

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON MARCH 18, 2020

The Caddo Parish Commission met in legal and special session on the above date at 11:00 a.m. in the Government Chambers, with President Chavez, presiding, and the following members in attendance, constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Cawthorne, Chavez, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (8). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell, Epperson, Gage-Watts, and Johnson (4).

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mr. Bobby R. Carney came before the Commission to encourage citizens to donate blood. He stated that they are taking the necessary precautions to keep donors and staff safe. He also said that they are still in need of blood donors.

Mr. John Settle came before the Commission to discuss SB Focus newspaper. He said that they would like to have at least 20 pages of positive community news to publish in the paper. He encouraged the Commissioners to reach out to him for any news to put in the SB Focus.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Chavez advised that there are special precautions be taken due to COVID-19. He explained that the Commissioners in attendance are spaced at least six feet apart. He also said that the votes will be taken by roll call due to some of the Commissioners sitting in the audience.

Attorney Frazier clarified due to this being a Special Session, the Commission can only take up business that is on the agenda. The Home Rule Charter states the following:

Sec. 3-07. - Commission meetings and rules.

- A. The commission shall meet regularly at least once in every month at such times and places as the commission may prescribe. Special meetings may be held on the call of the president of the commission or in the absence of the president, the vice-president, or a majority of the membership of the commission with such notice as may be required by state law. To meet a public emergency affecting life, health, property or public safety, the commission may meet upon call of the parish administrator, the president of the commission or in the absence of the president, the vice-president, or a majority of the commissioners at whatever notice it shall be convenient to give. The call convening a special or emergency meeting of the commission shall state the objects of the meeting. The power of the commission to act at a special or emergency meeting shall be limited, under penalty of nullity, to the objects specifically enumerated in the call.

The Commission then moved onto the first New Business item, *Resolution No. 23 of 2020*. It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Chavez, *that Resolution No. 23 of 2020, a resolution to suspend Work Sessions and Regular Meetings of the Caddo Parish Commission in response to the Coronavirus Pandemic, and otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted.

Amendment by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *that the Commission also meet for a Work Session on April 20 prior to the Regular Session on April 23*. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Cawthorne, Chavez, Hopkins, Jackson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (8). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Burrell, Epperson, Gage-Watts, and Johnson (4). ABSTAIN: None (0).

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

RESOLUTION NO. 23 OF 2020

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION TO SUSPEND WORK SESSIONS AND REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION IN RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the recent public health issues arising from the spread of the novel coronavirus causing COVID-19 and in recognition of documented cases in the state and in Caddo Parish;

WHEREAS, the governor has declared a public health emergency and restricted public gatherings of people;

WHEREAS, the meetings of the Caddo Parish Commission are well attended by members of the public; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission desires to avoid putting the health and wellbeing of its citizens, members, and Parish employees at risk.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby suspend its regularly scheduled work sessions and regular meetings until April 23, 2020 with the exception of its April 9, 2020 meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that should it be necessary to hold a meeting in that period of time that notice shall be given under the Open Meetings Law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this resolution shall be distributed in the same manner and to the same persons who receive notice of the Parish Commission meetings.

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.

There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

Mario Chavez
President

Michelle Nations
Deputy Commission Clerk