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Jackson: Yeah, I was just saying that you know I think a lot of people looked at the resolution and saw dollar amount. The dollar amount is because the entities have been assigned a specific area to make sure that all of Caddo is covered. The notion that these entities are about to come up and get one point something million dollars is not what we are considering today. That was never on the table. The goal was to show every area these entities would collect the money. But I can guarantee you, as Mrs. Howard indicated, if you just expand and keep opening its going to turn into one mess of a situation when it is time to report. Thank you. And I want to be clear—we are not saying we're giving anybody any money. We cannot legally give money to somebody through a resolution.

- Master Plan Update

Mr. Clarke provided a copy of the presentation to the Commissioners in regards to the updates to the Master Plan.

### **COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mr. Epperson asked that the Clerk of the Commission read aloud the resolution that condemned the attacks on the Capitol:

*BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:*

**A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE JANUARY 6, 2021 ATTACK ON THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.**

*WHEREAS, the January 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol Building is unprecedented and resulted in the terrorizing of our senators, congressional representatives and staff persons, the theft of personal possessions, and the desecration of our symbol of democracy; and*

*WHEREAS, five people were killed as a result of the attack, including Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick; and*

*WHEREAS, the peaceful transition of power after a free and fair election is essential for a functioning democracy; and*

*WHEREAS, local, state, and federal election officials as well as the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security have determined that the 2020 election was fair and the results accurate; and*

*WHEREAS, Joseph Biden was the winner of the 2020 presidential election; and*

*WHEREAS, unsubstantiated allegations that the 2020 election was not free and fair were spread and amplified by political groups and politicians; and*

*WHEREAS, these unsubstantiated allegations inspired a group of violent protestors to attack the U.S. Capitol Building on January 6, 2021, during the certification of the Presidential election.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the January 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol Building is condemned; and*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the allegations about the integrity of our election are unsubstantiated and were their dissemination was politically motivated; and*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Caddo Parish Commission offers its deepest condolences to the family of Officer Brian Sicknick and honors Officer Sicknick for his dedication and service to our country; and*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Caddo Parish Commission wishes to acknowledge and thank the Senators, Congressional representatives, staff persons and all other employees who returned to work on the grounds or in the U.S. Capitol building in the aftermath of the violent attack.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our democracy is resilient to such acts of domestic terrorism.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the peaceful transition of power and commitment to the values memorialized in our Constitution by our founding fathers are hereby acknowledged and affirmed.*

Mr. Epperson then thanked all of the frontline workers who are combatting the COVID-19 pandemic. There are over 24 million positive COVID cases in the United States, with over 185,000 deaths. Louisiana has over 375,000 positive COVID cases, with over 8,000 deaths. Caddo Parish is number four in the State with over 21,000 cases and 586 deaths. Mr. Epperson asked that everyone mask up and follow the CDC guidelines. He also announced that he received the Moderna vaccine.

Mr. Epperson requested that Mr. Chuck Wilson contact him regarding some property standards issue within District 12.

Mr. Epperson requested that the citizens provide their zip codes when giving their public comments.

Mr. Epperson asked that the Clerk of the Commission send the Louisiana National Guard Proclamation to the LTC Carter.

• Mr. Burrell asked that the Clerk of the Commission read aloud the letter he submitted to Sheriff Prator:

*Dear Sheriff Prator,*

*I hope you are doing well. I received a report on your reaction and response to the “no vote” on Resolution #6, sponsored by former Commission President Mario Chavez, while vacationing in Jackson Hole, Wyoming last week. Needless to say, it did disturb me a bit but I can understand how it could have been misinterpreted by you, given your passion for your law enforcement employees.*

*So let me share my position on the matter for whatever it is worth. Resolution #6, to recognize January 26 as “National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day” should have been previously vetted by Mr. Chavez with all Commissioners to determine their support for the measure, just as most are if there*

has been unrest detected from various members. I feel it was naive of him but also somewhat political in nature. Also Commissioner Hopkins has also denied black Democrat Commissioners through resolution by Commissioner Epperson, the opportunity to weigh in on the horrible tragedy to our nation that just had happened on June 6, orchestrated by our own POTUS Trump and his right-wing political allies, including homegrown terrorists.

Obviously from your reaction, it was also a bit naive and political to think that the black Democrat Commissioners would not oppose such a national recognition given that the FBI reported that a number of local, state and national law enforcement, military officers and veterans took part in President Trump's ill-motivated government take-over by insurrection and treasonous acts in DC. In addition, it is also well documented the unwarranted killing of unarmed black people across this nation by rogue law enforcement which has caused unprecedented unrest and protest "worldwide".

Unfortunately, many white folks think black folks are not patriotic to this country given its tumultuous and troubling history of discrimination, racism and slavery—but we are! Also, I was quite disturbed as an elected State Democrat Official (just as you in the Republican Party) to hear your interview on the conservative talk show KEEL Radio, not pointing us out as black elected officials but Democrat officials, which apparently and strategically meant to be a not-so subtle partisan "dog whistle" call to the local radical ReTrumplican base. A political base that 75% supported the Capitol insurrection, and one that you and Commissioner Chavez are rumored to be a part. But that is your political choice my friends!

As longtime friends, we have supported one another, and sometimes differed on issues of major concern, and even our politics. But I have NEVER been unappreciative of your service to this community, indicative by the millions of dollars appropriated at your request in city, state and now parish government. So why would you question that I would not support our local law enforcement without reason? A question easily answered, even if Mr. Chavez failed to ask it earlier. That seems politically biased toward the other black Democrat Commissioners and me.

As you have made clear to me when earlier trying to rebuild a broken, if not strained relationship with the Commission. You honestly said: "I am an elected by the people, so I do not have to report to the Commission". That is understandable but not the POINT! But you as Sheriff, our highest law enforcement official and our Caddo Parish Homeland Security Director, it would serve us both well, and those we ALL serve, that WE keep the lines of communications open for the 'common good', and not for political expediency. To live together, WE must HEAL this LAND!

Mr. Burrell wanted to point out that he supports local law enforcement.

- Mr. Hopkins asked that Mr. Clarke explain to the Commission what R-1-10 is in reference to. Mr. Clarke said that the R-1-10 is a new residential zoning district with a minimum of 10,000 feet for the lot size.

Mr. Hopkins then addressed a resolution that failed in a previous meeting. He said those resolutions do not exist anymore because they failed. He also said that each of the Commissioners have a different personality with a difference in opinions, but he respects each Commissioner.

- Mr. Taliaferro said that he was disappointed in the Commission body by not recognizing law enforcement across the nation. He said that the recognition of Law Enforcement Day has passed, but the officers still sacrifice daily to the dedication to the safety of the citizens.

- Mr. Chavez said that there is a resolution on the agenda to thank the frontline workers and law enforcement.

- Mr. Cawthorne said, "seek ye first to understand, then be understood." He said that Caddo Parish and Shreveport will not move on until we have the difficult and uncomfortable conversations.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Johnson explained that the National Law Enforcement resolution was not to say that the Commission was against law enforcement. He said that the only issue he had with the resolution was the word "national". Mr. Johnson further explained that there were several events that happened across the United States that led to the Black Lives Matter Movement and not being able to support some wrongdoing and stand to say that we do. He further said that he has no issues with giving local enforcement officers appreciation for the job they do.

### **PUBLIC HEARING ON ZONING ORDINANCES & CASES**

The Chair of the Commission opened the public hearing for the following ordinances:

- *Zoning Case 20-15-P, in regards to Ordinance No. 6021 of 2021, 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*

- *Zoning Case 20-12-P, in regards to Ordinance No. 6022 of 2021, 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*
- *Zoning Case 20-16-P, in regards to Ordinance No. 6023 of 2021, 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*

Ms. Susan Woodson called in and spoke in opposition to Ordinance No. 6023 of 2021, in regards to Zoning Case 20-16-P:

First and foremost, regardless of the decision made today, we want to thank the Commissioners for graciously listening to our concerns and communicating with us professionally and promptly. We realize and are appreciative of their responsibilities and sometimes burdens carried with your position. Next, we wish and re-iterate our hope that public opinions from those who do not have a vested interest in this matter will not be considered. We are speaking of the comments posted on social media, letters written to the commissioners, and published newspaper articles from those who by their own admission have benefited from free services. We take exception to that fact and to the poorly hidden attempt to place pressure on the commissioners. In conclusion, we honestly plead to vote NO to the PUD designations and the zoning of our area. Please understand that we are not anti-growth, but rather, we aren't strong supporters of a smart planned development with the input and approval of the people whose lives are directly affected by these changes. Our area is an area of stability. People seek property here because the character of our neighborhood has so much to offer. Allowing commercial activity will result in significant increases in traffic, leading to noticeable injury, accident or even fatality concerns. This is not consistent with our public health or safety or general welfare, nor is it compatible with our surroundings. It will also bring noise and pollution. We fear that permitting one commercial activity will begin an under-ending cycle of increased commerce and traffic. The integrity of our neighborhoods will gradually erode. People will no longer desire to live here. Those of us who remain or experienced a drastic decline to the distinctive qualities which cherish please do not allow this encroachment on our lives. It will erode the old environment that we all chose and have sacrificed so much to have. Thank you very much.

There being no one else to speak in favor or against these ordinances, the Chair closed the public hearings.

### **ZONING ORDINANCES & CASES (final passage)**

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that Zoning Case 20-15-P, in regards to Ordinance No. 6021 of 2021, 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 adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

### **ORDINANCE NO. 6021 OF 2021**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

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 RESPECTTHERETO

BE IT ORDAINED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, is hereby amended and re-enacted to read as follows, to wit:

The official Zoning Map of the Shreveport Metropolitan Planning Area of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, be amended by rezoning property located on the east corner of Ellerbe Road and Stewart Drive, Caddo Parish, LA, more particularly described below, be and the same is hereby amended **from R-1-7, Single-Family Residential District to C-1, Neighborhood Commercial District:**

LOT 18, RED OAK GROVE SUBN., LESS R/W, Section 06, T16N, R13W, Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any provision or item of this ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after publication in the official journal.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *that Zoning Case 20-12-P, in regards to Ordinance No. 6022 of 2021, 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 adopted. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 6022 OF 2021**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

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 IT ORDAINED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, is hereby amended and re-enacted to read as follows, to wit:

The official Zoning Map of the Shreveport Metropolitan Planning Area of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, be amended by rezoning 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, more particularly described below, be and the same is hereby amended from R-A, Rural Agriculture District to C-1, Neighborhood Commercial District:

commencing at found 1" iron pike at the east quarter corner of said section 25, run thence north 88 degrees 48'18" west a distance of 99 0.77 feet, thence run south 01 degrees 02'59" west a distance of 1432.10 feet to a set 1/2" iron pipe at the point of beginning of the tract herein described. From said point of beginning, run thence south 01 degrees 02'59" west a distance of 349.93 feet to a set 1/2" iron pipe on the north right of way of North Market Street (Louisiana Highway No. 1 ), thence run along said north right of way the following two calls: North 62 degrees 16'26" west a distance of 134.27 feet to a set 1/2" iron pipe, north 59 degrees 24'42" west a distance of 244.21 feet to a set 1/2" iron pipe, thence run north 01 degrees 02'59" east a distance of 169.25 feet to a set 1/2" iron pipe, thence run south 88 degrees 57'01" east a distance of 332.45 feet to the point of beginning, Section 25, T19N, R15W, Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any provision or item of this ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after publication in the official journal.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Zoning Case 20-16-P, in regards to Ordinance No. 6023 of 2021, 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 denied.*

Mr. Epperson explained that there is a process for changing the zoning of a property. He said that the applicant utilized his right to apply for a zoning change, and the citizens exercised their rights to opposed the change. It has always been his philosophy to maintain the dignity and integrity of the residential neighborhoods.

Mr. Hopkins understands the concerns of the residents, but he pointed out that the property is 11.5 acres. He said that the applicant addressed the concerns of the citizens. He also mentioned that the applicant could go to Animal Services and get a permit for a noncommercial kennel.

Mr. Jackson said that he has a practice of supporting the Commissioner for that area. Mr. Chavez agreed with Mr. Jackson.

Mr. Taliaferro said that he will be voting no on this zoning case at this time, but he hopes that the citizens and Mr. Philipps will have a discussion in the future regarding his business.

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

#### **ZONING ORDINANCES (for introduction by title)**

- *Zoning Case 20-11-P, in regards to Ordinance No. 6024 of 2021, 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 south side of Greenwood Road at Calderwood Drive, Caddo Parish, LA, from R-A, Rural-Agricultural Zoning District to C-1, Neighborhood Commercial Zoning District, C-3, General Commercial Zoning District, and I-MU, Industrial Mixed Use Zoning District and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Zoning Case 20-14-P, in regards to Ordinance No. 6025 of 2021, 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 west end of Newburn Lane, Caddo Parish, LA, from R-1-12, Single Family Residential District to R-1-7, Single Family Residential District and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

#### **ORDINANCES (for introduction by title)**

- *Ordinance No. 6026 of 2021, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, to establish R-1-10 Single-Family Residential Zoning District by amending Article 3, Zoning Districts & Zoning Map, by amending Article 4, Zoning Districts; by amending Article 5, Uses; by amending Article 7, regarding the on-site development standards; by amending Article 9, Sign Regulations; by amending Article 10, Landscape & Tree Preservation and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6027 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the General Fund for the year 2021 to provide an appropriation to the One Hundred Men of Shreveport for funds remaining at December 31, 2020, to provide COVID-19 testing*

and to otherwise provide with respect thereto

- Ordinance No. 6028 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund to provide an appropriation of \$21,000 for the Salvation Army's Merkle Center of Hope for funds remaining at December 31, 2019 and to otherwise provide with respect thereto
- Ordinance No. 6029 of 2021, an ordinance to amend and re-enact Article III of Chapter 19 relative to Dr. E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund, to provide for the inclusion of grants within funding sources, to provide for applications and award of grants to appropriate recipients, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto

### **WORK SESSION MINUTES**

It was **moved by Mr. Cawthorne**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that the Work Session Minutes from January 19, 2021 be ratified. Motion carried unanimously.*

### **RESOLUTIONS**

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to englobo and adopt the following resolutions:*

- Resolution No. 7 of 2021, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to approve the assignment, bill of sale and conveyance of State Agency Leases 20131, 20133, and 20134 to Enpower Resources, Inc., and otherwise providing with respect thereto
- Resolution No. 8 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 otherwise providing with respect thereto

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

### **RESOLUTION NO. 7 OF 2021**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CADDO PARISH ADMINISTRATOR TO APPROVE THE ASSIGNMENT, BILL OF SALE AND CONVEYANCE OF STATE AGENCY LEASES 20131, 20133 AND 20134 TO ENPOWER RESOURCES, INC., AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo is a Lessor in that certain oil, gas and mineral lease from the Caddo Parish Commission to Classic Petroleum, Inc., in State Agency Lease 20131, dated August 12, 2009, and recorded at registry No. 2248285 of the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, Louisiana; and the Parish of Caddo is a Lessor in that certain oil, gas and mineral lease from the Caddo Parish Commission to Merit Energy Services, L.L.C., in State Agency Lease 20133, dated August 12, 2009, and recorded at registry No. 2248623 of the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and the Parish of Caddo is a Lessor in that certain oil, gas and mineral lease from the Caddo Parish Commission to Classic Petroleum, Inc., in State Agency Lease 20134, dated August 12, 2009, and recorded at registry No. 2248287 of the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, State Agency Leases 20131, 20133 and 20134 have been conveyed by various assignments, bills of sale or mergers to DEA Bethany, LLC and JLP 1, LLC, and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has received a written request from DEA Bethany, LLC and JLP 1, LLC, seeking approval from the Caddo Parish Commission of an assignment, bill of sale and conveyance of State Agency Leases 20131, 20133 and 20134 from DEA Bethany, LLC and JLP 1, LLC to EnPower Resources, Inc. from the surface to the base of the Cotton Valley formation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Administrator is hereby authorized to approve the assignment, bill of sale and conveyance of State Agency Leases 20131, 20133 and 20134 from DEA Bethany, LLC and JLP 1, LLC to EnPower Resources, Inc. from the surface to the base of the Cotton Valley formation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 8 OF 2021**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CADDO PARISH ADMINISTRATOR TO REQUEST AND AUTHORIZE THE LOUISIANA STATE MINERAL AND ENERGY BOARD AND THE OFFICE OF MINERAL RESOURCES TO ACCEPT NOMINATIONS AND ADVERTISE FOR OIL, GAS AND MINERAL LEASES, ACCEPT BIDS, AND AWARD AND EXECUTE OIL, GAS AND MINERAL LEASES ON CERTAIN MINERAL INTERESTS OWNED BY THE PARISH OF CADDO, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo may own certain mineral rights underlying the following described property, to-wit:

Those certain road dedications located in Section 27, Township 18 North, Range 15 West, known as North Lakeshore Drive, and other unnamed or unbuild roads all located in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and containing 4.66 acres, more or less, with Section 27, T18N, R15W containing a total of 4.66 acres, more or less, all in Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

Those certain road dedications located in Section 28, Township 18 North, Range 15 West, known as North Lakeshore Drive, and other unnamed or unbuild roads all located in Caddo Parish, Louisiana and containing 4.9 acres, more or less, with Section 28, T18N, R15W containing a total of 4.9 acres, more or less, all in Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

Those certain road dedications located in Section 29, Township 18 North, Range 15 West, known as West Lakeshore Drive, and other unnamed or unbuild roads all located in Caddo Parish, Louisiana and containing 8.03 acres, more or less with Section 29, T18N, R15W containing a total of 8.03 acres, more or less, all in Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

Those certain road dedications located in Section 32, Township 18 North, Range 15 West, known as South Lakeshore Drive, and other unnamed or unbuild roads, all located in Caddo Parish Louisiana and containing 12.78 acres, more or less, and that certain adjudicated property described as a small island in Section 32, T18N, R15W, lying South of South Lakeshore Drive and East of Lot 2, Geo. #181532-000-0010, said adjudicated property total acreage being .50 acres, more or less, with Section 32, T18N, R15W containing a total of 13.28 acres, more or less, all in Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

Those certain road dedications located in Section 33, Township 18 North, Range 15 West, known as South Lakeshore Drive, Jolly Napier Road, Loyds Road, Loyds Road Extension, Rhoda Road and Duncan Road, and other unnamed or unbuild roads, all located in Caddo Parish Louisiana and containing 21.27 acres, more or less, and that certain adjudicated property described as a tract of land on Island #2, Geo. #181533-000-0061, said adjudicated property total acreage being .04 acres, more or less, with Section 33, T18N, R15W containing a total of 21.31 acres, more or less, all in Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

Those certain road dedications located in Section 34, Township 18 North, Range 15 West, known as South Lakeshore Drive, Laguna Lane, and other unnamed or unbuild roads all located in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and containing 20.83 acres, and that certain adjudicated property described as Lot F of Cathey Estates Subdivision, Geo. #181534-003-0007, said adjudicated property total acreage being 1.58 acres, more or less, more or less, with Section 34, T18N, R15W containing a total of 22.41 acres, more or less, all in Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

Those certain road dedications located in Section 35, Township 18 North, Range

15 West, known as South Lakeshore Drive, Moss Point Road, Risinger Drive and Marty Lane, and other unnamed or unbuild roads all located in Caddo Parish, Louisiana and containing 12.83 acres, more or less, with Section 35, T18N, R15W containing a total of 12.83 acres, more or less, all in Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

Those certain road dedications located in Section 2, Township 17 North, Range 15 West, known as South Lakeshore Drive, Pines Road, Risinger Drive, Long Timbers, Wonderland Drive, Starlight Lane, Shorewood Drive, Brookline Drive, Noxubee Drive and Bonnieview Drive, and other unnamed or unbuild roads all located in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and containing 30.33 acres, and those certain adjudicated properties described as Lot 33, Shorewood Hills Subdivision, Geo. #171502-005-0033, Lot 97, Long Timbers Subdivision Subdivision, Geo. #171502-015-0097, Lot 20, Timber Knoll Subdivision, Unit No. 3, Geo. #171502-034-0020, and Lot 11, Long Timbers Subdivision, Geo. #171502-015-0011, said adjudicated property total acreage being 1.59 acres, more or less, with Section 2, T17N, R15W containing a total of 31.92 acres, more or less, all in Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

Those certain road dedications located in Section 11, Township 17 North, Range 15 West, known as Jefferson Paige Road, and other unnamed or unbuild roads, all located in Caddo Parish Louisiana and containing 12.12 acres, more or less, and that certain adjudicated property described as Lot 6, Hillrop Subdivision, Unit 7, Geo. #171511-002-0006, said adjudicated property total acreage being .34 acres, more or less, with Section 11, T17N, R15W containing a total of 12.46 acres, more or less, all in Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has received a written request from Border Exploration, LLC, that the Parish seek public bids for an oil, gas and mineral lease covering said property; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo does not have the knowledge or resources available to determine if it owns the mineral rights and the Parish of Caddo will rely on the expertise and experience of the lessee in determining ownership; and

WHEREAS, it is expressly agreed that any lease granted by the Parish of Caddo and accepted by lessee is without any warranty of title and without any recourse against the Parish of Caddo whatsoever, either express or implied, and it is expressly agreed that the Parish of Caddo shall not be required to return any payments received or be otherwise responsible to lessee therefore; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana State Mineral and Energy Board and the Office of Mineral Resources, is available upon the request of Caddo Parish to lease the aforesaid property for oil, gas and other minerals if requested to do so by Caddo Parish.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Louisiana State Mineral and Energy Board and the Office of Mineral Resources, be and it is hereby requested and authorized to accept nominations and advertise for oil, gas and mineral leases, accept bids and award and execute oil, gas and mineral leases on the aforesaid properties of certain mineral interests owned by the Parish of Caddo.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any such lease contain a no surface operations provision as follows: Lessee, its successors or assigns, may produce oil, gas and other minerals from the leased premises by drilling from a surface location on other lands, but notwithstanding any other provision of this lease, Lessee, its successors or assigns, shall not use the surface of the Lessor's property for drilling or any other operations without prior written permission of Lessor, which permission may be withheld at Lessor's discretion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any such lease contain a horizontal prugh provision as follows: Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein contained, at the end of the primary term or any extension thereof by operations, if the Commission of Conservation of the State of Louisiana establishes a drilling unit which includes a part of the land herein leased, the production of oil, gas and other minerals from such unit shall maintain this lease in full force and effect only as to such portions of the leased land embraced in said pooled unit; and this lease shall expire as to that part of the land herein leased not included in such unit; and lessee, its successors and assigns agrees to relinquish by formal instrument any portion of the leased land not included in a unit created by the Commission of Conservation while this lease is in effect

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any such lease contain a vertical prugh provision as follows: Upon the expiration of the primary term hereof or any extension thereof by operations, this lease shall automatically terminate and be of no further force or effect except as to all that part of the leased premises then included within the geographical boundaries of a producing unit duly established by governmental agency or authority having jurisdiction, from the surface of the earth to a depth of 100 feet below the deepest depth from which any well commenced during the primary term hereof on the leased premises or on lands pooled therewith is completed and from which there is production in paying quantities, such depth determination to be made on a unit by unit basis. In the absence of units so established, this

lease shall terminate except as to 40 acres around each producing oil well and 160 acres around each producing or shut-in gas well located on the leased premises, in as near the form of a square as is practicable, from the surface of the earth down to a depth of 100 feet below the deepest depth from which said well or wells are completed and from which there is production in paying quantities, such depth determination to be made on a well by well basis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any such lease contain a minimum royalty provision as follows: Royalty of not less than 1/5<sup>th</sup> or 20%.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any such lease contain a minimum bonus provision as follows: Bonus of not less than \$1,500.00 per acre.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any such lease contain a hard or solid mineral exclusion provision as follows: This lease shall exclude free sulphur, potash, lignite, salt and any other hard or solid mineral. Lessee shall not have any rights to explore, drill for, mine, produce or take any action whatsoever in regard to any such hard or solid mineral deposits.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any such lease contain a maximum term provision as follows: Primary term of lease shall not exceed three (3) years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *that Resolution No. 9 of 2021, a resolution authorizing entities to administer the COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program for the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted.

**Substitute motion by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *to amend Resolution No. 9 of 2021 and add the following language "that the Parish Administrator shall have the flexibility to make reasonable and necessary changes to implement a successful program"*.

Mr. Jackson: Yeah sure. I had conversations with administration. We recognize that and as I explained to Dr. Wilson and Mrs. Bryant is that the rules will change. That is typically how the federal bureaucracy works. It's called the administrative rule making process. So, they'll roll something out and the rules will change, the rules will change, the rules will change as you go. And so, I don't want the Administration or anybody feel like they being lock or boxed into anything. All we're doing is establishing a framework which they can start work from and then go from there. So, this gives them the flexibility to do what they need to do to give us a successful program for Caddo Parish residents. Thank you.

Gage-Watts: Thank you Mr. President. Does that also include adding additional organizations?

Mr. Jackson: It gives them the ability to the flexibility. If they see there's a need to add additional organizations they can go out they and add if they need to subtract they can subtract. So, it gives them that level of flexibility.

Mr. Johnson: Okay. I guess this is to legal and administration. Don't y'all already have that authority on things?

Attorney  
Frazier:

Commissioner basically I'm a little confused. Because, first of all, there are money or amount listed in the resolution. So, you all clear some things up for the public earlier. So, I would like to make it clear that you cannot appropriate or allocate money via a resolution. And so, I want to make sure that that is understood so nobody walks away thinking that money will be disbursed as is outlined on that chart. Because there are some questions as to whether or not some of those expenses could be paid based on the regulations as they exist now. As it was said earlier they may change. But from what we know now, there is a question as to whether those items listed in those amounts can be paid. Also, this is a resolution and I heard some people-some of the callers particular-refer to it as legislation and I think that may be a little misleading. Because per the Charter, a resolution is to express an opinion from the commission. There is no legal authority to actually appoint any of these organization or any other organizations via the resolution. So, this is an opinion that the Commission is giving to the Administrator that he maybe may take and he may not. So, I want to make sure everybody understands that aspect of it as well. And

so, yes, I mean any other organizations could be asked to help administer the program, but the Parish will be the grantee I heard. And as I read the regulation, sub-grantees are not allowed. So, no one else will be administering the program other than the Parish at this point. And as she said earlier nobody else could be administering the funds or paying the funds other than the Parish.

Mr. Johnson: Okay so, based on that and based on what I think I heard earlier is as individuals go to well we will ask some organizations to help this in doing the program. And they will share in the application process.

Attorney  
Frazier: Yes.

Mr. Johnson: From what you just said and what I heard Hayley say earlier is-and that's what I asked the question about no sub. Sub-grantee. So basically, the money will-the application will be filled out with the help of the organization. The Parish will then do the prioritizing and issue the checks and so the organizations will basically just be in an administrative role. And not one that will be holding money to issue checks out to the venues.

Attorney  
Frazier: That is correct and it may be even a stretch to say administrative. Because basically what organizations is contemplate-as its contemplated now- they will be assisting applicants. And that that maybe it.

Mr. Johnson: Yes, that's what I'm calling the administrative roll. Because they going to be helping the end user with the application, making sure that it's done right and consistent. And then those applications will be turned in to the parish to prioritize and then the checks shall be cut from that.

Attorney  
Frazier: Correct.

Mr. Johnson: From the Parish to the utility company and the property owners. And in some cases, to the individual but then that's some additional steps that would have to be taken from what Hayley said.

Attorney  
Frazier: Correct.

Mr. Jackson: Yeah. Didn't we-First of all this was put in a resolution because I didn't want to make this an action item. Okay? And I see some trickery going on. This could have just been placed on here as an action item and just left it blank. But just a few weeks ago we authorized the Parish Administrator to select a audit company. We authorized the Parish Administrator to select someone to administer the Caddo Community Action Agency grant. Last year, we authorized the Parish Administrator to recognize Juneteenth as a holiday. So, I don't buy the notion that this is just a piece of paper with meaningless words or this is just some statement or expression. What we don't do is we don't-we don't tie the hands. These resolutions wouldn't tie the hands of the Parish Administrator to do anything that would conflict what the guidelines or that's coming from the U.S. Treasury. I just want to be clear that this body, and I'm an institutional person, I'm an institutionalist, and I'm about protecting this body-so separate and apart from this legislation. When we pass resolutions that authorize, then those things should be taken seriously. Because we are the legislative body of this Parish. And I have said that since I joined this body is that there's this notion that there's this veto power over what we have to do. And so, I think a lot of people kind of got in a flurry when they saw dollar amounts assigned. The dollar amounts is for the areas covered. I have never said. I have never said that this would be an appropriation to. Where is that coming from? Not even in my conversations with Administration did I say this was an appropriation to. I don't know where this is coming from. I wish people would stop making things up and stop putting words in my mouth. Stop misinterpreting what's going on. This set forth a legislative framework that the legislative body, the Caddo Parish Commission, would like to begin from. And the reason why I talked to Dr. Wilson all day yesterday. And I talked to him this morning asked him was he okay with this amendment. He said yes. So, I don't want anybody think that we went straight cavalier and was trying to loop out the Administration or force the hand-that, no! Stop that. That was not. That was never the intent and I think a lot of things have been taken so far out of context. And it almost makes you want to just say the next crunch of money come down here just send the money-cause the notion that Caddo Parish is the only ones who can get it is not right! Cause had we not applied for the money the state would have gotten the money. I'm still looking at the guidelines and I'm trying to see where it says where it prohibits sub-granting. Cause I haven't seen that in the guidelines. But I'm not here to try to convince people that that is the case today. What I'm saying is we're setting forth some legislative intent, some legislative framework and the Parish

Administrator, as I told him, and the Assistant Administrator that I think they are capable and competent to set up a successful program. We have always said that we leave those things to them. I'm not here today to try to figure out what the application process is going to be. That's what we pay them to do! That's what we expect-that's what we hope the mechanical to do. I have never said money need to leave out the door next week. I have never said that. So, there seems to be this hysteria that's been created and Dr. Wilson, I'm not here to go back and forth word for word with staff about it. That's not what I do when I put legislation together. Because I do reach out to y'all. Don't I?

Dr. Wilson: Yes, you do.

Mr. Jackson: Now how do you work on the legislation and-how do you craft the legislation and you're puzzled? If I have talked to you every day and-and-and you know Doc I'd rather us talk offline. I don't want people to think that I'm arguing or being combative. So, I'm than happy for me, you Doc to get offline and discuss. I don't want people to think that we're trying to force something on administration or usurp the Treasury guidelines. That has never been the case. I think people saw numbers and things went over the place. So, we have an Administrator who's going to put together a program and they're going to implement it and execute. Thank you, Mr. President.

Attorney  
Frazier:

Yes, what I wanted to address is I'm not addressing anything that has been said by the Commissioner for Administration. The problem is when you have citizens who call in who think this is being treated like an appropriation it should be made clear that it's not. Because it's not an appropriation that can be granted or declined. The second. The second thing that I wanted to address was the legislation that ended up on the agenda was not some-was not the one I created. Because the one I created did not have any numbers if my recollection serves. So, to see numbers in particularly to look at the numbers and see for things that may not be reimbursable such as the translators, eviction assistance, that kind of thing, and knowing that we can't do sub-grantees or what we've been told. We are asking the Treasury Department directly for clarification. But we can't sit here and tell you or let you think or let some piece of paper appear on the agenda indicating something we've been given notice might not be the case. Now, it is my understanding that we will be contacting the Treasury department directly to confirm that those things will be the case. And as far as what a resolution does and what it authorizes, and Commissioner Jackson will tell you, this won't be the first time we disagree about this. But you all do not by resolution authorize higher, except for the person that you have to confirm. You have person that you have to confirm. You do not select contractors that are not selected by bid via resolution. There are several things that are similar to this process that we do not do by resolution. The only reason that C.C.A.A. has something to authorize is because of the enabling legislation creating C.C.A.A. Not because they're apples to apples with the other organizations or in this particular situation. So, I don't want anybody to be confused about that either. Additionally, all of these organizations, although they're supposed to represent areas, they're either downtown or somewhere on the edge of town. They do not cover the Parish geographically from where they sit. So, if there was some confusion about that I would think that that would be excusable.

Mr. Jackson: We-well first of all who where the organizations are located they provide Parish-wide services. Okay? And I don't choose where they sit or where they are. But again, we just authorized the Administrator to contract or we authorized when we set up the deal for the audit team is we authorized the Administrator to make that choice. We authorize bond counsel. We authorized several things. So, I don't want folks to think its complete anomaly to authorize things.

Attorney  
Frazier:

It's not. But those things are set up by charter for you to authorize. There are specific exceptions to that.

Mr. Jackson: But that-And this is-and this is one of that-all we're say-we're not authorizing the Administrator to spend any money. We're tasking him with doing a project. Just like we authorized him to put the box up around the monument. We authorized that. Nothing different. And the box is up now. Nothing different. Thank you, Mr. President.

**Call for the Question by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Jackson. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 9 OF 2021**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ENTITIES TO ADMINISTER THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR THE PARISH OF CADDO, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, COVID19 is a national pandemic in the United States; and

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

WHEREAS, the pandemic has affected individuals' ability to work and maintain a secure income, thus affecting their ability to maintain housing; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of the Treasury has made available \$25 billion dollars in rental assistance; and

WHEREAS, these funds will be directly available to local governments with a population over 200,000 persons; and

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish has applied for and anticipates receiving funds for rental assistance; and

WHEREAS, upon receipt of funds, Caddo Parish would like designate local entities with experience with housing to distribute the funds in accordance with terms outlined by the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Exhibit A).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened that the Caddo Parish Commission hereby appoints the following local agencies to administer the rental assistance funds:

<b>Organizations</b>	<b>Services</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Providence House	Direct Rental Assistance	\$1,300,000
Grace Project CDC	Direct Rental Assistance	\$1,300,000
Northwest La CDC	Direct Rental Assistance	\$1,300,000
United Way of NW La	Direct Rental Assistance & 2-1-1Call Triage	\$1,400,000
Housing Authority-Shv		\$525,000
Legal Aid of North La.	Indigent Eviction Assistance	\$100,000
Parish of Caddo	Education & Information	\$100,000
Spanish Translation Services	Spanish Translation Services	\$25,000
Inspections	Inspections for Quality Assurance	150,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>6,500,000</b>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Parish Administration shall take all reasonable and necessary steps to implement a successful program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution is effective immediately upon its Passage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that Resolution No. 10 of 2021, a resolution urging NACo to adopt a policy resolution requesting the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress to amend Social Security Act to reinstate federal health care benefits for non-convicted justice involvement individuals, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

**RESOLUTION NO. 10 OF 2021**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

RESOLUTION URGING NACO TO ADOPT A POLICY RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE 117TH CONGRESS TO AMEND SOCIAL SECURITY ACT TO REINSTATE FEDERAL HEALTH CARE BENEFITS FOR NON- CONVICTED JUSTICE INVOLVEMENT INDIVIDUALS, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, Congress recently approved **restoring Pell Grants to convicted inmates in HR 133**, the most recent fiscal spending bill adopted and signed into law, while healthcare coverage is being **denied to non-convicted detainees and;**

WHEREAS, current Medicaid laws make no distinction between pretrial detainees and those who have been convicted; and

WHEREAS, current federal law requires that any incarcerated person, including those housed in juvenile facilities, be excluded from Medicaid coverage unless they require a hospital stay of more than 24 hours; and

WHEREAS, this law poses an undue burden upon counties and parishes because these governing authorities must assume the healthcare costs of all incarcerated persons-for example Caddo Parish spent an estimated total of \$4,862,000 on inmate healthcare in 2020 (adult and juvenile) and;

WHEREAS, the law also results in unequal treatment because it denies federal benefits to those who are presumed innocent under the Constitution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does support the National Association of Counties' efforts to have Congress make changes to the Medicaid Exclusion provisions, and allow Medicaid benefits to be provided to pretrial detainees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if any provision or item or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect upon adoption.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be submitted to the NACO Resolutions Portal by February 8,2021 and to the Louisiana Federal Delegation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Resolution No. 11 of 2021, a resolution of the Parish of Caddo urging and requesting the Shreveport/Caddo Metropolitan Planning Commission to conduct public meetings via teleconference, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. Epperson said that the Commission appropriated \$25,000 to the MPC for a new system. He believes that the meetings should be conducted virtually to the protect the citizens and staff during this pandemic.

Mr. Atkins understands Mr. Epperson's concerns; however, he views the MPC as an independent body who is capable of making their own decisions.

At this time, Mr. Epperson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Cawthorne, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Johnson, and Young (7). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Hopkins, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (5). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

#### RESOLUTION NO. 11 OF 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION OF THE PARISH OF CADDO URGING AND REQUESTING THE SHREVEPORT/CADDO METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION TO CONDUCT PUBLIC MEETINGS VIA TELECONFERENCE; AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the health and safety of all Caddo Parish citizens is important; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has lost 561 citizens and endured 20,490 cases of Covid-

19 during the pandemic and this number continues to rise;

WHEREAS, it is important that property is able to be developed and used to meet the needs of Caddo Parish, and that this development receive appropriate government oversight; and

WHEREAS, public participation is vital in all government processes, and particularly so in land use regulation; and

WHEREAS, La.R.S. 42:17.1 provides for teleconference meeting possibilities during gubernatorially declared public health emergencies:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby urge and request that the Shreveport/Caddo Metropolitan Planning Commission conduct public meetings using teleconference during public health emergency caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if any provision or item or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Shreveport/Caddo Metropolitan Planning Commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect upon adoption.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *that Resolution No. 12 of 2021, a resolution urging and requesting the Louisiana State Legislature to authorize the use of ballot boxes and to extend the early voting period and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mrs. Gage-Watts said that this resolution is detrimental in providing equal access to voters. She asked the Commissioners for their support on this resolution.

Mr. Atkins said that he will be voting no on this resolution. His objective is not to suppress votes, but to preserve election integrity.

Mr. Hopkins said that he does support increase in voting days and adding additional voting locations, but not ballot boxes.

Mr. Chavez would like to see the security detail of the ballot boxes. Answering a question from Mr. Burrell regarding the security of the ballot boxes, Mrs. Gage-Watts said that the citizens will still have to show their identification.

Mr. Cawthorne applauded Mrs. Gage-Watts for bringing forth this resolution. Mr. Epperson said that the ballot boxes are more secure than the mailbox.

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

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 12 OF 2021**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION URGING AND REQUESTING THE LOUISIANA STATE LEGISLATURE TO AUTHORIZE USE OF BALLOT BOXES AND TO EXTEND THE EARLY VOTING PERIOD AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the recent election illustrated that high voter interest places stress on the State's systems for voting and in particular early voting;

WHEREAS, use of a secure, locked structure for receipt of early voting ballots would alleviate an aspect of that stress for both voters and election officials;

WHEREAS, extension of the time period for early voting would additionally reduce the stress on voters and the workload requirements on election officials who are part of the early voting process; and

WHEREAS, implementing such changes requires adoption of authorizing legislation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby urge and request the Louisiana State Legislature to adopt legislation authorizing use of secure, locked structures for receipt of early voting ballots and extending the time period for early voting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Honorable Patrick Page Cortez, President of the Louisiana Senate, and the Honorable Clay Schexnayder, Speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to all members of the Caddo Parish legislative delegation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *to englobo and adopt the following resolutions:*

- *Resolution No. 15 of 2021, a resolution of recognition and appreciation for COVID-19 front line workers in Caddo Parish*
- *Resolution No. 16 of 2021, a resolution proclaiming January as “Cervical Cancer Awareness Month” in Caddo Parish*
- *Resolution No. 17 of 2021, a resolution proclaiming January as “Human Trafficking Awareness & Prevention Month” in Caddo Parish*
- *Resolution No. 18 of 2021, a resolution proclaiming and supporting January as National Stalking Awareness Month and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

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

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 15 OF 2021**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION FOR  
COVID-19 FRONT LINE WORKERS IN CADDO PARISH

WHEREAS, the health and safety of all Caddo Parish citizens is of utmost importance;  
and

WHEREAS, COVID–19 is a generational event that has impacted every aspect of our  
country,  
significantly threatening the health and safety of the citizens of Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, the fight against COVID–19 is America’s latest war, and our health care  
workers, food service workers, childcare workers, law enforcement/first responders, and more are on the  
front lines;

WHEREAS, we have called on our frontline workers to serve their country during this  
pandemic; and frontline workers have answered this call and carried out their critical missions to protect  
the health and safety of our communities and to minimize the disruption that COVID–19 has caused to our  
daily lives;

WHEREAS, doctors, nurses, public health officials, home care and domestic workers, and  
other medical professionals have put themselves in harm’s way to care for their patients, COVID–19 or  
otherwise;

WHEREAS, firefighters, EMTs, paramedics, emergency dispatchers, corrections officers, and law enforcement officers have continued to meet their existing responsibilities to maintain safety and public health while overcoming staggering new COVID–19 challenges;

WHEREAS, fast food & restaurant workers, food processing workers, farmers, farm workers, and grocery store employees have ensured there is food available to put on the table to feed our families during the COVID–19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, communication, electrical and other infrastructure workers have maintained networks that are stressed beyond their limits so that we are able to access technology and information to stay as connected as possible amidst physical distance;

WHEREAS, United States Postal Service employees, private carriers, and other delivery and distribution workers have maintained our Nation’s delivery and communications network, connecting millions of homes, supporting economic activity, and delivering critical goods, including medical supplies, personal protective equipment, food, prescription medications, and more;

WHEREAS, sanitation, custodial, janitorial, and cleaning service, workers have played a critical role in minimizing the spread of COVID–19, particularly in high-risk places that must remain open, including hospitals, airports, and grocery stores;

WHEREAS, local, State, and Federal employees have upheld key government functions and services, which have become, more important and more overwhelmed during COVID–19;

WHEREAS, childcare workers have continued to care for the children of essential personnel, allowing these personnel to meet their obligations and continue their critical work during the COVID–19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, transportation workers, pilots, operators, flight attendants, railroad workers, and transit workers have ensured that we are able to travel safely during this public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, these workers, and other frontline workers, have continued to perform critical and essential missions during the COVID–19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission appreciates the extraordinary efforts and sacrifices made by front line workers and their family members on a daily basis in order to maintain the health and functionality of our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal and regular session this 21<sup>st</sup> day of January 2021 that it does hereby recognize and applaud the contributions of frontline workers during the COVID–19 pandemic; and appreciates that frontline workers have answered the call to serve their country during these unprecedented times; and commends the frontline workers who have risked their own health and safety, as well as the health and safety of their loved ones, to continue their work during the COVID–19 pandemic; and understands that frontline workers have continued their work at times without complete protections they need to minimize their own risk of exposure to COVID–19; and recognizes that some frontline workers have been lost to COVID–19 as a result of their service, and offers their loved ones our sincerest condolences; and hails these acts of heroism that have allowed essential services to continue operating, minimized the inevitable disruption to Caddo residents’ daily lives, and played a critical role in protecting the health and safety of our communities; and recognizes the immense debt of gratitude that we owe frontline workers for their heroic and selfless service during the COVID–19 pandemic, and thanks them, and urges all Caddo Parish citizens to join with the Parish in recognition of front line workers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

**RESOLUTION NO. 16 OF 2021**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING JANUARY AS “CERVICAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH” IN CADDO PARISH

WHEREAS, January is designated as Cervical Cancer Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, each year 13,000 women in the United States will get cervical cancer, over 4,000 will die from the cancer this year; and

WHEREAS, the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is the main cause of cervical cancer; and

WHEREAS, there is a safe and effective vaccine to protect against this virus before exposure. Getting vaccinated early, and getting screened through pap or HPV testing can greatly reduce

your chances of getting cervical cancer; and

WHEREAS, highlighting issues related to cervical cancer, HPV disease, and the importance of early detection and increasing awareness among patients and healthcare providers alike regarding the best use of these prevention tools is a key component in safe guarding women's health.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal and regular session this 21<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2021 that it does hereby proclaim January, 2021 as:

**'CERVICAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH'**

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and urges all citizens to recognize that cervical cancer is preventable, and to encourage and support women in our lives in taking charge of their health and availing themselves of the tests and vaccines that have proven so effective in preventing cervical cancer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

**RESOLUTION NO. 17 OF 2021**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING JANUARY AS 'HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH' IN CADDO PARISH

WHEREAS, January is designated as Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month; and

WHEREAS, today, millions of men, women, and children are victims of human trafficking. These victims face cruelty that has no place in a civilized world: children are made to be soldiers, teenage girls are beaten and forced into prostitution, and others exploited and compelled to work for little or no pay. It is a crime that takes many forms, and one that tears at the social fabric, debases our common humanity, and violates what we stand for as a country and a people; and

WHEREAS, founded on the principles of justice and fairness, the United States continues to be a leader in the global movement to end human trafficking and are working to combat human trafficking, prosecute the perpetrators, and help victims recover and rebuild their lives; and

WHEREAS, during Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month, we stand together with the survivors, advocates, and organizations dedicated to building a parish, state and country where our people and children are not for sale.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal and regular session this 21<sup>st</sup> day of January 2021 that it does hereby proclaim January 2021 as:

**'HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH'**

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED hat this resolution shall take effect immediately.

**RESOLUTION NO. 18 OF 2021**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING AND SUPPORTING JANUARY AS NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS MONTH AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, under the laws of all fifty states and the federal government, stalking is a crime; and

WHEREAS, 6-7.5 million people were stalked in a one year period in the United States, and the majority of victims are stalked by someone they know; and

WHEREAS, 3 in 4 women killed by an intimate partner had been stalked by that intimate partner; and

WHEREAS, many stalking victims lose time from work and experience serious psychological distress and lost productivity at a much higher rate than the general population; and

WHEREAS, many stalking victims are forced to protect themselves by relocating, changing

their identities, changing jobs, and obtaining protection orders; and

WHEREAS, many stalkers use technology-such as cell phones, global positioning systems (GPS), cameras, and spyware-to monitor and track their victims; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for great public awareness about the nature, criminality, and potential lethality of stalking; and

WHEREAS, criminal justice systems can enhance their responses to stalking by regular training and assertive investigation and prosecution of the crime; and

WHEREAS, all Caddo Parish citizens need to be better informed about the laws and public policies concerning stalking along with the tactics used by stalkers and their effects on the community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that it does hereby declare the month of January 2021 as:

**“NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS MONTH”**

In Caddo Parish and urges citizens and organizations to participate in activities and demonstrations that provide a special opportunity to educate the community about National Stalking Awareness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

It was **moved by Mr. Cawthorne**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Resolution No. 19 of 2021, a resolution to play patriotic music at the start of Commission meetings in February and March of 2021, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. Cawthorne said that this is a mechanism to reinvigorate the spirit of patriotism locally within Caddo Parish.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 19 OF 2021**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

RESOLUTION TO PLAY PATRIOTIC MUSIC AT THE START OF COMMISSION MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH OF 2021, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, over the last several weeks, Americans have watched as recent events that threaten our American Democracy unfolded; and

WHEREAS, these events have saddened us as Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission believes in the spirit of patriotism and the love or our Democracy; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to reinvigorate the spirit of patriotism and love of Our American Democracy throughout our nation, state, city and parish.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does support, as an agenda addition to all Work Sessions and Regular Meetings for the months of February 2021 and March 2021, the following:

In the opening of our duly scheduled Caddo Commission meetings, in addition to the prayer and pledge of allegiance, a rendition of the of the following American Anthems:

- 1). “America” (My Country, Tis of Thee)
- 2). The Star-Spangled Banner - rendition by Whitney Houston
- 3). “America the Beautiful”- rendition by Ray Charles
- 4). “God Bless America”
- 5). “This Land is Your Land”

6). "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

The selection of which song to be played at the meetings will be coordinated between Commissioner Cawthorne, the Commission President and Commission Clerk.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if any provision or item or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect upon adoption.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *to confirm the appointment of Mr. Roy Murry to the Shreve Memorial Library Board to fill the unexpired term left by the resignation of Mr. Tom Tebbe (term to expire December 31, 2024).*

Mr. Jackson pointed out that there has not been a background check on Mr. Murry.

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

**COMMUNIQUES/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mr. Epperson said that he is here to do the work on behalf of the citizens of Caddo Parish and District 12. He also said that meetings should not be dictated by outsiders, but should be held in accordance with policies, procedures, and laws.

- Mr. Jackson requested the Clerk of the Commission to forward to the full body Resolution No. 34 of 2020, Resolution No. 65 of 2020, Resolution No. 71 of 2020, and the construction of the box.

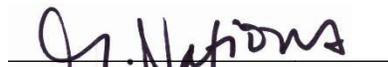
Mr. Jackson also requested a follow-up from Administration regarding the Law School Study and the Disparity Study.

- Attorney Frazier also pointed out that the Home Rule Charter, Section 3-11C explains exactly what a resolution is.

- Mr. Johnson wanted to know if Legal reviews resolutions and ordinances prior to them being posted to the agenda. Attorney Frazier explained that they cannot stop Commissioners from being put on the agenda. She further stated that they can give advice if it is requested prior to the ordinance or resolution coming down to the Commission Clerk. Mr. Johnson requested fact sheets to be a part of the attachments.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know the time limit for Commissioners to speak on a topic.

There was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

  
Michelle Nations  
Assistant Commission Clerk

  
Lyndon B. Johnson  
President