

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 15th DAY OF MARCH, 2021

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

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

TELECONFERENCE REQUIREMENTS

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

CERTIFICATE FOR TELECONFERENCE

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

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

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

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

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

Date: March 12, 2021

/s/Lyndon B. Johnson
Caddo Parish Commission President

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

VISITORS

- Master Plan Update

Mr. Alan Clarke provided an update on the Master Plan. The entire Parish is 936 square miles with 781 square miles in the unincorporated areas and 154 square miles within the municipalities. He also mentioned that the Master Plan only covers the 5-mile buffer zone outside of the City of Shreveport, Blanchard, and Greenwood. They are still in the process of updating the Master Plan for the City and the Parish. There are some areas within the Master Plan that calls for the improvements of green spaces and bodies of water. That information will be forthcoming.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- Confederate Monument Update

Mrs. Bryant said that the responses from the RFP are due April 1, 2021. The awarding of the RFP is estimated to be completed by April 2021 with approved contract signed by May, 2021.

- Disparity Study Update

Mrs. Bryant said that the RFP was advertised on February 18 and is due by April 8, 2021.

- I-49 Welcome Sign Update

Mrs. Bryant said that one of the signs will be placed on private property on the north end, but they are looking into placement of the sign on the south end.

- U.S. Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Mrs. Bryant is anticipating the start date of the program to be April 1, 2021 to begin taking applications. She said that interested parties can call (318) 226-6598 for additional information.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if tenants and landlords would have to apply for the program. Mrs. Bryant explained that they would. Currently, Betty and Linda are compiling a list of potential applicants so they can provide information once the program is rolled out. She also mentioned that the application is an online application process.

- Legislative Priorities

Mrs. Bryant said that the Legislative Priorities were sent to all the Commissioners. She asked that they provide any changes that need to be made.

Mrs. Bryant also announced that the 2021 Legislative Priorities Zoom Call with the Northwest Louisiana Legislative Delegation is scheduled for Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Burrell asked that his name be added as a co-sponsor for the Inner City I-49 Corridor.

- 2021 February Monthly Financials

Mrs. Bryant provided a copy of the 2021 February Monthly Financials to the Commissioners. She also said that there is a copy attached to the agenda.

COMMISSION REMARKS

- Mr. Hopkins said that the Personnel Policies & Procedures Committee met today to discuss changes to the By-Laws. Resolution No. 26 of 2021, regarding the time limits of speakers under Communiqués & Committee Reports, was approved by the Committee and will be on the next Work Session agenda. Resolution No. 27 of 2021, regarding the re-submission of agenda items by Commissioners was not approved by the Committee and will not be forwarded back to the full body. Mr. Hopkins also said that the Committee discussed holding in-person meetings. He also asked that the Commissioners look at the By-Laws and forward any recommendations to him to be discussed in Committee.

OLD BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that Ordinance No. 6039 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Oil & Gas Fund and the Capital Outlay Fund in the amount of \$75,000 to provide an appropriation to erect a COVID-19 Memorial, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for final passage.

Mr. Johnson said that this memorial would be pay homage to those people who have passed due to the COVID pandemic and to honor those who first responders and essential workers who worked during the pandemic, such as teachers, manufacturer workers, retail/grocery workers, police, fireman, hospital and healthcare personnel, nonprofits, and government workers. He would like the memorial to be erected on the riverfront.

Amendment by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to limit location of the memorial from the riverfront.*

Mr. Jackson explained that monuments are historically placed in areas that are significantly tied to that particular event. He would like this memorial to be placed in a place of significance and its proper setting. He is also concerned with it being located on the riverfront due to its flooding.

Mr. Burrell feels that this is a worthwhile project. He suggested that this project be turned over to the Tourism Bureau if the memorial will be a tourist attraction. Mr. Burrell said that this would remove the politics from the memorial and allow the citizens to provide some input as to where they would like the memorial located. Mr. Johnson pointed out that the ordinance does not mention where the monument is located.

At this time, Mr. Jackson's amendment failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Chavez, Hopkins, Jackson, Taliaferro, and Young (5). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Lazarus (6). ABSENT: Commissioner Epperson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Johnson's original motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, Jackson, and Johnson (5). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Hopkins, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (6). ABSENT: Commissioner Epperson (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Cawthorne**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *that Ordinance No. 6044 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Capital Outlay Fund, the Oil & Gas Fund, and the General Fund for the year 2021 to provide an appropriation of \$333,000 to support the Medical Education & Emerging Viral Threats Building, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Cawthorne explained that this came out of the Economic Development Committee, who voted to move this to the full body.

Mr. Hopkins wanted to know how much money is being put towards the Law School at this time. Mrs. Bryant said that no appropriation was made for the law school; funds were only appropriated for a feasibility study. Mr. Hopkins is concerned with the dwindling funds in the Oil & Gas Fund. Mr. Hopkins said that he will be supporting this project, but would like more information regarding this endeavor.

Mr. Cawthorne mentioned that Dr. Pierre is on the line for any additional questions.

Amendment by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *to allow for full appropriation to be made if funds become available and allowable via the local government appropriations from the America Rescue Plan.*

Mr. Jackson said that the hospital is a great stimulus for this economy as far as job creation, job retention, the multiplier, the research, etc. He also mentioned that he spoke with developer who is interested in creating mixed-used development in that area. Mr. Jackson feels that this will be an asset to this community.

Mr. Atkins agreed with Mr. Jackson. He said that this hospital is a major economic driver for this community and feels that this is a good investment to ensure that there is continued growth and prosperity in that area.

Mr. Burrell also mentioned that this project will also expand the number of students that it will serve putting this community at a competitive advantage to draw more students here.

Dr. Markey Pierre thanked the Commission for their continued partnership. She also said that she will provide all of her contact information with the Commission Clerk for anyone who would like to reach out to her.

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

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

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *that Ordinance No. 6045 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund to provide an appropriation of \$50,000 for the Port City Fest, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Burrell said that this City has been hit pretty hard economically, and this will bring people out spending money in the community.

Mr. Cawthorne said that this came out of the Economic Development Committee, who voted to bring this project back to the full body for approval. He also explained that the Bayou Classic brought about a huge economic impact to New Orleans. Mr. Cawthorne mentioned that there will be some ancillary activities surrounding the Bayou Classic, which has been coined the Port City Fest.

Mr. Johnson added that the Bayou Classic brought about \$80M per year to New Orleans. He feels that the economic impact numbers from the Tourism Bureau are conservative because they are only studying numbers for the game and the capacity of the stadium. It doesn't take into account all of the people who will be in this community during the Bayou Classic Weekend. Mr. Johnson also said that the weekend will kick off that Thursday with an African-American Business Expo hosted by the African-American Chamber of Commerce. He also said that there will be a golf tournament and a reception that Friday. The Bayou Classic Game will be between Grambling State University and Southern University.

Mr. Atkins also added that the economic impact is estimated between \$2M-\$4M, but feels that number is conservative. He said that there will be several people in town eating at restaurants, staying in hotels, and spending money in the community. He will be supporting this project.

Mr. Burrell agreed and feels that this will be good for this City.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that Ordinance No. 6046 of 2021, an ordinance to amend Article III of Chapter 18 of the Code of Ordinances relative to provisions for flood hazard protection, to meet revised standards regarding Class 8 Flood Standards in accordance with Community Rating System and Federal Emergency Management Agency requirements, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to Thursday's agenda for introduction.

Mr. Atkins asked for additional information regarding this ordinance. Attorney Bernstein explained that they are anticipating FEMA reviewing the Flood Insurance Rating System under the Community Rating System. Public Works submitted an ordinance to the State, who made some comments regarding changes in flood standards. This ordinance will revise the Code of Ordinances so they will be in compliance with those standards, so the Parish can maintain a Class 8 Flood Standard.

Substitute motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to englobe and move the following items to Thursday's agenda:*

- *Ordinance No. 6046 of 2021, an ordinance to amend Article III of Chapter 18 of the Code of Ordinances relative to provisions for flood hazard protection, to meet revised standards regarding Class 8 Flood Standards in accordance with Community Rating System and Federal Emergency Management Agency requirements, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 30 of 2021, a resolution to opt into increased bar capacity within Caddo Parish, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

Mr. Chavez

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

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *that Special Resolution Honoring Volunteer Service during the 2021 Winter Storm* be moved to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Jackson suggested that the volunteers be recognized in a more efficient way since the list of volunteers is so long. Mr. Johnson is concerned with the possibility of leaving someone out since there were so many volunteers. Mr. Hopkins suggested that each Commissioner draft a resolution for their district to honor those volunteers who are in their district. Mr. Taliaferro agreed.

Substitute motion by Mr. Chavez, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *to remand Special Resolution Honoring Volunteer Service during the 2021 Winter Storm* be remanded to the Long Range Planning Committee.

Mr. Chavez said that he was not sure who authored this resolution, but he is in favor of honoring the volunteers who put their time and efforts into helping out during the Winter Storm.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that Special Resolution of Appreciation & Recognition for Dr. Sushil Jain* be moved to Thursday's agenda. Motion carried, as shown

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

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *to authorize Administrator to negotiate and explore costs and options related to the administration and enforcement of planning and zoning matters in the unincorporated areas of the Parish* be moved to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Hopkins said that this came from the Long Range Planning Committee. He also explained that Dr. Wilson will be exploring costs and providing those numbers back to the Commission.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *to authorize approval of Inferno Manufacturing to participate in the Industrial Tax Exemption Program at 115 Ricou Street, Shreveport* be moved to Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Jackson said that he was able to tour Mr. Organic's facility. Inferno Manufacturing exports goods out of Shreveport to people all around the world. He also said that there is very little turnover at the plant. Mr. Jackson also pointed out that Mr. Organic gives back to the community and invests into Caddo Parish.

Mr. Johnson explained that Inferno Manufacturing makes site glasses, and there are only four other companies who manufactures these.

Mr. Cawthorne said that it is a testament when the Commission speaks highly of a company, coupled with the commitment Mr. Organic has made to this local community. He also mentioned that the application is attached.

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

COMMUNIQUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Jackson announced that he would like to schedule a Pandemic Committee meeting on Thursday, March 18 at 2:30 PM to discuss the most recent COVID-19 relief package that came from Congress. He is working to get someone from NACo to present at the meeting. He said that Caddo Parish will receive approximately \$46M. He also said that there is an additional \$10B set aside for infrastructure and broadband. Mr. Jackson said that the Medicaid Exclusion Program was included in this package as well.

Mr. Jackson also said that he will possibly be scheduling a Rental Assistance Forum with the partners and the Administrator of the Program to discuss the Rental Assistance Program.

He also asked Administration for an update on the Cherokee Park ditch.

CONSENT AGENDA

- *Zoning Case 20-22-P, in regards to Ordinance No. 6037 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 northeast and southeast corners of Dixie Shreveport Highway and I-220, Caddo Parish, LA, from I-2, Heavy Industrial District and NA, Natural Areas District to OS, Open Space District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6031 of 2021, an ordinance declaring certain adjudicated properties to be surplus and to authorize the Parish Administrator, or a designee, to sell the Parish of Caddo's tax interest in certain surplus adjudicated proeperties, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6035 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund in the amount of \$10,000 to provide an appropriation for the Betty & Leonard Phillips Deaf Action Center, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6036 of 2021, an ordinance amending the 2020 Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund to reduce the*

appropriation for Riverboat revenue by \$300,000

- *Ordinance No. 6038 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund for the year 2021 to provide an appropriation of \$250,000 for mental health agencies, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6041 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund and the Oil & Gas Fund in the amount of \$30,000 to provide an appropriation to Northwest Louisiana Food Bank, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6042 of 2021, an ordinance adopting the Budget of Estimated Expenditures for the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6043 of 2021, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund for the year 2021 to appropriate funds received from the U.S. Treasury for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

/s/Michelle Nations
Assistant Commission Clerk