

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S  
LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE  
HELD ON THE 1st DAY OF MARCH, 2021

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Long Range Planning Committee Meeting, on the above date, at 1:00 p.m., via Zoom teleconference, with Mr. Chavez, Chairperson, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Chavez, Jackson, Johnson, Hopkins, and Young (5). ABSENT: None (0).

The invocation was given by Mr. Young, and Mr. Hopkins led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA ADDITIONS**

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Young, *to expand the agenda and approve consideration of items under La.R.S. 42:17.1. Motion carried by acclamation.*

**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: February 25, 2021**

  
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Mario Chavez, Chair

Mr. Chavez opened up the floor for Citizens Comments. At this time, there were no public comments.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Committee and said the following items will be discussed:

- *Freeze Event—After Action Report*
- *Planning and Zoning Discussion relative to Louisiana House Bill No. 697*
- *Discussion relative to 2020 hurricane damage to the Veterans Affairs & Drug Court Building*

The Commission Clerk introduced the order of guests to speak with Tommy Giles from the Shreveport Volunteer Network, Rich Ricord with Hargrave Roofing, Lauren Ross, Sherriff Prator then Robert Jump, and the Caddo Public Works and Facilities and Maintenance Departments. He mentioned that they are allowed up to 10 minutes per person.

Mr. Jackson requested to have the Parish Public Works department to speak first before the volunteers then wanted to know if this is an informal or formal discussion.

Mr. Chavez responded that this is an informal and alerted that if any visitors need more time to get their presentations together then the Parish team can speak first.

The Commission Clerk confirmed that the visitors are on the call.

Sherriff Steve Prator acknowledged and spoke highly of the work that Mr. Robert Jump did with OSI and how the Parish employees worked diligently unprompted. He stated how proud he is in working with everyone and the Parish with what they had, and that they can plan to be better prepared for the next winter snow storm.

Mr. Chavez stated the meeting is an after action review including answering citizen's questions regarding salt trucks, water, plows and that speakers will share insights and present tips of survival. He agreed with Sherriff Prator's statement about being better prepared and that they may not be ahead of every disaster but their efforts in this meeting is to open communication with public and private sector for information and views that may not have been considered and to build reference for future decisions. He thanked everyone for attending and he is eager to hear the discussion.

Dr. Wilson announced that his team is creating a detail analysis evaluating the storm action and reaction and what they could do to improve, however, the analysis is incomplete and that the information gathered so far for the analysis will be provided during this meeting.

Mr. Chavez acknowledged and complimented the Parish employee's initiative to act and stated that there are guests on the call who were hands on during the event to provide insight from their perspective. He added that he does not think that the Parish staff is not prepared for the meeting.

The Commission Clerk restated the order of speakers starting with Mr. Jump, Caddo Public Works team, then the citizens with Tommy Giles from the Shreveport Volunteer Network first then Lauren Ross, Derek Simmons, and then Rich Ricord with Hardware Moving.

Mr. Johnson requested to be added to the speaker's list in any place.

Mr. Jump greeted everyone and complimented the efforts at the Emergency Operation Center and the coordination of everyone's efforts that helped effectiveness of operations. He stated that there are plans for events when the Parish loses its water infrastructure, however consequentially there were multiple areas affected at one time presented challenges including other infrastructures failing. He again praised everyone for their efforts to alleviate citizen's issues and help the community with hopefulness. He added that they have received about 600 distress calls and responded with 2000 cases of water at distribution sites with special deliveries to elderly or couldn't leave their homes. Mr. Jump concluded that he didn't have much to present today and is open to any questions.

Mr. Chavez exclaimed in awe his and the citizen's admiration regarding the water distribution centers and wanted to know if the water was on hand or shipped in.

Mr. Jump responded that they have a shelters of 5-gallon water stockpiles, the state's stock at Camp Minden and Camp Beauregard, deliveries of water from several states excluding Alaska and Hawaii. He complimented the efficiency of the state and purchasing department in routing water to the area.

Mr. Chavez asked if there should be a water shelter plan with one located in southern Caddo and possibly a northern Caddo location.

Mr. Jump acknowledged that in their unified shelter plan the state of Louisiana and the federal government depend on authorities to maintain 72 hours and if there is a plan to support self-sustaining the Parish would be beneficial. He added that contracted tankers, which were supplied and contracted by the state and federal government, provided heat and water to the medical infrastructure including hospitals and dialysis. The water distribution sites were manpowered for mass distribution to the Parish not just the city and that the citizens volunteered their manpower to shovel and pass out water.

Mr. Jackson thanked Mr. Jump for his labor and suggested that he takes a break from their non-stop work. He explained that it's challenging to deploy supplies during hazardous conditions and it's difficult to predict weather within 24 hours. He also mentioned that John Paul Young's idea for harvesting rainwater from roof tops can be recycled for non-consumption use or flushing toilets and he is interested in homeland security's correspondence on using that.

Mr. Jump responded that they do not have community response on that and that he is open to bringing that idea under consideration. He acknowledged that inclement weather challenges their ability to respond to emergencies but they still have police and fire presence 24 hours a day and 365 days a year.

Mr. Jackson acknowledged and thanked Mr. Jump for his work during the event.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know if water towers used to refill water trucks or were they empty.

Mr. Johnson responded that all water towers were empty or had false levels. Greenwood is wrestling to increase their water tank level. Pine Hill had false levels and a water tower in West Shreveport has valve issues and was empty. He informed Mr. Chavez that the water towers are owned by the municipality of the water system that runs them.

Dr. Wilson advised that towers use a pressurized system and are not for water distribution but are for water pressurization.

Mr. Chavez acknowledged that it adds pressure using gravity.

Mr. Jump confirmed that he will remain on the call-in case he is needed to answer any questions.

Mr. Tim Weaver stated that an action plan is still being worked on but they have four sand trucks, salt spreaders and motor graders. He explained they were plowing and sanding around the clock then helped with water distribution as well as re-opening trash compactors.

Mr. Chavez explained in response to citizen's requests and questions is that Mr. Weaver's department operates outside of city limits and suggested that the Parish should include major thoroughfares to help the City. He added that he does not think that the Parish doesn't already do that.

Mr. Weaver continued that he was in touch with Gary Oldman and DOTD focusing on I-20 and I-70 traffic of large trucks. Mr. Chavez acknowledged that citizens were going to the stores but the restock was stuck on the I-20.

Mr. Weaver concluded that they are not far off from positive progress.

The Commission Clerk informed Mr. Chavez that Kevin Lawrence from Caddo Parish Facilities and Maintenance is on the line and that Mr. Hopkins has raised the virtual hand to speak.

Mr. Chavez acknowledged Mr. Hopkins' raised hand. Mr. Hopkins briefly stated that he saw people everywhere clearing roads especially on I-71 with the pile up of 18-wheelers. He agreed that they need to be more prepared in lieu of the 100-year storm and thanked the Parish's Public Works department and the police for a good job.

Mr. Chavez agreed with Mr. Hopkins' brief.

Mr. Kevin Lawrence thanked the Facilities and Maintenance team and tried to prep for the winter storm as much as possible and had a few pipes burst in different locations and to add four-wheel drives to their inventory after review of their challenge to reach addresses. They are studying water alternatives for 24-hour, 7 day a week locations.

Mr. Chavez acknowledged the report from Mr. Lawrence. The Commission Clerk stated that Mr. Johnson report is next.

Mr. Jackson suggested that the CCC and the juvenile detention center could benefit from water alternatives and that he would invite Mr. Lawrence to another meeting regarding water alternatives.

Mr. Lawrence agreed that the CCC and the Juvenile detention center are being looked into.

Mr. Chavez welcomed the next guest speaker Tommy Giles.

Mr. Giles stated that they were concerned citizens that helped clear streets during the snowstorm. They addressed the citizen's concerns on Facebook questioning the Parish's presence during the storm and recommends that the Parish be more visible with social media or on news coverage and that was how they gained so much attention. They addressed citizen's concern for available space but limited supply and how they could help by using their new connections with organizations to obtain supplies from Baton Rouge and New Orleans to Shreveport to supplement what the Parish, the City and the State are doing. He agreed that the first 72 hours important during a state of emergency.

Mr. Jump explained that due to the State of Louisiana and the federal government's response time, they should have local supplies for the first 72 hours and even with the external access coming in they must still maintain a supply chain for the local community.

Mr. Giles agree that they want to be an asset and help in any way. Then, he addressed a statement that was made regarding ability to predict weather patterns and that it is the meteorologists job. He then asked who authorize.

Mr. Chavez interrupted Mr. Giles to acknowledge Mr. Hopkins returned to that call after a technical difficulty. Mr. Hopkins explained that the Parish has a public relations person that put information on the website and other outlets. He explained that he was around when Cross Lake froze over in 1983 and this storm was far worse than that.

Mr. Jackson acknowledged all the volunteers selfless efforts and encouraged them to reach out to Mo AB.

Mr. Jump agreed and provided Mr. Giles and his group contact information for United Way. He continued that when the weather service mentions a quarter inch or more of ice they take into consideration how it will affect the area. He added that they enlisted the help of Salvation Army to erect a warming center for citizens and have contacted The American Red Cross, the United Way and the Food Bank. He agreed with Mr. Jackson that he prioritizes communicating with active volunteer organizations in disasters.

Mr. Jackson requested Dr. Wilson and the Commission Clerk to introduce the volunteer groups with 211 and other non-governmental organizations. He expressed how the Bowhead coalition is important to bring together the willing volunteer groups and the coalition can be an asset to call upon during a time of need.

Mr. Chavez agreed with Mr. Jackson and returned the floor to Mr. Giles.

Mr. Keith stated that they contacted the leader of Bowhead organization and still tried to help with or without collaborating with individual volunteers. M. Chavez stated that they will address what needs to happen in regards to lack of communication between agencies and volunteers and find a method to get the information to the willing.

Mr. Giles explained some comments they've received were concerning emergency preparedness, public need for roads to get clear and checking in on elderly citizens. He concluded they are willing to do whatever to help the community. They fed over 5000 people and did not run out of food with about 1500 pounds of food remaining.

Mr. Keith thanked everyone and how proud he is of the Parish, Sherriff Prator and Robert Jump and response teams that work through tornadoes and hurricanes. He expressed they were out there for various reasons of needs to help others in the community suffering from the road closures. He stated that they passed out 5808 cases of water and distributed 139 pallets from the Summer Grove Baptist Church and Compassion House of Summer Grove Baptist Church, dispatched potable water tankers and had an oilfield operation suspended to help hospitals. He thanked the firefighters and gratefulness for over 60,000 pounds of other donations they distributed throughout the cities and how they cleared off Bert Kouns Industrial Loop for 400 truckers to commute, cleared parking lots at dialysis, fire stations, truck stops and several EMT pass, and nursing homes and the Sportran Bus Terminal, and helped stranded motorists. He gave thanks to the Shreveport Parks and Recreation Center and the Shreveport Fire Department and Caddo Fire Department. He explained his many years of experience in trucking and ice driving. He added that citizens and their followers made comments that their volunteer efforts made the City and the Parish look like children, but he stated that is not the case and complimented the Parish and the City for their work. He concluded for the Parish to continue working hard.

Mr. Chavez thanked Mr. Tommy Giles and Keith for their work and doing it from their Christian faith.

The Commission Clerk announced that Derrick Simmons speaks next.

Mr. Simmons questioned the response time of the City and the Parish and served 500 meals from a store that he and his wife owns hoping they could be of help. He explained that they are not equipped or planned to do that. He described that they were able to get water and supplies from other private sources along with Mr. Giles more quickly after emailing Police Chief Ben Raymond, who stated that they may not be able to help. Mr. Simmons stated that it was not that hard. Then, he detailed Sergeant Ray contacting him asking to get some of their meals for Canaan Towers which had 110 unattended elderly individuals who did not have an administrator manager on premises, people wandering the premises, no water and excrement on the floor. He stated that Sergeant Amy Bowen and Sergeant Ray assigned to organize water and food deliveries. They located five other elderly facilities to provide water and food to growing the number of meals they served to 2000. He recounted that Giles and other volunteers clearing the roads helped them be able to get food and water out and recalled delivering often to an elderly woman aged 105 whose front steps had collapsed and was stranded without food or water for days before they arrived. He lauded Ben Raymond and his Sergeants in their help with the welfare situation and invited state representatives to experience firsthand the situation and hold people accountable for it.

Mr. Chavez: Mr. Simmons that was definitely a lot to unpack I know I see Commissioner Jackson's handout, Commissioner Jackson did you want to address that?

Mr. Jackson: Absolutely. Let me let me let me reiterate, and let me say it again. Because this this compensation is taking a turn and it's not taking a turn for good. Okay, this is supposed to be about after action- what can we do to prevent the situation. Not sit here and bad the folks who we test every day, we trust every day to get a job done. Ben Raymond works for somebody so you can't sit and say, if it weren't for Ben Raymond had to get his permission from somewhere. And I'm not gonna sit here and listen to somebody to say that if it weren't for Ben Raymond. No, Ben Raymond works with somebody, Sherriff Prator works for somebody. Okay? So, stop that. The other thing that I'm going to take issue with this, and I took strong issue with it when he did it. If you really want Thomas Pressly to do something to help those people at Canaan towers and on Murphy street, because myself, Lyndon Johnson, and many others come down here week in and week out and bang our fists on the table to get help beyond snowed in. Tell Thomas Pressly take his ass down to Baton Rouge, and vote reform in the assisted living industry. Tell John Nicholson to support a minimum living standard in Shreveport and Caddo Parish. This is-this has to go beyond Snowmageddon. Because what I asked somebody was when they got on Facebook rah-rah-rah-ing about hiding the folks over at Canaan Towers, did they skip? Did they-did they not see the people who was sitting on the porch that I pass by every day, who are struggling? This is an everyday situation for some folks. So, I don't want to use this meeting to become a let's-trash-what-the-government-is-not-doing. We wake up. We go to work every day to try to solve problems. I wish I had the luxury of just showing up to say 'look at what I did on this day'. But Thomas Pressly can help fix the situation at Mount Canaan if he stopped following lobby. John Nicholson can help fix the situation at Canaan Towers if he's support-if he got on board and supported meaningful enforcement of substandard living. Because that situation that y'all saw that day we see all the time I get called all the time. But our hands are tied, particularly at the state level. So, again, I want to thank volunteers, whose hearts were in the right place. But didn't give the folks in the Bible credit, when they did when they did the good deed, and went out and told everybody look at what I did. The better of your heart has to be right. And I want to make sure that we keep the conversation about how do we fix the structural issues with regard to responding to the issues that public bodies have to respond to. Now, y'all are welcome to come be the Commissioner for Caddo District 3 and come work on behalf of the people who cause Canaan towers is my district. And I know I work hard for those individuals. But I'm not gonna sit here and listen to this. So, Mr. Chairman. Let's keep the conversation focused focus on the snow situation, and how we respond with what we have the ability to respond to. And the responsibility to respond to. We cannot help it. It's not our fault that the management of Canaan towers didn't show up for work, because they will snowed in. That's nobody at the Parish or the City's problem. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chavez: Thank you, Commissioner Jackson. There's obviously guys some heated feelings on this because people can't- this-we're dealing with people. And at the end of the day. These are people's loved ones, and the conversations may get heated. So, we'll try to stay on topic. However, we do need to know this information. You know we're not going to sit here and try to point fingers at who fell short who didn't do it. We thank the people that didn't step up because-

Mr. Jackson: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman-

Mr. Chavez: Yes?

Mr. Jackson: All due respect, again, I wake up every day. Okay, I wake up every day to go to work for the citizens not those people but these people. I wake up every day and go to work. Dr. Wilson gets tired of me ringing his phone. Trying to get help for my district Tabitha Taylor works her tail off trying to get help. This is not a once we don't we don't deal with this once every couple of years. We deal with this every day.

Mr. Chavez: You're definitely right. I see your, um cc down a lot of emails to Dr. Wilson and I'm sure of all the commissioners, Dr. Wilson would agree with me the person that reached out to him the most definitely Commissioner Jackson. But on this checklist of things that we're trying to get out the Alice checks are definitely going to be on the list of things that we need to take away from this is the asset limited restrained personnel that live in our different respective districts of, we're going to have to start doing some weekly or quarterly checks or figure out what's going on I know you're a huge advocate for this, and we have a health millage tax that we take on. And I don't know how we're going to formulate this but it sounds like we're going to have to use some of that revenue to hire somebody to start checking on these apartments or these housing complexes or wherever we fell short. Obviously, and we did we can all say that at the end of the day, there was people that live in our city in our parish that were not taken care of and I'm not here to point any fingers, I'm just here to say, it's time for us to figure out how do we address that that did not get addressed. And and, like I said, I know there's some heated feelings on this but let's let's take this as a learning experience and move forward. Mr. Simmons I still have you on the floor. Did you- are in- a one thing I did want to add is Derek you guys are not a restaurant. You're not you're not a local eatery. As far as I know you guys are more of an art complex so the fact that you guys stepped up to feed people, or how you had the means or the capabilities, is pretty awesome. So, thanks for doing that. Did you want to get Lauren to speak on this or do you have more to add?

Mr. Simmons: I just have one more thing, Lauren had to leave and go take care of our son. She had to leave and take care of that. My fingers are pointing at anyone indirectly, but letting you know who. First of all, who we dealt with, who was able to help us take care of this. I'm not in the volunteer business. I'm not in the-We're just business owners and we're, we're just helping our

community. First of all, second of all, these are just the people that needed and we, it wasn't just Canaan towers there was multiple places all over. There was actually five places at the City, and those people, those things were actually brought to us via Sergeant Ray who was doing these welfare checks. Luckily, on some of the places as we went multiple days. And I will give. Now, the politics involved y'all deal with that after I'm off. I don't care. I will tell you that State Rep Pressly actually did put his money where his mouth was and continue to feed the people at two of these places. It was over 300 meals a day he worked with out of pocket. He didn't have the way to organize it. So, for the rest of the week afterwards, going into those-the week after this. They actually came here, we boxed up an additional 300 meals a day, and took water to two of these places, because some of them didn't have management show up for, you know, for the next you know I think someone showed up on Sunday, which was no one was there for a week, and another one was we. I don't know who's, you know, I thank thank God for Sergeant Ray for finding these people. That's what I'm saying. Otherwise you probably would have had some bodies to deal with after this, and some bigger issues. Yeah it goes back on management, but only has to do with just, I think what's interesting is you'll see volunteer groups like Mr. Giles myself and some others who just saw a need and it wasn't being met. And so, we just took care of it and that's it. There's no political movement one way or the other. We saw a need and it was taken care of. And that was the end call- of the end of that.

Mr. Hopkins: Mr. Simmons, I see Commissioner Hopkins I think he wanted to- Commissioner Hopkins?

Mr. Hopkins: Well I just wanted as a hoax I been kicked off so much on my feed here. I do want to say you know yes this is a learning experience for us. But I want to say that I did see rescue groups and individuals volunteer their time and money. Let's be real honest, we can't do everything. If our guys are out trying to clean and get roads open, and trying to keep facilities open, things like that we need the community. We've got to have the community helping us and I think that there was a influx of people I personally know that spent their personal money and their time to help whoever they could and I want to thank every each and every one of them. Churches were there as much as they could be. There's a learning experience. WE have found out that there are many groups in this community Caddo Parish that are willing to help and we need the help. Because we just can't government Caddo Commission can't do everything on it. So, I want to thank y'all that took the time to do the volunteering to help secure. And yes, maybe y'all some of these groups need to be hooked in. Somehow, we need to figure out how to hook them in with GOHSEP. I don't know how we do that, but that's something we can talk in the future. All different volunteer groups and make sure they get their information same time as we're getting their information and think we can better help this whole community.

Mr. Chavez: Thank you Commissioner Hopkins. Derek did you still have anything to add. I know I think we still have on more person on the line.

Mr. Simmons: That was it I just wanted to thank everybody for the time. I'm sorry Mr. Jackson saw that as an attack. Although it wasn't. It was basically just saying here's some things we dealt with that when you put on the agenda of things we need to address, those are things we need to address is these other welfare concerns, having food and things on hand to take care of the that need it the most. And that's what we did. I don't really understand the his part about people posing in the photo ops. I'll take that as he wasn't directed at me. And then secondly, I mean we have our business here. We live here. Nobody loves Shreveport and trying to do as much as Shreveport I believe as we do in our own little part of the world. So, I hope I don't didn't perceive those as some attacks from Mr. Jackson. But I do appreciate it, but here we are just doing our own deal and guess what we're going back to work too doing what we do. And we're involved in our community dramatically. MR. Jackson I'd love to invite you to. We're having a big event April 23, 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>. On the 25<sup>th</sup> will actually be a work on the sunrise social. Actually, be a unity concert to where many of us will come together and have like a gospel brunch together so maybe Mr. Giles and a few others would like to be involved in that. That'll be fun. Try to help bring the community together and not divide each other. That'd be fun.

Mr. Chavez: Thank you Derek I'll definitely get-

Mr. Simmons: Thank you

Mr. Chavez: Commission to send out to everybody. I thought I heard Commissioner want to say something. But no, and I'm with you. We had a lot of people a lot of people step stepped up. It's one thing to say you know Commissioner Chavez Commissioner Jackson, Councilman Flurry, State Rep Larry Bagley-those were all people that got out and helped people and those names are recognizable. However, people like Omari Hosung she reached out to me. Candice Batice those are names that people don't necessarily hear of on a public sector but they were out there feeding people. They reached out to me countless times and it was so cool to see the amount of volunteers and the amount of citizens in Shreveport step up to say 'We're part of this City. We love our City. And we're gonna make stuff happen.' I agree with Commissioner Hopkins the public entities can't do it all and at the end of the day Derek Tommy, Keith, Lauren, thank you guys for-for getting out and helping assist the public entities that can't do it all. Because at the end of the day we're all here together. We're all in this together. You know the old saying we're all in the same boat with some on a yacht, some on a canoe. At the end of the day, were all in this City together. And the fact that we went around and helped out neighbors and we're sitting here today identifying what went right and what went wrong and how do we learn from this. And become

better? A better city, better unity. That's the point of today's meeting. So, I don't want anybody to get taken away from this with anger or hostility. But we'll meet in the middle and sometimes when you love people that you love you get angry at them. But we can walk away from here saying we got the core points on what we need to work on and let's get to work on that. So, Derek thank you to you and Lauren doing all the things that you guys did downtown.

Mr. Chavez acknowledged the next speaker Rich Ricord and asked what occurred and what to look for.

Mr. Ricord thanked all the volunteers and persons that helped during the disaster. He explained his for-profit business addressed property damage experienced from ice and water dams causing flooding on roofs and car ports and that there are code adherences to allow them to access roofs.

Mr. Chavez informed Mr. Ricord that they have the MPC Director Alan Clarke on the call to refer to regarding carport coding and how they can review car port codes for future situations.

Mr. Ricord questioned whether they are able to predict that the area will continue to experience cold in the future that would call for reform in car port coding. He stated that 95% of their calls were regarding leaks and car port concerns.

Mr. Chavez thanked Mr. Ricord for speaking and addressed Mr. Clarke that he made note of the coding concerns for later review.

Mr. Clarke expressed interest in hearing more about Mr. Ricord's concerns and provided him his contact information and invited him to speak with him at any time.

Mr. Chavez thanked all of the visitors for coming. Mr. Johnson reminded Mr. Chavez that he is to speak after the visitors.

Mr. Chavez acknowledged Mr. Johnson to speak.

Mr. Johnson thanked the volunteers, the City and the Parish's Public Works Departments, Shreveport Fire Department and the Louisiana National Guard, Shreveport Police and Sherriff's Office for working and providing resources to the citizens of Caddo Parish. He described how water is an important resource that was limited due to infrastructure failure. He expressed that food is an important resource and that the need was being alleviated by the several organizations with the purpose of feeding people daily and everyone who helped feed people during the disaster. And that the EOC should be alerted about situations like the Canaan Towers that could have assisted in handling the welfare issue. He expressed the liability concerns for citizen's safety that were unauthorized to do the work of the Parish and that the Parish is not prepared for the disaster. Mr. Johnson described having equipment such as snow plows on sand trucks and using a brine solution. And advised that citizens who are able to get water should get water for their neighbors as well because some citizens still don't have water due to frozen or busted water lines. He stated that the situation affected everybody regardless of race and that there are similar situations in the Parish that are like Canaan Towers. And that Caddo Parish is doing all it can for the best of all citizens.

Mr. Chavez thanked Mr. Johnson for speaking. Then, moved to the next agenda item, *Planning and Zoning Discussion relative to Louisiana House Bill No. 697.*

Mr. Chavez opened the floor to Mr. Hopkins to speak on the agenda item.

The Commission Clerk stated that there is connectivity issues with Mr. Hopkins.

Mr. Chavez recommended they call another Long Rang Planning Committee meeting and give Mr. Hopkins an opportunity to speak on the agenda item.

Dr. Wilson informed the Committee that a copy of the letter addressing Louisiana House Bill provides suggestions and recommends they hold another committee meeting. Mr. Chavez agreed that they will schedule another meeting.

The Commission Clerk announced that Mr. Clarke is waiting to speak.

Mr. Clarke requested a copy of Administration's recommendation so his team can provide recommendations as well. And he complimented everybody involved and their work in the disaster.

Mr. Chavez moved to the next agenda item, *Discussion relative to 2020 hurricane damage to the Veterans Affairs & Drug Court Building.*

Dr. Wilson discussed that the old veterans building which is extremely damaged, was demolished and received payment from their insurance company for damages. To rebuild it costs an

estimate of \$1.5 million. He informed the committee that they want to rebuild the veterans building which housed the veteran's assistance center and veteran's rehabilitation center. He explained that they can transfer funds to make up \$800,000 towards rebuilding.

Mr. Chavez asked if Administration will request \$700,000 from the Commission. Dr. Wilson stated that they may request more than that.

Mr. Chavez confirmed that he will review the information regarding the request once it is provided to him.

Mr. Johnson asked if they have vetted all of the downtown buildings and recommended the vacant Rite Aid buildings that could be repurposed. Dr. Wilson said that they did not consider buildings that aren't downtown and that they are open to Mr. Johnson's request but have other factors to consider in renovating and meeting the DA's requests.

Mr. Chavez requested that they share the research they obtain on the buildings. And wanted to know when the reports will be ready. Dr. Wilson stated after they speak with a commercial developer first.

Dr. Wilson highly commended and complimented the many people who tended to the needs of the community.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:49 p.m.

/s/Linda Montgomery  
Administrative Clerk III