

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 16TH DAY OF MARCH, 2020

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Work Session, on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., in the Government Chambers, with Mr. Chavez, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (8). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Young (4).

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

AGENDA ADDITIONS

- It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to expand the agenda and add Resolution No. 22 of 2020, a resolution to adopt special signage to designate Stewart Drive as Mr. Bill Bradford Drive, and otherwise providing with respect thereto to the agenda.*

At this time, the President of the Commission opened the floor for public hearing and allow anyone to speak for or against this agenda item. There being no one to speak in favor or against this agenda addition, Mr. Chavez closed the public hearing.

Mr. Chavez explained that this road is by Eastridge Country Club. He said that the board members of the country club met and would like to dedicate this road in honor of Mr. Bill Bradford.

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

- It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *to expand the agenda and add Resolution No. 23 of 2020, a resolution to suspend Regular Meetings of the Caddo Parish Commission in response to the Coronavirus Pandemic, and otherwise providing with respect thereto to the agenda.*

At this time, the President of the Commission opened the floor for public hearing and allow anyone to speak for or against this agenda item. There being no one to speak in favor or against this agenda addition, Mr. Chavez closed the public hearing.

Attorney Frazier explained that if the Commission decides they would like to suspend their meetings in response to COVID-19, another special meeting would have to be had in order to act on that suspension. She also said that this special meeting would still need to be in compliance with the Open Meetings Law and would still need 24 hour's notice. She also explained that the April 9 Regular Session would still have to be held because that is the day that the Commission would need to vote to call the election for the bonds.

Mr. Chavez pointed out that the State Legislature has suspended its meetings, and the Commission is looking to do something similar to that.

Attorney Frazier also explained that since the Commission sets their meetings via resolution, a resolution would need to be passed in order to suspend those dates. She further explained that the Commission cannot actually vote at a Work Session, a special meeting would need to be called.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know if the Commission could englobe and advance all items on this Work Session agenda to the April 9 Regular Session and have those included as Old Business items. Attorney Frazier said that the Commission could do that depending on how long they would like to be in a face-to-face meeting at that time. She suggested that everything be moved to the April 23 Regular Session, and the April 9 meeting be only to address the bond election.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know if the Commission could adjourn at this point and the items on the agenda be pushed to the April 23 Regular Session. Attorney Frazier stated that would not suspend the meetings up until April 23rd.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know if the Commission is required to suspend the meetings. Attorney Frazier said that the Commission is not required, but the Governor did issue a proclamation banning meetings of 250 people and has since changed to 50 people. Mr. Atkins suggested that the Commission limit participation from the audience. Attorney Frazier that the Commission cannot suspend citizens comments during an in-person meeting. Mr. Atkins wanted to know if they could limit the number of people coming to the meeting. Attorney Frazier advised that could be a challenge because of selecting which 50 people would be allowed to come into the meeting.

Mr. Atkins said that the economy has been adversely affected by this virus. He does not want to just “roll over without trying to continue day-to-day business and day-to-day operations”.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if the Commission has emergency powers to where they could limit the number of people in the meeting. Attorney Frazier said that the Commission has the power to suspend the meetings or not suspend the meetings, but how would the Commission choose which 50 people would be allowed in the meeting and which would not. Mr. Burrell suggested that this be reviewed for future emergencies.

Mr. Jackson suggested that those who would like to speak before the Commission should be allowed in the meeting. He also said that if that point exceeds 50, then the Commission could stagger those people who are in the meeting since the Commission has a policy where there is no back and forth exchange. Mr. Jackson believes the crowd could be curtailed in a legal way.

Mr. Hopkins suggested that the Commission move all business items to the April 23 meeting, then have a special meeting and adopt this Resolution. He also pointed out that there are a few items under Consent Agenda, so those public hearings would need to be reset to the April 23 meeting.

Mr. Chavez pointed out that during these times, the Commission needs to consider that the Commissioners have families and elderly that they are taking care of. He suggested that during this time, politics aside, the citizens’ health needs to be considered.

Attorney Frazier pointed out that Mrs. Bryant sent out an email to all Commissioners explaining that administratively, they are elevating their tier of operations to the point where they are limiting public access on a day-to-day basis. She also noted that several of the public buildings are shutting down.

Mr. Jackson questioned the ordinances that need to be read by title. He said that some of the ordinances would have to be delayed even further because those ordinances would have to be read by title. Mr. Jackson would like language to be added that this resolution could be reversed if the situation improves.

Mr. Chavez recessed at this time.

Mr. Atkins explained that since the recess, he has been provided additional information. He would hate to see the day-to-day workings of the government interrupted, but he would go along with the resolution at this time.

Mrs. Bryant explained that things are evolving quickly, but she is doing her best to provide the Commissioners with all the information as timely as they can.

Mr. Burrell said that there was a state representative who debated the Governor’s request to limit gatherings to only ten people. He said that this became a partisan issue, and he does not want that to happen during this time of emergency.

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

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- February 2020 Monthly Financials

Mrs. Bryant provided copies of the February 2020 Monthly Financials for the Commissioners.

COMMISSION REMARKS

- Mr. Burrell wanted to know why the last agenda addition was not adopted. Attorney Frazier explained that, per the Open Meetings Law, agenda additions must be passed unanimously. She said that the agenda addition was not unanimous.

- Mr. Cawthorne announced that Christian Services will continue to serve food for the homeless in to-go trays.

- Mr. Atkins announced that the Economic Development Committee meeting has been rescheduled to April 6 at 1 PM.

OLD BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *that the following candidates: Tom Arceneaux, Major Rolland Coleman Ret USAF, RJ Johnson, Ken Krefft, Calvin Ben Lester, Randall Liles, Rudy Morton, Joyce W. Rogers, Dr. Melva Kristi Turner-Williams, and Ryan Williams for the Quadrennial Charter Review Committee* be moved to April 23, 2020 Regular Session. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (8). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Young (4). ABSTAIN: None (0).

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that Ordinance No. 5950 of 2020, an ordinance to establish the salary of the Commission Clerk pursuant to Section 3-10 of the Home Rule Charter for Caddo Parish, to adopt a compensation schedule for that position, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be moved to April 23, 2020 Regular Session.

Substitute motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *to englobo and move the following items to April 23, 2020 Regular Session:*

- *Ordinance No. 5950 of 2020, an ordinance to establish the salary of the Commission Clerk pursuant to Section 3-10 of the Home Rule Charter for Caddo Parish, to adopt a compensation schedule for that position, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 5951 of 2020, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund in the amount of \$10,000 to provide an appropriation for Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 5952 of 2020, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund in the amount of \$8,489 to provide an appropriation for the Safe Summer Program for funds remaining at December 31, 2019 and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 5953 of 2020, an ordinance to donate surplus property under Chapter 19, Article II, Division 3 of the Code of Ordinances relative to Donation of Adjudicated Property acquired by the Parish under LA.R.S. 47:2236 et seq., to authorize the donation of property to Northwest Louisiana Community Development Corporation for a public purpose, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 5954 of 2020, an ordinance to close and abandon a portion of Bel-Mar Drive, in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 16 of 2020, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to request and authorize the Louisiana State Mineral & Energy Boar and the Office of Mineral Resources to accept nominations and advertise for oil, gas, and mineral leases on certain mineral interests owned by the Parish of Caddo, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 17 of 2020, a resolution to urge and request Congress to make changes to the Medicaid Exclusion Provision, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 18 of 2020, a resolution proclaiming March 28, 2020 as 'Blinded Veterans Day' in Caddo Parish*
- *Resolution No. 19 of 2020, a resolution recognizing and declaring March as 'National Women's History Month'*
- *Resolution No. 20 of 2020, a resolution proclaiming March 18, 2020 as 'National Take Down Tobacco Day' in Caddo Parish*
- *Resolution No. 21 of 2020, a resolution proclaiming April 2, 2020 as 'Light It Up Blue 2020 Autism Awareness Day' in Caddo Parish*

- *Resolution No. 22 of 2020, a resolution to suspend Regular Meetings of the Caddo Parish Commission in response to the Coronavirus Pandemic, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*

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

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *that the following candidates: Lasonya Moore and Fred White for the appointment of the Industrial Development Board* be moved to April 23, 2020 Regular Session. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (8). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Young (4). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Taliaferro, *that Special Resolution of Recognition to Principal Ginger Gustavson, 2020 Louisiana Association of School Executives Regional Principal of the Year Award* be moved to April 23, 2020 Regular Session. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (8). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Young (4). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that Special Proclamation of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War* be moved to April 23, 2020 Regular Session. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (8). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Young (4). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that discussion regarding the Census Complete Count Committee for Caddo Parish* be moved to April 23, 2020 Regular Session. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (8). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson, Gage-Watts, Johnson, and Young (4). ABSTAIN: None (0).

COMMUNIQUES/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *to add to the agenda a resolution to suspend the Work Sessions and the Regular Sessions of the Caddo Parish Commission in response to the Coronavirus Pandemic.*

Attorney Frazier pointed out that this would need to be an agenda addition. Mr. Chavez opened the floor for public hearing for or against the agenda addition.

Mr. Jackson explained that this is a brand new resolution due to the change in the title language.

Substitute motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *to add to the agenda and move Resolution No. 23 of 2020, a resolution to suspend the Work Sessions and Regular Session of the Caddo Parish Commission in response to the Coronavirus Pandemic to a Special Meeting for Wednesday, March 18 at 11:00 AM.*

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- *Ordinance No. 5946 of 2020, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund to provide an appropriation for Southern Hills Homeowners Association (SHHA) and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 5947 of 2020, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Economic Development Fund to provide an appropriation to Strategic Action Council of Northwest Louisiana and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

- *Ordinance No. 5948 of 2020, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund in the amount of \$7,000 to provide an appropriation to Ivy Crown Community Services, Inc., and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 5949 of 2020, an ordinance to deem property surplus and authorize the sale of surplus property owned by the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Commission will convene into Executive Session to discuss litigation regarding Case No. 620773 in First Judicial District Court*

There being no further business to discuss, the Commission adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Michelle Nations
Deputy Commission Clerk